

Watch Out

Student's News Magazine, IITR



23rd december

RJB days..was that ME?THAT? innocent and selfless,iwasnt greedy nor mean.And yes i was ragged,badly .I cried like a KID

and then,i realised,i wasnt bad,i di not BOOZE,i did not FAG,not slfish nor profane but wasnt a professional then like today.THOMSO , COGNI...wow! i'm jus in the 2ND YR ,this college has so much more in store for me..

PLAYING SQUASH and SHOOKEA day long and then i still mHAGE AN INTERSHIP abroad,...what mre can i ask for

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campus...ah and today placement,company,i'll miss the 4 yrs later...it was all worth it.

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Transformers

The various effects that the four years at IITR have on us.

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How IITR messes are giving the VLCC guys a run for their money

Cola Shikanji

It was my cousin's birthday towards the end of August- one of those cousins so much younger to you that every year you believe they turn five only to be indignantly corrected, "I'm twelve now." A closer examination showed that that was indeed the case, and the young man in question was in fact, only a couple of inches shorter than me. I should probably hope he goes on to achieve greater heights (pun intended), but at the moment such selfless emotions persist in eluding me. I was told he'd celebrated the day by taking some friends of his out to see Ratatouille. It was then that I realized that the first time I'd watched a movie alone with friends was as late as class XI. Matrix Revolutions, Wave, Noida. Perhaps this is what the wise call the 'Generation gap'. When I was young, I used to think it referred to the generation that wore those once ubiquitous GAP sweatshirts.

Looking back now, I can hardly believe that this was only 4 years ago. That first non-family visit to the hall contrasts heavily with the innumerable movies I watch with my friends, day in day out these days. It's been 3 years since I embarked on the journey to this seemingly-forgotten weirdo-ghetto, but I would hardly recognize the 18-year old ambivert to be the same facetious insomniac who's typing away as others scurry to catch the last of those precious forty winks. And the same would be true for all of us who've seen ourselves change, for better or for worse, during the time we've spent here. College life, undeniably, is synonymous with change. Change in habits, food, even one's nature, Small drops of change that seem to matter so little that we'd think they'd evaporate the moment they're formed. But it is these drops that ultimately constitute the sea change that we see in our very own selves.

Watch Out takes a look at the metamorphosis that decides what college life is all about. Though the lines between the good and not-so-good transformations obfuscate with every closer glance, an attempt is made to identify the glitches in the otherwise rosy picture that these changes paint in us. It is fitting perhaps, that this is the first issue after the traditional change of guard that takes place every year. Vestiges of the changes being talked about can probably be traced in the plethora of other enthralling articles and stories that the new team has come up with to keep you, dear reader, glued to this stapled bundle of 5 A3's. Bear in mind however, that while sayings like "*The more things change, the more they remain the same*" will go in and out of fashion, the age-old adage, "*Change is the only thing constant in life*" shall continue to prevail. Cheers.

-Ed



Acknowledgement: This article is dedicated to all the masters and the morons. And to you dear reader, if you manage to read this till the very end.

The two buffaloes appeared out of nowhere. Every person in the vicinity scrambled for cover unable to bear the foul odour. The "Be Harry" Puttar and the Dirty Buffaloes were wreaking havoc in the institute. PC (henceforth, Purple Cow shall be referred to as PC, for he is the Cow-who-must-not-be-named) decided that it was high time that he took some action. Was he going to destroy the buffaloes or the Horse-cruxes, the source of "Be Harry" Puttar's buffalo's power? Logically, it should have been buffalo-cruxes, but then nobody expects PC to be logical.

PC knew that he would have to disguise himself if he was going to destroy the Horse-cruxes. But then all of his "poli" juice potion had been consumed during the SAC elections. Moreover, PC had no girl (or anything remotely resembling one) friend to help him out. Finally, PC understood that he would have to depend on his courage, wisdom and determination to destroy the Horse-cruxes (Well, the prospect of using these non-existent aspects of his character demoralized PC but the future of the insti depended on him now. Desperate times called for desperate measures.) Thus PC set out to destroy the Horse-cruxes.

Finding the first one was easy as it was right outside Azad, on the wall of Ravindra Bhawan canteen. PC destroyed it, using the choicest of words in hoarse-l tongue, leaving it in its present obscure form. But finding the other two turned out to be a Herculean task. When PC was on the verge of giving up, he spotted the other two Horse-cruxes in compromising postures at CBRI (in full formals though). PC immediately grabbed the opportunity and destroyed them. The buffaloes were mere mortals now. But PC had apparently underestimated their powers. With a swish of their tails, they unleashed their dandruff upon PC. PC knew that it was the right time to use his new invention, "Horns and Boulders", on the buffaloes. The liquid worked its magic and within moments the buffaloes lost all their dandruff and its stench. Without his buffaloes, the "Be Harry" Puttar did not stand a chance against PC and fled.

The village was safe once again. PC hoped that this would end his girlfriend drought. But it turned out that girls preferred red-haired sidekicks to saving-the-world-super-heroes. Nineteen years had passed now. All was not well.



After years of a choice between the frying pan and the fire, the NSO has finally been introduced in IITR. To find out WONA talked to Prof. Sukumar, NSO, about its objectives and working.

What is NSO?

NSO is National Sports Organization implemented by the Govt. of India to motivate engineering students to participate in sports so that they can have some leisure time and outdoor activities. It will give them a chance to come out of their studies, improve physical fitness and develop team spirit and leadership qualities. This, in turn, will help them in their future as well.

