

### Promises of the new Council

The new general secretaries go on record with their promises for the student community.

Page 2

### Cover Story Review of the PAF season

brought to you by  
Mohan, Ghoda and Karthik

### Institute Elections: Behind closed doors

A satirical play to uncover the underhand dealings that operate during institute elections.

Page 5



### Aashayein

Hostels  
3, 8, 10 and  
Tansa

*Aashayein*, a tale of wishes and dreams was the first performance of this PAF season. An unsuccessful dance director and a capitulated cricketer (why did it have to be Saurav Ganguly?) pick up the gauntlet to redeem their lives and prove a point or two to the world. *Aashayein* tells us their story.

**Har Chance pe dance:** The director never missed a chance to fill in a dance in every possible crevice as the narrative progressed. The choreography though not exceptional was varied in form and style. In a way, the theme of the PAF justified a choreographic opulence but many among the audience felt that it impeded the flow of the narrative.

**Voiceovers:** Omesh Johar fit snugly into the shoes of the narrator, one of the best voice-overs of the season in terms of modulation and delivery. The rest of the voice-overs, including that of the protagonist failed to make a mark.

**Story and Script:** A desi concoction of 'Angels on the Outfield and Ron Clarke's Story'. The screen direction invariably fell into a lot of familiar clichés, especially when humour was attempted.

**Production and Lighting:** Very well constructed sets - "Pop Tates" and the final cricket finale. The lighting effects supplemented the execution well but could not avoid a couple of bloopers when it seemed that all distances in Mumbai were dissolved as the juice-waalah at Haji-Ali watched over our dance-troopers lunching at Pop-Tates.

**Crazy Kiya re:** Consensus deemed 'Aashayein' the best executed PAF of this season winning over 'Saare Jahan se accha' by a small margin in this regard.

**Daya daya re:** Though a good part of this PAF pivoted itself around dances, the audience found it difficult to fathom them beyond a point.



### Numb D

Hostels  
2, 6 and 9

The 2, 6 and 9 issue of drugs or CAL-D to be precise was not surely an eye candy for the audience. The impotent story of a dancer who works under cover to bust a drug racket but instead ends up getting addicted himself was very ineffective.

**Story:** The plot revolves around a dancer/choreographer, who joins a troupe named Phoenix after losing a dance competition on purpose. Working undercover for the cops, who believe that the troupe is dealing in drugs, he is unable to find any evidence and after getting addicted to the drugs, our hero ends up at a rehab center.

**Music and Choreography:** Nice use of live music, with covers of 'Zindaa', 'Shipping up to Boston' and 'Comfortably Numb' being well appreciated by many. Choreography was in plenty and was lacking mainly in synchronization and its not so short duration. Even a nice fire dance in the opening failed to set the stage ablaze.

**Voiceovers:** The voiceovers were very good, but the only bugging factor being that both Shariq Plasticwala and Anshul Jain gave voices to more than 3-4 characters each, which even after lots of modulation gave a very dry feel to the voiceovers. The echo effect in the last scene was certainly a high point.

**Production and Lighting:** The main stage was well designed and the tunnel was probably the best piece of prod this PAF season. There was Pyro in plenty, however lights were handled badly.

**Crazy Kiya Re:** Some called it inefficient; with the plot being very movie like, but technically the PAF was able to outdo at least its third PAF predecessors and thus broke the jinx. With decent sets, music voiceovers, the PAF was just another average one and bagged the best set and best costume trophies.

**Daya Daya Re:** Bordering mostly in between the atrocious and precocious zone, the comedy in the PAF was pure slapstick and failed to create an impact. Whether the number of scenes in dark was to go with the dark theme of theirs or just a compilation of light glitches shall remain a mystery.



### Saare Jahan Se Accha

Hostels  
1, 5, 11 and 13

Hostels 1, 5, 11 and 13 very tactfully chose a powerful and intense subject for their PAF performance, the contemporary issue of farmer suicides in Vidarbha. The plot centered around three Vidarbha farmers who, in an attempt to resurrect themselves from their abject conditions take to the wrong side of the law and loot a bank.

**Story:** Three farmers decide to rob a bank after they can no longer take the callousness and the apathy of people in power. The police arrives at the scene of the robbery and surrounds the bank leaving the three no option but to hold some employees and customers at hostage. The media arrives and presents their story before the country thus sparking national deliberation.

**Music and Choreography:** The music was a mixture of live and recorded scores and supplemented the mood on the stage well. The raising of the man in the proscenium during the introduction was one of the high points of the PAF early on and the lavani dance towards the end was very well choreographed.

**Voiceovers:** The three lead voiceovers were extremely well modulated. Kunal Saxena, who spoke his own lines, leaked good stage presence with great dialogue delivery. The voiceover of the news reporter was first rate and really guided the 'We, the people' scene well. Also, the idea of clustered voiceovers during the initial scenes created a great effect.

**Production and Lighting:** The vehicles and the HDFC bank were the most conspicuous highlights. The center-stage was used well.

**Crazy Kiya re:** A PAF with great impact, this one managed to stir many in the crowd. Though popular opinion rated this one lower than a 'Déjà vu' or 'Dastak', 'Saare Jahan Se accha' was unequivocally the best performance of this season pocketing the awards for best acting, script, direction, choreography and music.

**Daya daya re:** Many found it almost an ordeal to sit through this incredibly long PAF. The attempt at humour during the bank was loose at parts and many felt that the telephone was abused excessively.



### Good Morning

Hostels  
4, 7 and 12

"The Silence of a Graveyard" was neither expected nor delivered even when people were almost mourning at the sweet demise of quality of PAFs after seeing Good Morning, the last PAF of the Season. The story of some complex system in some make believe planet which not many could make any head or tail of, the PAF talked of relations and society or so it seems.

**Voiceovers:** Voiceovers were plain and seemed almost just good enough to go on with. With many glitches, and their repetitive nature, the crowd found them to be not up to the mark. The meeting scene was particularly drowned in a tumultuous uproar of "Daya".

**Story and Script:** A nice concept, but the script failed to build up on it. The dialogues were very mediocre, and together with not so good acting such an abstract theme ended up going down as probably one of the forgettable PAF's in the PAF history.

**Production and lighting:** The sets were minimal with extensive yet not impressive fine art work going in to them. Hardly any structural prod was used. A birdy tells us that it heard the DoSA mention of refund of the fat sum out of the cult budgets set out for the PAF. Lights were handled well with almost no flaws.

**Music and Choreography:** Good western music in confluence with a violin got the PAF its only high point: live music. The choreography was bad, with no synchronization among dancers, and seemed to be out of context, senseless to be precise. And all this, despite Konkatti being a part of the choreography, is indeed a surprise if not utter disappointment.

**Crazy Kiya Re:** The breaching of the fourth wall is something this PAF showed us all. With almost all of the intended comic elements coming from the audience, there was however something worth appreciating in the PAF. The whole concept was new and the idea of different costumes for father and son and council was nice.

**Daya Daya Re:** With even the rising sun failing to be the ray of hope for the PAF, it did not have elements which would have made one go crazy, and had there been any that we skip, it is solely because they are overshadowed by the daya factors. Most of the PAF elements from acting to choreography and sets were not up to the mark. Some completely unanswered doubts remained such as if the sun rose once every 12 years, how did they have the concept of day and night or that of a year to begin with.

## Biswas Committee Report: A welcome change

Rajlakshmi Purkayastha and Gautam Salhotra analyse the curriculum changes in store for the future breed of IITians once the Biswas Committee recommendations are implemented.

