



Vol. XIX No.3

Oct-Nov 2004

# WATCH OUT

Students' News Magazine, IITR



## Super Sixes

...success of 6 pointers

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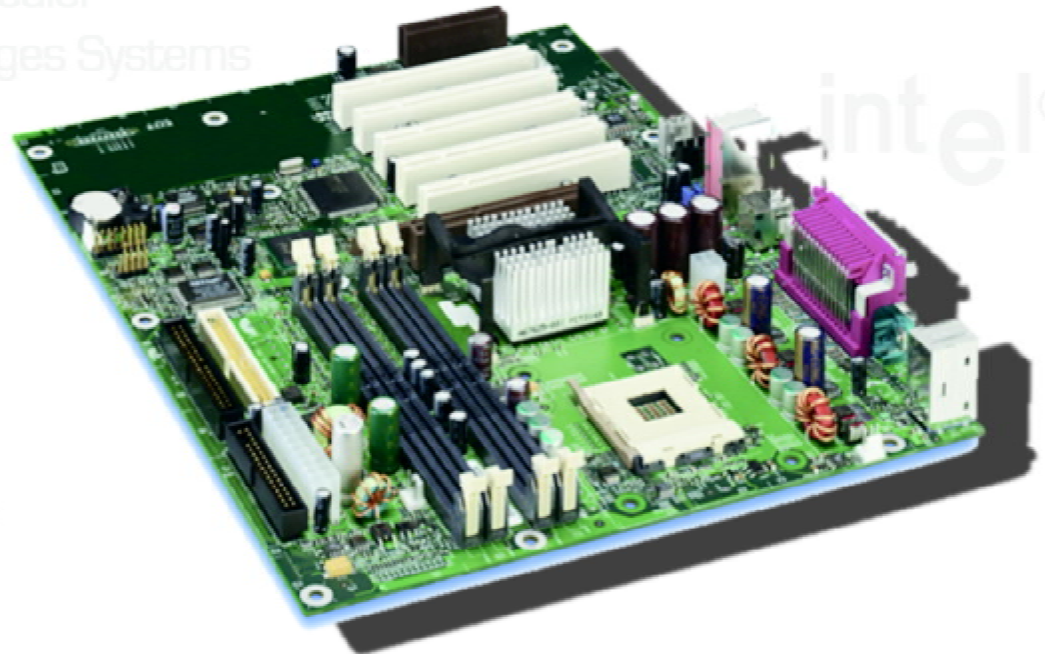
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## From the Desk of the Editor-in-Chief

I remember my first impression of Roorkee, captured three years back through rolled down car windows; blinking eyes in the harsh sunlight. We were driving down from Delhi for the registration and I had fallen asleep on the back seat, drugged by the petroleum vapours of the highway trucks. My mom woke me up with a start. "We have reached", she said and pointed out some dirty buildings with a half smile, "You are going to live here for the next four years."

The registration counter was pure chaos. It still amazes me how a newborn IIT, anxious to create goodwill and respect, could dish out such a disastrous first impression to its new students, the JEE stamp fresh on their foreheads. Someone told us that we would get to choose our own roommates and the mad scurry began. Strange aunties came up to me and wanted to know where I came from, what coaching I had attended and most importantly, what was my rank... All this elaborate interviewing simply to check if I was suitable enough to share a room with their son. After all, 'a man is known by the company he keeps' and all that shit.

It used to be JEE ranks then...now it's something called CGPA. One acronym replaces another and the world continues to run along in its merry way. We remain as obsessed with our GPAs as we used to be with our All India Ranks, perhaps more so in some cases. Each year, Microsoft sends a request to our department to forward the names of three people to undergo summer internship at their research center in the US. The department always blindly follows the time honoured tradition - sending the names of the three toppers according to their GPA. Factors such as genuine talent in the specified area, research potential and interest, aren't even taken into account when this significant, life-transforming decision is being made... This sort of over-emphasis on grades is not a problem exclusive to IITR; in fact, I would believe we aren't as bad as the rest of the IITs in this respect.

Our cover story looks at the people who are often left behind in our insane fixation with numbers... 6 pointers; each of them infinitely talented in their own unique way. Nearly three years on this campus and I can state with confidence that some of the most brilliant, interesting and versatile people I have met are students with terrible GPAs. This issue, we try to bring their minority viewpoint to the centrestage.

All that apart, this issue also blows the closing whistle on the autumn semester. Just a few days more, dear friends, and we will be free once again... from the tyranny of examinations and tutorials and surprise quizzes, living out a peaceful month till we get back to our old rigmarole in a brand new year.

I guess I won't be seeing most of you till then, so I will take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Peace!**



### WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?

The problem with the rat race is, even if you win, you are still a rat.

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[Run, run- I urged myself as I made out the dim form of the mess gatekeeper trying to close the door... with one final Matrix dive I entered the mess and the gatekeeper exploded in a torrent of 0's and 1's.]

"Pass the sugar"... Who was this \*bleep\* who dared to ask the cow for such mundane sweet nothingness? He shalt be punished. It turned out to be some *matka* who was hugging his bottle of Bournvita in a highly suspicious manner. Hmmm...Bournvita. Reminded me of Derek No Brain's 'Books, books, books. Babaloobalaa books'. Geez! I smacked my forehead as realization dawned on me; I hadn't returned those library books that were due long before the vacations.

"45 bucks vivisected from you", said my brain to my wallet as I crashed into the library. Aha, Murphy's Law kicks in again - the Return counter had a large sign in front with bright, taunting red letters - 'Closed for Lunch'. Well, I thought... might as well check out that new book the Prof. was telling us about. Nearly passing into a coma after climbing three floors, I desperately tried to pump enough blood into my cerebrum to locate Bay 8. Woohoo! There was the book I wanted, standing alone at the far end of the shelf. I ran and grabbed it, put it next to my heart... 'my preciouss'. As I opened it, glee morphed to rage. Some jerks had neatly cut out practically the whole book leaving only the preface... 'they stole it from us, the thieves'. I slapped myself in the fond hope that it would help me settle for another book.