Objective

Our main aim is to inculcate sports culture in students. We realized that due to NCC or NSS, students were unable to take out time for sports, despite the institute boasting of some of the best sports facilities. The inception of NSO will encourage students to go for different sports activities of their interest. This will also help us in building a strong institute team and improve our general ranking in the Inter-IITs. We focus on the first years as they are energetic and can remain in the team for 3-4 years.

NSO activity

The 50 students who have been selected for NSO have to complete 100 hours of NSO in a year. Their skills will be polished by the coaches and regular tests will be conducted to assess their performance. 90% attendance is compulsory. Grades will be awarded as per the institute's norms. Failed candidates will have to attend NSO classes next year. Classes are held 3 days a week. Fitness norms will be set and fitness tests will be conducted monthly. Certificates will be awarded to the NSO students after successful course completion.

Difference made by NSO

The number of students coming to the ground has increased. Squash, badminton and TT courts are now opened in the mornings as well. Govind tennis courts will be soon be reopened. The number of seats in NSO will be increased so that more students are able to join. Through all these measures and more, we believe students will be fitter and will perform better in all sports tournaments.

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There is dire news for all fiction aficionados. Unless they brush up their act soon, fact is all set to take over the realm of fiction. Take the recent case of **Microsoft Surface** (codenamed – Project Milan) that was showcased at D: All Things Digital Conference held on 29th May, 2005 at Carlsbad, California. For all intents and purposes, it is a tabletop version of the futuristic Minority Report screen. Though essentially a Windows Vista PC with a blazing fast graphics card tucked inside a black tabletop that acts like a huge 30” touchscreen, it looks and feels like no other PC on the planet. This new born baby of Microsoft has been under ~~hush-hush development~~ gestation for over 5 years. Built on a design conceived way back in 2000! And finalized in 2005 by none other than Bill Gates himself, it has brought to the end user a technology that has been in the research labs for over 25 years i.e. a multi-touch screen interface.

Basically, MS Surface uses 5 cameras with overlapping fields of view to detect touches on the table top by analyzing light reflected from objects placed on it. Best of all, because it uses near infra red light, our eyes don't detect a thing and the rear-projection system is free to create a slick interface with cool blues and navy shadows. Also, the detection system is designed in such a way that it can recognize almost limitless number of touches. However, Microsoft says that it has optimized Surface for about 52 simultaneous touches - so a card party on an expensive tabletop computer isn't really out of the question - unless of course you would rather transfer your favourite tracks to your Microsoft Zune player by simply flicking your hand.

For the more technically inclined on campus, here's a bit of info: To enable interactivity with common applications via hand gestures and finger movements, Microsoft has added a layer on the existing XAML (Extensible Application Markup Language) and WPF (Windows Presentation Foundation) frameworks introduced with Vista so that gestures are interpreted correctly and provided to applications in a consistent manner, allowing various commands to be interpreted. It has even trained an army of programmers skilled in these frameworks to be aware of the idiosyncrasies of writing surface applications.

At a pricey \$10,000 – its initial customers are expected to be from the hospitality and entertainment industry as the technology allows a great deal of personalization depending on the context of use. Ultimately, as the prices drop, we might even see this technology in homes. Imagine asking your butler for a glass of wine by an unobtrusive touch on the table rather than ruing poor service. Exciting times sure are ahead.

OF FAD-ED JEANS AND POCKET MONSTERS...

When was the last time you played with a G.I. Joe? How long has it been since you last sported locks *a la* the Beatles? Retrospect always makes one look silly, particularly when one looks back at the various brief obsessions that one was afflicted with. These ephemeral rages, popularly called fads, occur every now and then, and consciously or unconsciously, most of us fall prey to them. It is a common myth that most fads are associated with kids- from Pokémon to Harry Potter, Beyblades to Hot Wheels. Though it is true that the younger section of our populace is more susceptible, it would be unfair to claim that fads are restricted only to them. They are equally prevalent among us too- how else would you explain the Naruto craze that has swept the campus? Or the Friends craze that refuses to die down 3 years after “The Last One”?

Fads are brilliantly executed marketing strategies, aimed at exploiting the baser passions of men (and women). Homo Sapiens, by and large, have this fear of being left out of the crowd. In our attempts at merging into a group, we try to act and behave like the others in the horde(herd?) and while doing so, we tend to make some compromises on our personal likes and dislikes and instead subscribe to those of the group we are in. As a result, today, we have companies like MTV, Walt Disney and Pepsi which rely almost entirely on fads. At the MTV head office in Mumbai, the channel's CEOs troop in every month to report their observations after sweeping colleges across the city looking for what's hot and what's cool. And just like their Mumbai counterparts, CEOs from six other Indian cities too mail in their reports diligently every month. Which also explains why, during every major cricket tournament, Pepsi's ads always have a mix of cricketers who are busy not practising.

The question that begs an answer is: are fads worth all the effort? Today, fads have just become bigger in magnitude, but shorter in life. Most marketers believe that identifying fads is part scientific, and part gut instinct. This has just increased the amount of time and money they are putting into their campaigns in an effort to rake in more *moolah*. Despite all that, there is no guarantee that a well-marketed fad will click. Take the classic example of the Pirates of the Caribbean. In spite of all the dough Walt Disney has spent in the aggressive marketing of the movies, the series has, by and large, drawn flak in the subcontinent.

The human mind works in mysterious ways for its miracles to perform. Man hasn't been able to find the answers to many questions about his own behaviour yet, and probably never will. Why he falls for a fad so quickly, and loses interest in the same at an equal pace is probably another in the aforementioned list. In the wise words of **Jim Henson**:

"Nobody creates a fad. It just happens. People love going along with the idea of a beautiful pig. It's like a conspiracy."

Wonder what Chiraunji would have to say on this?