The Biswas committee has been in the news lately for more reasons than one. Set up as part of a regular 'quality control process' it looks to analyse the changing nature of IIT students vis a vis global trends. Presenting to you an insight on the report:

### Salient Features

- Feedback received from both students and faculty was that students were being overburdened, many times due to a simple lack of motivation to pursue certain courses. The inflexibility of the system just compounded this fact
- A hundred credits are being dropped. Most of these will be information-based courses which are deemed redundant in today's information rich workplace.
- In addition to the Bare Minimum Programme, students can do an Honours in their B Tech Degree or a Minor in another department. Both of these require 30 additional credits each. "Students who are capable of and are interested in retaining the existing work load have, in principle, the opportunity of completing B. Tech (Hons) in their parent discipline and acquire minors in their areas of interest."
- An general semester shall have 4 theory courses and 2 labs. Thus, there is one theory slot free. It will be possible to do the requisite number of courses required for a minor. At the end of degree, the academic office will check and see if requirements have been met, and then award the minor degree accordingly. This free slot can also be used by back-loggers for clearing their courses, and thus preventing semester drops.
- Projects might be a part of the minor degree; however this decision will be left to individual departments.
- Work visits, and practical training again will be left to the departments, to decide if optional or not. BTP has become optional as it was felt that there are too many

students lacking motivation who are being forced to do it and therefore do not put in the requisite hard work.

### Some Interesting Points:

- The philosophy of the committee was that undergraduate life is a time to explore new areas. At the same time Minors will act as incentives for students who are not Department Rank 1 but still want to prove or differenti-

example, a person with a post may need a higher CPI to take an overload, to show that it will not be an unnecessary burden. In any case, a CPI criteria will decide the availability of seats for all optional courses and minor degree courses.

- It is believed that now due to the availability of the free slot, the number of failures will increase. Previously professors would hesitate from awarding FRs due to unavailability of methods of clearing backlogs without wasting a semester. This will help in coping with grade inflation and increasing standards of courses. Thus although courses will be fewer, grading will become tougher.

Since Students will have to maintain a certain CPI criterion in order to avail of minors, it might act as an additional incentive.

### Implementation:

- No fixed time for implementation of suggested reforms has been decided. This is an interim report. It might be implemented from this year itself.
- An implementation committee will now be set up. Depending on cases that are brought to it, amendments will be made after due discussion by the senate. This committee will run for 3 years most probably.

A huge classroom complex will be built. This will have 'stadium' classrooms to accommodate 150 plus students, which the depart-

ments cannot handle anymore. Most classes for UGs will be conducted here

- A UG lab complex is also being proposed. This will contain huge labs where second and third year labs can also run simultaneously. Again, this is also due to the fact that current dept labs will not be able to handle the influx post-reservations.

The Biswas committee is a long needed step for the modernization of the curricula and the academic structure of UG Academics as a whole. While slow, the steady implementation of these reforms is vital to maintaining IIT's global standards.

### A Comparison of the current system and the proposed Bare Minimum Programme (BMP)

Category	OLD Theory courses (credits)	OLD Lab courses (credits)	NEW - BMP Theory courses (credits)	NEW - BMP Lab courses (credits)
Basic Science (P, C, M)	7 (46)	2 (6)	6 (42)	2 (6)
Core Engg. (CS 101, DIC, ED, Workshop)	2 (12)	3 (13)	3 (18)	3 (12)
Dept. Core Courses	Different for different depts.	Different for different depts.	14 (84)	8 (28)
Dept. Electives	2 (12)	---	2 (12)	---
HSS/Institute Electives	5 (30)	---	4 (24) + 2 HSS Compulsory (12)	---
Supervised learning (Seminar, BTP)	3 (23)	---	2 (12)	---
Non Credit Courses	5 (0)	---	4 (0)	---

ate themselves. It'll also be a much more 'legitimate' or weighty resume point, as compared to a host of extra-curricular activities. It is expected that at least 60-70 % of students will opt for minors simply because they help in developing an all-round personality and exploring different fields.

- In some cases, students with certain posts or extra-curricular activities may not be allowed to opt for a minor, simply because it would be overloading. The committee has yet to decide whether credits should be given for these extra-curricular activities, how they should be given, and what sort of limits should be in place. For

Every year, the election candidates make innumerable promises before the elections and claim that they will stick to them in letter and spirit. However, things do not always pan out as promised. This year, we at **InsIghT** decided to identify the top **5 most novel ideas** that we, the student electorate are entitled to look forward to in the coming academic year. We also asked the candidates to provide us with **tentative deadlines** for the implementation of these initiatives, where applicable (written in **brackets**). The success of their tenures will to an extent depend on the fulfillment of these promises.

**General Secretary, Academic Affairs: Rohan Pradhan**  
Apart from ensuring the smooth functioning of the initiatives implemented by the previous GSAA, a few of his other promises are as follows.

- 1) Extend Biswas committee report to the current freshie batch (if approved, by August).
- 2) Introduce 'Career Counseling' at the department level (if approved, by next semester before placements).
- 3) Introduce an alternative 'GATE percentile' criterion on stipend for Dual Degree students, subject to approval by Senate.
- 4) Tackle the issue of 'stipend delay' for PGs (by August).
- 5) Set up a central Xerox/Printout facility in the academic area (by August).

## Political Promises

Krishna and Nishant report the promises of the new Institute General Secretaries for your information.

### General Secretary, Hostel Affairs: Prashant Khandelwal

He has promised to implement a number of new ideas, a few of which are given below.

- 1) Collect student feedback and try to change the LAN Ban timings accordingly.
- 2) Conduct 'Best Mess Competition', with a prize money of Rs.20,000/- for the Best Mess (by August end).
- 3) Introduce Auto Sharing Facility and Cycle Pools. (6 months from approval)
- 4) Ensure that department areas (including MB Lawns and Coffee Shack) are fully equipped with Wireless Network (by January).
- 5) Set up a Computer Center User Hall at the earliest.

### General Secretary, Cultural Affairs: Akhil Agarwal

Besides the smooth functioning of all cultural activities in the institute including GC events, Clubs, MI etc., he has made a few other promises that will be keenly awaited.

- 1) Organise *Nihilanth* - quizzing festival of the IITs and IIMs - in IITB this year.

- 2) Introduce at least one cultural activity in each of the hostel fests.
- 3) Introduce the 'Hall of Fame' for cultural activities during PAF season.
- 4) Display the results of every GC and open event on the Shack notice board.
- 5) Take into consideration opinions of the hostel councilors in the formulation of the Cultural Calendar.

### General Secretary, Sports Affairs: Sumeet Malik

Besides the smooth organisation of GC events and preparations for next year's Inter IIT Meet to be held in IITB, he has promised the following initiatives.

- 1) Revive the Boat Club for IIT students and alumni (by early October).
- 2) Ensure that Squash and T.T courts are open till late night (by August), and extend Tennis court timings (by October).
- 3) Get a 'Jogging route' constructed, which will run along the outer boundary of SAC grounds (proposal will be reviewed by August, and if passed, deadlines will be given in the next semester).
- 4) Conduct guest lectures from eminent sportspersons in India (by November end).
- 5) Ensure *monthly* sports committee meetings.

Wonder how many of you have ever seen a senior's resume on this campus. For those who haven't, we recommend you go take a look at a few. In all probability the 'Positions of Responsibility' section will be Greek and Latin with a variety of designations and posts that you never even knew existed! But that's not all, you will also notice that apparently the person has done tremendous ground-breaking and innovative work in each as well, with someone getting sponsorship of over 4 lakhs for a hostel fest, someone leading a core team of 20 for a freshly started newsletter, and so on! Feel left out? Don't worry, for you can always start a new club, event or even an organization of your own anytime you wish! After all, this is the Indian Institute of Organizing!

The official number of posts recognized by the Student Gymkhana is approximately 65. Appointments to these posts happen through a formalized election procedure through appropriate electoral colleges. What probably goes unnoticed is the burgeoning set of unofficial posts that mushroom under these post holders under the pretext of 'assisting' them. And thus starts an endless saga of informal appointments, redundant posts 'created' to help someone 'add' more to his resume and worst of all, transfer of work and responsibility from the official post holder to the aspiring 'volunteer' or 'convenor' or 'event OC'.

