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WATCH OUT

Students' News Magazine, IITR



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CornerEd (for the last time)

You know, for once, I really thought mighty hard about what I wanted to say here. But, as you'll soon find out, that isn't saying much. I just can't figure it out, so I think I'll just do what I usually do best- write another lullaby. Nighty night.

Third year is almost over. It's panic time. I didn't quite make the cut for two 'Dassis' I had in mind, but well, what is fourth year for, anyway? Oh, wait... On the other hand, I have a whole bunch of brilliant stories to tell my grandchildren on long winter evenings under the recurrent theme of '*Mere zamaane mein...*' with a few minor editions, of course.

The cameo role of The Bully these days is being played by the much hyped summer training this semester. It is a really worrying feeling when everyone but you is looking a tad too busy for comfort. Midnight bakars are now a fast disappearing species. Worse yet, everyone but you seems to be going to distant corners of the world on what sounds like an exotic holiday for twenty. That sinking feeling just won't go away.

Third year is almost over. Another year will disappear into the murky depths of waning memory and all that I cherished, loved, reviled and rejoiced will become tinted in sepia, and amongst those innumerable things, my time as a part of Watch Out. As much as I would love to torture you all with generously exaggerated tales from the Once-Upon-A-Time land, my inability to reduce those sagas to bland words limits me. The truth is that there is no measure to how much I will miss all of this. Some things are indeed priceless. The time has come for me to revel in this glow for one last time. So, my dear readers, forgive me this dotage, and allow me to acknowledge everyone who was part of the priceless-ness. You are cheap. Next time, another mind will take this place and tell you its stories. It's been wonderful to have been here with all of you- especially all the splendid morons listed to the left. Thank you all.

What a fine three years it has been. Sure, there are those who'll be taken aback at this vile confession, but I, for one, wouldn't have had it any other way. It was lovely. It was a pain. It was brilliant. It was breathtakingly short. And it might, or might not, be remembered. But it was.

And that is precisely why life is so beautiful. Adieu.

-Ed



“Maa Kamdhenu, puhleeze bail me out this time”. The chits, the palm, the cell - all weapons are deployed but without your blessings I won't be able to do anything

(if only Red Bull hadn't offered me that Imperial Blue last night...I am going to get size 10 NCC hooves for his B'day next time.) I swear by the last drop of that wondrous ecstasy, MAA! I will... ahem... try to... kinda study...next time.

And as if God was playing Yash Chopra with me, it started to rain. Despite hydrophobia, I love rains - it cools down the hot earth, the fuming Profs. ,and the few eye candies get shinier.

Sitting in the exam hall, at my prized place I felt confident, surrounded by ghissus with a vacant seat next to me, waiting for yet another one. At such testing times, my motto runs :

“When the questions start mocking, Let chits do the talking.”

I closed my eyes to pray for the last time – exams are actually an elaborate conspiracy to keep us kids religious. And when I opened those blessed portals of sight, mamma mia! A drenched damsel in distress had decided to dwell in my domain - the last bench, for lack of a better place of course.

“I love rain, I love girls and heck, I might even love exams!!”

You know what the difference between a disaster and a catastrophe is? A disaster is when you know you are flunking and a catastrophe is when you know you could have passed if ...if and only if...It wasn't raining, she had not come, I would have got another bespectacled ghissu.

The chits were wet. The Rain God played His tricks; my palm was cleaner than in many months. I couldn't find the most important *farra*. The ghissus couldn't help me either as my object of appreciation changed to our object of appreciation, when she attracted some of the "still young at heart" monitoring eyes! The innocent beauty filled her sheets, and as I stared, Casper's halo turned to Harvey's horns.

“I hate rain, I hate exams and heck, I might even hate girls!”

But my cup of sorrows was not yet full, as the mystery of the missing *farra* got solved. If it wasn't in my desk, nor my pockets, then there was only one place left- 'between the sheets'. Later, I got back my corrected *farra* with a taunting comment scribbled across it in red- "*Arrey! farrey to theeek se bana liya karo*". In the end, my *farra* flunked worse than me. Could there be anything 'MOH'?



The new Library has been the talk of the town (since Roorkee can't be called a city) here at IIT Roorkee. **WONA** spoke to **Mr. Yogendra Singh, Head Librarian, IIT Roorkee** to get the inside scoop.

On the New Library:

My aim is to make the new library the best among the IITs . It will have all the facilities students need for a conducive learning environment. It will be totally air conditioned with an area of 8500 sq. m, double that of the current library and will have three times the existing seating capacity. About 70 workstations will be installed and Wifi facilities will also be provided. There will be a 24 hr reading room so that information is always available for students. There will also be a small canteen where students can relax. The ambience will be much better for the students.

When will it be ready:

We expect the new library to be fully functional by July. The shifting process will start after the end of April and will take about a month. We will try to start all the facilities without disturbing the normal library proceedings.

What will happen to the old library:

It will be converted into a museum but no person has been given official charge of this till now.

About improving TBLS:

We don't want to call it TBLS at all; it will be renamed **TBS: Text Book Section**. The strength of the book bank will be increased so that every person gets the required books. There will be no lottery as there will be enough books for all the students. Also students will be charged only once for all 4 years and they can access the book bank anytime.

About Student Co-operation:

There is already a student body consisting of three student representatives, one each from B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD. But we need full cooperation from students to make this library the best among all IIT's.

CORRIGENDUM

In our previous issue it was mistakenly stated that the IPR cell was started in 2006, whereas it started earlier. The error is regretted.



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Sci Tech

The **Genographic Project** is a combined effort by the National Geographic Society, IBM, geneticist **Dr. Spencer Wells** and the

Waitt Family Foundation to understand the human journey. Now, you can send them your DNA from a cheek swab and they'll tell you where you come from; how you got to where you live and which places did your ancestors travel through before they reached where you live. They come to know all this by reading your Y chromosome.

The genetic code of a person greatly differs from either of his parents because he or she gets 50% of his DNA from one parent and the rest from another. This genetic code cannot be used to determine deep ancestry. What is required is a code that remains pretty much the same from generation to generation but shows small variations over hundreds of generations. The **Y chromosome** and the **Mitochondrial DNA** are of this type. The former gets transferred from father to son without change and the latter from mother to progeny of either sex. They change occasionally due to random mutations.

These mutations will act as genetic markers or ID cards. If you develop such a marker, all your descendants along male lines will have those markers and can be traced back to you even after hundreds of generations. The people at the Genographic project identify these markers and try to identify the geographical locations where these markers first appear. That way, they can trace the migration routes.