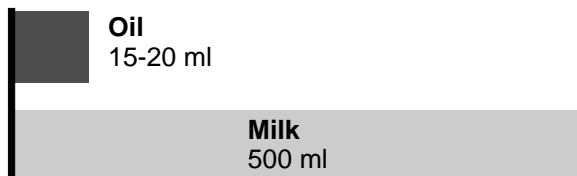
“The messes in the IITs are way too bad to be passed of as a mere coincidence. They are all part of the master plan to make us world-beaters- we can now survive on raw vegetables anywhere in the world.” - Sandipan Deb, “The IITians”.

The mess has been a hot favourite topic for *bakar* sessions since time immemorial. All along, we have been cribbing about the taste of the food, or rather the lack of it. The IITR messes have been giving professional slimming trainers a run for their money, with cases where students have lost upto a dozen kilograms within a single semester. We have always believed that it was the irregularity of their visits to the mess that caused the reduction in waist length. Now, however, we have reason to believe otherwise. Watch Out investigated the nutritive quality of the food, and the results, sadly, have been alarming to say the least.

The Analysis

Considering the fact that students survive on mess food for four of the most crucial years of their growing period, the importance of the quality of mess food cannot be underestimated. We obtained the charts of Govind, Cautley, Ravindra and Sarojini Bhawans' messes and sent them to **Dr. Renu Pandey**, a leading nutritionist from Bombay. The results were unanimous. The food lacks several key nutrients. **“Though the levels of proteins and carbohydrates are well above the RDA levels, the food falls well below the RDA levels as far as several vitamins and minerals are concerned. The level of roughage, in particular, is alarmingly low. There is a lot of refined sugar also in the menu. It is rich in refined flour.”** For the not-so-biologically-literate, roughage is what keeps your motion in “motion”.

A person with ideal weight should consume 30 Cals/Kg/day. The diet should contain 60% Carbohydrates, 20% protein and the rest fats, vegetables and fruits.



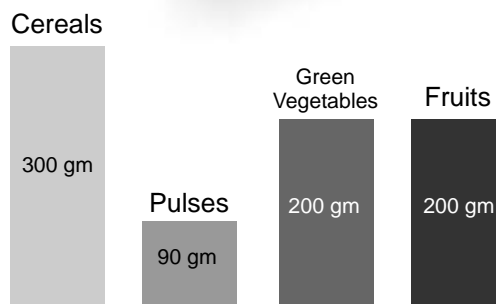
To consume 2400 Cals/day, this can be a suggested Menu.

| Bed Tea | Breakfast | Lunch | Evening Snacks | Dinner | Late |
|------------|--|--|--|--|-------------|
| Tea- 1 cup | Toast- 3 pcs Milk- 1 cup Egg- 1 Orange- 1 | Rice- 2 bowls Chappati- 2 Sambhar- 1 bowl Cabbage- ½ bowl Leafy veg- ½ bowl Dahi- 1 bowl Cucumber- 1 | Coffee/Tea- 1 cup Tomato Sandwich- 2 slices | Chappati- 4 to 5 Dal- 1 bowl Vegetable- 1 bowl Curd/Buttermilk- 1 bowl Salad | Milk- 1 cup |



Other suggestions:

- Cereals can be exchanged. *Chapattis* can be replaced by bread, flakes, *upma*, *poha*, *dosa*, *idli*, etc
- Proteins too can be exchanged. *Chana dal*, *tur dal*, *rajma*, *chole/chana*, *moth*, peas, beans, *besan* etc can be included.
- Leafy vegetables are red *chaulai* (amaranthus), *palak*, *bathua*, cabbage, *methi* leaves, mint, *dhania* etc,
- Other veggies that can be included are *lauki*, jackfruit, tomato, brinjal, cauliflower, cucumber, drumsticks, *tori*, radish, carrots, *parwal*, *bhindi*, etc
- Potatoes, *arvi* are carbohydrate rich.
- Tomatoes when cut/ cooked loose vitamins quickly. Lemons/*amla* are very good
- All this exchanging is necessary to add variety to the menu.



The Defence

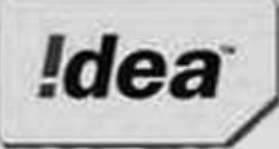
We also interviewed the Govind Bhawan Mess Secretary, **Rohit Bhutani**. He was aware of the fact that the food is, in fact, deficient in several nutrients, but claimed he couldn't do anything about it owing to budget constraints. The messes are run on a no profit- no loss basis, but the central authorities only fund the major infrastructure expenses such as installation of *chappati* maker.. Also since they are government run organizations, the messes are highly overstaffed. He said that the menu is usually made on the basis of the speed with which the food can be prepared. "Aloo paranthas would be ideal for breakfast but in order to serve them, the workers would have to get to work by 6 AM in the morning. As a result, they are never made."

Dr. Nagendra Kumar, mess warden, Rajendra Bhawan, also went on to explain that owing to the institute's emphasis on democracy, the duty of preparing the menu lies entirely with the students. "A professional dietician should be consulted while preparing the menu in order to ensure a balanced diet," he suggested. Provision of greens and other vegetables is easier said than done, though. As **Vaibhav Balia**, Mess Secretary, Cautley Bhawan, rightly points out, "The major issue with serving vegetables is that they are season dependent. Good quality green vegetables are not available in bulk. Hence, only commonly available ones like potatoes are prepared." Rohit Bhutani further adds, "Another major problem we'll face if we serve greens day in and day out is that no one particularly likes them. Ultimately, our aim is to satisfy the inmates."