"Turn to page 178", ordered the next one on its cover. Reeling under shock, I meekly obeyed. "Now turn to Page 49"... After a good ten minutes of following the maze through 'Principles of Multipoint Quantum Spectrography', I ended up at page 42 where I was civilly greeted with some choice abuses in multiple languages. I could do nothing but grit my already decaying teeth.

Finally, I settled for a book which had a love letter scrawled across its front page. Scary, what the library can do to a guy. Stealing a glance to make sure that no loafers were spying me, I made a dash to the Sanskrit section and deftly hid it behind 'Kalidas: Ek aatmakatha'.

After three rounds of running up and down the stairs to 'cut' a 'parchhi', I eventually managed to pay my fine and regained my three library cards. I raced upstairs. Aaarrgh! Some punk had been watching me...The book was gone. At this point I snapped. Beating my chest and hollering uncontrollably, I ran down trying not to create a scene. To add to my woes, the gatekeeper insisted I was flicking a book and tried to strip-search me. I just va-moo-sed, running till I faded into the vermilion sunset.

## V E R B A T I M

With the sports meet approaching our home ground we thought it appropriate to have a talk with **Dr. Ajay Gairola**, Deputy Sports Advisor, IIT Roorkee. With previous experience, being the General Secretary - Sports, at IIT Delhi, he is the best man for a Roorkee resurrection. Here's what he had to say:

### SPORTS FACILITIES FOR THE STUDENTS:

The institute spent nearly 8.8 crores on improving the sports facilities in IITR. This also includes electrification of courts and floodlights for the LBS. A new physical training instructor will soon be engaged for the girls' badminton and table tennis teams. There are regular fitness camps on Saturdays and Sundays.

A training session for probable team members was organized from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. in an effort to improve the sporting skills in the students. There are plans to open a Student Activity Club which is going to come up near the Saraswati Mandir

### STUDENT POTENTIAL IN IITR:

Selections are being done for probable team members from among the first year in order to train and prepare them for subsequent years. Girls' participation and performance has increased tremendously but the same cannot be said about boys. They still lack the killer instinct that is so necessary in a sportsman. But one defining feature of the students of IITR is that they are very disciplined. We can use this to our advantage. The fact that we are not in any major city ensures that there are no diversions for students in Roorkee.

### IITR'S PERFORMANCE IN THE RECENT SPORTS MEETS:

Our performance at the Inter-IIT aquatic meet was horrible. A contingent was sent to IITK only for fun and exposure. The real test will be the Inter IIT sports meet to be held in Chennai. A contingent might also be sent to IITD.

### ATTITUDE OF THE ADMINISTRATION:

The institute spent Rs. 1 lakh to send our players to IIT Kanpur. Arrangements have been made to keep our grounds open all year round so that students can avail of its benefit any time. The administration is always ready to do everything it can in favour of the students. However, I hope to see a 100% effort in return and that is not asking for too much.

# UGS COMPUTERS

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**DNA COMPUTING**



Even as you read this article, someone, somewhere is busy trying to put a part of us to work on a math problem or some other brainteaser of that sort. Puzzled? Well you do have a right to be. Not many people know of the new concept of computing using... guess what? Your very own personal DNA.

What occurred to Leonard Adleman as a brilliant new idea in 1994, has now become a major breakthrough in chip research. Adleman first used this concept to solve what is known as the Hamilton problem. It's basically a problem where one has to strike a path of minimum distance between any set of points without visiting any point twice.

Now, suppose each of the paths is assigned a strand of

DNA with a set code of a permutation of the A, T, G, C. All the strands are now mixed in a test tube and warmed, the DNA reacts in only set patterns and multiple permutation strands of the initial ones are formed. If we choose the initial strands carefully and eliminate the wrong combinations (by suitable weighing of the chemicals involved), we can get a set of solutions to our problem.

The system is basically an extension of the binary concept used in modern computing, only it is more effective since it doesn't contain just two values, 1 and 0, but all the alphabetically named DNA strands.

The process in its current stage of development, is extremely painstaking and tediously time consuming, Though considerably slower than a Pentium, it has a definite advantage over conventional chips because it processes the solutions simultaneously.

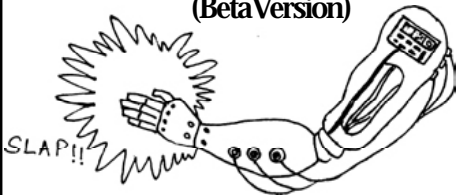
Also... DNA has a tremendous storing capacity. A mere 10<sup>21</sup> strands of DNA can store 1,000,000 billion times the data as a 1 GB hard disk. But though the potential is huge, these things are still on the drawing boards and you certainly won't find a biochip in your local department store for another 20 years, so have patience...

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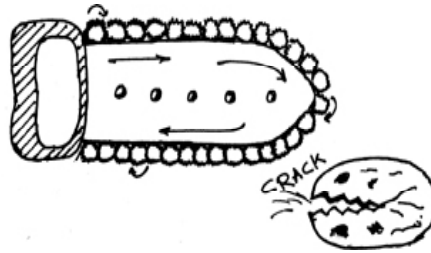
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## What are the odds?

Ask any of your friend who's a regular visitor to the UGES and he might tell you stories about the day when he picked up the snooker cue for the first time, and went on to pot every single ball on the table, as if he had been playing for years. The veteran and dexterous opponent had little to do but remain silent and motionless, except for perhaps a slight dropping of the lower jaw in extreme awe. This is just one manifestation of a common attribute...something they call "beginner's luck".

In fact all of us, at some point or the other, have encountered this strange phenomenon. It doesn't make sense. Someone who has never ever done a particular task should undoubtedly have less of an idea on how to do it. However, as things go, more than often this contributes as a positive. The reasons are several: unlike the Expert, the beginner is not guided and hindered by past events; the customary pressure of "having to beat" the inexperienced is absent and basically, there is absolutely nothing to lose.

