

Snapshots

Campus Reporter results

We've picked our winners! See the top two cartoons on pages 1 and 8

Mess Workers' problems

There's a great divide between the lifestyle of temporary and permanent mess workers- page 2

Placement Update

Find out what the new placement team has been up to and what to expect this placement season- page 4

Turning CPI around

We spoke to people who've already done it. To read their invaluable tips, turn to page 5

The Watchman

InsIghT's very own cartoon character, the Watchman, has something to say about résumé season - page 5

Too Many Clubs?

An article with a strong opinion on our burgeoning club culture - page 7

The H4 Incident – Saturday, 26th July

A few days before the incident, the DoSA's office received a few complaints of ragging. Prof. Gopalan had to act on the complaints, and called the Student Mentor Programme Coordinators on Friday to tell them to stop the incidents. On the next day, he placed security staff in the messes. During lunch, there was an incident of ragging reported in the H4 mess. The concerned freshmen and seniors were made to meet the DoSA, to establish the facts of the case. After this, punishments were dealt out.

Since ragging is against the Institute rules, action would have been taken against the seniors even in the absence of any complaint by the freshmen, who were obviously reluctant to create an issue, since there was clear proof of the incident.

Prof. Gopalan issued a strict warning, saying "In any future case of ragging, we will take strict and immediate action. In addition, the names of all students involved in such a case will be publicized throughout the Institute." He also clarified the definition of ragging, basing it on the Supreme Court statement about ragging involving forcing a student to do some activity he/she would not otherwise have done. He also said that it is best to be very careful, since an action that one student may find offensive might be acceptable to another. He said that it

The Intro Ban

The recent ban on intros triggered a great deal of discussion. Here, we present the opinions of both sides - seniors and freshies - on the ban

all depends on the person at the receiving end.

A Senior's Point of View

While most seniors appreciate the difficulty of the DoSA's position - he is, after all, compelled to take action, some do question whether so drastic a step as banning all intros was necessary. Below, we have explained the point of view of such a senior.

What is an intro?

On most occasions an interactive session full of rough language and some errands being asked of freshers, intros were our way of saying "Hi" to those godlike beings, our seniors. An intro was just the first step in breaking the barrier between freshers and seniors.

To most of us, intros were never a traumatizing experience, but rather a conversation starter with many of our own batchmates, who went through the process along with us. Intro sessions were just plain routine. As much as they sometimes seemed to be stupid, they somehow did

lay a few facts straight - the most important of them being that our stay here was not going to be a merry cruise, but that every bit of it was still going to be worthwhile.

The Implications

The implications of the intro ban are not immediately apparent. Lack of interaction within the freshie batch itself is very prominent, at least compared to previous batches. There are also concerns that the lack of interaction will lead to dwindling hostel spirit.

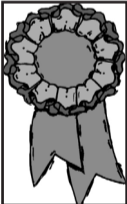
Conclusion

The essence of every argument against the complete blanket ban on interaction (melodramatic though it may seem) is that it is degrading the IITian way of life. To sum up, intros border on the thin line between useless entertainment and not so apparent lessons in life. For ages, intros have formed a part of the growth of an IITian from a fresher to an adult. From removing the almost infamous hierarchy to helping you form your own educated opinions about things important in life, a simple first intro session goes a long way.

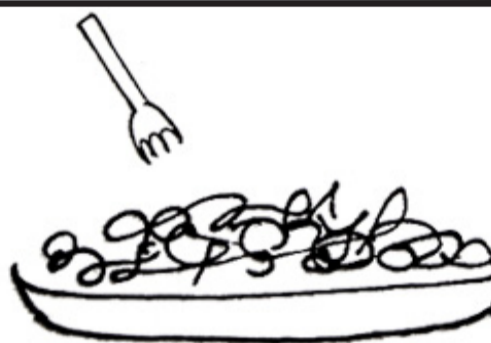
However, an intro that crosses the bounds of decency must be stopped. Again, it depends on the person at the receiving end. On this point, students and authorities seem to be in perfect agreement.

(To read the results of a freshie survey on the same topic, turn to page 2)

"Priceless"- Campus Reporter Winner- Eeshan



COLD COFFEE AT MIDNIGHT. 12 RUPEES.



LATE LATE NIGHT DINNER AT H13. 28 RUPEES.



BREAKFAST AT MADDU'S. 54 RUPEES.



SLEEPING THROUGH THE MID-SEM THAT PROMPTED THE NIGHT-OUT. PRICELESS.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS MONEY CAN'T BUY - INCLUDING A PINK SLIP.

Sunny Side Up

Archana, Eeshan and Aaysha bring you a list of things we have to be thankful for

This is one of those articles which could easily start off philosophically. But since all of us IITians are busy folks, and have a lot of things to attend to, we'll not do that. Instead, here's what this article is about, in a nutshell: it's an attempt to remind you of the things you should be grateful to your Institute for. You needn't take time out of your busy lives to chant a prayer to the institute every day, but simply be aware of all the luxuries given to us that we take for granted.

The Institute of Technology

This is a list of things that just go to show the institute's title isn't just for show.

Electricity & Water supply
IIT Bombay students enjoy an (almost) uninterrupted supply of (almost) unlimited electricity in their hostel rooms, and running hot and cold water in bathrooms.

The LAN
Even though there's a seven hour LAN-ban in effect, IITBians do have

17-hours-a-day access to high-speed internet. Add to that working computer rooms in most hostels, even during the LAN ban. Also, we will soon be the fastest college (internet-wise) in India with an overall bandwidth upgrade to 104 MBPS from the 32 we currently enjoy.

Varta

An objective, unhindered, open platform for everyone and anyone to discuss everything and anything; to share opinions, views and comments.

STD, ISD, PCO...

...photocopying, printing, scanning and all sorts of facilities at rates that don't even begin to compare with market prices.

The Time Machine

It's remarkable how everything in the institute has adapted itself to suit the odd waking hours for everyone in IITB.

Curfew? What Curfew?

Absolutely no restrictions on the time we are allowed to enter/exit the institute - whether it be during lecture hours, or in the dead of night.

(Continued on page 4)

The Intro Ban

(Continued from page 1)

The Freshie Survey

About 80 freshies (of various departments) were interviewed and their views on various topics related to ragging were solicited. Most of them were very opinionated about the issue. Our observations from the questions are tabulated below.

Q. How apprehensive were you about ragging when you came to IIT? What happened?

All freshies, without exception, had been told by family, friends and well-wishers that ragging at IITB (owing to the Zero Tolerance policy) was almost negligible. While many of them had absolutely no anxieties about the phase immediately post joining, some admitted that they were indeed apprehensive.

Some said that the recent Supreme Court order banning ragging had allayed their fears to a significant extent (it is worth mentioning here that despite the order, freshers still face considerable ragging in most other residential colleges, including the other IITs). A few freshies told us that their friends' choice of IITs had been influenced by what they'd heard about the ragging scenarios there. IITs Bombay and KGP have a particularly good reputation in this regard. A sizeable number were actually excited about ragging and had been keenly anticipating the same. They sounded somewhat disappointed/betrayed at the lack of any ragging.

Q. To what level would you be comfortable with ragging/intros?

All freshies, without exception, were against ragging that involved physical harm of any kind. Most of them were against physical ragging of any kind. A handful of individuals openly admitted that they didn't even mind ragging which bordered on the obscene. Intros, on the other hand, were surprisingly popular with most freshies (for reasons cited below). They claimed to have no issues with anything non-physical, including difficult/embarrassing/intimate questions.

Q. How many times have you been introed?

Some, quite obviously, had no idea of what an intro was. They considered a senior casually asking them their name or department the same as being 'introed'. Many freshies regretted having never been introed and said that an intro was something which one ought to experience.

Q. (To the freshies who supported ragging/intros in some form) What do you think are the advantages of intros?

The primary point that almost all intro supporters expressed was that ragging was a means of getting acquainted with one's seniors and getting on talking terms with them. A few freshies were actually hurt at being ignored by seniors. The freshies said that they felt uncomfortable approaching a senior who hadn't 'interacted' with them previously. They claimed that seniors could teach them a lot of things and that it was necessary to 'interact' with seniors in order to have access to this *gyaan*.