"This has not gone unnoticed by the Institute, and in fact as been accumulating for a long period of time", says Prof. P. Gopalan, DoSA. The recent surge in placements has led to increased competition for top jobs. With CPIs being almost similar, for a vast majority willing to do anything to differentiate themselves, the resume point is seen as the key to survival. "Not all organizational posts make a difference. Things were different 3-4 years ago, when a post really meant something. However, with the 100-odd posts floating on campus these days, real achievements often get lost in this sea", says Amrita Mahale, an alumni now working at BCG. While some posts such as IB heads, GS posts etc do make a difference owing to their stature, unless one achieves something remarkable in one's tenure, it's just another post. "Summing up, no one makes it to a short-list based on posts alone - that needs to be

When we come across instances of freshies sitting and typing the BTP reports of the seniors in their hostels coupled with stories of entire DDPs comprising nothing but a mechanism to separate objects shorter than a critical height, we are forced to question the quality of research done by the undergraduate students in IIT. We shall try to address this question by giving you glimpses of some wonderful contributions made by students to the ongoing research in their respective departments through their BTPs and DDPs

### Binary Logic Mechanical Devices

Who: Abhishek Modi, 5th Year  
Mechanical Engineering

Abhishek is working on the development of binary logic devices constructed using moving mechanical components such as gears and sliders wherein the logic states 1 and 0 correspond to two distinct mechanical states of the system. For instance, a clockwise rotation can represent a binary 1 while a counter-clockwise rotation can represent a binary 0. The macro domain of such devices has already been explored by the likes of Prof. Amarnath et al. Under

## Organized Chaos

Sriram Emani, Rajlakshmi Purkayastha and Gautam Salhotra analyse the reasons behind the proliferation of organisational positions in the institute.

backed up by a good CPI or competent internships or cult/sports achievements".

So why all the hullabaloo then? Let's have a brief glance at the various organisations.

when three other hostels already have fests of their own.

Another new trend being observed these days is that of department fests. From

### A count of all the posts that the Institute has to offer

Body	Official Posts	Unofficial Posts	Total
Students Gymkhana	Institute Secretaries, GSs, Nominees, Placement Body, Student Mentor Head	Student Mentors, Cultural Club Convenors	39 + 25
IBs	OCs and CGs/Managers		66 + 0
Media Bodies	Chief Eds and Editorial Team	Reporters/ Journalists	8 + 45
Departments	D Gsec, Dept Web Secy, Placement Nom, PG Nom, PT Noms, Dept Association Head, Dept Fest OCs, CRs	Dept Newsletter Editors and Reporters, Fest Incharges	25 + 6 per dept.
Hostels	Secretaries, Councillors, Gsec, Ward Nom	Hostel Fest OCs, incharges, PAF OCs	29 per hostel
Technical Clubs	Technic OCs, Science Club OC	Convenors and Core members	4 + 29

There's the Students Gymkhana, consisting of the various GS's, and the Institute secretaries under them, convenors of clubs, the 4 IBs and their core teams and the teams of co-ordinators and organisers that work for them. The total count of official posts is around 502 plus another 200 department posts. Then come the hostel posts comprising of the hostel council and other christenings as PAF 'in-charges' and Hostel Fest OCs. With a 'PAF Lights OC' to 'Atmogiri in-charge' for a hostel fest, there are posts here for all joes. There are 5 different hostel fests varying from teams of 30 and budgets of Rs 10,000 to teams of 100, spanning 3 hostels and a budget of about 1.2 lakhs. These fests are sanctioned by the DoSA who said that he had to sanction the new fest simply due to parity issues: Its difficult to tell one hostel no

originally being symposiums of series of lectures, they have turned into corporate-sponsored events, with one fest even boasting of an 'Informals' stage! While the initiative taken by a department is good in fostering interest in its activities and increasing industry linkages, the over emphasis on publicity and glamour leaves a lot to be desired. There are eight department fests in all, with budgets ranging from 1 lakh to over 3 lakhs. The teams mainly involve the DGSec and representatives across batches.

While the creation of new fests are justified in many cases and also serve many purposes, it is also a place where the 'leaders of tomorrow' are bred. Juniors are inculcated into an atmosphere of doing work for a secretary or post-holder. This has led to a very strong hierarchical system, where

## Research@IITB: Alive & Kicking

Ashish Goel presents the next in the series by showcasing some notable BTPs and DDPs across different departments.

the able guidance of Prof. P.S. Gandhi and Prof. Amarnath, he is working to design, develop, fabricate and characterize the devices at the micro level. These will be based on the concept of flexures. The term flexure embraces a number of frictionless, stictionless devices and mechanisms, all of which rely upon the elastic deformation of solid materials. The principle aim of a flexure is to achieve low stiffness in the direction of required motion and high stiffness in other directions, without introducing undue stress and friction. At the current stage of his DDP, Abhishek has successfully developed and fabricated a micro-flexural NOT gate."

The work is an altogether new research in the field of mechanical logic gates.

### Computation in Noisy Networks

Who: Yashodan Kanoria, 4th Year  
Electrical Engineering

Yashodhan has been working on algorithms for distributed computation in

noisy wireless sensor networks. Sensors scattered over an area sense data and have wireless transmission, reception and also computation facilities. A specific function of the data is to be made available at a particular node called the 'sink', while using minimum energy and time. The focus generally lies on communication time and energy since this is usually the bottleneck. Yashodhan has devised an algorithm for computing the MAX function in a noisy random planar network that is asymptotically optimal in time and number of transmissions. A paper containing this result and spinoffs has been accepted at ISIT 2007, to be held in Nice, France in June '07

### Surface Plasmon Resonance

Who: S.V. Anurag, 4th Year  
Engineering Physics

Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) is a physical process that can occur when plane-polarized light hits a metal film under total internal reflection conditions.

teams and sub-teams are created in order to 'organise' and work better. Sometimes this results in a lot of redundant work such as large amounts of publicity, unnecessary number of posters and generation of money via marketing when funds available from the institute are insufficient.

The most shocking manifestation of this phenomenon came when we asked members of a certain popular club on campus why they have of two OCs for one of their events. We pointed out that since the institute secretary for that purpose doesn't have too many events anyway, he can at least be the OC himself and appoint a core team if at all required. Their response was, "Oh the insti secy is busy withdrawing money from the institute for the event, he obviously cannot give time to the event as he is busy in MB running around for cash". Prof. Gopalan, confirmed that he was totally unaware of this sub-team appointed under the secretary.

Herein lies the crux of the problem. The distinguishing line between greed and focus is very thin. Many times these posts require an investment of much time and effort and most forget why the post was created in the first place. The same thing holds true for organisations, with people laying aside the basic goals and looking for glamour and glitz. Every post is then looked as an opportunity to improve upon the past, to take the post more important, more credible and weighty in that balance sheet of life: the resume. On a more subjective note, past secretaries have gone on to say that this has led to an overall decrease in creativity and general participation. This is reflected in the fact that at the recent institute awards, only 5 cultural colours were awarded, whereas the list for organisational colours was so long that names had to be withdrawn.

The problem as described here is not new. The rule of 'One man one post' has turned into 'Every man one post'. The question is to discern whether or not this is a problem that needs remedy. Or will the system evolve as always, taking care of the excesses in a slow evolutionary manner, as student activities mature? No one can say for sure. Lets just say that we'll try to keep you 'posted' on the matter.

Surface plasmons are surface electromagnetic waves that propagate parallel to the interface between two optical media. The characteristics of these can be used to analyze interfacial optical properties and to develop biosensors. Using this experimental tool, Anurag has developed (as a part of his BTP) a setup to study polymerization that takes place in the protein FtsZ which plays a major role in prokaryotic cell division. Along with efforts in the actual experimentation with FtsZ, work is going on to setup a permanent SPR setup in one of the labs of Prof. T. Kundu in collaboration with biomedical engineering students and faculty where such a facility already exists. Future course of work is heading towards developing a novel biosensor for pathogen detection and in developing a powerful optical physics setup to study molecular biology reactions involving specific structural changes.

This also serves as a wonderful example of the inter-disciplinary research work happening in IITB and the strength of such inter-department collaborations.

Research at IITB is alive and kicking. Its there for you to grab the opportunity and become a part of this amazing experience.

For all of you who aren't aware of the various events that go on continuously in the institute right under your nose, here's a little something.

Mood Indigo is going to start in a few days. At least that's what the kites and posters put up near the coffee shack tell us. And so is TechFest. As a more particular case C.R.O 2.0 is going to happen somewhere in the electrical department. How do we know? A look at the poster put up on the ground floor makes the confession. Swar Sandhya is going to happen on 14th of March and Froh Fete will follow soon. Did you know all that? Are you surprised? Well, you should be. Days, even months after all these events got over, their posters still adorn the trees and walls of the institute.