Let's say you're trying darts for the first time in a while, and you hit the bull's-eye. The second time you miss. Maybe it's because the first time, you didn't know anything, or at least, didn't remember much of what people around you told you to do. So you just kind of guessed at what you were doing, and did it well. The next time, your consciousness barges in, like some boorish party crasher, and goes, 'Hey, I wanna know how to do that.' and like a vandal, totally screws it up. The prime cause for this is because you are trying to replicate the subconscious' actions with the conscious. You may be intrinsically good at darts but whatever half-baked knowledge/experience you gained from your first few tries will effectively nullify your natural talent.

Paulo Coelho, in one of the unforgettable passages from his bestselling book, 'The Alchemist', talks about how beginner's luck is just nature's way of giving you a small head start in a new direction. Human beings are genetically afraid of doing new things and beginner's luck is just one way of encouraging people to try out new avenues. Lets face it, if you *do* get a bull's eye at your first attempt, there is no way you are not going to throw another.

All in all, the next time a minnow defeats your favorite team at soccer or your friend takes his first turn on your computer for a Quake match and beats your all-time-high score, you can be reasonably sound in knowledge that their next turn will prove a little more frustrating as they'll begin to gain "experience".

Watch Out  
on the  
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[http://192.168.121.7/  
watchout/index.html](http://192.168.121.7/watchout/index.html)

## R . A . N . K



As a socially and environmentally committed magazine, we realize the needs of the lovebirds on campus. Already endangered, this species requires a great deal of care and attention to survive in these harsh lands. Unfortunately, wanton urbanization has encroached on their natural habitat forcing them to migrate to warmer climes where they aren't disturbed in their unique courtship rituals. **Watch Out** compiles a comprehensive list for the avid bird watcher:

### THE MOST ROMANTIC PLACES ON CAMPUS

#### 1. LOVERS' LANE / THOMASON MARG:

Tried and tested. The Lovers' Lane even has a set of unwritten rules, one of which dictates the minimum distance to be left between adjacent couples.

#### 2. LIBRARY TOP FLOOR:

Deserted alleys with convenient piles of books to hide behind. Also a useful excuse if caught red-handed - 'We were just studying, you know'

#### 3. SENATE STEPS:

Though overpopulated by sundry section meetings, the senate steps provide enough dark shadows for some heavy-duty coochy-cooing

#### 4. NESCAFE:

Link-ups, Break-ups, Re-Linkups .It's quite amazing what all can happen over a patty and iced tea.

#### 5. CHURCH:

A recent entrant into the list, the Church fits all the criteria required for a romantic tryst. Beware of the ghost, though...

“Our girls are very shy. They have put down the proposal of shorts on the badminton court. This seems a small thing but it is all about being comfortable while playing...”

- Nitin Gupta (G.Secy Sports)

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# ALMOST FAMOUS



...well almost

## Placements in Spring Semester...

### An insight by Prof. M.P Jain

“I refuse to answer any of those girlfriend-boyfriend questions Kumarji answered in your last issue”- **Pamli Deka**, Schlumberger recruit and Drams long-timer warned us even as she settled herself into a chair... And there she sat throughout the interview, steadfastly determined not to divulge more than what was absolutely necessary. Here’s what she had (or didn’t have) to say –

**WONA** : *So what was your most embarrassing moment on campus?*

**PD** : Umm...hmmm...aahmm...hmmm...No, I don’t think I have had any. We tried again.

**W**: *What was your first date like?*

**P** : Umm...hmmm...errr...No one has asked me out yet.

Oh, please!

**W**: *So who’s the one person you would like to exchange places with?*

**P**: Errr...ahem...I am completely satisfied with myself.

AAARRRRGGHH!!!

In a desperate effort to make her talk, we played our last trump card...DRAMS

**W**: *Is there something you hate about Drams?*

**P**: Drams is a very nice section. It teaches you so many things...blah blah. But one thing I didn’t like was the rigid hierarchy, in fact I hated it. At least our batch has tried to make a change. It’s much cooler now.

Ahaaa! 5 complete sentences!!! The plan had worked, now to capitalize on the momentum...

**W**: *What would your matrimonial ad read like?*

**P** : BEWARE!!

**W**: *People say you resemble Olive Oyl...*

**P**: Who is Olive Oyl? ... (Major pause while the memsahib thinks this one out)... Oh! Popeye’s girl! Yeah, someone has said that earlier also.

**W**: *Have you ever cheated in an exam?*

**P**: Yes, a number of times. Carrying chits to the exam hall, writing on sliced pencil wood...(All right! That’s a new one.) etc.etc

**W**: *What has affected you the most on campus?*

**P**: I find people on the campus very biased towards girls. There is always a protective shield around us. British Gas turned me down merely due to the fact that I was a girl... I wasn’t even given an opportunity to prove my credentials. I think girls should be treated at par with the guys.

We put on suitably sympathetic faces and proceeded with the interview.

**W**: *OK! Standard last question. What do you think about WONA?*

**P**: I don’t know whether your job demands it but you are really very inquisitive. You are doing a good job though. I like it.

**W**: *Glad to have your stamp of approval. What did you feel about this interview?*

**P**: Hmm... You asked very shrewd questions.

And you, dear Miss Deka, gave very shrewd answers :) ...

**WONA**: Sir, there has been quite a buzz all over the country regarding the new placement schedule of IITs. What can we expect?

**M.P.J.:** Yes, it’s true that from next year onwards (Dec 2005/Jan 2006) we will have placements in the second half of the year only and the seventh semester will not be disturbed.