Q. Do you think seniors are justified in expecting that freshies treat them with respect?

Every freshie interviewed agreed that seniors were justified in demanding respect and expecting freshies to talk 'properly' to them. All of them were quite supportive of the prevalent Senior/Junior hierarchy. None of them was particularly rebellious, at least not openly so.

However, this year, a few cases of freshies being downright rude to seniors were observed. While one freshie loudly and openly mocked a sophie, another refused to vacate a mess table in the 'Seniors only' section (despite repeated cajoling by the hostel GSec). All freshies who were interviewed unequivocally denounced these incidents. In fact, one H3 freshie wing went as far as to write a formal letter of apology to all Hostel seniors.

Q. Do you mind being asked to run minor errands by seniors?

All freshies claimed that they had no problems doing minor things a senior asks them to (unless it's immoral/illegal etc): some even said it is fun, adding that most chores seniors ask them to do typically take less than 15-20 minutes. Some went as far as to agree that the senior's time was more valuable than theirs and so asking them to do minor chores was justified.

Q. What do you feel about the H4 incident and the penalties that were imposed on the offending seniors?

None of the freshies surveyed was aware of the exact details concerning the incident, due to conflicting reports/rumours that have been freely circulating. A few had actually not even heard of the incident taking place. The ones who had some idea about it felt that the punishment was slightly too harsh and the seniors in questions should have been let off with a warning.

Authors' closing comments: We wish to point out that nearly all freshies surveyed have neither experienced nor are going to any experience any sort of ragging, or even intros for that matter, courtesy the strict enforcement by IITB authorities this year. The freshies' surprisingly upbeat attitude on the issue might have been influenced by these circumstances.

(Kumar Aakash and Joshua Abraham are fourth year students of the MEMS and Electrical Departments, respectively. The survey was conducted by Antariksh Bothale and Harishchandra Ramadas, who are second year students of the Mechanical and Engineering Physics Departments, respectively)

Mess Workers' Problems

Ajanta looks at the two different types of workers in messes, and highlights the disparity between them

Three cooks and ten helpers preparing breakfast, cutting vegetables, cooking, washing vessels and cleaning for 450 hostelites from 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM is a snapshot of a typical scene in a hostel mess. The tantrums thrown by students are part of another story altogether. But there are bigger problems.

There are two categories of players in the arena of a hostel kitchen – the permanent workers, who are paid by the institute, and the temporary workers, who are daily wage labourers employed by the hostel. This difference in status is the major reason of interpersonal conflict in most hostels. While the average permanent worker has

I'm the sole breadwinner of the family. To this, the HCU head says, "We do take certain cases on grounds of compassion, but there are too many such cases. We generally ensure employment for widows."

The permanent workers have a high degree of job security. They can only be given memos for any negligence or lapse on their part. However, these memos have little effect on their career unless they receive many memos in a short period of time. The temporary workers, on the other hand, do not have any job security. The hostel warden and council can simply decide not to give the person a contract when her/his current 89-day contract finishes.

Resource Crunch – the GSHA speaks

The GS, Hostel Affairs, Ashwin Soni, gives frightening details of exactly what could happen to IITB in two years

In our previous issue, our cover story was about the Resource Crunch in IITB; it looked at ways in which the institute was trying to cope with the increased student intake. The article ended with a message that some things are out of the hands of even the Institute authorities.

As a follow up to that article, we interview the GSHA, Ashwin Soni, and learn from him that the situation is, indeed, very bad, and that only a concerted student – authority initiative can save us. First, we present his view of the details of the problem.

The Problem

The Institute is currently at full capacity. We cannot accommodate even one more student (without resorting to measures like doubling students in rooms) till the extensions of Hostels 12 and 13 come up. These extensions are not expected to come up for the next two years – and this is an optimistic estimate. We aren't even talking of new hostels here – they will take years to come up. After two years, the number of students will have gone up by 54% (over the total number in 2007). Where will we put them?

The increased number of students means that less and less students will get single rooms. Ashwin reveals that it was only after a lot of shuffling that third year UG and second year PG students were given single rooms this year. Next year, third year UG students and second year PG students will, in all probability, be paired up. In two years, even fourth year UG students will have roommates. Should this happen in the country's premier engineering institute?

Consider what it will be like to live in a hostel in the near future. The room size is not going to increase, and students of the future might not even have a study table

to themselves for any part of their stay at IITB. Also, amenities like water coolers and washing machines (which are only just sufficient for the current population) will have to increase in proportion to the population. These resources can be increased, but think of resources which cannot – for example, bathrooms. We might soon see long queues of hostel inmates in front of hostel toilets and bathrooms.

What we need to do

First, Ashwin says that awareness of the problem is a very important one – he would like the whole student body to know all the details of this issue and discuss possible solutions.

Second, the whole student body needs to come up with ideas and put pressure on the authorities to implement them, since we students are the ones who will be directly affected by the resource crunch, and hence will have a greater sense of urgency about the issue.

In this regard, it is also very important for the students to work selflessly and not think that since the issue will not affect them directly, there is no need for them to help junior batches.

Finally, it is also important for the student body to realize that some issues are beyond the scope of even the student representatives and the Institute authorities to tackle – that we need to stand united and do all that we can together, rather than search for someone to blame for the current state of affairs.

Watch out for Ashwin Soni's appearance on the third episode of the *Insight Show* (our very own talk show), premiering Monday, 15.9.08.

	Permanent Workers	Temporary Workers
Salary	According to Institute Pay Scale	Rs. 150 per day. Charged Rs. 50 per day for food in the hostel
Bonus	Rs. 600	Rs. 225
Pension	Yes	No
Workload	Same	Same
Job Security	Yes	No
Other benefits	Can use IIT Hospital and Campus School	Cannot use either of these
Miscellaneous	Allowances for uniform, soap, oil, washing	None of these allowances are provided

been around for 22 years, the average temporary worker has been around for not less than 8 years! The temporary workers have significantly less privileges than the permanent workers (see box).

The details of the problem

While the permanent worker is a perennial worker, the temporary worker in any hostel works for 89 days, is given a one day break and again enters into a contract for 89 days. The exception is H11, where there are so many temporary workers that while one set works for 89 days, the members of the other set sit at home. The HCU head Prof. Nandkishore says, "HCU is not at all in the picture. It is solely upto the warden and the council to appoint workers. They are actually trying to make everybody happy." On the other hand, the only urge that the temporary workers have is to work daily as they cannot afford to sit idle for 3 months if they have to keep their family going. A widow says, "I cannot afford to sit at home,

Possible Solutions

When asked about the biggest problem, the H11 workers said: "Money is definitely a constraint, but more than that it is the conflict with the permanent workers that is a problem." Prof. Nandkishore says that once all the hostel messes become centralized, things will fall into place and most problems will be solved. He strongly suggests that temporary mess workers should enroll themselves in open schools and try to pass at least their 10th standard, as this is also one criterion to be a permanent worker.

In Hostel 7 the mess workers were given a token of appreciation from the alumni and also some amount of money after they retired. He feels that such activities should take place in all hostels. We definitely need to spare a thought for our mess workers.

(Ajanta Akhuly is a second year PG student of the HSS Department. She can be contacted at z7808001@iitb.ac.in)

Imagine yourself running a hurdle race against time – you have crossed all your hurdles in the race but for the last one. Now fancy getting floored due to a blunder and losing the race. The issue assumes significance when the race we're talking about is actually your career.

To enunciate the point, picture this scenario – You've cracked the CAT and the interviews and you're looking forward to the hallowed hallways of an IIM, and you suddenly realize that your DDP guide has given you a DDP extension for a few weeks, making you too late for admission. Or, you've been placed with an MNC offering you a very high package, but have failed to pass the acid test – satisfying your DDP guide – and you never do get to join your dream job.

Welcome to the real world, folks. These are just two instances of many similar incidents that happened a few months ago in our campus, and are part of a disturbingly increasing trend over the years. So much so, in fact, that a complete batch in one of the specializations of the Mechanical Department faced extensions.