Publicity through posters is a brilliant means of communicating to people the details of your event. Our institute has always been blessed to have lots of creative minds and artists who come up with really smart and pretty posters. In that sense, it gives not only the creators of the event, but also the general student joy to see these posters, get to know about the event and also to have a feeling that the institute has always something to offer, whatever your area of interest is.

But there are rules and regulations with

## Publicity Cam-'pain'

Rahul Dash takes a bemused look at the publicity overdose in the institute that gear us up for events of the past.

regards to everything that goes on in the institute. And the publicity posters, however beautiful they maybe and however glorious the events they popularize may be, have to abide by these rules. The institute requires these posters to be removed as soon as the event they represent gets over. However, one trip around the institute, and you will see a gross violation of this rule. MI, TechFest, Swar Sandhya, Froh Fete, Mardi Gras, Azeotropy are some of the

events whose posters you can find even today scattered all over. Almost a semester after some of these events got over! It seems as if there's an unspoken agreement between all that the next body in need of the publicity areas will themselves remove the old posters. The logic could have worked if the areas were confined to notice boards. But what about the trees, branches, electricity boxes even?!

On contacting the publicity heads of these events, we got some really interesting answers. A common man reports some of these answers for you:

**MI:** We have removed almost all the posters except for 1-2 kites because of high heights.

**Common man:**

And how did they reach such heights? Maybe, the coordie who took the effort of doing so has now either got his dream thwarted or fulfilled. Either way, he won't be seen taking them down.



**Swar Sandhya:**

We have to go and personally remove all the posters na. The lack of manpower is the problem.

**Common man:**

I fail to decide what is more surprising. The sudden appearance of man power

while putting on the posters or the sudden disappearance of man power while taking them off! There was enough man power to cover every tree and not even spare the entrance to the Devi Temple during the publicity period.



**Froh Fete:** We had gotten boys to help us put the pirates' notice up on the trees. Who will help take them off now?

**Common man:** Well, the charm worked once. There's no reason why it won't work a second time.

How much time and effort does it take to remove the posters? And even if it does take a lot of time, it's something that is the duty of the person who takes the responsibility to put it up. The IBs were posed this question during the GBM held this semester and only then did the TF lanterns hanging from the trees near the main gate disappeared.

This article is not to vituperate the publicity department of the various events. This isn't even a troublesome issue. I mean, how many of us are actually bothered if there's a kite hanging over our head while we happily enjoy our caffeinated bliss. The point is not what's wrong. The question is: what's right? We all love MI, TechFest, Swar Sandhya, Froh Fete. These events do not belong to their respective organizing groups. These events belong to the institute, to the students of IIT Bombay. So along with thanking the organizing groups of the previous years and wishing the

ones of the next year; we would also like to request them not to do something that would give the event negative publicity. That would coat a year's hard work with a moment's carelessness. That isn't asking for too much, is it?

Come next sem, if all goes well, IIT's film buffs need go no further than the Convocation hall to seek their weekly entertainment. Thanks to the initiative of Aashish Vishnoi, Saurabh Gupta and Gourav Dhavale, the long dormant film club of IITB shall soon be revived.

For the uninformed, there used to be a pretty active film club in the institute once. After having been around for 30 years it stuttered and finally stopped in the middle of 2003. The reasons given for the discontinuation were a lack of audience and poor levels of audio/video quality. People found it easier to catch the latest films on their PC. However we received mixed re-

## Lights! Camera! Action!

Nithya and Aditi prepare the stage for the revival of Film Club of IIT Bombay.

views on that one from seniors and alumni. Movie night was the time people had most fun during the week, what from catcalling and whistling till the Convo echoed to devising new methods of entering without a ticket.

Looking around, several IITs have a healthy cinema culture, especially IIT Kanpur which has a very active student film society. The aim of this society is to promote all kind of cinematic activity in the institute like screening movies, orga-

nizing film festivals, workshops, holding movie making contests, conducting movie quizzes and promoting an overall appreciation of the art of movie making.

At IITB, film society affairs have been managed by staff till now with just one student representative. Efforts are now underway to have a committee of students themselves handling the activities of the club. Plans are to show an almost equal number of month old Hindi and English films, one every weekend. There shall also be one

film festival per semester tentatively to celebrate the cinema of yesteryears. With the LAN ban underway, it is hoped that more people will be tempted out of their rooms to the companionable racket of the Convo. Tie ups with local distributors have been established to get movies at reasonable rates. A new pass system for the half/full sem will be implemented, rates being around 10 Rs per movie for students.

The revival process has been on for 7 months now; however there have been the inevitable 'red tape' delays. Hopefully, this autumn semester we'll have more than just the rains to look forward to!

**TechniC is the body responsible for organizing technical activities and events inside IIT Bombay. The inferences in the review have been drawn after talking to a host of people belonging to the institute who have been directly or indirectly involved with TechniC and with people who have general enthusiasm for tech.**

Undoubtedly, the kind of work that TechniC has done towards popularizing and promoting technical activities inside the institute has been commendable. The number of events that TechniC has organized in close coordination with Science Club in the form of lectures, educational trips, workshops and competitions has been really huge. TechniC is mainly concerned with event coordination, web, accounts and publicity management apart from providing coordination and support for all such events. Despite being a newcomer on the block and a body which mainly comprises of freshies and sophies,

## TechniCally Correct

Arunabh Sinha and Ashwath Kirthyasan examine the functioning of TechniC, the technical club of IIT Bombay.

TechniC has been very active, with their events witnessing good turnouts, especially among the freshies. Freshie involvement has to an extent been even better in these events than that witnessed in cultural events. Most of the events have involved a lot of out of the box thinking which has helped in fostering the spirit of innovation and creativity.

Though TechniC has been doing a good job in the direction of promoting tech within the institute there are certain gray areas that need to be looked into. The publicity of the events has not been up to the mark. Just a handful of posters are put up which means that quite a large number of the tech-enthu junta actually misses out or gets to know about the events really late. This creates a problem because most of these technical events require a lot of

preparation unlike other competitions. The participants do not get ample time to prepare for the events and what results is a poor half cooked effort.

Another complaint that a lot of people have is that the events are highly hostel centric in the sense that students get together in one particular hostel and work out the problem statements. The result is that students from some other hostels feel left out and the enthusiasm for participating in the tech related events wanes. A possible solution to this problem could be the availability of a central Tech room somewhere in the institute where the people can get together and work on different projects/experiments.

Having a 12 member core group is a possible case of one too many. That the hos-

tel tech secretaries are also present apart from the 2 OCs means that the organizing body in itself is very large (not counting the OCs of the different science clubs). They could possibly cut down on the number of posts so that those who are working actually end up being more accountable rather than it just being a clear cut case of resume enhancement. The responsibilities of the Tech. Nominee were also nebulous till a new constitution was drafted this year clearly defining the nominee's role.

The institute, on its part, could support TechniC by allocating more budgets so that the incentives doled out can be spruced up. This could go a long way in furthering the cause of TechniC in particular and the tech enthusiasm inside the institute in general. All said and done, TechniC has been a success story so far and has taken many novel initiatives to ensure that technical activities are a rule inside IIT rather than the exception. We sincerely hope that TechniC keeps up the good work and takes tech inside IIT to higher levels.

Elections in North Indian universities typically feature political bigwigs campaigning for their protégés, full blown political factionism, money and liquor flowing more freely than the tears of Parvati (of *Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii fame* \*), and a few murders thrown in to add spice. We at IIT Bombay may be a few steps behind as far as the elections are concerned but we do have our share of idiosyncrasies too – as this really fictitious script will show.