**WONA**: What exactly was the driving force behind this decision?

**M.P.J.:** This decision was taken in a meeting of all the placement heads from the 7 IITs in July and directors also have agreed to it. It was primarily a demand of the companies to do so because in the present scenario, they have to predict their manpower one year in advance which is a problem. Also, most of the MNCs prefer to wait for the US budget which is generally scheduled for Nov or Dec to decide the exact no. of students they need to recruit. Moreover, as is usually seen, the level of interest in studies also goes down once students are placed.

**WONA**: How do you think is such a system will be advantageous for the students?

**M.P.J.:** First of all, by the end of seventh semester students would have undergone much more courses and thus would be in a better position to judge themselves and their capabilities. Secondly, all the placements can take place in December therefore students will find it easier to take out time for preparing for CAT etc. And not to mention, it will definitely be good for their academics as well.

**WONA**: But don’t you think that this might lead to reduction in number of offers?

**M.P.J.:** No, not at all. In fact, as far as we can perceive, there will be bulk placements in December itself. Keeping the major portion of campus recruitments in December (i.e. semester break) will permit PPTs in morning hours so that we can accommodate 2 companies a day. The rest of the companies will visit the campus throughout the spring semester.

**WONA**: Will this not create problems for fifth year architecture students?

**M.P.J.:** No system devised for the placements can ever be flawless. Every change has its pros and cons. Let us see how it works out this time and then if required appropriate changes will be made.



# R H Y T H M 'O 4

## Drone-acharya

Surprise, surprise Ek Aur Dronacharya lived up to first year expectations. Directed by **Saurabh Saxena**, we have to say that there were some impressive performances from **Shailesh Prithani** and **Meesam Rizvi**, who played Dronacharya. In fact the parallels that were drawn between Dronacharya and Prof. Arvind took Drams to new heights. Traditions were violated as the play went on without any noticeable goof-ups. Looking at the other side of this coin, the adaptation of the Mahabharata was not appreciated by many in the audience. Moreover the play just went on and on... and on some more. In fact we caught sight of an alumnus from the 1957 batch still there. Because of this one sole reason, what could have been a spellbinding performance just became a binding one. All in all, it was a good display of talent and hard-work and for this Drams deserves a big hand.

3.5/5

## Meri Awaz Suno...please!

After Pehla Nasha, it was time for a complete mood-switch to classical and semi-classical stuff at Swaranjali. Though the 'non-dhinchak' theme did not attract too much of an audience, the programme had all the right ingredients for the classical music aficionado. A few of the performances had the audience literally in tears...some, because of the sheer beauty of the music and others, due to pure boredom. And as far as the audio interruptions are concerned, all we can say is that no music show is complete without them. Swaranjali was no exception. **Neha Vyas** won the prize for the best female vocalist and **Poorna Chandran** was adjudged the best male singer. For those into classical, the show was a treat. As for Generation X...well, that's the way it is.

2.5/5

## Tuesday Night Fever

Bang! Encore! The long awaited Choreo event blasted off with popular numbers like *Dhoom* and *Chandralekha* getting the packed hangar to its feet. Pity, the *joie de vivre* was short-lived as the later performances couldn't live up to expectations. There was no dearth of goof ups...dancers forgot their steps and stopped midway and the coordination seemed to fade away every second. The sinusoidal trend continued with the hangar coming to life again with a scintillating 'spontaneous' performance by **Hina Kapoor**. This year, the Choreo section had managed to rope in some sponsor support from Airtel. There was some familiar hooting from the audience (Seriously, guys...learn some new slogans!) which led the authorities to resort to some good old blackmail - 'Stop this or we will close down the event'. All in all, a decent show which managed to keep the crowd interested throughout.

3/5

## Hallowed be thy name...

The much-publicized Lit Sec debate/extempore (whatever!) kicked off at the DOMS audi with 2 distinguished judges from our faculty doing the honours. A decent turnout was ensured partly by a compulsory-for-proficiency-holders clause. 'God is lazy', 'Can there be a return to innocence?'... With the speakers stumbling their way through such arbitrary topics, the audience (participants + 3) were left balancing themselves on the edge of their seats, especially when it was time to leave. The rather dreary programme was livened up with occasional glimpses of the host's (**Rahul Sharma (III Indus)**) omni-directional hairdo. 'The Fight Club' was eventually won by **Swagat (IV CSE)** who will go on to represent the institute at the Inter College debate at Wardha in January.

2/5

# SUPER SIXES

“We don’t want people who have topped at college throughout, at Microsoft. We want people who know how to face failure.”

**- Bill Gates**

*Founder, Microsoft Corporation.*

At the top of our *zero ban gaya hero* list, we introduce, to those who already don’t know, **Sanket Anurag “Polo” Shrivastava**. Originally a student of the Pulp and Paper department at Saharanpur, he managed a branch change to Meta in his maiden year at IITR. Soon he changed his ways, or “mended” them in his own words. His CGPA went downhill and according to the popular empirical formula, his popularity shot up. He was the Secretary of the Literary Section in 2003-2004, and although he was a permanent member of the Dean’s Short Attendance Club, he did quite well. In fact with a CGPA of 6.2, one hardly expected him to get a job, but he gave everyone a low blow by getting into Tata Motors. Ironically the Meta topper that year, Bal Mukund Dhar, landed the exact same job.

**Rejoy Kurup**, figures next. He joined the E&C department here in '98 and was one of the few who manage to complete a B.Tech in 5 years. A constant *chaggi* throughout his career here, he was also Joint Secy. of Litsec...guess it runs in the blood. After four years he got a call from IIM Kozhikode but couldn’t take it due to multiple *supplees* which forced him to repeat a sem. This actually turned out a blessing in disguise, as he cracked the CAT the following year, getting a 99.9 percentile and calls from all the IIMs. He finally settled for IIM Ahmedabad. Not bad, huh?