Who is to blame?

Assessing this situation objectively, one might be led to believe that Dual Degree projects are really too tough to be completed in the stipulated 14 months or that the Professors at IITB are draconian; but delving slightly deeper into this issue makes us believe that the truth lies elsewhere.

One cannot, surely, rule out the obvious fact that once they get placed, students develop a casual approach towards their projects. The project seems to be a formality at best and a burden at worst. Interestingly, Prof. Gopalan, our DoSA, believes that a laid-back attitude doesn't really stem from placements alone – "Students are indoctrinated about how the fifth-year is a one-year vacation in the extended IIT Dual Degree from their formative years in the hostels".

Recently, the Department of Chemical Engineering revamped its structure so as to allow students to choose their specializations in the third year. This system has already been in place in the Department of Aerospace Engineering for some years, while the Department of Computer Science and Engineering has discontinued it entirely. We are talking about the Dual Degree Programme, introduced in the IITs in 1997 mainly for increasing post graduate level research. However, there are many common misconceptions about life as a DD student. Here's an attempt to sift the facts from the myths.

Myth #1: People choose the Dual Degree Programme only because they can't get into the BTech programme.

Well, call 'em crazy if you will, but there is an increasing trend of students opting for DD over BTech right after the JEE. Even in succeeding years, BTech students opt for a branch change into DD courses of the same department. So, as you can see, some people do find their true calling in the Dual Degree Programme. Besides, if placement figures are anything to go by, reflected by common opinion on campus, DDs do get better pay scales.

DDP - The last hurdle

Final year students have weathered so much - semesters full of academics and extracurriculars, internships and then placements. Why then, do they falter at the very last step? Rohit and Rajat wonder

A general perception has been created – especially among freshmen and sophomores – that the fifth year is 'peace'. This belief amplifies progressively through the third and fourth years and manifests itself in absolutely shoddy work in the fifth year.

does not necessarily work in the DDP scenario. The DDP guide is never informed about a student's academic or professional pursuits after IIT, and so it is not correct to blame the faculty for giving a DDP extension."

Chilling facts

"Multiple people over the years have done well in placements and/or have got into an IIM, only to have their dreams crushed because of lack of dedicated work in their DDP."

"Recently, a complete batch in one of the specializations of the Mechanical Department faced extensions."

"Once they get placed, students develop a casual approach towards their project work. The project seems to be a formality at best and a burden at worst."

"The DDP guide is never informed about a student's academic or professional pursuits after IIT, and so it is not correct to blame the faculty for giving a DDP extension."

Possible solutions

Regular Professor-student interaction plays an important role in ensuring the work done by the student is commensurate to the expectations of the Professor, and is aimed in the right direction.

As for the more sensitive issue of holding the faculty partly responsible for the indifferent attitude of some students towards the DDP and perhaps intentionally extending the DDP submission deadlines, the concerned DoSA says: "IIT in itself is a dynamic system with professors coming and going; but the hostel doctrines of the ease of fifth year academics have remained frozen over time. Students keep their priority on 'figuring out' their professors and their courses from seniors instead of purely focusing on academics, and this strategy

To take corrective steps in this regard is a matter of concern for students as well as the faculty. The DoSA feels that the department could be slightly more proactive towards the DDP schedules by making students approach it a lot earlier, maybe in the third or fourth year itself.

Currently, nearly all Departments make their DD students follow the BTech curriculum (broadly) until the end of the seventh semester year, with the fifth year solely dedicated to the DDP. The logic behind this arrangement is to exemplify the importance of the DDP, but a sudden drop in the number of courses and classroom time conveys the false notion that the DDP year is not stressful. Thus, many students slack off at the end of their time in IITB, and the results can be, and have been, disastrous for some.

BTP woes

It is true that less people are affected adversely by BTP extensions than by DDP extensions, simply because of the vast difference in scale of the two projects. Some people with BTP extensions even manage to finish their BTPs in time to join a job/ an IIM. However, the reason for students getting BTP extensions is much the same – lack of commitment after placements.

Conclusion

It would seem that the students must be the ones to take a lead in making a change. It is absolutely essential that students of the DD Programme realize that a high level of academic commitment must be maintained throughout their stay here, and that they absolutely cannot slack at the end. If this happens, there will be no more cases like the ones in the recent past.

However, the authorities are also taking measures to restructure the Dual Degree Programme.

For example, the CSE department has done away with the DD intake this year and has simply increased the strength of the BTech batch instead. This was done with the idea that BTech students will be given an option to convert to DD at a later stage, based upon their interest. The Chemical and Aerospace Engineering Departments are also revamping their DD programmes.

Such measures may set a new precedent for the DD programme itself, and perhaps they will help serve the original intention with which the DD program was started - to promote research among Undergraduate students.

(Rohit Vadera is a fourth year student of the Mechanical Department and Rajat Chakravarty is a third year student of the Aerospace Engineering Department. They can be contacted at rohit_vadera@iitb.ac.in and rajatc@iitb.ac.in)

Mythbusters

Tannishtha, Gautam and Anvesh attempt to remove some common misconceptions about the DD programme

Myth #2: One is stuck with a specialization, even if one doesn't like it, after freshman year.

Even for those belonging to the pre-Biswas committee era, there is hope. It is true that, for getting one's degree with specialization, one has to satisfy a minimum credit requirement of PG courses, but there are still options for exploration. For instance, one's Dual Degree Project need not be in one's field of specialization, or even in one's own department for that matter, given that one can convince one's faculty advisor of one's motivation and commitment.

Myth #3: Being a DD student means an easy 108 credit points straight into the bag!

Sorry to bust this myth, but really, you've got to earn these with just as much hard work as you put into earning the rest of your grades. Contrary to what your seniors might have been telling you since your first year, it is not a given that you will get a 9

or 10 in your DDP. No one is really going to hand out the AAs like freebies to all who bother to show up, you've got to put up a good show as well! So keep your socks pulled up till the very end.

Myth #4: Being a DD student means you have all the time in the world and not much to do!

Shifters

Of late, the Institute has been witnessing a growing number of people shifting from a BTech degree to a Dual Degree, especially in their third year. The procedure is pretty simple – a letter of recommendation from the Faculty Adviser and the Head of Department to the UGAPEC is all it takes.

In just ten years, the DD Programme has gone from being the last choice to something people actually opt for.

This one's our favourite myth! For starters, one is expected by professors to put in 8 hours a day for one's DDP, then there are TA duties, audit and credit courses (course tallies can go up to 4 per semester which is pretty high, along with an 18/36/54 credit project!). Not to mention placements and exams and apping and all your other activities, which ensure that you have your hands pretty full.

Finally, we don't envy the BTechs who spend their penultimate semester cramming for a full fledged semester as well as running from pillar to post for placements, apping et al.

We hope this article inspires you to tell your younger siblings or friends preparing for the JEE that the Dual Degree Programme is definitely not as bad as people make it out to be – that it can be a very exciting option.

(Tannishtha Sanyal is a fifth year student of the Aerospace Engineering Department, while Gautam Salhotra and Anvesh Shah are fourth and third year students respectively, both of the Mechanical Engineering Department. They can be contacted at tannishtha@iitb.ac.in, gautam.salhotra@iitb.ac.in and anveshsh@iitb.ac.in)

The Rang - InslghT collaboration

For the first time, Rang, the Fine Arts Club of IITB, and InslghT have come together to bring you stunning examples of the artwork created by our fellow IITians. As part of our second issue of the semester, we have a one page pullout full of black and white sketches by Rang members. These sketches were drawn during a Rang black-and-white sketching session on the 30th of August. We do hope you enjoy them, and that they come in handy if you're looking for decoration for your room walls. Also, do watch out for more Rang artwork on our Bulletin Boards.

Editorial

Disclaimer: This is not an Insight-Editors-are-superior-to-everyone-else editorial. It is a look at a problem we all have, one which needs to be solved quickly.