**Characters:** (in the order of their appearance)

**Shahenshah Sohan:** A candidate standing for GS elections

**Mogambo:** The *poltu* kingmaker (who is involved in research on flying plastic)

**Samba:** *Sophie* who is working for Mogambo

**T.V.S.M.C. Balayya:** M.Tech student from .... (you know where)

**Arbit Freshie**

**Godfather:** Another *poltu* kingmaker

**Ram Beta:** An Election Officer (supposedly honest, but who knows)

The dialogues

Act 1: (February 20th, 2007 to March 14th 2007)

**Scene 1:** (Mogambo's Den, February 20th)

**Mogambo:** *Kaise aana hua?*

**Shahenshah Sohan:** Boss, I am standing for the GS post in the insti elections. I know you can help me out. You know that I can work really well as you have seen in our previous associations in the organizing bodies.

**M:** You see I am too busy these days with my EDP but as far as you are concerned I will see as to what I can do. Don't worry; I will take care of everything. Consider it a favour.

**SS:** Thanks a lot. As is usual, a candidate of your choice will become the nominee.

(They blabber about life, the universe and everything)

**SS:** (leaving the den) *Dekh lena yaar.*#

**M:** Don't worry, *yeh meri bhi izzat ka sawaal hai.*

(M flicks out his phone and dials a number)

**M:** *Abey Samba, ek kaam hai room pe aaja.*

## Vote Wars: The Kingdom strikes Back

Parasvil Patel and Vaibhav Devanathan explore the murky world of politics during institute elections in the form of a not-so-fictional play.

(Samba enters the room timidly)

**M:** Listen there is this candidate standing for GS elections, *usko jitana hai.*

There is a lot of work to do.

(M gives fundaes about what is to be done when, Samba listens with a level of attentiveness never attained since his JEE days.)

**Scene 2:** (Campaigning Season, Arbit wing of an arbit hostel, March 4th)

(Excerpts from the diary of a harassed candidate)

**SS:** I will do away with the LAN ban totally.

**T.V.S.M.C. Balayya:** What about single rooms for first year M.Tech students? What is the LAN ban compared to this?

(Balayya leaves even before SS can answer)

**SS(to the media body head):** Please retain only the sensible answers in my video. *Abey, dekh lena yaar.*

**SS(to Arbit Freshie):** I have come for campaigning.

**Arbit Freshie:** *Samba bhaiyya* has already told me about you.

**Scene 3:** (Dept. Lab, March 13th)

**Samba:** (to TV....) Sir, have a look at the list.

**TV...:** (imagining it to be the Lab Report because of its great detail) This is the first time you are submitting your report early.

**S:** No sir, it is the list of candidates you are supposed to vote for. Tell your friends also. *Zara dekh lena.*

**Scene 4:** (Mogambo's Den, Election Eve)

**M(to Godfather):** My whole hostel will vote for the candidate you are supporting but in return...

**G:** *Don't worry meri hostel ke saare*

*votes teri favour mein hi girenge.*

**M:** *Dekh lena yaar.*

**Act 2:** (D-Day)

Samba in this particular act stands for all 143 thiradies and sophies who were running around in the insti for Mogambo.

**Scene 1:** (CCD)

At 2:00 pm,

**M(to Samba, call no. 1):** Get two recharge coupons for Rs. 500 and Rs. 750 for Hutch and Airtel respectively. I hope that you have got the slips printed. Tell the other sophies to go to their assigned hostels now only. *Sabse pehle freshies votes girana.* You need not worry about H-x and H-y as our election officer will be roaming around there.

At 6.30 pm,

**M (to Samba, on call no. 420):** *Sun, apne jo bhi log hostels mein chhupne hai unhe bahaar nikaal.* The first round people have already been caught. Go to the departments and force people to come and vote, I hope you have the bike. Also about the slips, get them distributed in 1 and 12. 11 mein fight mat maar, Godfather's *sophie* has already been caught there.

**SS:** (from his room, to Ram Beta) Tom, Dick and Harry are campaigning for my rival XY in H-z. *Unhe utha lo, dekh lena*

*yaar.*

At 10.30 pm, outside SAC. A huge crowd, normally seen only during the fest nights and H-11 valfis, has gathered to collect cellphones.

**Ram Beta:** You troubled me a lot by refusing to be quarantined but I finally caught you from your room.

**Samba:** Do you seriously think that Samba can be shackled by the walls of a prison? I jumped the wall as soon as you left me here.

**Act 3:** (Result time, outside SAC)

**Ram Beta:** Candidate SS has won the GS election with 384 votes.

**SS:** I knew that my campaigning was good (:P).

**TV...(hears the news on his way to the lab):** What about my single room?

**Samba (to SS):** I am planning to stand for elections next year, *dekh lena yaar.*

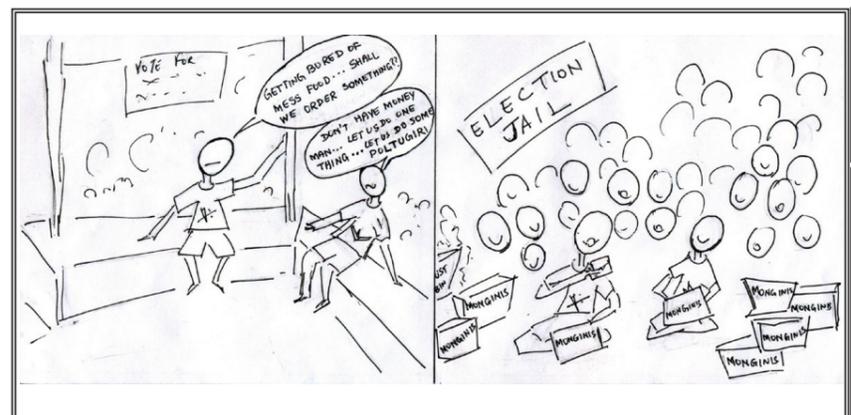
**M:** *Mogambo khush hua.*

Thus ended the eventful election experience.

The biggest irony of the insti elections is that the very same people who come to power on the shoulders of their own Mogambos will one day fight for free and fair elections for their juniors.

\***DISCLAIMER 1:** The writers of this article wish to state that all knowledge of Parvati (up to and including her name) has been obtained through Google and have never tainted their eyes with the 'K' soaps.

# **'Dekh lena'** - a phrase whose frequency during elections climbs exponentially with relation to the number of days left for the elections.



Baloney - by Sriyathsan

### New trends in IIMA placements

This year, 11 IIMA grads have either opted out of Placements or rejected eye grabbing offers for their own start-ups and their

numbers have been steadily increasing these last few years. However there always is a component of risk involved with such ventures and so as a contingency plan, lest their venture doesn't succeed, IIMA has introduced a new clause in their placement policy according to which these budding entrepreneurs can sit in the Placements for 2 more years. In short this Placement holiday is a cushion for these grads to fall back upon. Also notable is the fact that 2 of these 11 have spurned down offers of more than a Crore per annum for their ventures.

Another growing trend this year seems to be the rejection of foreign offers for Indian ones. With 11 of them at IIMA this year rejecting Videshi offers for the booming Indian industry it sure does seem that Swades has finally caught on with these grads.

Here are the figures of this year's IIMA placements (per annum).

Highest international Package: \$3,00,000

Highest Domestic Package: 1 crore.

Average and Least Domestic Salary: 13.6 and 8 lakh respectively.

### Plights of animals on campus

Cattle, dogs and birds - we see them all the time on campus. We see injured and sick variants too. Is there a facility to cater to the crying needs of

## Bulletin Board

these animals?

Major issues:

Cattle: They twist a leg when caught in the cattle traps (eg: near new aero build-

ing, near study room) and suffer without treatment.

Dogs: rabies and skin infections; cataract and arthritis among the older ones; and their ever increasing numbers.

Typical sequence of events after an injured or sick animal is spotted: Public Health Office gets a call, they provide phone numbers of NGOs, calls are made and then it's a (long) wait.

According to Mr. B.S Patil, the Public Health Officer, the NGOs don't respond fast enough after two or three closely spaced incidents. Private vets will not be of much help in cases like an injured bull or a rabid dog, because they will not be equipped to capture the animal for treatment. Currently, the PHO workers help round up the animals, be it for sterilization, rabies or injuries.

There is a desperate need for a responsive system. A system with a permanent group of people dedicated to tracking animals on campus and implementing relief in the quickest possible way. Increasing awareness is something that cannot be done without.