*“Slam the system, and still get away with it”*

**- Polo**

“All the people you see on the dais in front of you had a CGPA of less than 7 when they were at IIT”

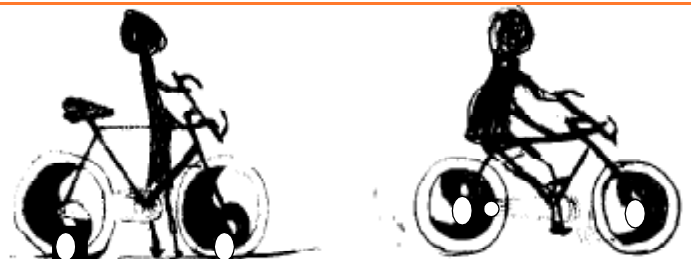
**- Victor Menezes**

*Citibank CEO & IITB alumnus, at the Pan-IIT meet.*

This was not how it was supposed to be. ‘Just study for these two years and get into IIT’, our parents had told us. ‘Your life will be made’. And so we bunked school, joined coaching classes that were a million miles away from home, spent our teens in darkened classrooms while our friends were out having the time of their life in the autumn sunshine...and finally made it here. Welcome to IIT! Relative Grading hit us on the nose and we were back to where we started. Mug, mug and mug some more- After all, it’s your career at stake here.

There was a new GPA based caste system now. Convenient labels were chosen... ‘*Chaggi*’, ‘6-pointer’...till the label came to define the individual, a badge everyone wore on their Grade Sheets. And although popular perception put the *chaggis* at the bottom of IIT’s unique feudal structure... they still remain a beacon of hope; for all those who believe life is not just about a good GPA; a break from the standard intellectuals/ mugpots who dominate the campus.

Maybe our thinking has something to do with the rigid IIT mindset where everything is cut-right and numbered, correct to the second decimal place. In fact, at the very core, we seem to have an extremely unhealthy obsession with rankings and numbers. IITians love to rank students, academic institutions, test scores, countries, movies... basically anything you can stick a number in front of ( *contd*)



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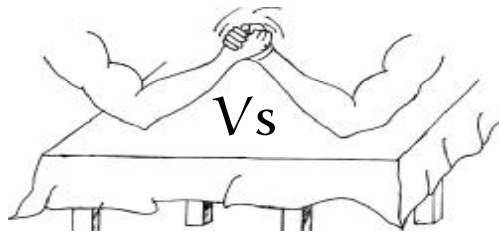
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# Topper



# Flopper

CGPA ∈ [8.5, 10.0)  
 Front Bench, CL (Central Library)  
 N/A  
 PH  
 Refer to **Social Life**  
 404 error  
 Data overflow.  
 Endangered

**Barcode Identification**  
**Habitat**  
**Social Life**  
**Athletic abilities**  
**Hobbies**  
**Girl/Boyfriends**  
**Attendance Status**  
**Population**

0 < CGPA < 6.0  
 Back Bench, Alpahar, CL (Civil Lines)  
 Party animal, always up for a bit of fun.  
 Integral part of insti teams.  
 Space insufficient.  
 1% of the population that looks good.  
 about: blank  
 In need of family planning.

(contd...) Take university rankings for example. If Berkeley has a score of 9.51 and Stanford has a score of 9.52, it immediately makes Stanford better than Berkeley! Standard error is a term not known to IITians. Do a quick Google search and you will find umpteen personal webpages of IITians, wallowing in the pride of the India Today rankings, preening in the knowledge that they got one percentage point more than another.

Standard talk around campus will tell you how one person got a full 3 points more than another in the GRE. Try reading ETS's description of the GRE on their site and you will realize that a 50-point difference in scores is considered insignificant.

The institute does its bit to push this attitude along the way. Awarding a single A+ in a class of 60 maybe all right to boast of, (IIT is tough, you know) but it doesn't do much to the psychology of the typical IIT freshee- One who has been accustomed to straight 90s through his school life. American universities, on the other hand, concentrate on encouraging their students...many of whom wouldn't hold a fig leaf when compared to our so-called 6 pointers.

This 'military boot-camp' atmosphere, as Business Week called it in a 1998 editorial on IIT, is often cited as one of the reasons why the IIT brand name is so successful. The ruthless cutting out of the unadjusted, the public grading of the not-so-perfect...all prepare us for the mercurial, cut-throat corporate world which awaits us outside the bounds of our sleepy campus- Which is precisely why alumni from a hardcore tech school like IIT make it big as successful managers.

Yet, when we are busy pandering to the industry and media generated hype, we need to realize that the primary responsibility of an educational institute is towards its students, and not just the select few who manage to get good grades. Maybe we need to work on a softer approach towards the entire grading system and our attitude towards it... where it remains an important part of our life, but not the overbearing shadow it now is.

## Employment News!

Being an IIT has its own distinct advantages. Recruiting companies realize the sheer competitiveness of the admission test and its ability to separate the wheat from the chaff; one of the reasons why they continue to hire students with not-so-good GPA's. The current placement season has seen packages in the range of 4.5 - 5 being offered to people whose CGPA is only slightly more. Companies like **IndusLogic**, **DRDO**, **Reliance Infocomm** and old favourites, **TCS** and **Infy**, continue to hire people at the lower end of the class...based on their personal and technical skills, and not just on GPA.

Among the stars of the current placement season is **Partha Pratim Sarkar (Elec IV)**. Armed with a CGPA of 5.93, he managed to bag an offer from the US based **Computer Associates**; a job many nine-pointers would have given their right arm for. In our brief chat with him, he informed us that the interview was completely technical, something he feels, worked in his favour. Though he does sound a word of caution before signing off. "I wouldn't like anyone to maintain a CG like mine...It's too risky"



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# Industry Interaction

"Our ambition is to have a TCS, Wipro, Infosys emerging from our campus one day" - Dr. D B Pathak. Head, Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology, IIT B.

Even at an IIT, half of us do not know who an engineer actually is, do we? According to the Oxford dictionary, an engineer is a person whose job includes the design and repair of machines or any other technical instruments. Machines as such are used in an industry, which in turn implies that the industry always has a constant need for engineers. An institute that wants its students to end up with proper jobs must have an interactive interface with the related industries to keep up with its demands and the latest developments in technology.