Most of us would like to be called 'original' or 'creative'. All of us have felt the thrill of showing someone something they've never seen before. So why, in IITB, do we show such lack of originality in almost every activity? The examples that follow show just how widespread the problem is – it's almost as if we are systematically trained not to be original!

Academic originality has been talked about so many times that most of us dismiss the topic whenever it comes up, but it is a pertinent problem. Every copied assignment and every answer taken from a friend's examination paper is another nail in the coffin of originality. Seminars and course projects are mostly rehashes of the Wikipedia page on the relevant topic.

Most of us do think about academic dishonesty now and then, but very few think about the way they approach Institute student activities. Consider a person standing for an **Institute/Hostel post** - indeed, one taking up a position of responsibility of any kind. What does he do first? He goes to the *baap log*, those people who held the same post before him (and are still in the institute). He then proceeds to find out exactly what those people did in their tenures, and why they did it. His manifesto and all his policies during his tenure are a linear combination of the best and most successful measures taken by his predecessors. It is definitely necessary to speak to them, but surely a candidate should make a list of original points before consulting someone else.

Think about **jobs**. About **apps**. Most people decide the companies they will apply to as follows: they go to a senior and tell him/her their CPI and the positions of responsibility they have held. The senior searches his/her mind for a case of a student in the latest placement season whose vital statistics meet these details, and recommends the companies to which that student applied. The seekers of advice go away, secure in the knowledge that they are following a safe, beaten path.

When it comes to apps, more people do check multiple options, but a large chunk of apps still follow the trend set by their seniors without knowing exactly what they're getting into.

These examples show that the problem is more deep-rooted than it appears at first – and more signs are everywhere. For example, consider **startups**. About 8 years ago, only a handful of IITians had startups, and most of them were operational. They were successful because (in most cases) they thought of an original idea, and implemented it only when they were sure they had something good. Nowadays, so many of us talk about our startup that will change the world. But how many of us actually start up and stay active for an appreciable length of time? Not as many as before, for sure.

What are the reasons for this growing lack of creative thought? One reason could be the new trend of résumés driving everything. For example, to have a 'strong résumé', it seems safe to work for a post just like the most successful holder of that post in the recent past. Sometimes, even those who want some unconventional posts to add to their résumés do it in a very clichéd

way - I have actually been asked for a list of things to do that will count as 'rare' résumé points.

A few ideas for ways in which we can use our innate creativity better follow:-

One way to become more original could be to think everything through by oneself first before consulting others. This way, one's thinking will not be biased by past history. A technique used by successful people through the ages has been to use a 'scratchpad' on which to write down one's ideas. Even if one doesn't go out and buy a small book, Notepad should be a good place to jot down ideas.

One more method that always works is to regularly interrupt one's normal way of doing things, to step out of one's routine. An easy way to do this is to switch off the computer compulsorily for one hour a day, and lock oneself in one's room during that period. After five minutes, boredom will set in, and one will actually start thinking.

A third way is simple – don't crowd your plate. Choose a few things that you want to do, and do them well. When there are a large number of things to do, the easy way out looks attractive. Again, if you are doing many things, do evaluate each one to see whether you're satisfied with the way you did it. If you're not satisfied, maybe it's time to cut down.

And, finally, everyone has at least one thing they really, really want to do. The four/five years of college life are ideal either for doing that thing or planning exactly how to do it. Most of these things, being personal, are original. If every student of IITB could accomplish his/her dream here, all our problems would be solved.

Again, doing a new thing just because it is new is not very logical. It makes sense to evaluate all the options - to compare the old way of doing things with a few original ways. Our lack of originality may sometimes lead to efficiency, but we are only doing what a thousand people have done before us. Surely we, the heirs of Nehru's vision of a society led by technocrats, owe more to ourselves and to the country.

Placements: What's New?

Parasvil lists the improvements brought about by the new placement team

Positions of responsibility, key projects and scholastic achievements are the buzzwords doing the rounds of mess tables, hostel corridors and even football fields – basically, any place where more than two final year students are seen together. Here is a roundup of some of the new initiatives and changes brought about by the present placement team:-

1. Pre-Placement Talks (PPTs)

The PPTs serve different purposes for different sets of people. For the companies it is a platform for them to market their brand, for the sincere students it is an opportunity to learn more about the company and the work profile while, for some, it is the time for a pizza treat. After complaints from professors regarding lack of attendance in classes and requests for postponement of deadlines citing having to attend PPTs as a reason it was decided that attendance in a PPT is not compulsory for signing the JAFs of the corresponding company.

However, the placement team feels that there might be serious repercussions because of this change in the placement policy. Some companies might decide to recruit fewer students eventually as a result of the decrease in the number of attendees. The PPTs are still the best way of getting to know a company better and interacting with company officials, not to mention the immense effort that the placement team puts in contacting companies and organizing PPTs.

2. Placement Site

This year has been a year of firsts for the placement team as far as the placement site is concerned. Students were allowed to submit their résumés in a PDF format instead of the cumbersome HTML format used until last year. Even companies have been given logins for the placement site which allows them to view the list of students who have registered for the com-

pany and enables them to download the résumés easily.

3. Placement Holiday

Note: this initiative is not in place yet; talks are on to get it set up

With an increase in the number of student startups and an increased interest in entrepreneurship in general, the time seems ripe for IIT Bombay to adopt the policy of deferred placements. Also known as a Placement Holiday, this policy, which is already in use at IIM-Ahmedabad, allows a student with an entrepreneurial bent to defer his/her placements for up to two academic years. This policy will help in fostering a sustainable environment for entrepreneurship as it reduces the risk involved in opening a startup considerably. The validation procedure for startups and other details are being worked out by the placement team in collaboration with E-Cell and SINE.

4. Other Initiatives

One of the easy methods of increasing the total number of jobs is by getting more companies to the campus for recruitment. With this idea in mind, the placement team started work from an early date and it seems that their efforts are bearing fruit. A number of international firms such as AMANA (Middle East), Sony (Japan) and ETRI (South Korea) are expected to recruit students from IIT Bombay this year and many more are expected to follow suit. In order to facilitate interviews for companies unable to send officials to the campus, the team is in the process of procuring video conferencing equipment.

With discussions about work profiles and CTC already picking up pace, the Insight team wishes all final year students the very best of luck for their placements.

(Parasvil Patel is a final year student of the Electrical Engineering Department. He can be contacted at parasvil@iitb.ac.in)

In a lighter vein, this was the first time in recent history when the resume submission deadline was not extended multiple times.

Sunny Side up

(Continued from page 1)

Night Canteens
Taking a holistic view, IITians have easy access to fresh food almost 24 hours a day. Canteens that are open till 4 AM, a nearby South Indian mess that opens soon after and unhindered delivery service from most of the restaurant chains one can imagine – It's difficult for one to go hungry here.

The Good Lord Made them All

Then, there are things that exist naturally on our campus, but are seldom found in other college campuses.

Wildlife
Need we say more?

The Lake
Which other college has an expansive lake (and the lakeside, of course) thronged by photographers, joggers, those in love, and just plain old loafers?

The Woods are Lovely
IIT Bombay has deep, dark woods that stretch for kilometres and keep the temperature inside the institute a few degrees lower than the rest of the city, as we found out to our cost in January this year.

Infrastructure

Drainage
A well-planned, extensive rainwater drain-

age system which keeps the campus roads fairly navigable even when the rest of Mumbai is completely water-logged.

The Watchmen
IIT Bombay boasts of a security system that we've all criticized, but one that manages to keep us safe even when the entire city is engulfed in riots.