Addictive Bliss

You have to make a choice between two candidates, A and B. A is a vegetarian, has married only once, never smokes, is only a social drinker, and has a clean criminal record. B, on the other hand, drinks six martinis a day, has received over a hundred tickets for speeding, is a cocaine-addict and a playboy. A would seem the obvious choice, unless you knew beforehand that A is none other than Hitler and B is Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Then why do we always perceive addicts in the negative light? Why is it that the stereotyped image of an addict is that of a drunkard, a drug addict or a typical IITR student making the most of his LAN wire in his quest for the perfect headshot? Addiction does have several positives to it, and improvement of hand-eye coordination, the hot favourite excuse among CS-Addicts, is not one of them.

An idle mind is a devil's workshop. A man resorts to terrorism and violence, when he has nothing else to do. However, addicts never confront such a situation, as, even if they have nothing else, they have their addiction to indulge in. An addict can therefore never harm the society. As a result of this, the so called negative elements of the society are safely 'neutralized' and they can enjoy the rest of their life, without disrupting the life of their fellow beings.

Who are we to condemn anybody for being addicted to something? After all, what is the ultimate aim of life if not happiness? Even if an addict lives for only 30 odd years, at least he enjoys his life. The million-dollar question is not the number of days in your life, but the number of lives in your days. Your brat-next-door might be a chain smoker and not earn fat pay packets like you, but that wonder cylinder hanging from his lips might make his life more enjoyable than yours.

According to certain lobbyists, addicts contribute more to the society than their clean counterparts by paying the abnormally high taxes levied on their various sources of addiction, thereby indirectly funding the education of thousands of students, like us. From a scientific point-of-view, smokers contribute to global warming and hence, make winters more tolerable. Consider another rather far-fetched example: Every drop of water you drink is contaminated with billions of bacteria, viruses and other pathogens. Beer, on the other hand, has fewer pathogens than even Evian. Drunkards, hence, have a slimmer chance of falling ill because of the same. According to a WHO survey, addicts have a 70% lesser chance of contracting the mad cow disease as they spend most of their time at home, drinking/smoking. Another plausible explanation is that the cigarette smoke keeps mosquitoes and all other vectors at bay.

If you're still not convinced, consider this article itself, which was written by a couple of jobless souls. Had we been smokers/drinkers, you wouldn't have had to endure half a page of our soulful excursions, would you? So before you dismiss addiction as a negative trait which your near-and-dear ones should be dissuaded from, open your minds a bit and consider the flip side of the addiction coin. Think about it.

The Placement story this year stopped just short of being the success story of the millennium. The institute average was a whopping 5.63 lakhs per annum. Microsoft, Capital One, Schlum, Shell- they all came, they saw and were conquered. The next batches therefore have every reason to be sanguine about their chances. But before that fateful day of donning the suit arrives, a major hurdle has to be cleared – Internships. And it is here that despite all the placement accolades, an extremely sorry state of events is presented. WONA spoke to the authorities concerned to find out what exactly is wrong with the internship scenario and how it can be bettered.



INTERVIEWING THE INTERNS



Proposal for a Central Committee for Interns:

The status quo is that there is no Central Committee pertaining to Internships. Instead of which, each department has one or more Officers in charge of Interns. The prerogative of getting interns for the students is entirely their's. According to **Dr. B.R. Gurjar**, Officer-in-charge, Internships, Civil Dept., **"The department prepares a list of the companies which are willing to provide internships and the list is displayed to the students who have to give their choices in the order of preference. In case there are limited vacancies available, it is decided on the basis of CGPA. Students are also given the opportunity to discuss among themselves and come to a consensus. Sometimes the companies take interviews and tests to decide."** The list of companies is generally prepared by the department by searching the net and using other professor's contacts.

Dr. Navneet Arora, Officer-in-charge, Internships, Mech. & Indus., made a very valid point regarding formation of the Internship Committee, **"It's better if this responsibility is given to someone who is non-teaching and has this as a full time job. We have teaching and research responsibilities so we are not able to devote our full energies to this."**

It may therefore be a good idea to have a Central Internship Team on similar lines as the Placement Team. Since most companies take interns for the dual purpose of getting work done by quality manpower as well as to lure the same interns to join the company, getting hold of companies for internships will not be a problem. The burden on the placement team and the professors will also be lifted. The Internship Team can work in sync with their Placement counterparts.

Role of Placement Team in Internships:

At present the Placement Team helps the department in obtaining Internships for the students by providing them with contacts. It also persuades the companies coming for placement to take interns. This sometimes works, like this year, when companies like Tata Bluescope and AMSRI, which had come for placements, took interns as well. However, since the priority of the Placement Team is to assure quality Placement and Internships are just a side issue, the students are not provided with as good internships as they would like.



Students getting Internships on their own:

Unlike Placements, students often take the internship issue in their own hands as they feel they are not getting as good a deal as possible. (See interviews below). Students wishing to go abroad, specially, try to do so on their own. In this regard the authorities feel that it is the student's decision and not much can be done. Says **Dr. Arora**, "Sometimes students are just not interested in internships at good places like Anand Dairy, so we can't do anything about it." **Dr. Gurjar** also says, "Barring 3 or 4 students almost all the students go through the department. The students who wish to go abroad or wish to join a company of their choice do it themselves. It is not that the department offers sub-standard internships. The civil department filters out the lower order companies. In fact, some students even get interns in MNCs and in foreign universities." The situation, however remains that the students feel that they are better off arranging a good internship on their own rather than depending on their respective departments. A major reason could be the default internships of various departments, i.e. internships offered to the students if they don't get interns anywhere else. Students are unwilling to work at these places and are looking for more lucrative offers for themselves.

Different ways of getting interns

Arjun Ramakrishnan Meta III year:

Has got an internship in Reliance. The **company was called centrally** before the placements started here. He was given a choice between Jamnagar and Bombay and a project list of 9 to choose from. He will be getting a stipend of Rs.10000 per month along with food and boarding. To and fro air tickets are also being provided.