Except for us all other IITs seem to have realized this fact long back and taken appropriate steps in this direction like initiating industry specific courses, development of entrepreneurship cells and making the most out of their widely spread out alumni network. Here, however, the industry interaction, if present, is definitely not visible and almost certainly not making any difference to our curriculum. Cells like **STEP** and **Incunebula** have remained in such a dormant state ever since their formation that they have been reduced to mere names that have faded into the oblivion. The only memory of **Incunebula** is of a few obscure mails in our telnet accounts last semester.

- \* **IIT D boasts of Intel, Microsoft, Tata Infotech, Cisco, Philips, IBM sponsored labs**
- \* **Revenue of Rs. 60 crores was earned through SRIC programme in 2003, in IIT Kgp.**
- \* **Eureka!, The business plan contest organized by the entrepreneurship cell of IIT B has seen winners like myzeus.com whose value is a whopping six million dollars now.**

In stark comparison IITB has been the undisputed leader amongst all IITs in fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship. It has a **Center for Research in Entrepreneurship (CARE)** that has played a stellar role in incubating ventures from IITians. The list includes names like **iPortia** that attracted VC funding from **Rakesh Mathur** of **Junglee.com** fame. While IITs in general have confined themselves to shaping brilliant technical minds, IITB was the first not to shy away from grooming them to be billionaires. Another feature unknown to the lands of Roorkee but a common phenomenon at other IIT's are tie-ups with the industry. On one hand, IIT D boasts of an **IBM Asia Lab** set up for cutting edge research work while on the other, IIT Guwahati has numerous research projects in collaboration with software giants like **Microsoft**. Similarly, IITKgp works in association with **Texas Instruments** for research on VLSI design while IITB has an **Industrial Research & Consultancy Centre** that works with reputed domestic industries and MNCs like **HP Labs, Ericsson, TCS, TI**, etc.

When it comes to alumni, we might boast of having the largest in number, thanks to us being the oldest engineering institution in the country but unfortunately, they are yet to contribute to the setting up of any research centre or foundation here. A glance at the activities of the alumni of the other IITs makes us realize how far we lag behind yet again. At IITK their alumni, **Mr. NR Narayana Murthy, Chairman, Infosys**, has created the **Research I Foundation** with an endowment of **Rs. 10 crores**. IITB alumni, which include business leaders like **Nandan Nilekani, Gururaj Deshpande and Kanwal Rekhi**, have

been responsible for a number of centers within the institute, like the **Kanwal Rekhi School of Information Technology** and the **Shailesh Mehta School of Management**. IIT Roorkee seems to fall short in many respects. But with just three years of IITization it is unfair to expect us to match up to what other IITs have achieved over the years. Things are getting better. Let's hope it gets a lot better a bit quickly.

## IIT Roorkee

### Facts & Figures

**Number of Live projects - 592**

**Revenue generated - Rs 27 cr**

**Number of Research projects - 49**

**Revenue generated - Rs 11cr**

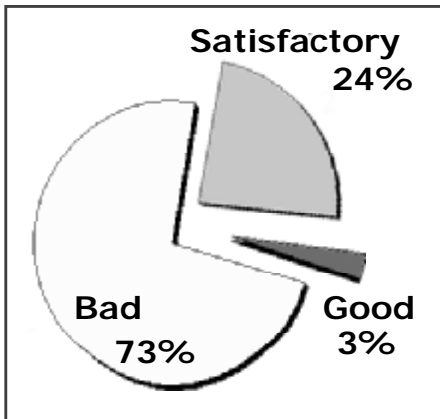
### BEGINNINGS

- \* **Studies on Handling and Dynamic Behaviour of two and three wheeled Motors Vehicles Volkswagon Foundation, FRG**
- \* **Intel Planet Lab**



**Watch Out Redressal Cell**  
**"INDUSTRY INTERACTION" ...Lets Worc**

Lack of healthy Industry Interaction of the Institute as reflected in the Big Story, definitely has grave consequences over the PR of IITR. We thought of asking the authorities about this crucial feature and about the problems associated with it. So, we reached you with our WORC mess survey and here is the input you gave us:



How do you rate IITR's industry interaction?

How do you Rank your priorities for increased industry interaction?

*"There are three Intel Planet Labs in IITB for regular studies"*

*"Research Labs should be open for UG students as well"*

1. Research Labs
2. Industry Courses
3. Internship and Placement
4. Entrepreneurship.

Backed up with these vital stats, we approached **Dean, S.R.I.C**(Sponsored Research and Industrial Consultancy) **Prof J.S.Saini** and **Head, S.T.E.P** (Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Park) **Dr. V.K.Tewari**. Their word:

**Prof. J.S.Saini:**

"The Industry Interaction is supposed to be a mutual collaboration between the Institute and the Industries. We can't come up with more Sponsored Research Labs or the Institute Courses without the Industries interests. We do have consultancy projects going on in the campus which are funded by the Govt. ministries such as DRDO, Dept. of Science and Technology, Ministry HRD. Huge funds of about 8 to 10 crores are flowing in for projects like a centre on Nano-technology. Though, I agree that there is not much from the private sector organizations like Intel or say IBM, as compared to other IITs. The main reason of it is definitely the proximity of IITR from the industrial areas as compared to the others. Perhaps a forum working on this factor can help in this regard. With years passing by, I'm sure we are going to improve a lot and can overcome the location barrier."

**Dr. V.K.Tewari:**

"To become a first generation Entrepreneur is easier said than done. One needs inherent qualities like a futuristic vision, tenacity, knowledge about the market and many more like these. Ideas are there but what lack are courage and the initiative from the students. The trend nowadays is that people go for high paying software jobs than going for their core ones. Moreover if at all they want to go for entrepreneurship they lack appropriate direction. Another problem that pertains is concerned with the interests of the industries. They are not open to bring about their problems for which they are seriously in need of solutions which can be provided by the institutes. The sole solution which I've in mind is to have forums in both institute as well as in the industries which are in regular touch with each other and collaborate to provide the feasible solutions to problems of the industries that the institute researchers can think of. We are shortly coming up with Institute courses designed to introduce people with Entrepreneurship and also starting up Incubators to help young Entrepreneurs."



