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Students' News Magazine



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## CornerEd

It was just the other day, an eternity ago, that I was twiddling my thumbs sitting in a creaky rick with my mum and a cartload of luggage and watching strange shops whiz by in *slo-mo*. The train journey left me aching for some leg room- if you're an un-savvy foot longer than 'average Indian' the world is a wee bit cramped- and the dung ridden and rick infested streets were smelling rather musty. *No problemo*. I'd been in those spit ridden *blue-liners* in Delhi and was no stranger to strange odours. How glad I was to have put that episode behind-weekend classes, rush hours, pounding temples and the lot. How glad I was to end up in this...this...um...

The gate was grand and the apparent tepid calm inside was a welcome respite from the occasional bullock-tail brushing the arm. I had made it. I was the greatest. The champ...Phooey! What is that smell? The ageing buildings were peeping at me from behind the rather dense shrubbery and by now, I was entirely sure we were in the wrong place. '*Aapko rasta pata hai na bhaiyya?*' – I said in my *haddu-ized* Hindi. 'Bhaiyya' nodded calmly, as though demurely smiling to himself at the usual *faccha* plight. The hostel room was there, so this really was the place. The toilets looked a bit *icky*. *Oh well!* Along came darkness, and with it, *aloo sabzi*, some brown looking rice, powdery *rotis* and *dal*- it was a rather nice meal I dared. If only I knew...

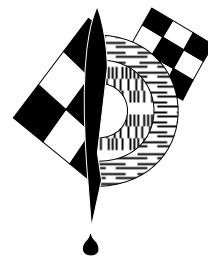
My first day- and night- in Roorkee. It is as clear as now and yet, something is amiss. The great eucalyptus wood behind AHEC is now naught. The rooms have changed, and even my room number has moved ten slots up- and the fan works, thankfully. Turns out they also replaced the table I had burned a hole in.

So much has changed, and asks tedious questions of one's memories and so much of what was, isn't there anymore or has turned into some gaudy monstrosity. Yet, every time I walk down that lane toward the *gaon*, I see Gupta cycling by, I see my *roomie* walking off to a *chaapo* at *Bittoo's* while I'm left locked out in a towel with a bucket and soap in my hand, I see Yella being hauled up by a mob of fifty in the canteen and kicked till the legs would kick no more, the *bakar* sessions, the *orkutting*, the ragging, the *NCC*...

Time is growing on me. Roorkee has changed and continues its transition into what will eventually become unrecognizable. Perhaps one day, when we are senile enough, we will come back and look around, only to find that nothing but our very own version of the 'White House' intact- maybe not even that. Yet, some things, we will find, are unfading.

This year we witness the fifth anniversary of our darling *insti* being made an IIT. We have seen our share of both excruciating joy and numbing despair. It is time now to take a look at our budding baby's progress and do a little soul-searching for its shortcomings. Do mind the diapers please...

-Ed.



Think about it-

There are two secrets to success:

1. Never reveal all you know.

- Arthur Bloch (Murphy)

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Summer has always been viewed as a time of prosperity, a time when flowers blossom, a time when the sky is a little bluer and people a little warmer and it certainly seemed so in the early days as I expertly wiggled through the

endless questions posed by a barrage of relatives that found their way to my house. Yup, these were the times, when by the grace of Apollo the cuts were a little deeper, the skirts a little shorter and sleeves non-existent, it was as if God Himself had prepared this sight for the sore eyes which had endured four months of third degree in the black hole of feminine beauty that we lovingly refer to as IITR.

It is then that my passionate and intimate affair with my television remote began. With no one to challenge me here, I made my move and made it count. We had seen each other before but this time was different. We spent many nights together refreshing past memories and making new ones which are sure to linger on for a long time to come.

But after watching the cards and heads fly in the World Cup and treating myself to the moaning and groaning of some very leggy scantily clad women high on grass, my relationship with the remote soured and I was confronted with the prospect of a month-long house arrest with nothing to do in particular.

It was in one of these excruciatingly long days hiding from the sun like Osama from Bush in my basement listening to the psychedelic and often provoking lyrics of Pink Floyd wondering about my place in this world that I wrote-

"Purple cow was found *comfortably numb* on the night of 22nd July 2006. The cause of his demise has been established as *s\*x, drugs and rock 'n roll*. Although his mind worked in *mysterious ways* it his kind and friendly *heart will go on*. Whether you are riding on the *highway to hell* or standing on the *stairway to heaven*, Purp, we *wish you were here* to make our lives a little more miserable. Though we'll be *here without you* but rest assured, *the memory remains*. All hail Purp, the greatest, the most beautifullest, the champ, the hero, the demigod of ..."

Yeah right. If friends had a little more time to spare from all the kicking, looting, orkutting and the exam-ruining, maybe it would be worth the effort to dream of such poop. Sheesh!

Mooom...*dinner mein kya bana hai?*

## VERBATIM

This time around we speak to **Dr. S. C. Saxena, Director, IIT Roorkee**, as he begins his five year term at IITR. Along with being a distinguished alumnus of this institute, he has also taught here and has just returned from a stint in Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, Patiala, Punjab. Here are some of his views on the IITR...

The major difference between IITR and Thapar Institute (TI) is that IITR works under the central government. Although we are an autonomous body, we still suffer from low efficiency, very little accountability and poor work culture whereas TI being a private institute is modelled on the corporate standard and is a world apart in this respect. In all else though, the two are much the same.

**Dr Saxena** feels we should "Step up the ladder of excellence in a short period of time". According to him, IITR can be one of the top 100 universities of the world. To this end, our focus has to be high quality R&D along with the creation of around 10 centres of academic excellence. Roorkee has had a glorious past in terms of its contributions to nation building and this strength must not be allowed to diminish.