MOUs with Foreign Universities:

Currently, the institute has MoUs with the following Universities:

1. KTH, Sweden
2. Macquire University, Australia
3. University of Waterloo, Canada
4. Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia
5. NUS, Singapore
6. Hanoi Water Resources University, Vietnam
7. EPFL and EPFZ, Sweden
8. Queensland University of Technology, Australia
9. TUM, Germany
10. University of Western Onatario, Canada
11. UNESCO-IHE, Holland

(Source: Channel-i)

Internships in II year:

Many second yearites try to get an internship in the summer break after their second year to get hands-on experience of the kind of work they're expected to do. For these students, the Institute provides a bonafide certificate but cannot give them an official letter as it is not part of the curriculum. Internships for the III year are ultimately the institute's top priority. As **Dr. Arora** puts it, "I personally discourage them to do so as they spoil the chance of some 3rd yr students to get the internship in the same company. 3rd years are my no. 1 priority and it's my responsibility to take care of them first."

Ankur Sharma E&C, III year:

Going to do a project on Wireless Sensor Networks at the University of New Mexico. It's a standard programme specially meant for IITians (EC, CS and Electrical) having CGPA > 8. He had **applied online himself**. No role played by the institute. Will get a stipend of \$3000 which is inclusive of air-fare, accommodation and one sightseeing trip.

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Almost Famous

Clad in a flaming red, numbered T-Shirt, the current darling of IITR, **Rahul Choudhary**, bore down upon us awed mites, flashing a brilliant 72mm smile. Sizzling with sheer awe, we finally settled down to a cozy pow-wow as he reeled off...

WONA: First crush, last crush, number of crushes....

RC: Well the first one was on a classmate back in my first year and I have sort of lost count of the number of crushes in between ... maybe 4 or 5 till I got stuck. Otherwise my policy used to be BOT: Build, Operate, Transfer.

(Tch! Tch! A censor slip would have got a certain species of black birds into hot 'biryani'.)

WONA: IIT, Inter-IIT, IIM, Schlum ... What's cooking in this scheming little brain now?

RC: Maybe my own venture in adventure tourism. I believe in pushing myself to the limit & blending passion with work. *(Blending passion with work? Is that why you're often found in the library?)*

WONA: Tell us about the passport issue, Sweedoo...

RC: During the Eurotrip, I lost my passport, cash, identification papers in Rome while waiting for my train. The place was teeming with Bangladeshis and somebody flicked my bag. The police turned out to be *Hindustani* types and hence I had to *patao* a bandi at the Indian Embassy. I got my Visa and passport in a day and then flew back to Sweden. Truly, they ought to implement 33% Women's reservation. *(Lady-killer, eh?)*

WONA: Any uproarious pangas till date?

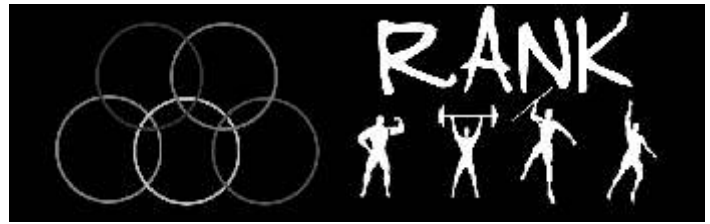
RC: Well, as far as I can remember, none that I can boast of. I've been a good *baccha*. *(Didn't somebody say that a clear conscience was the sign of bad memory?)*

WONA: The staple question – your thoughts about WONA?

RC: You people are doing a good job but it would do you good to remember that with great achievement comes great responsibility.

(Ah... Last words of Uncle Ben.)

The high-profile interview draws to a close, leaving us lesser beings on a high. The man of the moment walks off into the sunset... The aura of admiration is gradually lifted.



There are some taglines that you tend to associate with the product thanks to their brilliance. Be it Coke's 'Always Coca Cola', or Maggi's '2 minute noodles', the campaign is as popular as the product itself. Then there are some other unforgettables (for other reasons). Here are few of our favourites:

WEIRD TAGLINES

1. INDIA'S LARGEST TECH FEST - in terms of maximum number of participation from a city – IITM's tagline for their Tech. Fest. As Chandler Bing would say, "Could it beee any more stupid?" After reading this we are seriously considering "Watch Out – World's Most Popular News Magazine, in terms of readership from the geeky part of IITR's junta". Come on Madras people, we know you can do better. You're not as dumb as others make you out to be.

2. Pehle Istamal Karein Phir Vishwas Karein- GHARI washing powder. Didn't the Public Interest People wonder why consumers should have to suffer even once? But not at all a bad marketing strategy in a country of a billion. These guys have faith, not just in their product but in our gullibility as well. Let's hope the firearm companies don't start using the same tagline. *Jaago Graahak Jaago.*

3. Connect to the Future - Beetle's tagline for their cordless phones. Are you guys sure you haven't invented a Time Machine? It would sell a lot more than your phones if you market it as such. Not to mention the respect from scientific societies all over the world. The fame, the patents, the press releases, the handshakes with bald bespectacled geeks. And you're selling phones? Sheesh!

4. Believe – Femina. Considering that Femina is basically a source of eye-candy for all the frustrated souls around the world (world is the place where Watch Out is the most popular magazine), we wonder what they want us to believe in. Maybe it's the fact that there are beautiful women in the world who can put paid to all the frustration. Or maybe it's Maybelline. Oh no... did we just mention their competition? *We believe we did.*



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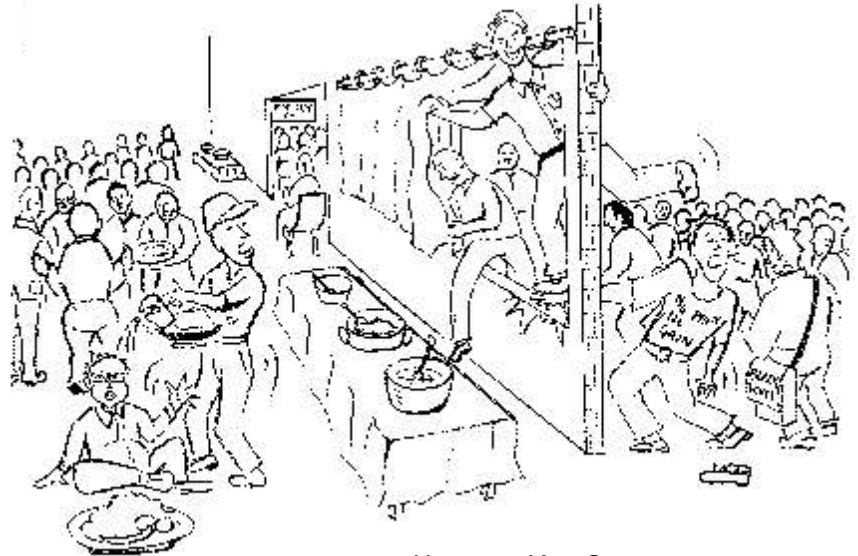
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THANK GOD IT'S BHAWAN DAY

Those long-awaited days have just gone by. The days for SAC members to get their 15 minutes of fame, for girls to showcase the number of *saris* in their wardrobe, for the hidden stars of the Bhawan to finally shine and for the bhawan residents to be badgered for those coveted passes. Here are some illustrations highlighting some of the lighter aspects of these holy days. Can you spot yourself in the crowd?