**"I used to be a keetabi keeda (book worm) during my days at Roorkee. Frankly speaking now I think I made a mistake. I could've done without being one."**

- Mr. V.K Taneja, IAS. (Alumnus, '79 batch)

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Hard Drive	40 GB Ultra DMA ATA Hard Drive at 7200 RPM	
Optical Drive	48X/32X/48X CD-RW Drive	48X/32X/16X/48X CD-RW/DVD Combo Drive
Diskette Drive	3.5" 1.44 MB	
Communications	High Speed 56K Modem	
Video Graphics	Intel® Extreme Graphics; Up to 64 MB Dynamic Allocation	
Audio	Integrated AC'97 CODEC - RealTek ALC658, JBL Platinum Speakers	
Keyboard & Mouse	Compaq Internet Keyboard, Presario Optical, PS/2 Scroller Mouse	
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Thomso- 2005 promises to be an event to look forward to. With both, the Thomso Organizing Committee (TOC) and the Student Affairs Council (SAC) joining forces to make it a resounding success, it seemed natural for us to interview the people behind the scenes: **Gunjan Khatri**, Convener, TOC and **Abhishek Jaiswal**, General Secretary, SAC.

# Thomso'05

*Whats coming up? Convener and G.Sec speak.*



**GK:** We feel that since SAC is the voice of the students, their involvement is necessary for making Thomso '05 a smooth affair without any hiccups.

**AJ:** Yes! This was not possible last year due to a clash of concerns. This time, however, we are on the best of terms and working hard towards a common goal.

**GK:** This time's Thomso will be run in a completely organized and structured manner. We have an office and infrastructure in place for the first time. We are really thankful to the authorities who have given us all their support and encouragement. We are involving students from all courses in the whole organization process.

**AJ:** We are more open this time. We have included many third yearites to give them a feel of the management skills required for running an event of this magnitude.

**GK:** There were many reasons for Thomso to be shifted from the autumn to spring semester. These include 4<sup>th</sup> year placements and non-availability of free weekends in November. Also we did not have enough time to manage sponsorships for the event.

**AJ:** But now, we have got off to a good start. We have the largest seed money ever this year. Now we are basically working toward attracting maximum sponsorship through our contacts in the corporate world.

**AJ:** Regarding the issue of students contributing monetarily, we must realize that Thomso is a student activity and student participation in its organization would only help it to become better. We need to establish a brand of our own.

**GK:** Thomso and Cognizance are the events by which the institute will be judged by the world. To project ourselves in a good light, we plan to set some benchmarks for future generations to follow.

**GK:** This time we have the entire campus behind us. Media partner-Watch Out, Web content Manager – IMG, the Cultural Council, Hobbies Club...all are playing their own parts in Thomso 2005's success. New events added this year include an Aids awareness workshop and the Inter-College Carnival.

**AJ:** We are trying our best to organize major events in LBS. We need everyone's support to make this possible. We just want to forget the past and focus on making it the biggest and best Thomso ever.

## PERISCOPE

### IIM-A in top 100 B-schools

IIM-Ahmedabad has figured among the world's top 100 management schools in a survey published by the prestigious London based weekly 'Economists Intelligence Unit'. IIM.-A, ranked 64<sup>th</sup> was one of the four Asian schools which could find a place in that list. Not only this, IIM.-A was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among all the other B-schools of the world in the category 'Open Up New Opportunities'. Great going!!!

### Aeronautic breakthrough at MIT

The aeronautic researchers at M.I.T. have achieved a major breakthrough in the field of unmanned aircraft control. They have developed a 'manned to unmanned aircraft guidance system' that will allow a pilot of one plane to guide another unmanned airplane in its flight, simply by giving instructions in English language. A few flight tests held in this regard have so far yielded positive results.

## NEWS NOTES

### Alumni Day

NOV 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, the institute witnessed the Alumni Day Celebrations which kicked off with a special jubilee function organized by the Cultural Society in honour of our distinguished alumni. Participating in the meet were a 100 odd alumni from the '79 batch, about 50 from the '54 batch and 3 from the '44 batch as well. In a specially organized 'interactive' session with the students, tempers ran high as group after group of students approached 'our beloved seniors' for funds. A number of informal events including the customary Faculty vs Alumni cricket match, Matka Phod (!) and Golf (with steel glasses and hockey sticks) were also organised.

### ACM Programming Contest

IIT Kanpur hosted the first round of this year's ACM Online Programming Contest, the biggest of it's kind in India. Our boys **Ankit Kapoor, Atul Gosain & Madan Mohan Meena (all III E&C)** cracked the first round to get a place in the final 30. Now the contest moves to Mumbai for the Asia Round, the winners of which go on to test their mettle at the international level.