Conclusion

The fact that a revamp in the present system is necessary is unquestionable. The mess budget needs to be revised, keeping in mind the individual concerns of the mess workers, administration and the parents alike. A balance will have to be struck between food quality and taste. Despite the obstacles involved in such a move, a professional dietician must be involved in the preparation of the menu, if a permanent solution to the issue is to be found. Until all this is done, though, if you have a problem with your bowel movements, you know whom to blame.






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Almost Famous

People refuse to speak his name out loud. Some admire him, most despise him, nonetheless everybody knows him. The Gabbar of IITR, clad in dull mono-coloured garments, looked nowhere close to what we had imagined. Thus began our tryst (with Deep Purple's 'Smoke on water' playing in the background) with Tanuj Punia.

WONA: Staple first question, first crush on campus?

Tanuj: I've had many crushes in my three years here. However I can't name my first crush. All I can tell you is that it was a senior.

(A senior, eh? How enlightening!)

WONA: Why do you think you are so popular on campus?

Tanuj: Am I? My weird hairdos, ranging from a bald head with just a T to a pony tail, and extravagant lifestyle might be the reasons.

(Almost (in) famous indeed.)

WONA: What is your most prized possession?

TP: My hard-disk. 34 GB of rock compiled over a span of 3 years...

(Rock n ROLL, eh?)

WONA: Any regrets?

TP: Never proposed to any girl. Never studied.

(Come on! Even Scooby-doo has more guts!)

WONA: What is your advice to wannabe Punias?

TP: Stay away from me. You don't want to be me.

(Guess the grass is not always green on your side)

WONA: Weirdest incident in IITR?

TP: Got locked up in a toilet and had to climb out after about two hours. Performed the Beatles' 'Yellow submarine' live.

(Bob Marley's version???)

WONA: What do you want to do after you leave Roorkee?

TP: I'll just get a job. I already have a PPO. 'Peace and harmony' is all I want.

(PPO? Does that stand for Pappu Passes Out?)

WONA: Your thoughts about WONA?

TP: You guys are doing a great job. Just try and make the cover a bit harder, might come in handy.

(Handy? Or nosy?)

The interview comes to an end. He does not beat us up as we had feared but promised us a chapo. Unfortunately, the canteen was closed. Alas, all is not well that ends well.



Bored with the aching struggles of the top-notch industrialists? With acquisitions, mergers and the marketing strategies of various brands? Ever wondered how these brands came into being in the first place? Here we present a collection of the wacko beginnings of some contemporary corporate giants. All unbelievers, meet Xenophilus Lovegood.

Corporate Edition

1. LG: It began when a lollipop factory manager suddenly resigned after making it big out of the blue. At first it was assumed he had come into an inheritance. But further investigations by the IT department proved that actually the manager was the founder of eBiz. Soon all the factory workers had resigned and were working for eBiz and the company changed its name to LG (Lollipop Jee).

2. Toshiba: Was born when the Japanese electronics genius, Toshi-san married the genius Gujju, Chana-chholawala. Soon her company Toshi-san became Toshi-ba. Initially they specialized in both electronics and Chana Chhola. Later a rift appeared between the 'san' side and the 'ba' side and they parted ways *a la* Anil and Mukesh. The name Toshiba, however, was not dropped due to the goodwill it had created.

3. Samsung: Was a very old American school of rock (Uncle Sam) and its original name was Samsinging. When the founder died, its name was changed to Sam-sung-well. Soon the school changed its priorities to electronics. And though there can be no doubt (Hey Baby?) that the original Sam still sung well, to get a more professional name, the school cum company became just Samsung.

4. Vodafone: When the affluent Bihari went to England for the first time, and saw a mobile phone also for the first time, he used it so much that he got a boil on his ear, again for the first time. And the network got so much revenue from a single customer that it renamed itself "Phodafone" which soon got anglicized to "Vodafone".

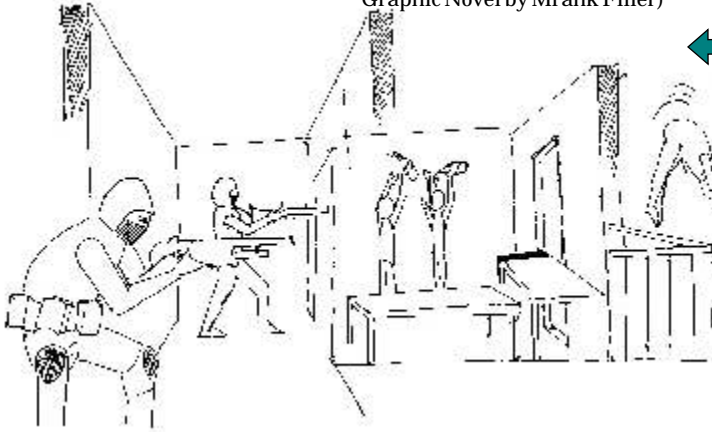
5. Microsoft: It was originally just Soft and was a manufacturer of pillows and cushions. Then they shifted to masonry (Doors and Windows, etc) and specialized in Office furniture, providing Access to every firm which had electrical Power Points. Eventually they started losing their customer base, being accused of providing products that were too small. Bill Gates famously said "16k of memory should be about enough for anybody" and they added the prefix "micro". The rest, as they say, is History.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SEM SO FAR

The Autumn semester so far seems to pale in comparison to what lies ahead, with Thomso just around the corner. An attempt to recollect the events that have defined this sem is rudely halted by unpleasant memories of the recently concluded TS whose marks, like all others, shall probably haunt us to the grave. Once this hurdle is cleared however, one finds a variety of images begging to be sketched. How many of these can you identify?