The Director also stated his belief that the capacity of the institute in terms of student intake ought to increase. He stressed upon the development of state-of-the-art infrastructure and relations with other leading universities and intellectuals.

When asked about the changes he has seen in the institute, Dr. Saxena replied that he felt that IITR had the best of both worlds. UoR, according to him, trained students more evenly and he feels there was greater accountability then.

He also believes that UoR had a stronger moral fabric and that though this hasn't disappeared altogether, it is much frailer now. He pointed out that despite certain changes taking place, apparently for the worse, the students are much smarter now and are gifted with great acumen, which he felt would be the key in grooming the leaders of tomorrow.

Message to Students: "A person should be optimistic in life, strive hard and achieve high goals. Winners don't do different things, they do things differently- as Shiv Khera said, is most apt".

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; CORPORATE SUITS</li> <li>&gt; KURTAS AND PYJAMAS</li> <li>&gt; JODHPURI COLLECTION</li> <li>&gt; DESIGNER SHERWANI</li> <li>&gt; TROUSERS</li> <li>&gt; PARTY WEAR</li> <li>&gt; T-SHIRTS</li> <li>&gt; SHIRTS</li> </ul>	<p><b>THE ACTIVE FEVER</b></p> <p>JEANS</p>	<p><b>VEDi</b></p> <p><b>COLLECTION</b></p> <p>9, SHIV COMPLEX, CIVIL LINES, ROORKEE - 247667</p>	<p>PH NO : 01332-277016</p> <p><b>ZODIAC</b></p> <p>ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES</p>	
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The new Library brings along with it a host of new services, one of them being RFID tags on all volumes. Radio frequency identification, or RFID, is a generic term for technologies that use radio waves to automatically identify people or objects. An RFID system consists of a tag, which is made up of a microchip (CMOS Integrated Circuit), with an antenna and an interrogator or reader with an antenna. RFID tags generally use EEPROM to store data which stores a unique Electronic Product Code (EPC).

RFID Tags have been around for a while; the first use of similar technology was in 1932 by aircrafts to Identify Friend or Foe (IFF). The current technology has been in the works since the seventies, but has only recently become cheap enough for mass production.

RFID can work in almost any radio frequency range, Low High or Ultra High, each with its own pros and cons. Low ranges are typically used for cost reduction and products involving metals or water. Higher ones can be used for longer ranges but only in a straight line.

RFID Tags are better than bar codes in line of sight issues, and also are more durable albeit a bit expensive. The simple ones can store about 2KB of data, sufficient enough to store some basic information. Active tags contain a battery and can transmit data whereas Passive ones drag power from the reader to transmit data back to the reader. Let's see if these can make our time spent in the library even shorter.

## Mind Thine Manners

## Editorial

I picked up the newspaper one bright summer morning and the headlines screamed, "Reader's Digest survey concludes, Mumbai-The rudest city in the world." I nearly cried out in indignation, "Us, rude? never!"

The next few days saw various celebs and commoners expressing their views along the same lines.

After a while, I analyzed the situation and understood that whatever we say, culpability is required. We are rude. Period. Before the 'if looks could kill...' saga begins, let me tell you what rudeness is. It is the lack of proper etiquettes. To be totally honest, no one in India is really taught to be "mindful of his P's and Q's". Recall the last time you smiled good morning at a passerby. Recall the last time you thanked a person for allowing you to get on or off the bus before him (though you might not remember this because this probably never happened). Talking of public transport, have you ever offered your seat to a lady or an elderly? Ever helped a person pick his belongings up when the poor soul has had the misfortune to drop his worldly possessions? Has any of us even bothered to be a Good Samaritan? We are a nation which really takes pride in keeping our houses clean but at the cost of our outside environs. Isn't it more than probable that we step outside all clean and our countrymen turn us into a spittoon? Or that our boundary wall has been turned into a temporary urinal? Gross, but true.

A visit to any foreign nation makes us aware of how behind we are as far as this kind of finesse is concerned. We feel like aliens having Strange Encounters With the Third Kind when a kind old lady says – "Lovely Morning isn't it?" People stopping their cars at Zebra Crossings to allow pedestrian to cross seem like Angels from the Golden Gates. It is only when everyone emulates these "angels" that one realizes that they are actually Homo Sapiens. Human Beings like us. Like crude shrewd and rude US.

I'm about to drown in shamefacedness and decide to write a suicide letter to the few near and dear ones that I have. That's when the thought strikes me- We're rude. So what? This is not the only face of our motherland. We give more importance to goodness of character and truthfulness of the heart than we do to outward graces. We might not offer our seats to old people but at least we make sure our parents get the respect they deserve. So what if we don't smile at complete strangers? We make sure our guests feel welcome if they come unannounced. After all, we are a civilization which takes pride in "*Atithi Devo Bhavah*" and "*Vasudev Kutumbakam*". Whenever calamity strikes, the whole country rises to the occasion, forgetting any barriers that might be expected to exist in a vast and diverse country like ours. The recent bomb blasts in Mumbai validates the point. The rudest city was given a citation for being the most helpful city.

The upshot of this entire brouhaha is that it doesn't really matter if the other person smiles at you or expresses his gratefulness. It does give you that "Feel Good" factor, but if you get help when it is needed, then who cares? We might be rude, but we're proud of it right? Think about it.