(Archana Raja, Eeshan Malhotra and Aaysha Ghanekar are third year students of the MSc. Chemistry, Civil Engineering and MEMS Departments. They can be contacted at archana.raja@iitb.ac.in, eeshan@iitb.ac.in and aaysha@iitb.ac.in)

Here's a look at how IIT-B compares to some other engineering colleges around the country in terms of student life

Institute	Campus curfew	Entry in opposite sex hostels	Mess/canteen food available	Hours of net per day
IITB	None	0700 - 2200	0800 - 0400	17
IITM	None	Girls in boys' hostels: 0700 - 2200; Boys in girls' hostels: Never	0700 - 0200	10
IITKGP	2300 to 0700	Never	0800 - 2130	NA
BITS, Pilani	2300 to 0700	Never	0730 - 2130	NA
VNIT, Nagpur	None	0700 - 2100	0730 - 2200	16

A huge number of IITians have woken up in their fourth or fifth semester- to the fact that their CPI is less than they would like it to be. All of them resolve to lift their CPI. However, few of them have a detailed plan. We present below a few case studies of students who increased their CPIs after the second year by astonishing amounts. Do keep in mind, however, that the plans could be person – specific, and that what worked for one of them will not necessarily work for you.

Study smart – and study hard. The students we spoke to made us realize how feasible the idea of improving one's grades was, and how they're much better off now. What was common to all of them was their willingness to bring about changes in their routine. It's amazing, once they've hit their high SPIs, they've never looked back. Consistency is the key, not complacency.

"You will realize that once you start working sincerely towards a goal, luck will end up favoring you."

Ankur Gulati, Batch of 2006, currently placed at McKinsey and Co. Performance Increment: Scored 8.98, 9.2 and 9.8 after having a 2nd year CPI of 7.3

Ankur knew that setting unrealistic goals wouldn't help, so he tried to work backwards, calculating how much he'd need to ramp-up his grades per semester to reach the CPI he'd set. "It's important to have a target- a fixed number and not a range", he explains. This way, one knows exactly how much one wants and can prioritize one's time accordingly to include other activities. This also keeps you focused, he adds, since missing a semester's target would force you to spend more time studying in the coming semesters.

Tips: The two rules he followed, for all their simplicity, were extremely effective.

One: Ankur made sure his notes were complete in every sense a week before the paper. They included inputs from textbooks, assignments and friends' notes. This was not a copy-paste from multiple sources - but a structured, sensible agglomeration.

Two: To better understand and remember the subject matter, he'd push his thinking and rewrite the notes in the final week. In addition, he'd spend time solving previous years' papers starting from at least a week before the exam. In addition, he says that taking a call on one's career is crucial. For example, he was sure about not wanting to apply abroad for higher studies, and recalls how he opted for courses that were known to be graded leniently over the more exotic, specialized ones that were attractive but might require more effort.

Ankur emphasizes that during placements, a good CPI is equivalent to a good first impression. It sets the tone for how the interview proceeds, since students without good grades would have to work harder to prove their point. "Your CPI is the metric of choice because everything else is rather subjective and difficult to evaluate", he sums up.

"We're here for a reason. I've learnt to respect the IIT system, and spend more time with my books."

Ankit Gupta, 5th Year student, MEMS Performance Increment: A 4th semester CPI of 7.31 was followed by SPIs of 9.18 and 9.51.

Since his JEE days, Ankit was habituated acquiring knowledge almost exclusively from "processed" information such as his instructors' notes, finding detailed textbooks too much of a turnoff. This lack of supplementary knowledge cost him dearly, and was the first thing he changed about his preparation methods. Going beyond the superficial reading of course material and understanding the necessity of each course in your engineering education, he feels, helps you appreciate what you're learning.

Tips: The Central Library is an oft overlooked hub of academic resources, where students congregate in all seriousness before their exams, making for an ideal studying environment. Ankit has incorporated several improvements in his daily routine, right from getting adequate rest to regular eating habits, allowing his mind and body to perform optimally at all times. "Once you sit down to study, let nothing else divert your concentration", says Ankit, who was driven by the added desire to prove his detractors wrong. Short, but regular, durations of focused study add up to much more than a taxing night-out right before the exam. Ankit concludes, "A good CPI reflects what we've gained here, and maintaining it should top our list of priorities."

Turnaround Whizzes

Still looking for ways to turn your CPI around for the better? Aishwarya, Harishwar and Karthik analyze how a few students managed to do just that

"Crossing a 9 in every semester doesn't necessarily require a whole lot of sloggling."

Shiksha Mantri, 5th Year student of the Department of Chemistry.

Performance Increment: SPIs of 8.9 and 9.6 bolstered a 2nd year CPI of 7.5

Shiksha was always intent on applying for a PhD in a university abroad, where grades dictate how people view your undergrad performance. This, along with other valuable pointers, was something she picked up from her seniors, whose mentoring abilities helped guide her towards her goals. Shiksha recalls how she gradually started spending more time with friends who were academically oriented, and the good times they had once their exams were done!

Tips: Paying more attention in class makes all the difference, she asserts, since most students manage only a single revision before each exam. With what you've grasped in class acting as the foundation, each successive reading increases your level of understanding. A sense of responsibility towards your academics automatically pushes you to complete your assignments, and be better prepared for each coming quiz. Shiksha reflects how a good CPI made her more confident

as a person since it gave her a sense of achievement, and she signs off, "I figured, if all that's needed is a slight extra effort from my side, then why not?"

"During placements, the recruiters at Lehman Brothers had boiled down to two people, me with a CPI of 8.3 and another person with a CPI of 7.6. They ended up selecting me. Need I say anything more?"

Sumit Punglia, Batch of 2006, Dual Degree student of Electrical Engineering.

Performance Increment: A CPI of 6.9 after the 3rd semester to a CPI of 8.3 at the time of graduation

Sumeet says that the main reasons for his initial academic underperformance were a marked lackadaisical approach to studies, fresh from the "I have cleared the IIT-JEE!" euphoria. In due course of time, things went from bad to worse, when his continuing underperformance took its toll on his confidence level and motivation. He decided to turn it around in the second semester of his second year.

Tips: Sumeet approached his fourth semester with newfound motivation and drive. He also commends the help of his batch mates in this regard. Earlier, his

"The pain of being taught by some of the most knowledgeable people in the country and yet not living up to their ideals hurt me immensely and motivated me to be worthy of being taught by them."

Saptarshi Bandhyopadhyay, 4th year Dual Degree student of Aerospace Engineering.

Performance Increment: A CPI of 7.8 after the 4th semester to a CPI of 8.5 after the 6th semester

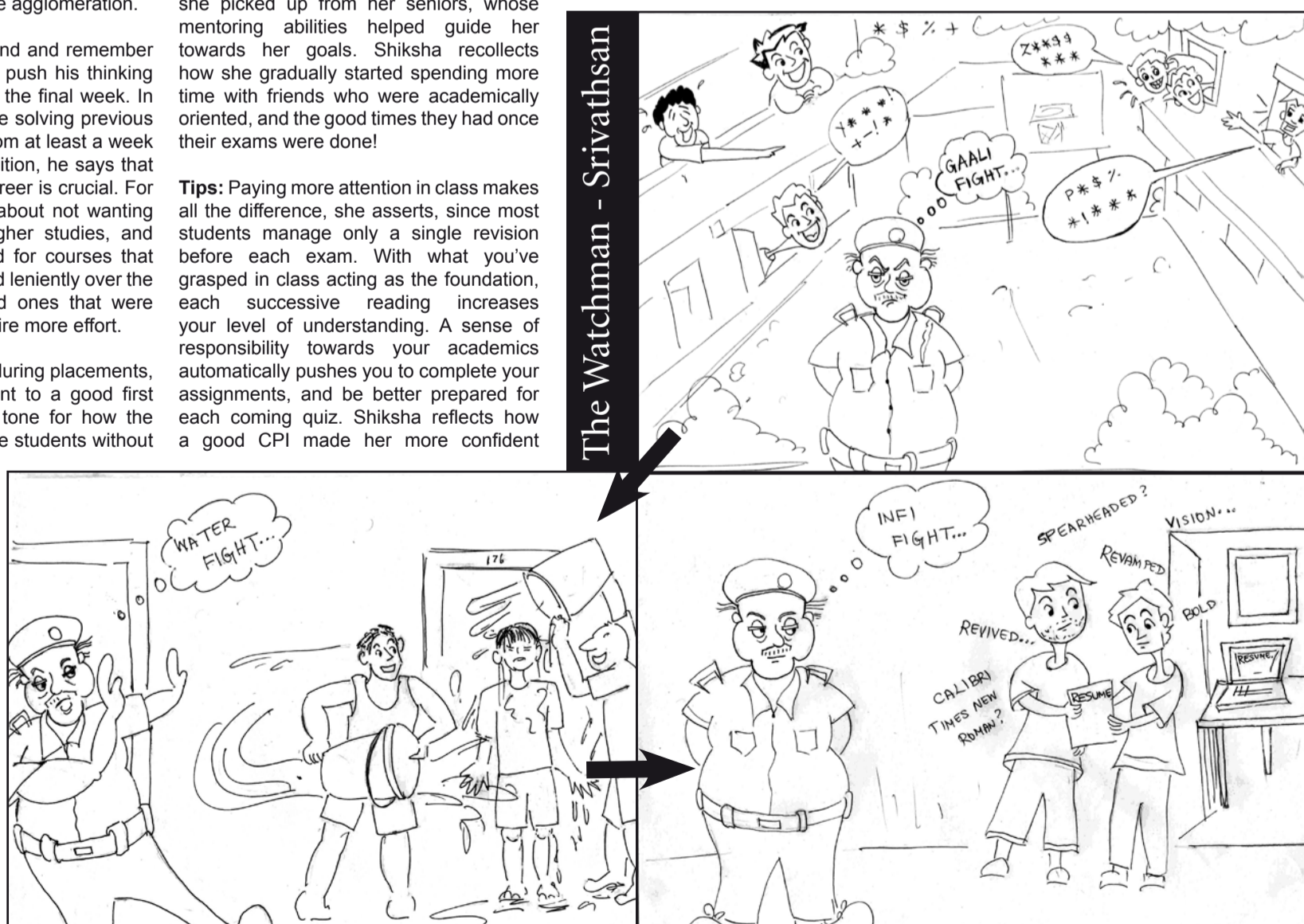
Saptarshi explains that the main reason for his gradual decline of grades over his first 2 years was prioritizing his ardent interest in technical activities over his academics. A general lack of interest and participation during lectures cost him dear. It was then that he vowed to make a conscious effort to change his attitude and outlook towards academics.