इन Watch Out वालों से मैं तंग आ चुका हूँ। जब कभी भी इन्हें Campus के विषय में कुछ मसालेदार, कुछ हटके लिखना होता है, तो शिकार बनता हूँ मैं - E&C Tower। क्या-क्या नहीं कहा गया है मेरे बारे में? मेरे आस्तित्व पर सवाल उठाए गए। Watch Out ही नहीं, बाकी जनता भी मेरी मौज लेने से नहीं चूकती। Ragging में Seniors मेरी ओर इशारा करके Juniors से पूछते हैं “जानते हो ये क्या है?” और फिर शरारत की हँसी के साथ खुद ही जवाब देते हैं, “ये है .....” छी ! छी ! आगे कहते हुए भी शर्म आती है। भूल जाते हैं लोग कि इस दो मंजिले ‘जया बच्चन’ Campus का हीरो एक मात्र सात मंजिला ‘अमिताभ बच्चन’ हूँ। भूल जाते हैं वो दिन जब Air Show देखने के लिए भीड़ की भीड़ मेरे ही कंधे पर सवार हुई थी। पर वो कहावत तो सुनी ही होगी “कंधे पर बिठाओं तो कान में ...”। वहीं हुआ। कम्बख्तों ने Watch Out में Air Show को मेरी ही बलि चढ़ा दी। Plane मुझमें ऐसा घुसता दिखाया मानो Pilot के पिताजी का खेत हो।

अरे मर गये हमें मारने वाले। आखिरकार आये मेरे पास ही अपनी पत्रिका के लिए मेरे अनमोल अनुभव माँगने। भाइयों, बहिनो व अन्य मामला यह है कि जिस ऊँचाई पर मैं खड़ा हूँ वहाँ से सब कुछ दिखता है। जी हाँ सब कुछ। जब आप अल्पाहार पर समोसा - कोक हजम कर बिना पैसे दिये कट लेते हैं। जब आप अपनी उनके साथ Lover's Lane का सबसे सुनसान कोना टटोलते हैं। जब आप अपनी उनके साथ टूलते हुए किसी और की उनको ताड़ते हैं। ऐसे हर मौके पर आपकी हर हरकत पर एक नजर रहती है ... नजर E&C Tower की। बड़े मजेदार नजारे देखने को मिलते हैं मेरे कद से। एक किस्सा बताता हूँ। उस दिन सुबह के 6 बजे होंगे जब मैंने बाबूलाल और जग मोहन को Swimming Pool के आसपास तौंका झाँकी करते देखा। कारण तो आप समझ ही गए होंगे। पर उनकी फूटी किस्मत जाली में से झाँका तो एक हट्टा कट्टा सांवाला शरीर हाथ में डंडा लिए दिखा। कोच ने उन्हें बुरी तरह धो डाला। अब जाहिर है बाबूलाल ने बताया होगा कि साईकिल से गिर गये थे इसलिए आँख काली नीली है। पर आपकी हर हरकत हर कदम पर रहती है एक नजर ... नजर E&C Tower की।

और सुनिए। रामलाल, हरिप्रसाद और सोमू उस दिन बड़े खुश थे। उनके रात के खाने का बढ़िया जुगाड़ हो गया था। तीनों सजे धजे, इत्र छिड़का, जेब में इक्यावन रूपये के लिफाफे रखे और चल दिए। रविन्द्र लॉज में आज एक शादी थी। किसकी, किसे पता? किसे परवाह? सहज ढंग से खाया पिया और तृप्त होकर लौटे। FMP कामयाब रही। Emergency लिफाफों की जरूरत नहीं पड़ी। किसी ने नहीं देखा। वाकई? देखा हुआ देखे। एक नजर ने .... सबसे तेज़ नज़र ने ... नज़र E&C Tower की।

खैर अब बस .... Watch Out... Time Out ! बोलो सियावर राम चन्द्र की जय और कट लो। पर हाँ अगली बार हमारे बारे में कुछ बकने से पहले सोच लेना, हर वक़्त, हर कदम, हर हरकत, एक नजर तुम्हारे ऊपर है। नजर E&C Tower की।

## “More opportunities for DPT”

Dear Watch Out

I congratulate you on bringing out yet another good issue of the magazine (Aug-Sept 04). It is pleasing to see students exploiting their talents in creative work like this. There is another group of students who are equally talented as you are. I am writing this mail to talk about them. Your friends at the Department of Paper Technology, Saharanpur, despite the immense potential they possess, are unable to nurture it as well as they would like to. I have taught them, and during an interaction with them I came to know that they are quite disappointed at the facilities and opportunities offered to them. They are also, after all, part of this institute – Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee. Being located in a different place, away from the larger community of students is obviously not a perfectly comfortable scenario. Though, it has its own set of advantages from their academic point of view considering their discipline of specialization. However those students would like to be given more chances of interactions with their Roorkee counterparts, opportunities to prove their skills and talents, and adequate facilities. It would also be commendable if students from here themselves initiated activities and interactions involving their friends at DPT. This way they will feel an increased sense of belongingness to the institute and would be able to satisfy their quest for challenges and healthy competition from their friends in Roorkee, to test their mettle on a tougher scale. On behalf of those students, therefore, I would like to appeal to everyone on this campus to make efforts to provide the best of conditions and opportunities to them. Lets not forget. They are part of us.

**Dr. Nagendra Kumar**

**Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**





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**To the Friend or Foe**

A few things can never change.  
Neways,  
Happy Birthday & a Happy New Year  
- Who else???

**Dear (P+)<sup>3</sup>, T+, W+**

Some like woodenship, Some like silvership, Some like goldship, but I only like your friendship;  
Promise me you will never go away,  
In the storm of life you have always been my ship

- B+

**To 4-d,**

Ab bas bhi karo!!! Einstein ke paas bhi dimensions khatm ho gayi.

- L M O

**To Hanu,**

Dilli ki ranbhoomi par Bacche ki Vijay

- A P.T. Usha fan

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**To BABA (1st Yr Civil)**

Baba ji ki, Baba ji ki, Baba ji ki, Baba ji ki.....

- Secret Admirer

**To Bullwinder,**

How're you doing...

- Babban

**To my Role Model,**

Just dropped in to say hi

-the old friend

**To JJKB, golu, frog & Polu**

I pray to god every morning that every1 gets frens like u. Why should only I suffer???

- EID

**To Custard Apple,**

The cake was fine and so was the phonecall. But u do tat again and we will see about the game.

- Still a weirdo

# COGNIZANCE 06

indian institute of technology, roorkee  
techfest 04 - 06 **March** '05



the world  
online festival



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C O G N I Z A N C E

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the mother of all events **C O N V E R G E N C E**  
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online & on the ground t **R E A S U R E H U N T**  
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chaos battlefield of gamers

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