## ALMOST FAMOUS

... well almost

As the shadows lengthen, an impressive silhouette blocks the solitary shining light. Swooning cries of the fairer sex fill the evening as the Incredible Hunk, **Amarr Rizvi**, makes his way to the inquisition. Let the tête-à-tête begin:

**Us:** First crush on campus?

**AR:** (*Ponders for a long time*) A Fash-P mate in first year. (*Name not revealed despite much persuasion*)

**Us:** How many proposals have you received in in your four and a half years here?

**AR:** Just one. There was a knock on my door. When I opened there was a letter inside with all mushy stuff, rose petals and all. There was also an e-mail given but I didn't follow up fearing it could be some guy. (*Someone sure was a chicken*)

**Us:** What do you say about your hunk status in SB?

**AR:** Am I a hunk? I don't think so. (*Humble, aren't we?*)

**Us:** We heard you use a lot of Fair and Handsome...

**AR:** (*Vehement denial*) No.

**Us:** An interesting Fash-P experience?

**AR:** In our first year there was a girl who was uncomfortable wearing short skirts. In one of her catwalks she wore a skirt with a slit such that the slit ended up in the front (*Wish we'd been there too to see the Wardrobe Malfunction*)

**Us:** Any advice for aspiring male models?

**AR:** A person's attitude is the most important. You can look good in just a white shirt and a pair of blue jeans. (*Ok, guys. It doesn't matter if you're short, fat and/or ugly anymore*)

**Us:** Did you do any unethical work as far as pocketing money was concerned?

**AR:** No. This time the authorities were very strict. So it was not possible to meddle with the finances. (*Yeah, right! We believe you*)

**Us:** Does it usually happen then?

**AR:** Yes, money is generally pocketed by the organizers. (*Now we certainly believe you*)

**Us:** Okay, rapid fire time. Mallika Shehrawat or Rakhi Sawant?

**AR:** None. (*Liar liar, pants on fire*)

**Us:** Words on WONA?

**AR:** You're doing a great job. You could improve the cartoon strips though.

*Good bye then Mr. Rizvi. And thanks for a great interview.*



## RANK



*There was more to the summer than just the Materazzi head-butt. News stories kept us glued to the idiot box when boredom threatened to become the latest mass murderer. A few extra-ordinary ones found their way to our Hall of Fame.*

### SIZZLING STORIES OF THE SCORCHING SUMMER

#### 1. Rakhi-Mika's Lip-lock Fiasco:

Miss Sawant must have surely learnt never to ignite the inner flame of the great Indian "Surd". What followed later were smooches and punches and the plot resembled that of "Desperate Housewives"

#### 2. Love Thy Student:

Prof. Matuknath Choudhry took this message to literal heights with his 'beloved' student Julie. Even though he was beaten up by his wife in front of the camera within a few days the media declared the new "Love Guru"

#### 3. Birth of Junior Shaktiman:

6 Year old Prince slid into a 50 foot hole but eventually taught us how to earn a scholarship while simultaneously becoming the latest pin-up kid. His Krishh antics gave the nation a few jitters but his parents got "Paanch-Peeti"

#### 4. DUBYA, The New Masseur:

Dubya couldn't curb his masseur instincts & the German chancellor had to face the repercussions. His latest act left all the people around the globe in awe of his all round capabilities & proved that he is a "Masseur and Shaker"

#### 5. Kolapur Bombed In Operation Rakhi:

The crowd went into a frenzy when Miss Sawant's torture went overboard along with her skirt. Viewers were strongly reminded of Primitive Man antics when confronted with a Pam when they had time to stop drooling. All in all, it was "just another wrap-around shawl".

## THOMSO Encore

## Go Wild!

WONA as the official media partners for Thomso encore 06 gives you an insiders view of what's in store. We talked to Ashutosh Goel, Hariroop Gulati, Anish Kumar and Mitesh Sharma.

**WONA:** What implications does the change in Thomso's time have on this year's event and for future events?

**TOC:** As the TOC was constituted only in late August after the SAC elections and since the first years are not yet settled we are facing some scarcity of workforce. Also due to the Diwali season, companies are already spending money on other promotional campaigns. But on the plus side we can expect much better participation due to the holidays. On the whole the prospects of future events from an organizational stand point look very bright.

**WONA:** You talked about participation, so who all can we expect?

**TOC:** Five IITs have confirmed their participation, along with SRCC and teams from IIMA and IIMB and the usual practice of sending buses to Delhi to pick up teams from DU will be continued.

**WONA:** It seems as if there is no involvement of the fourth year in organizing Thomso, is it so?

**TOC:** Although there is no fourth year in the central TOC, they are helping immensely in organizing the choreo, drama and music events. Their experience is missed but a mix of second and third year has created a hierarchy free environment.

**WONA:** The rumor mill has been churning that VOGUE will no longer be a night event?

**TOC:** To improve the participation in fashion we have increased the prize money and this time we have a designer from Pearl Academy, Delhi. As far as the timings are concerned no final decision has been taken yet.

**WONA:** Message for our readers.

**TOC:** we know it is during the holidays but only your participation will make Thomso worthwhile so DON'T go home...GO WILD!!

### "WATCH OUT" FOR...

- DJ NYK who has played in Hong Kong, Dubai and South Africa.
- The interactive session with Chetan Bhagat on day zero.
- Non section performances in dance, music and dramatics competitions. (These competitions have been made open for all.)

### Newbies

**Titans Of Trivia:** This mega quiz will replace the small quizzes held all round Thomso. With considerable prize money and a professional quiz master in the shape of Satyajeet Chetri it has attracted strong participation from B-schools and corporate teams.

**Big Fight:** This debate to end all debates, with a panel boasting of the likes of Chetan Bhagat and a host provided by the official T.V. partner who are also going to air the event deferred live is sure to bring out a fervent response from the audience.