Ticket To Beauty... It's a 'Mirage'



Hungry Kya?
Hungry Reh.



Aao Mil ke Matken!



Et tu, Brute?



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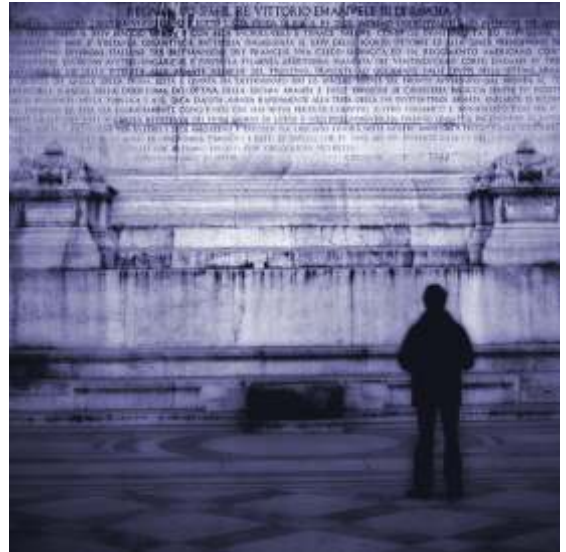
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Students of the Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) have developed a sports car DR-07 with the help of Rs. 1.7 million sponsored by Tata Motors. The car which uses a Honda CBR F4, 600cc engine is all set to race in the Formula Student competition to be held this year at Silverstone. The car will be judged based on its many engineering aspects by guys from companies like Ferrari.



Brand Heavy

Technically Light

Contrast this with the situation at the IITs. Remember the first time you stepped into the classroom of this famed institutes of technology - the epitome of education and research in India. Can you recall how the image of great minds working together to shape the future of the world gave way to that of clever chaps conspiring to copy tuts or obscure orkutters discussing their fan counts? As 50,000 fewer students take the JEE, we attempt to answer the question which is hushed often by those basking in the glory of being an IITian - is the brand IIT losing its Midas' touch as a result of a marked decline in technical inclination among youngsters?

Recently, Tata Steel M.D. B Muthuraman declared his resentment against IIT grads as, in his own words, IIT guys tend to think too much of themselves. "We are not likely to recruit them any longer", is what he decided upon. Muthuraman is not the only one concerned at the alarming dip in the technical inclination of IITians. When contacted for comments, Dr. A. Swaminathan (Mathematics Dept.) correctly summarizes the entire scenario as "Very few students are technically inclined in IITs these days. The main reason is that IITs have become brands, rather than institutes. Students come here with the intention of securing a job with a 6 figure salary, rather than learning. Before

everything they do, they ask themselves – Will it help me in getting a job? This is why they attend classes with the sole aim of getting a 'present' on their attendance registers and are after grades, rather than knowledge. There is another section which is completely laidback, confident that their IIT brand-name will secure them at least a software job." While many institutes with not as good reputations to precede them come up with ground-breaking innovations, we often find ourselves standing on thin ice. "People from other institutes have a point to prove unlike us." as Piyush Khandekar, P&I IV year wisely puts it.

After entering the portals of IIT, most students forget that the reason for creating these institutes was to nurture technical expertise. What enthusiasm they had in the beginning, usually fizzles out. IIT is perceived as the end, not a new beginning. As Ashok Rajaraman, Meta II year correctly conjectures, "When a student comes into IIT, he is very enthusiastic, but his interest falls over the four years he stays here. The students do not seek knowledge or go for research as it does not pay in India. Finally he needs to have a paying job and

Tech Fest and Clubs

The Electronics and Robotics sections, along with SAE, seem to exist only for namesake. We do not have an Industrial Design Centre. Hence, it is no wonder that our Tech. Fest is unable to fulfill its purpose. The IITR teams in Robosapiens never manage to do as well as other colleges. PRODESK participation from IITR is almost zero. The turn-out in tech. events is so low that finally fun events lure the junta. However some students feel that Tech. events taking place only once a year is to blame for this. According to Tarun Goel, Elec, II year, "This is the only such event in the whole year and the students do not know what goes in to participating in events like Robosapiens and IDEAZ."

he cannot get that if he is not placement oriented." Other students also admit that the enthusiasm in the first year needs to be tapped if technical skills are to be honed. According to Gaurav Dubey, Chem, III year, "1st year is the most crucial stage. We enter with a receptive frame of mind and are really pumped up to study and learn new stuff. However, at that stage, there are no opportunities or people to encourage you."

Apart from the dwindling number going into research, a major cause for concern is that lesser students go into their core fields and instead prefer to do an MBA or go into software. One reason for increase in the number of MBA aspirants is also the huge salaries offered. According to Venkatesh, Mech.,

III year, "We are relying a lot on the brand names. The IITians of the 1980s were really technically oriented. At that point, the field of management was in the nascent stage and the economy was more technology driven. The charm of management in terms of salary and other perks has attracted people."

MBA apart, students also start focusing on just getting things done rather than doing them. In other words, the end becomes more important than the means. This is why the priority during any training is just to get the certificate as opposed to getting hands-on experience. The technical intricacies that might have been mastered are conveniently ignored. As Prakhar Asthana, Arch, III year, puts it "Most people want to be in the organization for certificates and a good resume instead of doing productive work and learning something new." His opinion is seconded by Akramjeet Singh, Meta, II year, who adds "This place gives us a new perspective of engineering. Students know how to get things done, by hook or by crook. They learn to take the easy way out instead of doing some hard-work."

Blaming the curriculum?

Many students also blame the curriculum for this sorry state of affairs. Importance, they say, is given to getting marks rather than on knowing the subjects taught. Pankaj, IV year Elec., says, "The main problem is that there is no motivation here. Professors themselves encourage us to be exam oriented. This kills our creativity." Once the thirst for knowledge is quenched, the drive for technical excellence ends. Other students disagree, saying that the course structure is correctly designed to ensure excellence at work. In the words of Siddharth Bijlani, P&I, III year, "We study what is required for the job. Like we at P&I study only supply chains as that is what is required for the industry."