Tips: He stresses on the positive influence of friends around him especially when his results did not do justice to the efforts he put in. He soon realized that things would not turn around overnight, due to the huge void created because of his negligence towards academics over the first two years. The 5th semester was particularly tough as he also had to work that extra bit harder to fill this void.

Frequent visits to the library during the semester and setting aside at least an hour everyday to studies certainly helped him a great deal. An SPI of 9.6 in his 5th semester is due testimony to that. The next semester was all about consolidating on the good work done in the earlier semester. Although he remains as involved in technical activities as he ever was, his optimization of time is his biggest asset.

A disciplined lifestyle, studying alongside batchmates to keep himself motivated and adopting the tried and tested methods of his academically superior classmates really helped him ace his fourth semester, where he managed a healthy SPI of 8.85, without even having to drastically cut down on his extra-curricular activities.

(Aishwarya Sharma, Karthik Ramesh and Harishwar Subramanian are third year students of the Mechanical Engineering, Metallurgical Engineering and Aerospace Engineering Departments respectively. They can be contacted at bonny.sharma@iitb.ac.in, rkarthik@iitb.ac.in and s.harishwar@iitb.ac.in)



THE INSIGHT TRAINING INSTITUTE PRESENTS **Haan, JEE**

We all know about the decreased interaction between freshies and their seniors, and their consequent (perceived) lack of *fundae*. We came up with a unique solution. Since they won't learn much about IITB in their first year, why not make them learn before that? Imagine that the JEE was reinvented so as to test students' knowledge of IITB! The questions might look like the ones below...

- Instructions:** 1. This is a 3 hour examination. All questions carry equal marks. Attempt all questions. There is no negative marking
 2. This is also a take-home examination (unless, of course, you live in IITB)
 3. MI/TF/ECell/Main Building Cooperative Store welcome you to IITB (unless, of course, you don't get in)
 ***In order to make the JEE more entertaining, we have also printed ads and matrimonials

Physics

1. T_1 (blue) and T_2 (green) are two *tumtums*. T_1 is 30 m long and T_2 is 15 m long. The speed of T_1 , $V_1(x, t) = 3x^2t + 3t^2$. The speed of T_2 , $V_2(x, t) = 3xt - 5t$.

Initially T_1 is at $x = 0$ m and T_2 is at $x = 300$ m. At time $t = 0$, they start moving in a straight line towards each other. How long (in seconds) will they take to pass each other?

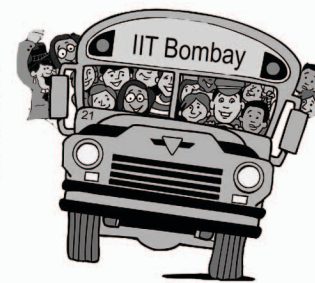
- A. 5 B. 10 C. 15 D. 20 E. Infinity, because when they meet, the drivers will stop and talk to each other

2. Initially, we have a professor at room temperature present in a classroom at 8:40 on a Monday morning. At 8:55 (when there are 5 students in the class, out of a possible 65) a student walks in. This causes an increase in temperature due to the specific disliking the professor has for this student.

At 9:05, a front-bencher discovers a mistake in the professor's working, and the professor has to erase everything on the board. At 9:15, course evaluation starts, and the professor cannot complete the portion he had set for himself. What is the final temperature of the professor (in Kelvin)?

- A. 298 B. 299 C. 300 D. 301 E. 6.023×10^{23}

3. Analyze the mechanics of the diagram shown on the right. Draw a free body diagram and find which of the students clinging so desperately to the *tumtum* will be the first to fall down. (Note: this is a very common situation every morning in IITB.)



There are only 6000 cakes of soap left in IITB

S.O.S.- Save Our Soap



IT IS TIME TO ACT IF WE WANT TO SAVE THIS ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN TOO CAN ENJOY ITS BEAUTY.

MATRIMONIAL

Wanted: groom for fair and lovely girl – IITian, (therefore) age no bar, height no bar, appearance no bar, (preferably) visits no bars.

Wanted: bride for IITian boy – female.

HINT

They forgot to jumble up the match-the-following options!

1. Read the chemical synthesis below and answer the questions that follow.

A is a hostel mess. Various deadly chemicals are prepared in it as follows: B is a watery, tasteless yellow liquid that is either too thick or too thin. B is poured on C, a grain that is usually white and soft elsewhere, but in the presence of A becomes brown and hard.

D is a collection of vintage vegetables floating in a muddy brown liquid. D is commonly and misleadingly called by an obviously false name such as *Shahi Paneer* or *Navratan Korma*. E is a silvery compound floating in sucrose syrup.

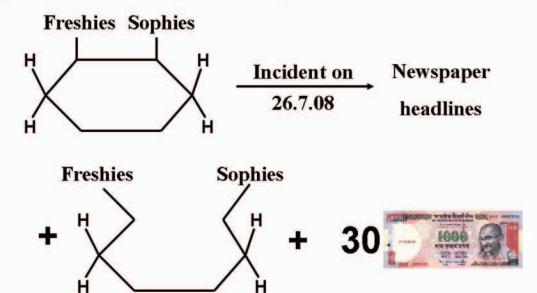
- a. B, C, D and E are mixed. What is the result?
 A. *amrit* B. dynamite C. the hydrogen bomb D. cyanide
 E. Friday night's dinner

Chemistry

b. F is a person that ate B, C, D and E five days consecutively. What is the current state of F?