Phone numbers that'll help you make a difference:

Public Health Office: 7056 (internal)

Karuna, Ghatkopar : 25022358

BMC hospital, Parel : 24168381

Wireless mobile communications and wireless networking have revolutionized the way we communicate with each other. We are overwhelmed with buzzwords like 4G wireless, UMTS, WCDMA, WiMax and TriplePlay.

In the wired Internet, the functionality of different modules is neatly divided into the physical, medium access control (MAC), network (IP), transport (TCP) and application layers. However, for a time-varying and broadcast physical medium such as a wireless channel, these layers cannot be designed in isolation from each other! This naturally suggests a cross-layer design framework for wireless networks, and a lot of exciting research in this field is happening at IIT Bombay.

The research group in Information Networks Lab (EE), headed by Profs A. Karandikar and V. Sharma, is investigating packet scheduling algorithms for broadband wireless networks, with an ultimate

## WIRE IS OUT

Ashutosh Deepak Gore gives us an intriguing insight into the ongoing cutting edge wireless research at IIT Bombay.

aim to develop intellectual property in the 4G standardization process. These algorithms "learn the wireless channel" and appropriately schedule packets from the base station to the mobiles, and vice versa. The group has also developed algorithms to achieve maximum data rate in a wireless ad hoc network, for example, a set of laptops wirelessly communicating with each other without any pre-planned infrastructure. The lab has also spun off a venture-backed company, Eisodus Networks, which is developing solutions for metro ethernet based access networks.

Research students in SPANN Lab (EE), headed by Profs U.B. Desai and S.N. Merchant, are working on sensor network based projects. They have developed algorithms for landslide prediction in Konkan

region using sensor motes and GPRS. An ongoing project in a Nasik vineyard involves placing wireless sensor motes in the soil to measure atmospheric humidity and temperature, as well as soil moisture and temperature. These readings can be accessed online, and further action, such as remotely actuating a valve to release water, can be taken. Another project utilizes magneto-meter based sensor motes for traffic monitoring - apt for a city like Mumbai!

The research group in the Networking Lab (EE), headed by Prof. D. Manjunath, are working on a Quality of Service (QoS)-aware architecture for Enet, a network of high speed routers connecting all IITs and the IISc. They have also developed a low-cost software router and Voice over IP

(VoIP) applications.

IIT Bombay is also very active in developing India-specific wireless standards. Research groups in CS/IT are active in developing a wireless MAC protocol for rural India. They have developed optimized communication stacks for wireless devices. The eKalavya portal and eGURU scheme help non-IIT students carry out their projects at IIT Bombay, and also contribute to open source development.

Fast forward >>> The year is 2020; an IITB student treks up the SAMEER hill, connects his laptop to the "wireless Internet" and watches the live DVD-quality telecast of the FIFA Cup final to his laptop -- thanks to wireless technology!

*(Ashutosh Deepak Gore is a Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay. He can be reached at [adgore@ee.iitb.ac.in](mailto:adgore@ee.iitb.ac.in))*

What goes into the making of a multi-million company like Hotmail from a simple idea? All it takes is an entrepreneur capable of identifying the opportunity and tapping the potential.

Today, IITians are looking beyond the conventional straight-jacketed career options and this spirit is primarily channelized by the proliferation of various opportunities in a growing economy like India. IIMA recently announced its new placement policy giving students the option of participating in the placements until two years after they graduate, thus providing a secure impetus for entrepreneurship. Is it possible that the people of IIT Bombay escape this bug? Entrepreneurship is here to stay!

ECell - The Entrepreneurship Cell dedicates itself to produce a genre of global entrepreneurs. This apparently obscure IB, has been one of the most active student organizations in the country and was also awarded for being the **BEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION** promoting entrepreneurship at TiE-CON Delhi in 2005

A person visualizes an entrepreneur as someone who manages a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk. But one may ask where that enterprise came from? There are many stages in which an enterprise evolves.

This journey from a simple idea to a successful enterprise is however not a cakewalk and this is where Entrepreneurship-cell comes into picture.

## E-cell: From an Idea to a Million Dollar Enterprise

Ankit Agrawal and Rohit Vadera shed light on the nurturing work that this Independent Body (IB) has been doing in promoting entrepreneurship

E-cell was instituted with the vision of motivating more and more people towards enterprising and to endorse the already propelled ones taking them to the next level. Worth mentioning is the fact that in its endeavor, E cell also has the backing of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and NEN (**National Entrepreneurship Network**).

The nascent stage of any start-up is an idea. With this theme in the back of its mind, E-cell started **In-corpora**, the first ever Business club for the students of IITB. This club aims to serve as a meeting ground for students interested in entrepreneurship and acclimatize them to the very generic and basic principles of business and management.

E-cell also conducts **IDEAZ**, a Pan-IIT Business idea competition as a part of which various workshops are conducted in which professors and eminent personalities highlight the various opportunities available to the students in their respective fields of expertise and interest. The teams earn a cut above their peers by reaching a step further in commercializing their idea; to refine their entries with a broader market perspective.

Once people are stirred with ideas the journey of transforming the ideas into a start-up begin but nobody wishes to be alone on this journey. **Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)**, an online portal launched by E-cell, aims at bringing together individuals at different stages of their careers, but interested in launching their startups on a common platform, thus offering a 'team building service' along with mentoring and other features. An integral feature of the portal is the 'idea zone', enabling the users to market their ideas if they themselves do not wish to take it ahead. Currently the network of GEN comprises of other leading institutes across the nation like IITs, IIMs, BITS Pilani, FMS Delhi, NIT Trichy and many more to come.

Any success story follows in the footprint of a plausible and practical blueprint which we refer to as a 'Business Plan'. To provide an insight into the penning down of a business plan and its implementation, E-cell introduced The Entrepreneurship Summit (E-summit)-a networking intensive event-to have a common platform for educating the budding entrepreneurs about different aspects of business planning and

hence enabling them to mould their ideas to meet real-world business hardships with confidence.

Then there are people who already have a team and a business plan. For these groomed people, there is 'EUREKA! The International Business Plan Competition' - exerting extra leverage on counseling at each stage of the event, including both online and personal meetings by high profile corporates. The winning teams get an opportunity to present their plan to venture capitalists and incubators to secure funding with an added advantage of sharing experiences and seeking guidance from the first generation entrepreneurs.

Eureka has helped its winners across the world to shape their dream ideas into reality by providing cash incentives along with incubation. A total of 17 enterprises have led their journey to the stately corporate world with E-cell since its institution in 1999. To cite a few of these now multimillion enterprises: Voyager InfoTech -Winners of Eureka 1999, Elnfitus Technologies -Winners of Eureka 2001, MyZus -Winners of Eureka 2000 (valued at US\$ 6 million in 2004).

An innovative idea, moulded into a B plan, with intense steering and exposure can lead to a fledgling business funded or incubated by an angel investor. The next step is to move out into the world to clinch the heights of money and success, with E-cell lending a helping hand at all stages.



## Independent Initiatives

Rutika and Gurveen attempt to discern the secrets behind a successful entrepreneurial venture straight from those who've been there and done that.

more. The team should consist of an eclectic combination of people. They should possess complementary skills and leadership qualities. Most importantly, they have to be good friends so as not to buckle under the immense work pressure.

### THE RIGHT AGE

Right after graduation or probably during the last year is the ideal time to start working on your idea. This is the one time when you can live on a shoe-string budget, can afford to take risks and have enough stamina to put in the amount of effort required.

### FUNDING

In the development stage, start ups are usually either funded by friends, relatives or by angel investors. Angel investors are affluent people who provide some capital usually in exchange for equity. When you reach a stage where you have a fully

developed product or service, you can approach VCs (venture capitalists), who usually invest large amounts of money from a professionally managed fund, in exchange for shares.

### IIT AS A PLACE FOR STARTING

IIT is the best place to begin a start up. You have a huge resource pool which helps you in working on your idea or product. A large network of contacts makes it the ideal place to find your co-founders, people who have similar passions and think on the same lines as you. In fact, IIT Bombay has its own incubation center called SINE, which provides support for technology based entrepreneurship by IITians.