Interview with Dr. Dharmendra Singh

Q. Do students become less technically inclined after entering IIT?

A: It's perfectly true. After admission, students become complacent and free. The performance of some sincere students goes down as they progress to their later years. They do not put the maximum effort towards their technical side. There is a deterioration in self-study.

Q. Are the high job offers obtained only because of Brand IIT?

A. The high job offers do not mean high standards of a student's technical skills. Our students look like the 'cream' when compared to those from other colleges. This is also why they get faster promotions. An IIT tag can help you get a good job but after that it's up to you to prove yourself.

Q. Does the curriculum have anything to do with students not being technically inclined?

A. No. The priority of teaching in Roorkee has always been learning. It has always been our focus to ensure that our students are learning what is being taught. That is our primary responsibility.

The Silver Lining

All's not unwell at IIT's though. Thanks to the reputation that an IIT holds, every student experiences a boost in his confidence level. As Ritesh Ritolia, Elec. III year puts it, "What we learn at IIT is confidence. We can do anything that we are required to do. People expect you to be good, because you are IITians."

The American perception of the average Indian has changed from the snake charmer to the software guru, thanks to IITs. This was satirically depicted in the Dilbert comic strip which showed an IITian blow up a co-worker's head just by thinking of it. It is common knowledge that a B.Tech. degree from an IIT is one of the easiest ways of getting into foreign universities. Vikas Agarwal, Mech II year says "Our brand name helps us in getting foreign interns despite other universities having more technically inclined students."

Back home, IITs each year admit the best minds of the country through the famed Joint Entrance Exam, getting

the right mix of talented and hard working students. The average IITian is then put through a stringent schedule of up to 30 hours of just classroom work, while he manages to play his favourite sports, take part in cultural activities etc. All this while he prepares for six examinations in two days. This Spartan schedule is known to turn the laziest of people into smartest of managers.

The education system at IIT is designed to ensure success at the workplace. The number of topics to be studied are so many that it is not always possible to cover all of them. So students have to devise a study pattern in such a manner so as to optimize their performance. This instills a natural ability in IITians to give their best. The importance given to sports and cultural activities helps students develop fully rounded personalities.

Many students come to IIT to get the best possible peer group. They get more exposure, face more competition and

grow up with several kinds of people. The hostel experience ensures self-dependency. It is only natural then, that when these IITians start working, the difference shows. According to Rajesh Fulwani, Elec, IV year, "Our brand name helps a lot in our jobs. Most of the team leaders are IITians. We are treated differently by the firms."

The coveted IIT Brand Name, however, is a two-edged sword. Its disadvantage as far as making IITians complacent and therefore less technically inclined has already been dealt with in great detail. Also, as Rahul Sachdeva, P&I, IV year points out "The brand name has both positive and negative effects. Your peers consider you to be superior to themselves. Thus making friends is difficult. The benefits we get are the positive effects." The cliché, "With great honour comes great responsibility" has to be dealt with. As Vikram Gigoo, IV year Elec summarizes, "People from outside perceive us to be super humans, while we are not."

Business Gyan

The BSE Sensex or Bombay Stock Exchange SENSitive indEX is a value-weighted index composed of 30 stocks. Similarly, the Nifty represents the top stocks of the NSE (National Stock Exchange). The Sensex consists of the 30 largest and most actively traded stocks from various sectors. These companies account for around one-fifth of the market capitalization of the BSE. The BSE was established in 1875. The base value of the Sensex was taken to be 100 on April 1, 1979 with companies allocated points on the basis of their market caps. As companies kept on growing so did their points and today we have reached a stage where the sensex (the net sum of all points of the BIG 30) exceeds 12000. Note that the companies forming the BIG 30 kept on changing with time. If the Sensex goes up, it means that the prices of the stocks of most of the major companies on the BSE have gone up and vice versa.

The Sensex is calculated taking into consideration stock prices of 30 different BSE listed companies. It is calculated using the "free-float market capitalization" method. Only the "open market" shares that are free for trading by anyone are called the "free-float" shares. When we are calculating the Sensex, we are interested in these "free-float" shares. To calculate the value of sensex, is to follow these 3 steps:

1. Find out the "free-float market cap" of all the 30 companies that make up the Sensex.
2. Add all the "free-float market caps" of all the 30 companies.
3. Make all this relative to the Sensex base i.e. convert the market caps and trading volumes into points to get the Sensex value.

Now, there is only one question left to be answered: which are those 30 companies and why only them? The 30 companies that make up the Sensex are selected and reviewed from time to time by an "index committee" on the basis of Market capitalization, Trading frequency, Trading Volume, Industry representation, Listed History, Track Record etc.

So next time, you see the headline in all the national dailies, celebrating a rise in the Sensex, or lamenting a fall, you'll know exactly what is being talked about.

Is the Student's Club doing all it can for the students?

The participation of girls in the Club tournaments is limited and the club has not done anything to promote it either. Some tournaments for girls or some mixed-doubles tournaments should be organized. When I conducted a chess and carrom tournament in SB, the girls participated actively. So the excuse about girls not participating does not make any sense whatsoever. Notices about tournaments are not put up in the girls' hostel. Earlier camps used to be organized where people could learn how to learn, the billiards camp in particular. But this year nothing has been done. Getting the pool tables is really difficult. The fact that there is only one pool table does not make matters any simpler. The Club could be open on national holidays. And if it has a club day it must be popularized. Smoking in Club is a real problem. Some of the girls actually feel dizzy because of the smoke. And the toilets in Club are not at all maintained. I would like to know if it is possible to have ACs in the Club. It would be nice if we could get one more Foosball Table. Board games like scrabble & monopoly and cards could be introduced. Girls must be treated at par with boys; they need not be given a lead in games like carrom.

FACE OFF



Sunayana Jain
B. Arch IV



Dhruv Sethi
Secy UG Club

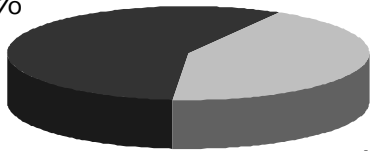
The Student's Club is an autonomous body, and hence the Club staff is not on par with the rest of the IITR staff. Our budget of about Rs. 14 lakhs is meant for all 3 clubs in IITR. More importantly, there's a lot of red-tapism involved so that even simple changes are quite difficult to implement. Regarding notices not being put up in SB, it is the responsibility of the SB representative in the club council to do so. As far as the extra pool table is concerned, it requires rearrangement of lights on the ceiling, which is very tedious. However, efforts are still being made to do the same. The club cannot be open on national holidays as the staff need to be given a holiday. The Club Day will be held after the end-sems. Actually a lot has been done to improve the club. Wi-Fi will be introduced by next year. We have got an inverter and will be getting one more. WorldSpace has also been installed in the club. We are getting a 55" TV and the interiors of the club will be improved. For the first time this year, prizes and trophies were given to the winners of the Club tournaments. We will soon have a suggestion box to remove the communication gap between the council and the students. We are doing our best to improve the club.