**Samadhan:** An event promoting social entrepreneurship, it has attracted participation from colleges along with several NGOs and youth organizations. The event plans to develop the spirit of entrepreneurship with the aim of uplifting society.

### *Whom To Expect ...*

**Wargasm:** Frequency, Half Step Down, Prithvi, Magdalene to name a few, while Zero being the star attraction of the night.

**Media-partners:** Watch Out, Radio Mirchi, TOI and Dainik Jagaran, Rediff.com. Talks are on with Aaj Tak and NDTV for deferred live telecast.

**Sponsors:** Hutch and Motorola are the main sponsors. Till now, healthy sponsorship has been received from the telecom, auto and banking sector.

**Pro-Nite:** Jal has almost been finalized, awaiting for approval from MHRD. Shaan and Sunidhi Chauhan are there as backups.

*"Shifting of Thomso to the present semester has been done in order to create an adequate time difference between other major events such as Cognizance and Shrishti. Fourth year involvement this year has been minimal due to their Competitive Exams and Placements. In spite of this, performance of the TOC has been commendable in generating considerable sponsorship in the limited time available. Along with this, this year, many new events such as Titans of Trivia and Samadhan have been designed to attract quality participation."*

-Prof. S.S. Srivastav,  
Staff Advisor, Thomso,  
on changes in this year's Thomso



# OM GARMENTS

- ✿ **JEANS**
- ✿ **JACKETS**
- ✿ **T-SHIRTS**
- ✿ **CARGOS**
- ✿ **SHIRTS**
- ✿ **TROUSERS**



**NEW  
ARRIVALS**



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*Five years are about to pass since UOR became IITR. We can crib, complain, cry or curse, but we still love the insti. Correction, our insti. For let's face it, as the song goes, "These are the best days of our lives." Be it cruising down the DOMS slope with the wind rushing through the ears and LBS flashing by or sitting at Nesci and eyeing the rare cheese, that feeling of – "This is my college, this is where I belong" is something else. Something that gives us a high no White Mischief or Classic can ever compete with. There are students here from all parts of the country and they're all loving it. We've got optimists, introverts, ghissus and girls, and they're all loving it. We've got UG's and PG's and RS's and Profs, and even they're all loving it. So this time we set out to find out – what is it in the insti that appeals to the different 'varieties'?*

# Cover Story

## Five Down and Loving It

### INFRASTRUCTURE:

The most eagerly awaited arrival in the insti is that of the new library. With 24 hour facility, a state-of-the-art reading room enabled with Wi-Fi and use of RFID technology, the construction process promises to be more than addition of just another brick in the wall. Apart from that, the new Library is also easy on the eyes. The old library is to be converted into a museum, thereby making IITR one of the only colleges in the country to have its own museum.

The sports facilities here are **"The best thing about the Insti" according to Anand, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Civil.** The addition of three synthetic tennis courts, a synthetic Basketball court, floodlights from the football pitch to the main track, a new bowling machine, an Olympic-size Pool corroborates his opinion. In addition to that, experienced and well-qualified coaches have been hired. All this effort brought fruit last year at the inter-IIT's when the IITR Girls team won the coveted General Championship.



And who can forget our Bhawans. Our literal 'homes away from home'. It's a known fact that the rooms here are huge and extremely well-ventilated as compared to the 'holes' our not-so-fortunate contemporaries have to put up with.

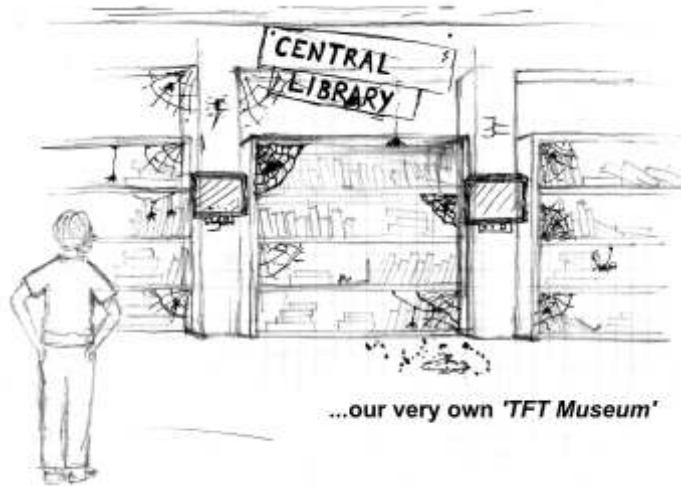
The cloud in this Silver Lining is obviously the mess system. It's literally impossible to digest anything here. With the same *dal-and-subzi* everyday, variety is an alien word. On top of that is the exciting menu that lies in store for us week after week comprising – *aloo*, *aloo* and hang on a second, did we mention *alu*? With the rest of the insti coming out in flying colours, the mess people certainly need to pull up their socks. Are the mess-managers listening?

Despite having a hospital in our premises, students feel the lack of medical competence. The hospital caters to all the basic ailments but suffers from lack of specialization. There's no 24-hour emergency system, so you're not supposed to fall ill at night. Plus, when a student comes down with a serious illness, the hospital is unable to rise to the occasion, due to which students hailing even from not-so-near regions tend to go home when their health becomes an issue. At present the hospital needs to expand so as to make sure it's ready for the worst.

The whole insti was found to be unanimous in just two responses – despair over the quantity of the fairer sex (**"One thing that I started after coming to the insti is shying away from the company of girls," Karan Gupta 2<sup>nd</sup> year CS**), and demand for net in rooms.