- A. healthy B. depressed C. sick D. critically ill E. dead

2. Look carefully at the reaction below, and find out where it took place.



- A. In the H4 mess B. Outside the H4 mess C. None of these

Mathematics

1. Let $f(S)$ = number of false promises made by candidate S in the elections in a hostel. Also, let the integral I be defined as follows:

$$I = \int_{t=\text{ElectionDay}-1}^{t=\text{ElectionDay}+1} f(S) dt$$

- A. I = infinity for S = any secretary
 B. I = infinity for S = mess secretary = infinity - delta for S = any other secretary
 C. I = infinity for S = mess secretary = 0 for S = lit secretary (he makes no promises anyway!) = 0 for S = wildlife secretary (because there is no such post) = 6000 for S = any other secretary

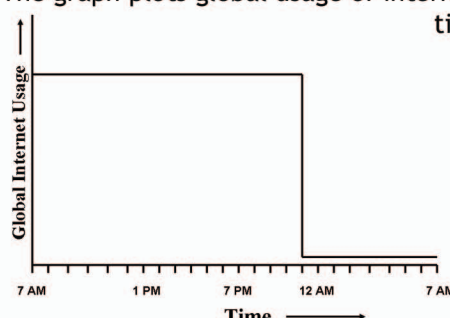
2. Match the following pairs, given that X = number of times an IITian in a particular year (a freshie, sophie, etc.) bathes in a week, and that Y = number of times the parents of an IITian in a particular year expect him to bathe in a week.

X = 3	Y = 14	1 st year
X = 1	Y = 5	2 nd year
X = 0.5	Y = 3	3 rd year
X = 0.002	Y = 0	4 th year

3. Let A and B be two events. Using Bayes' Theorem, match the following sets of A and B to the corresponding probability P(A|B). Note: P(A|B) denotes the probability that an event A will happen if an event B has already happened.

A: getting an AA in a first year MA course B: the course is held under the new curriculum	0.001
A: getting to class before time B: <does not matter; any event>	0
A: Finding the SBI ATM empty B: The ATM does not work	1
A: liking one's hostel room at first sight B: having been exposed to psychologically traumatic incidents since birth	100

4. Give the reason for the sharp fall in this graph. The graph plots global usage of internet against the time of the day.



- A. Manipulation of the data by a freshie analyst
 B. Osama Bin Laden
 C. Global warming
 D. the LAN ban in IITB

5. Which of these numbers is purely imaginary?
 A. the NBD index of a 10 pointer
 B. the amount of money in an average fourthie's wallet
 C. the style quotient of an average IITian
 D. the number of people in an 8:30 lecture on Monday
 E. All of these

CONTEST

Find names of JEE coaching classes hidden in this page and mail us to win exciting prizes. The passage below is a good starting point.

"Attention all JEE time-never-to-come aspirants! Our dedicated rigorous training and course material will ensure that you become more brilliant than ever, fitter than fiit! Our *vidhyarthi*s have always been the toppers, enroll with the best, we'll take care of the rest."

Question Paper Setters:

The Four Horsemen (Niranjan Sridhar, Hemendra, Vishal Ranjan, Vaibhav Devanathan)
 The Unforgiven (Eeshan - 1, Neha - 2, Tanny - 3)
 Ktulu (Ghaza)

Full solutions to this JEE paper available on

Fireflies

Ashish Goel talks about the wonders of doing things in sync

Those who have stayed in the campus in the month of July will have certainly witnessed the mesmerizing sight of twinkling fireflies. In South-East Asia, thousands of fireflies blinking on and off in unison produce what must surely be one of the most dazzling visual delights in nature. The orchestrated dance of these twinkling beauties however, is just one of several manifestations of the universal phenomenon of 'synchronization'. Singing crickets, cardiac pacemakers, firing neurons and applauding audiences all exhibit an inexplicable tendency to operate in synchronicity. The synchronization of the rate of rotation of the moon with its rate of revolution is another popular example in this regard. (This is what makes only one face of the moon visible to us on earth.)



The basis of Nanotech?

Researchers have recently succeeded in demonstrating synchronized oscillations in nano-oscillators. The notion of coupled oscillators can be easily understood by making an analogy with something that drew the attention of Christian Huygens, the inventor of the pendulum clock, in the 17th century. He noticed that two pendulums suspended from the same beam in his room were strangely phase-matched (oscillating sympathetically). Information regarding the oscillation of one of the pendulums was somehow conveyed to the other through the common beam.

On the basis of a similar principle, scientists have demonstrated coupled oscillations in spin transfer devices. The transfer of information from one oscillator to the other happens through the transmission of spin waves across the layers of magnetic material common to both the oscillators.

The essence of nanotechnology lies in the fact that it allows you to design and structure your system to achieve the desired set of properties, because what you are dealing with at the nano-scale are nothing but the building blocks of everything in nature.

Achieving synchronization with an array of oscillators is equivalent to achieving the elusive property of coherence. Synchronized radiation from such an array of oscillators is already used widely in wireless communication and mastery of this technique can lead to the output radiation pattern being highly directional and efficient in terms of power output.

Do it yourself

For the creative mind, here is an interesting project (pictured above) that can be completed in a very short time. The author of the blog (link below) has simulated the synchronization of blinking fireflies using simple light-dependent resistors and microcontrollers.

<http://tinkerlog.com/2008/07/27/synchronizing-fireflies-ng/>

(Ashish Goel is a fourth year student of the Engineering Physics Department. He can be contacted at ashishgoel@iitb.ac.in)

Take any random résumé belonging to one of the thousand odd students sitting for placements this year. Open page two. Look under the much hyped section: 'Positions of Responsibility'. Apart from the usual stuff about having 'Led', 'Spearheaded', 'Voluntarily executed' or 'Involuntarily inspired' tens of thousands of missions, one phrase that is becoming disturbingly common is this: *Founded club XYZ in IIT Bombay*. Now, there is nothing wrong in students having a dash of entrepreneurial spirit, but to take each and every post LAN Ban idea, try to establish a club based on it and expect it to get formal recognition from the Institute is absolutely ridiculous, both logically and logistically.

I am not saying that the club system here is totally flawed. On the contrary, IITB has one of the best sets of clubs in the country. However, I do think that the system should be revamped in order to ensure that we keep getting better.

Any club in IIT Bombay that is recognized by the Cult Council (and I limit this article to the sphere of cultural activities) starts off by portraying something called as a basic aim, a guiding principle. For example, the Speakers' Club was established to promote all kinds of speaking activities, Saaz was to promote Indian music and so on. And many of these clubs are performing wonderfully well. The problem arises when, under the umbrella of the success of some clubs, people try and set up more clubs, either because of a genuine vision (or lack thereof), or to fill up the space left on their

As the institute gears up for yet another placement season, these lines by Robert Frost serve to remind us about some people who chose to go off the beaten path. What difficulties do such choices pose? Does being an IITian help you or impede you? These are some of the questions that we tried to ask Anshul Singhal, an alumnus of our institute. Anshul is the director-writer-producer of *Déjà vu*, the first full length movie to come out of IIT Bombay. He left his job with British Gas to make a movie when he had no idea whatsoever about professional filmmaking. Read on to find out more about his journey on the path less travelled.

1. What were your personal ambitions before coming to IIT?

Actually, I had not thought much about my future before coming to IIT. Though I was extremely interested in films, I had never considered film making as a future profession.

2. What sort of environment did you find on coming here?

I found a new world here. I was like the rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*. You can do absolutely anything that interests you at IIT. If given the chance, I would want to re-live this part of my life again and again.

3. Were the circumstances conducive to your taking your unconventional path?

Definitely! I am where I am today largely because of IIT. At IIT, discovery of talent happens, which gets loads of nourishment from the hostel environment. There was an extempore event in my freshman year which I managed to win with zero preparation. It was only the cheering of my hostel mates which got me through. I enjoyed this kind of support whenever I tried something new. I don't think I could have found such encouragement anywhere else.

Reform The Clubs!

Rahul Dash gives his opinion on the club system of IITB and suggests possible improvements

résumés. And the consequences are, or rather can be, really bad.

Because of the sheer number of clubs in the institute right now, it becomes extremely difficult for people to make a distinction between the clubs that are actually performing well and those which exist based on the whims and fancies of certain individuals. If this distinction is not very apparent, the clubs that actually do a lot of good work may find themselves under people's suspicious eyes and consequently, lose the requisite passion and will. Another big problem is that of the people involved in a club, both at the executive and the operational levels.