Have you ever run from pillar to post to try to book a room on the campus for your visiting parents, relatives or that significant other and failed miserably?

Watch Out once again catches the unsuspecting mess goers to find answers. Here's what we found and what the authorities had to say about it:

NO, 57%



YES, 43%

Is there enough accomodation for parents/relatives at IITR?

Mr. Saeed Ahmed, Manager KIH

On the number of rooms:

The accommodation available in KIH is not enough. Most of the rooms are booked for seminars, workshops or symposiums due to which general people face problems. Even 100 more rooms will not be sufficient seeing the current demand.

On booking facilities:

The facility of online system for booking of rooms is no longer available and one has to complete a long list of formalities. The Performa available in the Senate office has to be filled and then signed by the chief warden and the DOSW. In case of girls, there is relaxation on the Dean's signature. Then, the rooms are allotted on the basis of availability. There should be a centrally managed computerized system to check the availability of rooms

On the quality of food:

The reason for the present quality of food can be attributed to the fact that KIH is self-generating and gets no grants from the institute. And a staff of around 30 is paid by its earnings. So compensation for that is made in the mess food. Moreover, the dining members are usually very less.

On the order of preference:

In situations of heavy rush, committee members are given the first priority, then the selection teams followed by people who come for viva. After all these people, the personal guests are considered and they may also go to the extent of canceling the bookings of the latter for them. But, the administration of KIH tries its level best in providing accommodation to everybody, if not in KIH then in the guest rooms, Azad Bhawan or the G.R. Chopra Bhawan.

Are you aware of an online procedure for booking rooms?

YES, 2.5%



NO, 97.5%

NO, 66%

YES, 34%



Is the food at guest houses good enough?

Dr. N. K. Samadhiya, Warden, Ravindra

As far as Bhawans are concerned there are two types of rooms available for the people coming to visit- a normal room which costs twenty five rupees per night, or a guest room which is available for seventy five rupees. To book one of these rooms you only have to give an application to the concerned Bhawan. Till now, in my tenure, I have not faced any difficulty regarding shortage of rooms but I agree that sometimes we do have to accommodate guests who come for various events, in hotels outside the campus.

YES, 81%



Should there be a central body looking after accommodation?

NO, 19%

Is the procedure for booking a room in KIH/NEH guest house easy?

YES, 15%



NO, 85%

With the world's industrial and technical profile changing faster than ever, it has become imperative for technical education to keep reorienting itself towards meeting the changing curricula requirements to prepare students with the necessary skills. Taking an initiative IITR held a workshop on "EMERGING GLOBAL JOB COMPETENCIES" on March 25-26. As told to WONA by **Dr. D.K.Nauriyal**, this workshop was initially suggested by the Board of governors, and along with **Prof. S. Ray**, he was responsible for preparing the basic model.

The workshop was attended by academic units of IITR, Industry leaders such as **Gen. S.S.Mehta, Director General, CII, Mr. Alok Kansal, GM, Corporate Coordinations & projects**, alumni and students (mainly 4th year). **Mr. Sam Petroda** took part in an interactive session with students through video conferencing. Feedback through e-mails, fax, phone calls, etc was also given by people. There were specific industry representatives for each department. Presentations

were also made by final year students from each department.

Dr. G.L. Asawa (HOD, Civil Engineering) informed us that the recommendations made in the workshop are undergoing the process of compilation, after which they will be sent to the respective departments. It will then be up to the departments to implement these changes according to their discretion. As for the civil department new courses which are relevant to the present industrial scenario will be introduced in fields like construction.

When contacted, **Dr. Pradeep Kumar (HOD, Mechanical Engineering)** informed us that for Mechanical Engineering students, Automobile Engineering will now be a departmental core course instead of an elective. As for P&I, Facility designing and Supply chain management, they may be merged. He also told us that more new subjects would be

included as per market demand. All decisions taken will be implemented for the **2007 batch** as the batches which have already started are on pre-planned courses.

COURSE REVAMP

- ✓Reduction in contact hours` from 200 to 180
- ✓English scrapped, Tech. comm. in first and communication skills in second year
- ✓Reduction in weightage of core subjects
- ✓Electives in first year
- ✓Subjects like environmental science to be added

NEWS NOTES

ENERGY WORKSHOP

An international workshop, the first of its kind in India, on **THEORETICAL HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS** was organized by **Physics department, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee**, from 15th-20th March. The workshop was exclusively dedicated to all aspects of theoretical high energy physics, **Dr. Alok Mishra** was the convener of the event. The five day workshop saw participation of eminent scientists from around the world, who gave presentations on topics like String Theory, Neutrino Physics, Quantum Gravity and other related topics. It was planned with the idea to initiate an annual series of workshops on the same, where experts would give reviews and research talks covering almost all frontier topics. Such workshops would help researchers to know about various fields other than their own and also would foster collaborations. Three public lectures delivered on "*Black Holes*" by **Robert M Wald (EFI, Chicago)**, "*Quest for Unified Theory*" by **Prof. Pran Nath (North Eastern)** and "*Cosmic Gulab Jamun of Fundamental Physics*" by **Sylvester J Gates (Maryland)** saw very large audiences that filled the physics auditorium to the extent that people had to stand and listen to the lecture, although whether anybody understood anything was a different issue altogether.

UMANG

A consultation workshop for NGOs was organized on 18th March, 2007 by the DoMS with the theme- "**Rural Technologies; their adoption and implementation by the NGOs**". The workshop witnessed participation from about 100 NGOs. The speakers included well known experts from IIT Madras, Delhi, Guwahati and Roorkee. They introduced the possibilities in Rural Technology with significant potential to be adopted by the NGOs. An exhibition was also organized showcasing the Rural Technologies developed by NGOs and various IITs. This event aimed at bringing the academia and the NGOs together in propagating the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility.