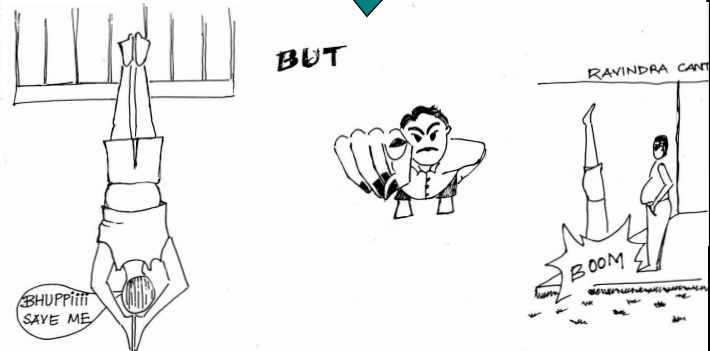
1. A 'FINE' FALL

(Based on a hitherto unnamed Graphic Novel by Mrank Filler)



Scene 1: A traditional Zulu water-harvesting custom by some innocent souls is interrupted by the Evil Crime Squad. Our Hero, inspired by the Mountain Dew ads, and in true Zulu spirit, chooses to literally jump the gun, outside the balcony.

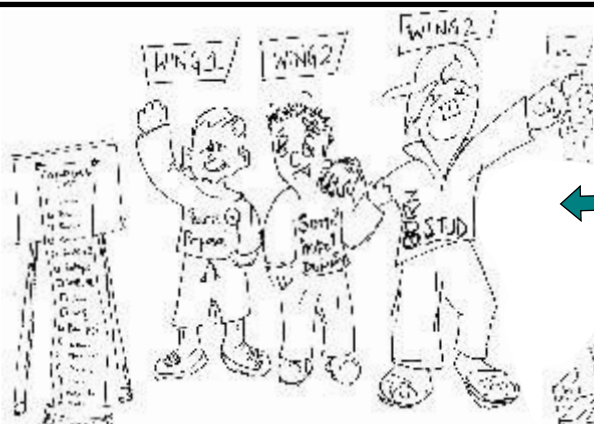
Scene 2: Our Hero yells for Help, but unknown to him, a greater danger lurks below. The Evil Captain lies in wait for Our Hero, who again, quite literally, comes crashing down to earth...



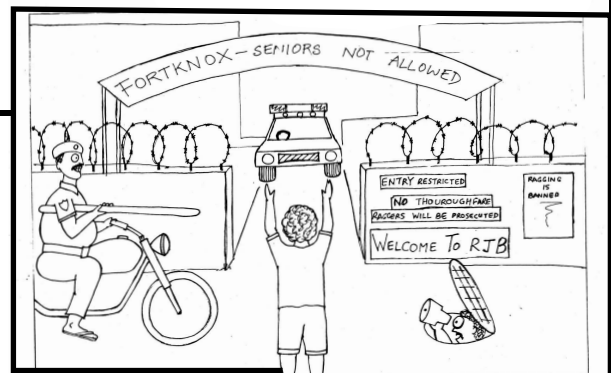
Scene 3: With 'stars in his eyes', Our Hero is lauded by the Evil Captain for his athletic feat and is given an appreciation award of Rs. 10k. On asked by WONA for comments, Our Hero said he was 'fine' with it.



3. A TALE OF 2 CITIES:



Contrasting scenes at Govind (80 candidates) and SB (searching for candidates and candy dates) during SAC elections.



2. NO ENTRY

A not-too-welcome reminder of the Raj days. 'Dogs and seniors not allowed'. Guess they're afraid of 'Riches to Rags'?



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FORMERS II

WATCH OUT

A quick glance at “Chicken Soup for the College Soul” will tell you, that everyone thinks of college as the defining phase of their lives. Even Dave Barry, the comedian, who only went to college because at some point they stopped letting him go to school, says he never regretted the decision. As it turned out, we too had to leave the secure confines of home and school and end up here- at IIT-R. Since long, Watch Out has been analysing changes on the campus. But now, we decided it's time for a little introspection. So here goes...



Long long ago... In a galaxy not so far away, there was a species of creatures known to the outside world as IIT aspirants. These elusive, solitary beings were preparing for the IIT-JEE. Closeted in the confines of their homes, watched over by anxious parents and demanding teachers, they slogged away, all building up to that Judgement Day when their fates would be decided.

Shunning human company and avoiding celebrations of all forms became the norm. Sports were non-existent, recreation time pretty much of a taboo. Discussions with other people of the same age-group, were restricted to work, alternative methods to solve “tricky” problems, hints of “changes in format and syllabi” of various examinations, and of course, the ubiquitous question, “How was the paper?” Anything beyond this was seen as a waste of time. As Kumar Abhishek of II Year Mechanical puts it, “People generally have hobbies of some kind in school, but it seems after 10th they take a

backseat. Actually, they don't take a seat at all. All thanks to JEE”

And finally, after over two years of constant and rigorous ghisping, some of us accidentally made it here. And where have we come since? To what end have we worked and played since then? How, in a nutshell, have we changed?

Perspectives of Life

To most of us, JEE was our primary aim till we actually cleared it. But that task done with, what goals have we created for ourselves? Sadly, as it turns out, we're rather bad, on the whole, at setting targets. Many people we polled admitted to a lack of planning in their lives. Mayank Kumar (Biotech II Year) sums it up neatly when he says, “Before coming people had the aim of getting into IIT, but after coming here initially most of them are aimless until maybe the 3rd year (if it's not yet too late).”

Possibly, this has to do with the fact that once here, the decisions we make are our own. Independence, especially after such a long period of almost complete guidance, comes as a heady drug and quite often has undesirable side-effects.