## LIFESTYLE:

The lifestyle here is what makes our time so memorable. Infinite *bakar* sessions, hardcore gaming, frequent visits to the canteen in the wee hours of the morning, eating weirdly exotic dishes like Patty Bhujia and Bun Panga, sitting near the Main Building at 2 a.m. with the rain coming down in buckets, frequenting Snack Point and Divine and having the same *Shahi Paneer* and *Dal Makhni* - these are the everyday habits we're bound to miss when the time to buy false teeth comes.



Everyone has his own most memorable moment here - long romantic walks for the budding Romeos and Test Paper display day for the *Ghissus*. But **Prakashdeep Maheshwari, 3<sup>rd</sup> year CS** says that **“I’ll miss all those birthdays of mine when my behind was slaughtered”**.

There may not be too many hangout spots here but we still found people who had their own favourite spot. **Manoj, 3<sup>rd</sup> year electrical, for instance chose to be completely different when he admitted “What I love the most about this insti is the *Saraswati Mandir*”**. Others preferred more conventional hang-out spots, Student's Club (formerly the UG club) and Nesci topping the list. Talking of the Student's Club, **“Introduction of Foosball tables is the best thing that has happened in the insti in my time”**, said **Piyush Khandekar, 4<sup>th</sup> year P&I**.

The CulSoc is another thing unique to our insti. With Music, Drams, Choreo, Lit, Audio, Lights and PM, there's a group for everyone to join. This provides a great means for senior-junior interaction apart from bringing like-minded students together. The shows organized by CultSoc are great sources of entertainment for all. The Rock-Show last year was a smash hit and the Drams play – “Ballabhpur ki Roopkatha” had the audience in splits.

And who can forget the lingo that makes college life so endearing. The Opinion Poll conducted saw *Chapo*, *Bakar*, *Ghissu* and *Foki* being the undisputed favourites while words like *Frustiapa*, *Godgiri* and *Farziaap* also found quite a few takers. Another word which is not exactly unique to IITR – Orkuting was also found to be in vogue. And why shouldn't it be? Any CC one visits shows 19 of the 20 users logged on to that ubiquitous website. Hours are spent srapping friends living in faraway places and friends living in the room next door. Communities find enthusiastic users who post 5 topics a day. Attractive single people are searched for, scrutinized, scrapped and ultimately the door gets slammed in the face. But we're still loving it. So used have we become to *Orkuting* that phrases like – “Check my scraps”, “Be my fan” and “I'm 90% cool” are as frequently heard as appeals to the neighbourhood *Ghissu* for those coveted notes.

Since this is an IIT, the skewed gender-ratio is a not-so-welcome repercussion. As guys are only too fond of saying, entry to IIT puts an end to all fantasies of a budding love-life. **Also, according to an ex-student, reportedly the most popular in SB, “There's a visible artificiality in the girls of IITR owing to the fact that they are very few in number.”** Girls too have their take on this ratio. “The boys here criticize us, but they're not Greek Gods themselves,” said one SB-ite on condition of anonymity. Irrespective of the mutual non-appreciation pact between Mars and Venus, the guys and gals of IITR get on well together, if the crowd at Nesci is any indication.



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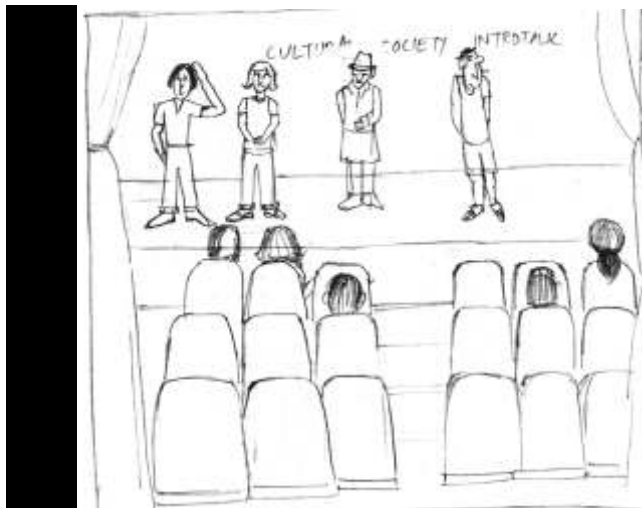
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## ACADEMICS:

The addition of the Instrumentation Center is the brightest jewel in the academic IITR crown. Ours is the only IIT to have a Central Instrument Lab. There are many latest machines there like the Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometer, which complement the department labs.



Students are also of different opinions when it comes to discussing their respective departments. **Shashank, 3<sup>rd</sup> year Mech**, said that the “**Best thing about Mech Dept. is that the teachers don't give back for short attendance**”.

According to **Meta students like Sajal Garg, 2<sup>nd</sup> year**, their department's endeavor to provide foreign exposure was what made it unique. The Civil guys turned out to be “**extremely proud of their Hydraulics Lab,**” as **Aditya Zhutsi, 2<sup>nd</sup> year** said.

**Charwak Apte, 4<sup>th</sup> year Electrical** made an interesting point regarding the composition of his department – “**There's a 1:16 ratio of Nerds and Farzis because of which it's very easy to get classes**

**shifted.**”

It's a known fact that after making it to IIT, the majority of the junta takes a *sanyas* from studies. Each day is marked out as the day for *topo-ing* a particular tute or pract. An unearthly silence in the corridors is usually observed once a month for two days when the dreaded TS's raise their ugly heads. It is then that being hungry no longer remains a criterion for going to the Canteen and effort is made to eat and cram up the notes at the same time.