Now that I've stated the problem, based on my understanding of the working of clubs in IITB, I propose the following reforms:

1. A club should not exist indefinitely.

The performance of every club should be reviewed by the council at least twice a year. In case a club is found to be completely lacking in membership/vision and is not following its guiding principle, the council should not hesitate to stop recognizing it- at least till it steps up

2. The council, while reviewing a club, should give it a rating.

This rating should be based on the performance of the club as perceived by the council and the general public (mainly people

who are associated with the club)

3. Convener reform: There is much concern over the dedication level of Conveners. To improve this, the recognition of the Convener could be based on the

club review. For example, the Convener could only be given a certificate if his club achieved a certain minimum rating. This would ensure that the Conveners work towards an incentive

4. Every club should have two levels of membership.

One would be open to all. The other would be by invitation only. This would help make a clear distinction between the members who attend the club regularly and take part actively in all its operations and those who show up only for a free T-shirt, and also ensure that serious members get to hone their skills, instead of stagnating

5. Apart from the above, every club should indulge in innovative publicity

(demos in messes, for example) in order to keep the student community aware of all its events, and give people the right to make an informed choice

I realize that some of the ideas given above are a bit radical and may pose difficulties in the implementation stage. But that is what they are – ideas given out by someone who loves the Institute Cultural scene too much to watch it get trivialized because of the proverbial 'one bad apple that spoils the whole basket'.

(Rahul Dash is a fourth year student of the Electrical Engineering Department. He can be contacted at rahul_dash@iitb.ac.in)

The Path Less Travelled

Aditi speaks to an IITian who chose to leave the beaten path and follow his dreams after college

5. Does being an IITian help you?

The IITian tag sure does work wonders. People take you seriously immediately. I have had several chats with important people from the film industry, while it takes

years for other people just to fix up an interview. Apart from that, the awesome networking between IITians makes it possible to meet just about anybody.

People do ask me why, being an IITian, I chose something as tangential to my earlier experience as film making. I would say that it is *because* I am an IITian. We are fortunate in that we can take the risk of leaving a job to follow our dreams.

6. What are your future plans?

I have recently completed a full length animation movie, two live action sequences and I am in talks with three production houses. Things look settled in the near future. I am currently teaching at Pace Academy, a job which gives me much free time to pursue my interests.

7. How can the system be changed to allow nurturing of new ideas?

I should say more flexibility in terms of courses should be there. One possible idea would be to have a 2 credit course in the curriculum where everybody needs to submit a thing they consider their best creation, like a painting, poem, short film or anything else. Basically, there should be more scope for creativity.

We thank Anshul for this inspiring interview, and wish him the very best of luck in all his future endeavours!

(Aditi Goyal is a fourth year student of the Electrical Engineering Department. She can be contacted at aditigoyal@iitb.ac.in)

I also had Dramatics as my NSO and participated in several plays which gave me the basic knowledge about the field. I contributed to a PAF called *Kasturi* (a major flop), and that was a turning point. I decided to do something grand in the next PAF. That's when I thought of the concept for *Déjà vu*.

4. How did the system affect your progress?

I would say that Prof. Kundu is the one person who has played a major role in helping

*"Two roads diverged in a wood
And I took the one less traveled by
And that has made all the difference."*

-Robert Frost

me make this film. IIT will continue to be IIT as long as there are people like him in it. Then, as I said before, the hostel support system makes you feel that you can accomplish anything in life.

As far as academics are concerned, I feel that the system sometimes fails to inculcate an interest in bright minds. The system is far too rigid in terms of course content. One thing leads to another, until some people lose interest completely and try to find amusement elsewhere. If there were a little more flexibility, I think it would be better for the student body as a whole.

But I should say that were it not for the system I probably would not have got so depressed and *Déjà vu* might never have happened.

Questech

0. You are given 25 horses and you have to find the three fastest amongst them, using a series of races. In each race, you can race five horses against each other and the only information you get is their relative positions at the end of the race. What is the minimum number of races required for you to find the three fastest horses?

1. In this chess problem (see figure), White is to move. Give a sequence leading to checkmate in four moves (that is, White-Black-White-Black-White-Black-White (checkmate)).
2. Give a partitioning of positive integers into infinite subsets, each having infinite elements, such that every subset A can be obtained from some other subset B by adding a constant to every element of B.

Either submit your entries in a .doc file on our site, or mail in your answers to raoanupb@iitb.ac.in with 'Questech' as the subject.

Wordgames

1. **Blick** words are words whose first part is an anagram, or a rearrangement, of the second. For examples, 'signings' is a Blick word because 'sign', the first part, is an anagram of 'ings', the second part. Guess the Blick words whose meanings are given below. The length of each word is given in brackets.

- A. Two organs inside the human torso (8)
- B. To be seen again (8)
(Hint: This word starts with an 'r')
- C. Someone who's on the same side? (8)
- D. Having two lips (8)
- E. A cobbler for horses? (10)

2. In each of the questions below, word Y is the plural form of word X. For example, X could be 'horse', and Y would then be 'horses'. We've given you only the last 2 letters of X and Y. You have to find an (X, Y) that satisfies the last-2-letters condition for each question.

Example: X ends with -an, and Y ends with -en: (X, Y) = (man, men).

- A. X ends with -ot, and Y ends with -et.
(Hint: both are 4 letters long)
- B. X ends with -er, and Y ends with -en.
(Hint: both start with the letter 'b')
- C. X ends with -ie, and Y ends with -ce
- D. X ends with -ld, and Y ends with -en
- E. X ends with -ny, and Y ends with -ce.
(Hint: this is tough)

Either submit your entries in a .doc file on our site, or mail in your answers to vaibhavdevanathan@iitb.ac.in with 'Wordgames' as the subject.



The InslghT Show

You have perhaps already watched the first two episodes of 'The InslghT Show', a talk show where we discuss important events with eminent personalities from the institute. If you haven't, check out the first two episodes up on our website.

Episode 1: Talk with Sajid Shariff (GS Cult) and Akshat Jalan (Institute Cult Nominee) on the new things in cult at IITB this year.

Episode 2: Resume *fundae* from Sai Krishna (Ex IPN)

Do leave comments in our shoutbox on what you think of the show and give us ideas on how we can improve.

Announcements

Watch out for an informal chat with Ashwin Soni (GSHA) on his new initiatives as well as more placement *fundae*.

Campus Reporter Winners, 1st round

We received a tremendous response to this first round of Campus Reporter. People came up with really innovative methods of reporting news. However, the winners stood out. We are giving out three prizes:-

Eeshan Malhotra: For his cartoon "Priceless". It's sure to bring a smile on the faces of midsem *ncd* junta.

Haripriya and Arvind: For their cartoon, 'Be Very Afraid'. Quite by coincidence, we have a front page article on the same topic, but they sure tell the story better.

Radhika Gupta: For her Photostory on the *Rang* freshie workshop, up on the InslghT website. It's such innovative forms of news reporting that make our work so much more interesting.

You have each won a cheque of Rs 350, to be collected from the InslghT Editors.

Watch out for the second round of CR, to begin on Wednesday, September 17th.

InslghT team

Chief Executive Editor
Nithya Subramanian

Chief Editor
Vaibhav Devanathan

THE EXECUTION PANEL

- Aaditya Kumar, Aayesha Ghanekar, Abhinav Mohan, Aditi Goyal, Aishwarya Ramakrishnan, Aishwarya Sharma, Ajanta Akhuly, Anasuya Mandal, Ankit Kothari, Antariksh Bothale, Archana Raja, Asgerali Masalawala, Chinmay Nivargi, Eeshan Malhotra, Gauri Joshi, Gautam Hazari, Gautam Salhotra, Haripriya, Harishchandra Ramadas, Harishwar Subramanian, Joshua Abraham, Kumar Aakash, Manas Rachh, Mayur Srinivasan, Miheer Desai, Mohit Sharma, Neha Rambhia, Niranjana Parab, Prachur Goel, Prasham Rambhia, Radhika Gupta, Rahul Dash, Rajat Chakravarty, Ritika Goel, Rohit Vadera, Rushil Goel, R. Karthik, Siddhartha Das, Srivathsan B., Sudarshan Bhatija, Tannishtha Sanyal, Tarun Mathur, Tejashree Aher, Vineet Singh