Moreover, we have a number of avenues where



we may choose to channel our interests, probably more than we would ever have had. This new environment serves to broaden our horizons and opens our mind. We cultivate new interests, hone our skills and also develop a healthy respect for others' opinions. In the process, our interests tend to get prioritised, and what may have mattered to us in the past, fails to hold any relevance. (More often than not, this happens to be academics!)

These aspects of life here seem to affect our lives in civilisation too. For instance, having gotten used to being in complete control of our own lives, we do find- let's admit it- external suggestions need advice quite annoying. Even a caring parent's, "I'm only giving you advice based on experience, you choose what you want" can sometimes rile. Does this make us social misfits? Not really, we think- simply because the number of outlooks we are exposed to, as mentioned above, makes us extremely receptive even of the weirdest ideas and people.

Interactive abilities

It's this exposure to different attitudes and viewpoints that actually develops an IITian's most potent skill- his ability to gel with practically any group. Sanjeev, an MCA II Year student, says "My stay at IIT has infused a lot of confidence in me and has improved my communication skills." He echoes the sentiments of almost every student here, barring those elite few whose entire life on campus has been confined to four walls (enclosing a rather small space).

For the majority of the masses, we actually develop people skills to a significant extent only after we come here. This is where we learn when to open up to people and when to be "diplomatic". As a matter of fact, an innate managerial skill is developed over our period of stay here. (This

seems to make CAT
preparations
redundant!)

It starts
with...Linkin Park
Bryan Adams
Pink Floyd Nirvana
The Doors...

We learn to be a rock and
not roll.

The "quality of people" we get to interact with has a profound effect on our attitude and way of life. The people we idolize

Dr. (Mrs.) Renu Rastogi, Professor and Head, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, has made the following observations on the behavioural patterns of IITians.

"The most important thing that students learn here is how to be self-sustained. This is a major transformation, which serves them well later. The environment is very intellectually enriching. Leadership qualities are being developed through groups and fests. The high level of exposure and responsibilities develop their self confidence.

Nowadays students are brighter, but less disciplined. We understand that after all the JEE preparation they are totally exhausted. Still it is heartening to note that they are very keen to learn new things. Here students come from better backgrounds, so they're a bit lazy. It is strange that students even in their third and fourth year are not able to get up at 8 in the morning.

We're attempting to improve the communication skills of the students by including humanities courses like technical communication. We engage foreign faculty here which helps students to grab different viewpoints.

We do feel, though, that the level of courtesy among the students has started to deteriorate. Still, despite other institutes banning internet and similar facilities, we have taken no such steps, as we still have faith in our students' discretion power."

here (for whatever reasons) are those unique personalities who would never have featured in our "I'm a Fan" list before the fateful day on which we stepped into IIT-R. The changes wrought in our personalities as a result of interacting with these characters make us among the most vibrant people around.

Of course, a few of us who have had a co-education experience do lose out on a certain aspect of interaction, primarily due to non-availability of subjects. Rajat of E&C II Year puts this grievance with admirable brevity when he says "Guys here are mostly homosocial." Well, there are always exceptions to any rule...

Sports & Hobbies

Once here, the tendency to try out new stuff creeps in. Hobbies and sports feature as a major part of our agendas. Co-curricular activities, in general, start to gain more and more importance. These facilities have never been available to many of us before, and we try and make the best possible use of these. The breadth of the scope to

be had is so large that almost every talent finds its expression.

Other Arbit Stuff

It's not all rosy

“

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Business Gyan

Stock Market Scams

The game is set, millions of investors line up as pawns, the small banks are the chieftains and the big fat bank - the royal king, all happy in their oblivion but all at the mercy of two hands, both those of the Kingpin, the Broker (Disclaimer- WONA has nothing to do with John Grisham, except for the fact that we think his books are really cool).

The year is 1992, the economic reforms are in, pressure is high on the public sector banks to perform well, the stock markets are hot and the brokers are assuming prominent positions. It is common practice for banks to take loans from other banks in exchange of stocks and bonds, but the big bad brokers have found a way into these transactions. The broker homes on to a small bank, gives it what it wants to get fake receipts that serves as assurance for the big bank to give it loan. Or better still, gets loans in return of fake bonds. This money the broker diverts to the stock markets where he artificially inflates the stocks to reach all time highs. But one fine day, the scam is exposed, there is a widespread mistrust in the market and the investors go on a selling spree. The tainted shares have become worthless and the markets crash to level zero.

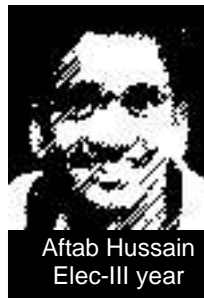
By the time the market shows its true colors, 3500 crores are misappropriated, 40% of the entire stock market worth 1,00,000 crores wiped out, bigwigs of the banking community sacked, investors commit suicides, brokers weep at Dalal Street – all because of the Big Bull - Harshad Mehta. Alas, the authorities haven't learnt their lesson well because the scam shows hood again, this time with the face of Ketan Parekh.

1992... 2001... Can you guess the next?

Should branch changes be allowed?

There is a typical fixed mindset in Indian Technical education sphere which has led to discrimination among the students of different branches, be it on the basis of job opportunities, academic curriculum and things such as contact hours rather than what really the branch delivers and, interest and aptitude towards it. Students are usually categorized on the basis of their intelligence based on their branch and hence people just tend to follow this hypothetically developed hierarchy of branches. This has also led to unequal technical development among the students of different branches. The concept of Branch Change is a part of this system which provokes development of such false hierarchy. So it is better in the interest of both students and the reputation of the institution to change such a mind set. Professional counselling and interviews can be conducted at the time of JEE counselling and every student should be allowed to have a review for which branch he is best suited. To further help the students with their choice, lectures can also be arranged to give an insight of every branch to the student so that a student would rather follow his interest rather than what he is told by the people around him.