Not everything is rosy. In fact starting your own venture is like compressing your entire working life into a small number of years. There are problems: bills to be paid,

no security, family opposition and expectations to be lived up to, but eventually it's all worth the struggle. The satisfaction and sense of independence experienced is immense. It can be tough at times, but exhilarating all the time

Our sincerest thanks to the following for their input and our best wishes.

*Rohit Sai and Gaurav Tripathi have founded Youtopia. Youtopia works in 3 fields- web based applications, mobile applications and wireless technology.*

*Kunal Sharma, Saurabh Saxena and Rohit Jain have founded Aakar. Aakar is an educational consultancy which provides user based services to clients.*

*Ankit Mehta, Ashish Bhat and Rahul Singh have founded IdeaForge. Currently, they make alternative energy based solutions.*

If you want to read more on entrepreneurship, start ups and venture capitalists, refer to the following links.

<http://www.paulgraham.com/articles.html>  
[http://blog.guykawasaki.com/2007/04/how\\_to\\_get\\_the\\_.html](http://blog.guykawasaki.com/2007/04/how_to_get_the_.html)

Brave are those who believe in following their passions irrespective of the risk involved, who prefer creativity over security and have the courage to pursue their dreams.

We decided to talk to three such IIT Bombay alumni, who passed out recently and founded their own start-ups: Rohit Sai from Youtopia, Kunal Sharma from Aakar and Ankit Mehta from IdeaForge. Here is an overview of what we found on how to go about starting your very own start up.

### THE IDEA

You don't really need a path breaking idea to start with, but something you truly believe in. Your idea should not only evoke passion in you, but it must also be something that people want. The initial few months are just to enrich your experience. Most of the times, what you end up with evolves completely differently from what you started off with.

### THE RIGHT TEAM

The success of start ups depends on the initial 3-4 people, nothing less and nothing

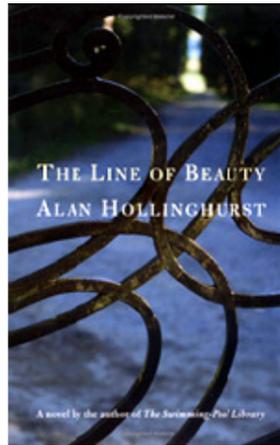
## Book: The Line of Beauty (2004)

In perhaps what might be the boldest attempt in contemporary English fiction, Alan Hollinghurst announces his arrival on THE literary scene with a stamp of majestic authority through this explicitly gay themed and critically acclaimed novel. No wonder then that it was the first novel with an overt homosexual motif to have won the Booker Prize in its 36-year history in 2004, fully deserving of the adulation it received the world over. Far too much praise has been lavished in generous dose on the 'achingly beautiful' style of Hollinghurst's work that is replete with passages of 'dream-like' beauty.

Hollinghurst ever so masterfully creates an endless landscape of rich imagery for the reader to glide through in reverie. Any connoisseur of beauty would find it hard to suppress that smile and nod of approval, as line after line of sheer poetic charm unfolds in the prose written with such unbelievable eloquence. The novel stands out for the delicately hilarious undercurrent in its narrative all through, which among many others is a subtly satirical jibe at the social and political structure of London during the Thatcher years in the early 80s. The notorious and ungainly infatuation of politicians of those times with The Great Lady is shrewdly interlaced into the story as well.

The novel chronicles the journey of self-discovery of Nick Guest, a young Oxford graduate lodged with the Fedden Family, pursuing Ph. D on the element of style in the works of his idol Henry James. Nick is enthralled by all things rich and beautiful of the high class society to which he gets

access by virtue of being in the company of Feddens. Quite the aesthetic observer, he tries to take in the intoxicating beauty he describes in the things around him – mu-



sic, paintings, art, furniture, and above all male anatomy, and in a way makes it a rationale for the survival of his 'self'.

Nick gains the first taste of romance from a relationship which ends abruptly, setting him on a different pedestal. An explosive and clandestine relationship that follows with a millionaire playboy leads him into the perilously adventurous world of cocaine, insatiable lust and scandals. As the denouement unfolds, there is a sudden reversal of fortune what

looming around and an ironic twist of fate isolating him from the Feddens.

The intensely graphic portrayals of the sexual encounters of Nick, sure to raise an eyebrow, are candid depictions of the gradually blooming confidence he gains in exploring his sexuality. But this novel is not to be seen as stereotypical gay fiction. The story is not the focal point so much as the way it is narrated without any room for the mundane. The world as seen through the eyes of the homosexual protagonist who believes that he owns all things beautiful in the world by right of taste and longing, is indeed poignantly thought provoking.

The novel takes its name from William Hogarth's espousal of the Ogee curve, a 'line' of beauty supposedly innate in all

thriving works of visual art. The line curves from one extreme to another and reverses itself, creating tension and beauty simultaneously. That in short, is the pandect of

## ESOTERICA!

Our new critic, V. Vijay Venu dissects an award winning book and an offbeat movie.

Nick's life, as seen in the context of social setting and affectations of the elite London.

A thing of beauty is a joy forever... The Line of Beauty is as joyous as it gets!! What would be interesting to see is how that invariably philistine population amidst us, blinded by their obnoxious and inexplicably bigoted world-view, would respond to the staunch advocacy of this book through this review.



## Movie: Tape

... Before Sunset, Before Sunrise and then TAPE!! Richard Linklater does have a good eye for sinewy themes. TAPE at best can be summarised as an intensely riveting psychological exciter... a thought provoking and 'timeless' piece of art.

It's been a long wait for a movie to come up with such a finer dissection of the complexities involved in the nuances of human relationships.... The script has been amazingly fine tuned to capture the raw power of dug-up ethical dilemmas. Seemingly commonplace feelings (acts) transcribed to words in the right way carry so much of weightage, when it comes to impacting the viewer!! EXCEPTIONAL

screenplay and effortless direction!! Admirers of Before Sunset and Before Sunrise shouldn't give this a miss. While those were romantically and intellectually spellbinding, Tape shows what it is like to get under a feverish grip of stimulatingly thrilling conversations engineered on differing perspectives. That it takes place in a claustrophobic room with just three characters slowly emerging as complete personalities with multi dimensional colorings, and still does not for a moment let you take your eyes off the screen says it all.

The movie takes place in a seedy motel room where two friends, one a drug dealer with issues and another a budding film maker, get together one night and eventually start reminiscing the nostalgic memories of their college days. Past demons are confronted, accusations are traded, and each launches into aggrandizing justifications. Enter the femme fatale in question, and the momentum snowballs into a jaw

dropping climax!

The only three actors of the movie, Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard (remember these two buddies from Dead Poets Society?) and Uma Thurman effortlessly slip into their characters and do a complementary job. The premise is intimidating at first, but it takes just a little bit of adjusting initially. Once you force yourself to sit through the first ten minutes of the movie, what unfolds on the screen magically carries you through the rest of the 75 minute duration!! A must watch for dilettantes.

(V. Vijay Venu is a first year Ph.D Research Scholar in the Interdisciplinary Programme in Reliability Engineering. He can be contacted at [vvv@ee.iitb.ac.in](mailto:vvv@ee.iitb.ac.in))

## A placement tale of two cities

### IIT Delhi

Companies Registered for placement\* - 270+  
Companies participated - 240+

Number of students registered for placements - 1000

#### Percentage placed:

UG students - 92%  
PG students - 78%

#### Important Companies along with the salaries offered per annum (p.a.)

Bloomberg - 90,000 USD  
Merrill Lynch - 40,000 GBP  
UBS - 40,000 GBP  
Google - 9,50,000 INR  
Adobe - 11,00,000 INR  
Microsoft - 11,25,000 INR  
Amazon - 9,50,000 INR

#### Some notable points:

- Over 90% of the students with a CGPA of 8 or more were placed in the first 4 days.

- A maximum of 8 companies handled per day.