Near and dear companions living in faraway rooms are greeted with great *enthu*, and both parties burst into laughter simultaneously on judging the others predicament. We are all in the same boat, after all. The end of the TS generally means added revenue for buses going to Mussourie or Dehradun. A few ambitious ones go to Rishikesh to indulge their wild side. By the next Monday, all the matter stuffed inside for those two vital days is effortlessly emptied, and it's back to the old drawing board.

All in all, these are the days. The days of carefree youthful enthusiasm, the days when we make the best friends of our lives. The years that we spend here bring changes galore in our personalities. Most of us find a taste for Rock and start causing minor dust storms when Thomso and Cogni arrive. There are also students like **Rahul “Yella” Yellisetti – “I'm beginning to learn to speak in Hindi. At least I hope it's Hindi.”** These are the days when the world generally means the boundaries of our campus and the outside world seems to be of little or no significance. 20 years down the line, when we return as mature middle-aged folks, the sight of students demanding a *Chapo* would bring to mind another familiar face which did the same thing 20 years ago.

So how wrong are we when we say – “We're loving it.”





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## **BIG STORY – KASTURBA BHAWAN**

*Amid the confusion and jealousy surrounding the B. Tech. 1st year girls staying in the flats on Thomson road, the campus is hot with rumours of the construction of a SB encore – the Kasturba Bhawan. Watch out investigates the next big thing in campus. Excerpts from an interview with Ms. **Rajshree Jobanputra**, Mess Warden, Sarojini Bhawan:*

### ***Q. Why the need for a separate hostel?***

**A.** There are about 400 girls in the hostel currently of the various UG and PG courses together. The initial plan was to send the unmarried Ph.D. scholars to the new bhawan at the beginning of the new semester. But the construction work could not be completed on time so they will be shifted in the next semester.

### ***Q. B.Tech first yearites...***

**A.** The B.Tech. 1st year students will not be sent to the new hostel. Since the construction had not finished by the time the first year students came the straight way out was to shift them in the flats which are only a transit accommodation.

### ***Q. When did the construction work begin?***

**A.** The teachers moved out in February and the work began in early march. It will be most probably be over by mid November and the work is going on at a fast pace.

### ***Q. What all facilities will be available in the new bhawan?***

**A.** There will be a new administration, new workers, and all the facilities available in SB will also be provided there.

The new hostel has 30 flats, each of which can accommodate 3 girls in separate rooms and 5 bigger rooms – thus the total capacity is 95. The rooms are ready for occupation, while the mess and a visitor's room is also under construction. The 10 m by 15 m Mess is expected to complete by mid November, which will have a capacity of 150 to 400, depending on whether it will be extended further or not. A computer center and common room is also planned to be built above the mess hall later. The new bhawan shall have a whole new administration and workers plus all the facilities, which the SBites enjoy by the time it is occupied.

The first years residing in the Thomson Marg flats may appear to be privileged but the opinion we got was to the contrary.

**“We are happy in the flats but still we think that the hostel would be better”**, is the general opinion of the girls. Each flat has 6 B. Tech 1<sup>st</sup> yearites and 3 to 4 research scholars. The spacious and well-ventilated rooms each house 3 girls and some even have attached bathrooms. The gardens seem to be a pain in the neck, as they aren't well maintained and rumour has it that there have been snake sightings too!

There's also a common voice of dissatisfaction due to the absence of a separate Canteen, Washing Machines and there being only a single water cooler for all the flats. Two security guards are present outside the flats and the Thomason marg is closed after 8 pm. One thing most felt by the first years is the lack of interaction with the seniors.



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## Mostly Harmless

## Crib Corner

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August

Today, on a day like any other, sitting at Nesci and staring incessantly at the jewel in the crown of D.O.M.S, I was suddenly taken over by a wave of self-confidence which I later concluded could only have been the result of the frustrations of years gone by. Like a man possessed, I walked up to my damsel in this dress, introduced myself and started making some small talk. To my utter surprise it began well- she was laughing at my jokes and blushing at my compliments- until I turned around to notice a six foot tall bison snorting down at me. With my pride on the line I barked out- "do you mind?" He replied- "I don't, but I think my girlfriend does." Then someone turned off the lights. Well at least I have multicolored eyes.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August

*Fachcha* interaction is bad- very bad if at the receiving end and worse if you're innocent at that. It just so happens that the three bodies- lets call them F the Freshie, M...er...me and Dee-Dee, one of the pan-chewing, curse-spewing, D-company people- collided. What ensued resulted in my Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The oh-so-stud F in a very Ekta Kapoor style conspires to throw M into woes of unrestricted horror – authoritatively so. As M, Dee-Dee and F converge onto the gates of the Bastille that is F's bhawan, F shrieks, "Sorry sir, I can't go to your room". The scene that followed shall be skipped due to gory details of verbal and other violence.

### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August

Searching through the many dark alleys of the central library my eyes fell upon a particularly decayed collection of papers, which were a tinge yellower and considerably smellier than their kin. Titled with a huge stylized ,the pages contained a list of names along with their GPAs. These were the most hated people on the campus, all of them the whos who of the ghissu world. As it turns out they belonged to an organization and were answerable to a supreme . Believing that wasting time was the gravest of crimes, they redeemed themselves by wearing the *ghissai* belt. Unfortunately there was no description of *hieros gamos* but they had a ritual of doing yoga in the morning. Looking for a female cryptologist...

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Learnt about a new religion today- *Roorkianity*. It has a certain Fatso and a Hawaldar-in-chief playing the role of Jesus and Michael though other apostles are also present. Their teachings are recorded in a bible like booklet. It contains the commandments to followers and informs them of procedures of salvation and the purgatory. Mass is held every day in cell-like rooms. Though the priests are a pain, I am still thinking of a conversion.