FACE



Aftab Hussain
Elec-III year

OFF



Rangharajan V.
E&C-III yr

Branch Changes should be allowed because a single exam (JEE) can not be enough to judge one's capabilities. Even an extremely intelligent student can have a bad day, and just one bad day can spoil a student's whole two years of effort and effectively his whole career. Hence Branch Changes give you a second option to choose a "Better Branch" and have better career prospects. Low rankers are usually left with no options to get a branch of their interest and ultimately have to take up whatever they get at their rank. Some universities follow the system of open-course learning where you chose your majoring stream after your first year in which you are given an overview of every stream. Its only when you have actually studied a subject, that you can determine your interest in the subject. Also its only fair to give an incentive to everyone to study hard in the first year, as only the people who actually score well get a chance to chose their branch. Also you get another chance to get a branch which you are actually interested in. Hence Branch Change is the only way the current IIT system provides you a chance to make up for the mistake you might have made during the time of your JEE counselling.



How many times have you cursed the authorities for not displaying grades after the end-sems, forcing you to spend extra time in Roorkee looking at your papers?

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:

Prof. Padam Kumar, Head ISC

On limited number of characters:

I know the limit on the number of characters is a bit of an inconvenience. Its according to the initial design which defined co-ordinates of the user. But I am thinking of giving the option of an alias user ID. Mapping would be done between the two user IDs for some transient period since people have already been using their old one for some time.

On the display of study material:

This is totally on the discretion of the concerned teacher, according to the subject he is teaching and his convenience. But what I feel is that students tend to learn more while making self written notes.

On the website:

As for updating the notices, I am the technical advisor to IMG. Contents management does not come under me and also I can not hold IMG responsible because very few notices are actually forwarded to them.

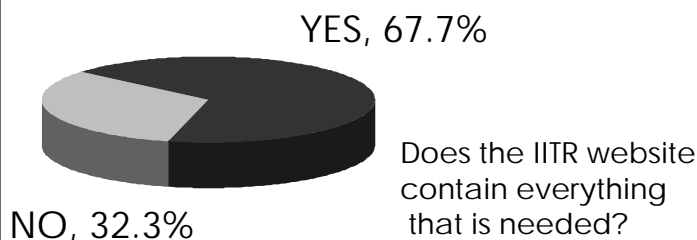
In a recent meeting held with the Director we decided to take the website more seriously as it has official information and contacts. So the contents would be revised and made more authentic. A mechanism would also be developed to regularly update the contents. And I am pretty satisfied with the new design IMG has shown me. Its main features are:

- Less crowded homepage and well categorized links to make things more accessible.
- Content management system by which people will be able to edit the data concerning them.
- A news management system which allows notices and news to be posted with the date of posting and expiry date. The software will automatically remove the expired notices.

On displaying grades:

Yes I think its a feasible option. We can have software which would automatically generate an email containing grades and send them to respective student's email id, making it better in terms of both privacy and convenience.

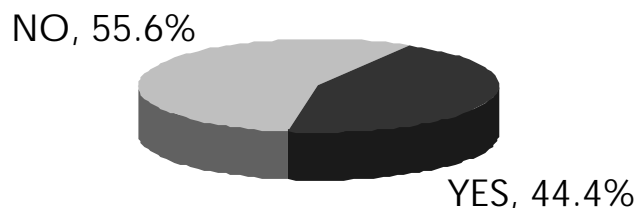
Do you think that five characters are sufficient for your IITR user Id?



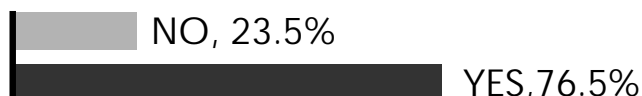
Should study material and tutorials be made available online?



Do you frequently use your IITR webmail account?



Should grades be displayed online?



Construction work around the campus has now become an all too familiar site, from the rustic depths of the gaon beside Cautley to the heart of the so-called 'city' - the old library; everywhere you look there are changes being made to the face of the campus. WONA interviewed Prof. V.K. Gupta – Chairman, Works and Estate and Prof P.K. Jain – Coordinator – Training and Placement Office. Here's what they had to say:

HOSTELS:

Work on a hostel besides Cautley Bhawan has already started and is expected to be completed within the next two years while one is being planned between Rajendra Bhawan and A.H.E.C. Both hostels will have ground plus seven floors and are being built at a planned expense of 22 crore rupees each.

LIBRARY:

Although the old library is temporarily serving as the Training and Placement Office (T.P.O) a final decision on what to do with the space has not yet been taken. The proposed solutions include a museum and T.P.O. If converted permanently into the T.P.O., it would house Board rooms, Committee rooms and Lecture rooms.

LECTURE COMPLEX:

A lecture complex is proposed to be built where the present railway reservation counter stands. The ground plus three floor building will house classrooms of various sizes.

HANGAR:

The renovated Hangar will be provided with central air cooling much like the new library and a new porch along with a general face lift. The expected date of completion of work is mid October making it unclear if it will be available for THOMSO or not, but at least it should be complete well in time for the convocation. The expenses incurred in process are of the order of Rs. 3 crore.

NOIDA CAMPUS:

Even though it has been talked about for quite some time now, the proposed Noida campus of I.I.T. Roorkee is still a long way off. As of now only the land has been bought and a boundary wall erected around it. It is planned to be used for seminars and symposiums and for carrying out various distance learning programmes. It will house hostels, conference rooms, an administrative building and an incubation centre. With a planned expense of 80 crore let's hope it lives up to its billing.