DRAMATICS

The dramatics section chose well by picking the classic by *Oscar Wilde* "**The importance of being Earnest**". Along with the script, a well chosen cast, aptly selected costumes and a decent background score were able to bring out the typical sarcasm in the dialogues. Though the play was a tad too long, owing to the fact that the change of sets took a long time, the audience were appreciative of the efforts put in by the students. The delivery of some of the actors left a lot to be desired, but **Rahul Gupta (E&C 2nd year)** delivered a near flawless performance and he was rightly adjudicated as the best actor.

Prakash Chand

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CHIRAUNJI LAL CONSPIRACYWALA™

What's wrong with the world?! Everywhere I look, I see somebody out to get somebody else (no Freudian interpretations here please!). Hang on; I should probably introduce myself first. My name is Conspiracywala. Chiraunji Lal Conspiracywala and I am involved in the uncovering of world conspiracies. So, to come back to the point- what's wrong with the world? Take for instance, all recent events covered in the News magazines the world over. There's a conspiracy here people! What you believed was the truth, is in fact a lie. And since no one else seems to be doing it, it is left to me to expose all doings and misdoings.

Not many people know that Secret Agent Tango 031 of the MI-6 was recently posted to India. Still fewer people know that she was travelling under the sobriquet of Jade Goody, that's right the Jade Goody. It all started when a certain celebrity Big Brother residing at 10, sorry 11 Downing Street London, saw Ash in Dhoom-2 and realised that he'd found the real Cherie on his cake. But aghast at her engagement, he ordered that the same be broken up, and MI-6 came up with a plot worthy of one of Abhishek's movies, thankfully without his dancing.

This is where Shilpa Shetty entered the scene. Ever since *Dus*, she had harboured a secret crush on the little B. Again, this is not hearsay but the unbiased truth. MI-6, realizing this, roped her into their master plot. They brought her to London and created an otherwise worthless Reality TV show which came to be popular as CBB. Knowing that nothing ignites England as much as racism (and perhaps the Australian cricket team) MI-6 created a fictitious rift between her and Tango 031. The Poms' stiff upper lips trembled. Querulous cries of "Are we really like that?" could be heard. The Indian import was suddenly a nationwide heroine. Tango 031 was given a thorough dressing down, and then a seemingly inexplicable invitation to visit India.

The plot would have worked had there been no further buts to the tale (and neither "but" nor "tale" has been misspelled). The Indian counter-intelligence, alarmed at the threat to national security decided to nip the intricately planned operation in the bud, and coaxed the release of a movie – *Nishabd* to inspire Tango to fall in love with the bigger B. The romance thrived, and all hopes of MI-6 of R.I.P.'ing Abhiwarya were burnt to Ashes. Luckily, everyone continues to live happily ever after, blissfully unaware of this web of schemes, intelligence and counter-intelligence.

Still not convinced? I'll give you a bird's eye view of the whole thing. Is there any better reason for making a film as lousy as *Nishabd*? Could anyone have ever imagined that it would be a hit? Or, for that matter, why did Renuka Choudhary issue an invitation to Jade Goody to come to India? Questions about this bizarre move were asked then but were conveniently ignored. Her Majesty has implored me bring the truth forward, and to help me in my honourable quest, all you need to do is to think out of the box or read this column on a regular basis.

SAC Update

- 1.Regarding possibility of separate railway reservation counter for students, it was decided that 1 person from DOSW/Institute office be deputed during peak period, i.e. mid-semester break and summer vacations in consultation with railway authorities.
 - 2.It was decided that all funds for the industrial trips would go to the departments. The information about the trip should be submitted by the departments to the administration at the early meetings. The industrial trip would be the department's responsibility, to be carried out in whichever year at the department's discretion. The following committee may be formed by the Director to work into streamlining of tours and industrial trips: Dr. Hari Om Gupta (Dean, PG&R), Dr. G.S. Srivastava (Dean, UGS), Prof. R.K. Jain (ADOSW), Prakhya Avinash (Gen. Secy., SAC) and Paryushan Jain (Treasurer, SAC).
 - 3.Suggestions to use NOIDA campus for placement purposes were made. The Director was briefed that work on the NOIDA campus has started and it may be ready by next year. It may have facilities such as Guest House, Placement and Extension activities, Incubation and Industry Institute interaction facilities.
 - 4.Scope for improvement in PR office, to improve Institute perception and rating was discussed. It was resolved to depute a senior faculty member who could write articles to the same effect in important newspapers. As of now, Dr. H.K. Verma has been requested to write an article as an image building measure.
 - 5.The matter of attracting bigger banking firms for placement was discussed and it was resolved that Prof. R.K. Jain, Professor-in-charge, Placement, would work out the details for further discussion on the subject, and a decision would be reached thereon.
 - 6.The DOSW was informed that 3 messes, viz. Ganga, Sarojini and Ravindra have already been modernized and work has started on modernizing Govind Mess.
 - 7.The point regarding payment of fees by internet banking was raised and it was resolved that Prof. H.K. Verma, Prof. V.K. Gupta and Prof. Surendra Kumar would look into the matter.
-

4th Year Page

THE DIRTY DOZENS



Satyawan Bajad - The Big bad wolf

Rahul Choudhary - When the cat is away, the rats
will play

Neha Mehta and GG - Pretty Pink and The
Incredible Bulk

Aashi Kashyap - The long and the short of it

Chandresh Jain - The Bobby Darling award

Charwak Apte - Meri aawaz hi pehchan hai

Apurva P. Samudra and Sonal Gupta -
Colonial Cousins

Sonal Dongre - DoggEd



The time has come when 4th years start their goodbye spree. We, at Watch Out, decided to take this opportunity and use this page to bid a fond farewell to our great chieftains of the yesteryears. To those brave souls (seriously) who were our predecessors at devising similar seemingly useless pages. Warning: Meant primarily for WONA eyes, but others also welcome. Let the moron-bashing begin...



VINU

SAMPATH

We attacked the Bear and the Resident Geek. However, a soporific combination of lack of, and excess of wit proved to be too much for us unsuspecting mortal souls. Add to it multiple sensitivity spots as far as liaisons were concerned and you get a general idea of the thin ice we were skating on. Refuge was sought desperately and the imaginary 10pm LP bell had never seemed such a welcome relief. Nevertheless, the majestic morons of Watch Out-ville will be missed next year. Adieu, all you brilliant WONA people of the batch of '007.