### Teacher's Day!

My thoughts after *Nahake*, meaning ceremonial ablution:

**Smelly Clothes, Smelly Clothes,  
Where are they wearing you?  
Smelly Clothes, Smelly Clothes  
It's not your fault**

**They won't take you to the dhobi  
You're obviously not their favorite dhoti  
Smelly Clothes, Smelly Clothes,  
It's not your fault**

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## Periscope

## Take a Look Around

**Friendly Neighborhood Cop:** Police personnel in Rajasthan will now have a Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) prepared recipe to improve their social image. The state government has tied up with the elite US institute to impart a behavioral and etiquette courses to the cops. The exercise is being undertaken to check on duty misdemeanor and to improve overall image of police personnel.

**GPS for Trains:** Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has developed a new passenger-friendly technology under the Railway Technology Mission. The technology allows a waiting passenger to see on TV screen the exact location of a train and the time at which it would arrive at a particular station. This information can also be made available on Internet and telephone.

**On the Right Track:** Railway minister *Lalu Prasad Yadav* addressed a packed hall in IIM A where he was invited to give a guest lecture and share the details of his strategy that has seen a revolutionary turn-around in the fortunes of the Indian railways. A recent study in IIM A concluded that the Railways has emerged as a “sunrise sector” with a potential to attain “world-class” standards if it sustains its current level of performance.

## **That Fishy Odour**

*Once Again, The top rank is nowhere near what the older IITs get. We talk to the Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Dr. H. O. Gupta and here is what he has to offer-*

**Opening Rank:389**

**Closing Rank:2976**

### **On the lowering opening ranks –**

Since IITR has been an IIT just for 5 years so it not considered as good as others by people but if we speak in terms of the facilities available we are superior to many of them. Another reason being that we are not situated in a metro city like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

### **On the rankings of India Today –**

I know although in the ranking of India Today we are rated at no. 5 but when branch wise ranking is concerned we are at **first place in Civil engineering** all over India. Also we don't have large alumni funds as most of the alumni are in services and very few are in big businesses. We get government funds but it has it's own restrictions. He further added that since we are affiliated with the JEE system, we cannot publicize ourselves as other private colleges can.



### **IITR leads in –**

He pointed out that infrastructure wise we are very good. Certain facilities like hobbies club and sports complex are not available with other

IITs, teaching is also better here and discipline-wise (our attitude towards ragging, etc.) we are far ahead but these things cannot be represented in data which in a way also explain our low ranking in the polls of the magazines like India Today.

### **On the increase in the number of students –**

To solve the accommodation problem we are planning to build a new multi-storied hostel behind Cautley Bhawan having 700 rooms with wired net facility in all the rooms. Along with it almost all the hostels are being extended and there will be an increase of as many as 400 rooms in all till the end of June 07. The teacher's hostel is being converted to Kastoomba Bhawan – a new girl's hostel, which will be ready by the end of this semester.

For the problems faced in the departments in holding a class with strength of around 90 students he told that we might have two batches and for that we will recruit more teaching faculties.

## **Know Your Campus**

*In this new series, WONA takes a look around the campus and throws light upon the little known facilities of the Institute.*

### **Institute Instrumentation Centre**

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#### **CENTRALIZED SET UP**

The IIC at IITR is the only centralized facility of its kind in all the IIT's. Prof. A.K. Choudhary, head of the centre further added that having a centralized facility has many advantages over having the machines in the respective departments as these machines can be used by students of every department and it saves money and utilizes technical manpower better.

#### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

It contains twenty labs in all and the facility on isotope geology and geo-chronology is unique to the centre. The instrumentation centre also boasts of having the only thermal ionization mass spectrometer and laser ebullition micro analyzer among the IIT'S. In addition to these seven new sophisticated and technologically advanced machines were added last year.

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL SET UP**

The centre is broadly divided into five parts the analytical section, the repair section, the workshop, training labs and the refrigeration centre. The major departments that use the facility are earth sciences, metallurgy and material sciences, biotechnology, civil and mechanical.

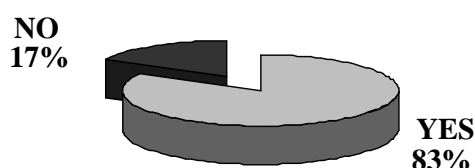
# WORC

## Watch Out Redressal Cell

*What a Mess! ...Lets Worc*

The quality and hygiene of food has always been a major topic for cribbing for us. Though comparing mess food with home cooked food is not quite fair, some bare necessities like basic hygiene and good preparation of the food is the least we can expect from the messes here. WONA conducted a mess survey and then armed with the feedback and demands approached some of the concerned authorities. This is what we received...

**Should there be a separate non-vegetarian section in the mess?**



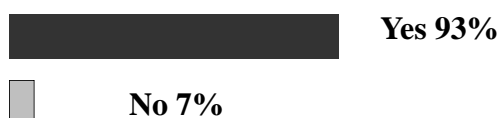
**Dr. Nagendra Kumar, Mess Warden, Rajendra Bhawan**

On the introduction of non-veg. food he said that opening a new counter will require more space, more staff, besides it being a very sensitive issue, an entirely new kitchen will have to be made for serving and preparing the food. He also pointed out that this can lead to a big rise in mess expense, to which people may retort.

About hygiene in mess, he said that the difference comes when food is prepared for 500 people as compared to the preparation for 4-5 members of the family at our home. We also lack skilled cooks and we cannot replace them as they have been working here for a long time but we are planning to start a training program where these cooks will be given tips by specialists. To improve hygiene students must come forward and check the mess services regularly.