### IIT Bombay

Companies Registered for placement\* - 275+  
Companies participated - 200+

Number of students registered for placements - 1100 (including 100 PhDs)

#### Percentage placed:

UG students - 84%  
PG students - 83%

#### Important Companies along with the salaries offered per annum (p.a.)

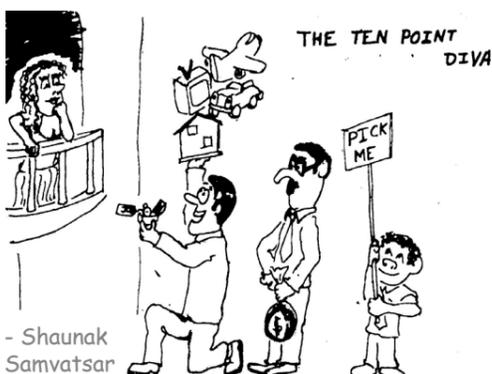
Schlumberger - 24-48 Lakhs INR  
Mckinsey/BCG - 10,00,000 INR  
UBS - 85000 USD  
Google 9,50,000 INR  
Merrill Lynch - 40,000 GBP  
Microsoft - 11,25,000 INR  
Lime Group - 90,000 USD  
Goldman Sachs - 12-14 Lakhs INR

#### Some notable points:

- Increase by 100% of people placed in the AI category

\*Approximate Figures only

\*\*Data courtesy: Placement teams of IITD and IITB.



Music theory! The name sounds formidable. The weak-hearted may reasonably come up with "In music too? Get a life!" Well, this certainly isn't any "hard-core theory" as we shall soon see.

**What is music "theory" and why music theory?**

The What? : *Music theory* is not a "set of rules", derived scientifically using terrible equations, that MUST be followed if you wish to play music. It is perhaps, best described by Walter Piston in his classic text, "Harmony": "...musical theory is not a set of directions for composing music.... It tells not how music will be written in the future, but how music has been written in the past." Surprisingly, the "science of harmony" is more of a convention than a science!

The Why? : Firstly, the "facts" that we may learn about a certain instrument can now be understood logically. Secondly, music theory is mostly fun.

**The notes**

The human ear is capable of hearing frequencies between 20Hz-20KHz, that is what our science textbook told us. What it seemed to ignore, is the interesting fact that the ear response to the frequencies is logarithmic. Try it out! We "recognise" a tune by judging the ratio of the different frequencies in the tune rather than the difference between them. It is this fantastic hearing response that gives us the ability to hear a wide range of frequencies. Now, let's do this: Take a frequency. Pick up twice of that frequency. Then, divide this interval between the two into twelve "equal parts" so that the ratio of a frequency to the next must be kept constant. This common ratio is clearly  $2^{1/12}$ . These form the 12 notes. The reason 12 is chosen is probably because of the following :

1. It is good enough to approximate most sequences of distinguishable tunes.
2. The ratios between the chosen set of frequencies become very close to "nice" rational numbers, with small numerators and denominators.  $3/2:=2^{7/12}$  or  $4/3:=2^{5/12}$

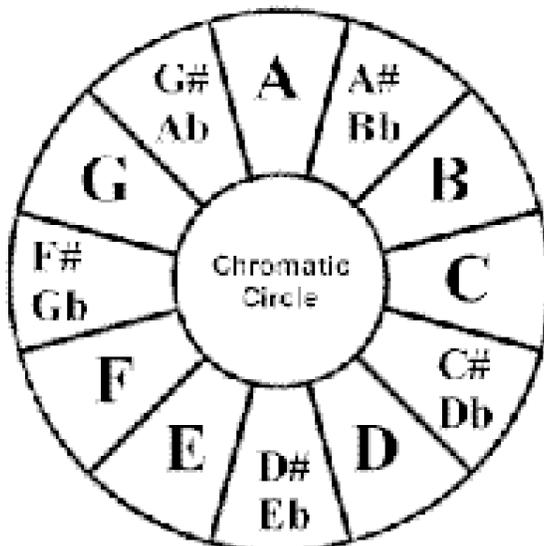
The notes are named as : C C#/D<sup>b</sup> D D#/E<sup>b</sup> E F F#/G<sup>b</sup> G G#/A<sup>b</sup> A A#/B<sup>b</sup> B

The # and b are pronounced 'sharp' and 'flat' respectively.

# Music Theory

Sudeep Kamath investigates the link between two seemingly unrelated subjects - music and science.

The gap between two consecutive notes is called a semitone(S) which we now understand as simply a ratio of  $2^{1/12}$  in frequency. Two semitones make a tone (T) and twelve semitones make an octave (twice the frequency). The notes carry the same names in the next octave. A certain 'A' note has its frequency fixed to 440Hz and the rest therefore can be determined. The name 'octave' is a misnomer, as we see the interval is divided in twelve equal parts and not eight.



**The theory**

The composer must first choose a key. A *key* is a subset of the twelve notes. A scale is an ordered version of the key, the notes in increasing frequency starting with some root note. The most popular scale employed all around the world is the *Major scale*. Let's look at the construction of the Major scale by considering the example of the *Major scale*.

First, you choose the root note. That has already been chosen - the G note. Pick up the note that is one tone higher than the root note - A. Now, pick up a tone higher than that - B, then a semitone higher - C, a tone higher, D, another tone higher, E, and finally one more tone - F#/G<sup>b</sup>. To complete the octave, you choose a semitone higher - G again. The "formula" for the Major scale may then be given as : (Root) T T S T T T S (octave of root note)

The G Major scale goes as : G A B C D E F# G. If you play these notes together in this sequence, it sounds like the very familiar "Sa Re Ga ...". Indeed, this is the reason for the misnomer "octave" - eight notes in a Major scale.

The first, third and fifth note of the scale played together had been found sound "good" and are said to form the *Arpeggio* of that scale. These notes when played together form the *Major Chord*.

There are numerous scales defined by corresponding "formulae". The other widely used scales are the Minor scale and the *Blues* scale.

**The physics of instruments**

Be it the harmonica, flute, keyboard, or the guitar, the basic working principles are derived from the above. We shall explore the working of the guitar.

In a guitar, the sound is produced by vibrations of the strings, the frequency of vibration being determined by the mass per unit length of the string, the tension in the string and the vibrating length. The guitar neck is provided with frets, which enables the guitarist to change the vibrating length while playing by pressing his finger between two frets. The frets are so placed that, as you move down the neck, the vibrating lengths form a decreasing geometric progression, with a ratio of  $2^{1/12}$ . By choosing the string thicknesses and tensions appropriately, one can produce notes in a good range of frequency.

**Music is an art**

They say the great mathematician Euler, once attempted music theory, but the outcome was too musical for the mathematicians, and too mathematical for the musicians! All said and done, music is an art. Science is an aid to the understanding of instruments, but it can go only so far in the creation of music.

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**"Hasta la vista" - say the Ex-Eds.**

Another long and eventful year has come to an end, and it's time to say our thanks and goodbyes.

Throughout the 6 InsIghT issues this year, we made a conscious effort to tackle important issues pertaining to student life in the institute through in-depth analyses. The repercussions of the 'reservations for OBCs' policy on the institute, the sub-standard internal transportation facilities, the various facets of the LAN ban policy, and student concerns regarding the campus hospital were all covered in detail.

Besides this, we experimented with a few new initiatives. We organised a student-faculty panel discussion 'The Great Depression' to discuss various issues pertaining to student depression, academic pressure and support systems in the institute. A number of interesting thoughts and suggestions emerged from the event, and we can only hope that the relevant authorities will take these up seriously. As a media body, we also made

an attempt to cover the PAF season in greater detail this year. We owe a great deal to all of you - with your boundless enthusiasm for the camera - for helping make the PAF Review Videos a success!

As always, the Election Videos that we shot were aimed at making the campaigning process easier for both the candidates and the electorate. This year, we also made a special effort to make the institute General Secretaries more accountable to the student population. To this end, we conducted a mid-tenure GS Review in November.

As a student newsletter, our primary objective has always been to be the 'voice of the students'. We have cried ourselves hoarse about this in the past, but we shall say it again - we really do need your constant feedback to help us improve. Please let us know your suggestions and feedback by either informing any of our team-members in person or mailing us at insight@iitb.ac.in.

So long then, and thanks for all the fish!  
- Ex-eds, Krishna and Patni

## SHOUTBACK

We NEED Feedback.

Help us improve, the way you want us to.  
InsIghT also invites freelance articles and Letters to the Editor, to be published in the next issue.

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