APURVA

SAMUDRA



“Hail Godmother!” rose the cry from all directions as the same was spotted at Nesci. Godmother, however, denied her acceptance of the sobriquet. When probed about her achievements as the Bhawan Secy, of R’s closely guarded fortress, Roxy proudly informed us about the historic painting of the SB’s cycle stand. We maintain that her biggest achievement till date has been convincing the credulous SBites that “Even poor Roxy doesn’t have passes for the Bhawan Day.” Much was asked regarding the Resident Geek, but our questions were diplomatically fended off. “Vinu is a nice guy. No sense of humour.” Sorry, geeky guy. Rajiv Batra scored an 8 on Roxy’s scale of good looks, while Dr. Manoj Mishra was declared her favourite Prof. Roxy didn’t seem to be in the least apprehensive regarding her change of role from a Bashful Bachelorette to a Mature M.Tech. “Many of my friends will be here with me next year,” she retorted. Best of luck, Roxy. It was great having you around.

PALLAV ROXY



MOSTLY HARMLESS

Picture-Imperfect

There are times when you start wondering how you qualified as homo-sapiens in the first place. We all confront such situations day in and day out - during exams, when two IMG geeks get started on LINUX, and of course, at least for the elite gang that cannot ‘visualize’ stuff for nuts (which happens to be headed by me) during MD practical sessions. Like almost every other class, MD classes are predictable, the only difference being that you can’t even take a nap. It starts with a session of blank stares at the labyrinthine diagrams in the sheet, hoping against hope that Einstein hadn’t died decades ago and would come to your rescue that very moment.

This session seldom lasts over ten minutes, except during the week immediately after the Mid Sems, when we make (and subsequently break) resolutions to ghis for an hour a day, never *taapo* tutorials and so on and so forth. I finally come to terms with the fact that MD was never meant to be understood by sub-human minds like mine, and find solace in Snake, the once-ubiquitous mobile game, delighted that there are things in the world that make sense even to me. After an hour of furious gaming, I copy the nearby ghissu’s sheet without the slightest clue about sections, projections or...sorry, I don’t know any more MD jargon. Does ‘snake’ count as one?



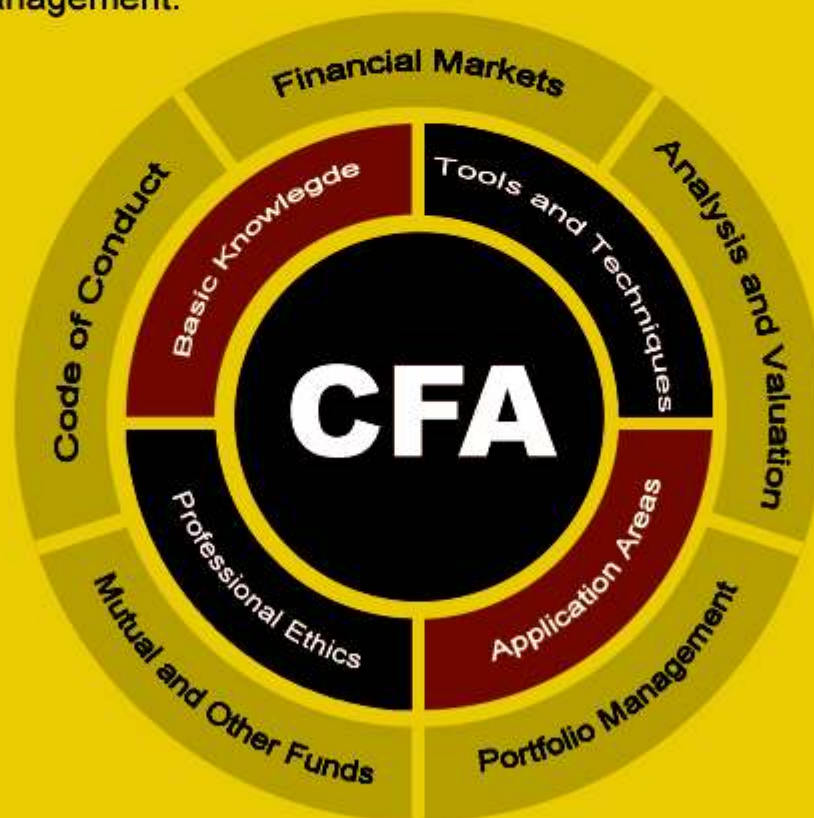
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The Team behind (literally) the Mag



Bottom Row (L-R): Piyush, Dhruv, Tejo, Ankit J., Puneet, Pratap, Shubham K., Digvijay

1st Row: Prateek, Sripriya, Shrey, Deepika, Anupriya J., Saurabh, Divye, Ipseeta, Sarthak

2nd Row: Atulya, Aupriya, Akshay

3rd Row: Anshul, Priyanka, Arjun, Khushal, Ahbishek C., Richa, Saagar, Vikash, Sneha, Akansha, Ankita

Top Row: Vivek, Gautam, Abhishek S., Sundaresh, Mohneet, Millo, Stuti, Rupal, Amey, Varun, Shubham B., Saahith

Camera Shy: Pulkit, Sonali, Rahul, Neha, Prerna, Shwetank, Sugandh, Supriya, Ashutosh, Navneet, Aditya Ji, Ankit B., Shalini, Kanishk

Chairman's Message

Well, it's time to ring the bell on my tenure as the chairman of Watch Out. I vividly remember the time I was chosen for the position of chairman, for the fact that I was quivering with nervous excitement, similar to something we experience on our first date, or first interview. It was scary; to assume such an important position on the campus, to lead a team of immensely talented people, to have people pointing (various) fingers at you. But I largely relied on my two-fold strategy of falling back on my team-mates for support (which they well and truly provided) and not giving a damn to a few things around me.

As part of Watch Out, I came across people from five years, from Keerthi and Sidgu's batch to the current first year. I was fortunate to work alongside some of the most brilliant people on campus, people who are champs in their own right, people who own the word 'creativity'. To say that I've experienced the metaphorical roller coaster would be too obvious. There've been bouquets and brickbats alike. The compliments have been nice and sometimes obvious; because we *are* that good. The criticism has varied from genuine to vague to plain stupid. But that's the whole package of being part of Watch Out. As I type away on my dusty keyboard, I look back at three wonderful years that Watch Out has given me and the various memories that are still etched in my memory. But I am happy to pass the mantle of responsibility to the second year junta, because I truly believe that they will raise the bar even further and will set new standards of excellence.

It would be difficult initially, to wake up tomorrow and realize that there are no more meetings to attend, or no innocent people to boss around. But as some wise Chinese guy put it, all good things must come to an end. And since much of this speech has been cliché, I would like to end on a clichéd note. That's all folks!

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Chairman: Mohneet Singh Ahuja Editor: Tejo Vihas