When suggested that we can go for coupon system he said that it is not practically possible as the assessment

**Is there enough variety at the food joints (Alpahar and Nesci)?**



**Prof S. Mukherji  
(Mess Chairman)**

It is actually the students who run the mess, out of the 51 members of the mess committee 28 are elected students representatives. On the question of non-veg food there is no bar as far as the administration is concerned if the mess council agrees. As for the hygiene, let me assure you that the hygiene standards of our messes is superior to the food joints outside campus that are frequented by students. A cafeteria for the library is a proposal that can be discussed, but there is no question of making the mess optional as the mess has a fixed establishment cost owing to the salary of employees and if very few students opt for mess the cost per meal will increase tremendously.

**Is the mess hygiene good enough?**

**Yes 15%**

**No 85%**

**Should there be a cafeteria in the new library?**

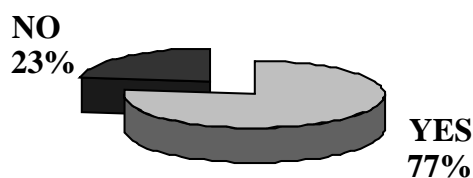


**Mohammed Abdul Hai Zahid, CBC, Ravindra Bhawan**

About the hygiene, we have already provided new uniforms to all workers along with steamed towels and they will have gloves by next month. We have also provided inverter connections for every mess. As for the library instead of having a full fledged cafeteria we can have vendor machines. I think if the mess is made optional people will start cooking food in their rooms.



### Should the mess be optional?



#### Mrinal Pareek, CMC (Sarojni Bhawan)

When asked about the hygiene in mess she said that the “condition here is good. The mess manager and workers take full care of our mess”. She said that an optional mess is good from the point of view of students but the management would be very difficult owing to the fact that the number of users would be indeterminable.

About non-veg. food being served in mess, she said that if we can fix a particular day for the non-veg to be served and know the number of students who will be having it, it can be served in a separate section of mess. The utensils used should also be kept separate as other students may object.

## SAC Update

## Politik

### Net in rooms

The **Dean of Student's Welfare, Dr. V K Gupta** has stated that the institute will provide internet facility in hostel rooms by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2006. As for the type of connection is concerned it has been pointed out that in a Wi-fi setup there is a security risk related to data packets known as “spoofing” and providing a wired connection for all hostels will take two years for completion.

Keeping these constraints in mind, a Wi-max connection will be provided through a central antenna which will have an encrypted signal to prevent against misuse. As for the newly constructed rooms, they will have wired LAN already installed in them. The bandwidth, which was a constraint till last year, is no longer an issue now that we have a 34 Mbps connection.

**The director, Dr. S C Saxena** is also strongly in favour of providing net connection in rooms. A special committee consisting of Dr. Padam Kumar, Dr. V K Nangia, Dr. Navneet Arora and Dr. Vinod Kumar has been formulated to look into the establishment of the infrastructure required from time to time.

### New Library building

The date for the completion of the new central library was set at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 but recent progress reports have indicated that the construction work will be completed by the end of November. But the library advisory committee, which was supposed to shift all the books within twenty days as per the original plan, has now asked for time till the end of this academic year for the re-cataloging of books in the new library.

### Anti smoking policy

The SAC is aiming to establish an effective anti smoking policy to curb the rising tendencies of smoking among students. There is a proposal to ban smoking in all public places inside the campus which include UGES, Nescafe, Alpahaar, all roads of the campus along with the corridors, balcony, toilets and lawns of each bhawan and department( basically anywhere but your rooms). Some bhawans have already started administering fines to the tune of Rs. 1000 on students who have been caught smoking in the premises.

### Infrastructure of hangar and placement complex

To improve the sound quality of the hangar, the inside walls of the hangar will be lined with acoustic material, the chairs will be cushioned and curtains will be installed so that the sound does not reflect inside the hangar. There is also a proposal to modernize the placement complex and instill it with state of the art facilities.

## Face-Off

## Royal Rumble

The wannabe Convenors for Thomso and Cognizance face the music from the selection committee, which includes the CG cacophony – a minimum requirement of 7.5. How justified is it? We talked to Prakhya Avinash, General Secretary, SAC (E&C IV) and Tanuj Punia (CHEM III) and watched the sparks fly.

### Prakhya-

As of now, there happens to be no criteria based on the CG of the candidates for the Convenor of Thomso, while Cognizance has a minimum requirement of 7.5. The CG bar exists because a student who maintains a decent CG, irrespective of other achievements, can be expected to be committed to the job he has taken up even in adverse circumstances. Obviously, the number and the type of extra-curricular activities makes quite an impact on the selectors. As for the limit being 7.5 and not anything else, it's been set based on experience so that a bare minimum number of people are eligible for selection. Also, I believe one can be reasonably sure that not too many exceptionally talented students will lie below this mark although in the rare case that this does happen, the candidate has every opportunity to appear for it. In view of all this, I believe that the CG bar on the aforementioned posts is justified.

### Tanuj-

The CG bar for one, doesn't give a free and fair chance to anyone who's willing to work despite having a low CG and hence we lose out on some exceptional talent. We see a large section of students with acads on a lower priority and hence a lacking CG. This group most often is socially proactive and resourceful, while those perspiring for higher CGs prefer to stay in closed social circles and hence have a lesser hold on the people that matter. Guys belonging to this section and having tremendous potential thus lose out because of the bar. Again the managerial skills of a person are very remotely related to his CGPA because ghissai and people skills are two different skills. Also, the idea that people below the specified mark and still exceptionally suitable are very few doesn't justify their being kept out of the selection process.

So, in my opinion, the CG bar should scrapped completely as it affords us with better prospects for all the big events and posts.

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