NEWS NOTES

Doing a follow up of our previous stories about committees formed to discuss changes in curriculum WONA talked to **Prof. G.S.Srivastava** - Dean of Undergraduate Studies to discuss what changes have actually taken place:

"Possibly the biggest change is that now all first years will have the same course which mean that all our friends in the architecture department who used to taken aside and divided into *godfatheresque* families, will also be seen *ghissing* and dreaming of that elusive branch change.

The much feared electronics course in the first year just got scarier with practical experiments being thrown in, but there is relief for the *fuchchas* as there will only be one physics course, the other being shifted to the second year. Management and economics courses have also been shifted to the second year for all branches while all mathematics courses have been removed. Some new institute core courses like behavioral science, environmental science and computer aided graphics each of two credits have also been added.

The changes lead to an overall decrease in contact hours with a reduction in overall credits (B.Tech. 187-193). This reduction is aimed at promoting self study and bringing our course structure inline with other IITs.

Year by year there is an increase in the intake of student and an unprecedented seven hundred plus students have been enrolled this year. The likely increase of this figure coupled with an already short staffed faculty and classes packed to capacity, you cannot help but wonder how the new recruits will be accommodated. It seems as if according to the administration the answer lies in the introduction of new courses. There are a host of five year courses being run for the first time in the present academic session:

- B.Tech (EE) and M.Tech (Power Electronics)
- B.Tech (Process Engg.) and M.B.A
- M.Sc (Applied Mathematics)
- M.Sc (Physics)
- M.Sc (Chemistry)
- M.Tech (Geophysical Technology)
- M.Tech (Geological Technology)
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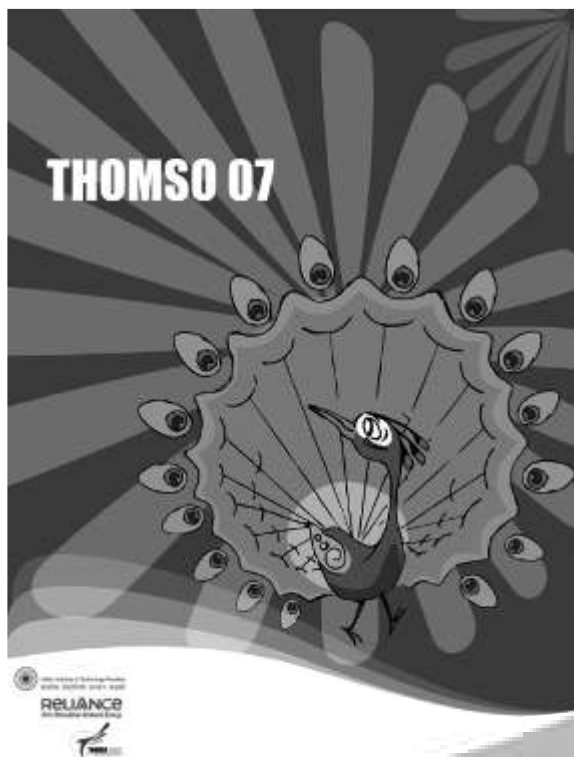
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Thomso is fast approaching and the heat is palpable on campus. WONA interviewed the famed TOC - **Prasoon Gupta, Mayank Aggarwal, Abhishek Nagar, Manish Dave, Saurabh Awasthi, A. Himaja** and **Abhishek Chaturvedi** to know what to expect this year. Read on...

WONA: There have been constant rumours that we can expect Thomso to be big this time. What exactly is Big about Thomso 2007?

TOC: The sponsorship amount that we have already got is much more than last time and we have 40 more days to go, so the standard of all events would be much better. Besides, there are a host of new events like Motomania, Sabhyata and Battle of Bands that would attract junta and, contrary to the rumors we will be having a DJ this year as well.

WONA: What are the major changes that can be expected in this year's schedule?

TOC: While Vogue would be held on the night of the zeroth day (25th Oct), the inaugural ceremony and Thahake would be on first day (26th Oct) due to non availability of the Director on the 25th.

WONA: What sort of participation can be expected?

TOC: The prize money for all events has been increased and so we can expect much better participation this time, especially in events like dramatics and Battle of Bands. Confirmations from LSR, Amity Noida, BITS Goa have already come. Among other colleges. IIT Kanpur's fest dates are clashing with ours. However, we don't expect that to have a dampening effect.

WONA: Any message for our readers?

TOC: It is Thomso 2007 and it won't ever happen again so Be There and Let your Imaginations Fly...

The Facchas:

Moto Mania: Daredevil Bikers on Roorkee Roads... The *enthu* will shoot up and the so will the bikes. Expect an adrenalin rush that you've never experienced before.

Sabhyata: Ghazals, Sur, Taal and Sangeet – a custom made event for the calm and composed, seeking peace and solace..

Battle Of Bands: The hindi version of Mary Jane Greenfields... Head-bangers unlimited...

The T-films: Non-stop screening of movies throughout the fest, followed by a movie making workshop.

Grafix: May the best designer win!

'Thomso just got Bigger'

Vogue: Professional designers as judges. There is a possibility of awarding a designing contract to the winning team by Monte Carlo.

Mr. & Ms. Thomso: Rediff will have a link on its website which will be hosted by Rediff itself where the shortlisted candidates will be up for polling. The finals will be held along with Vogue.

Pro-nite: Shaan, KK or Aatif... Pro-nite promises to be a hit this year.

Publicity: Aaj Tak, JAM, paalguy.com, Pioneer, ToI, Watch Out etc. are media partners for the fest while a different homepage will be created by Rediff for Thomso. There would be live web telecast of events during Thomso 2007 on tempostand.com.

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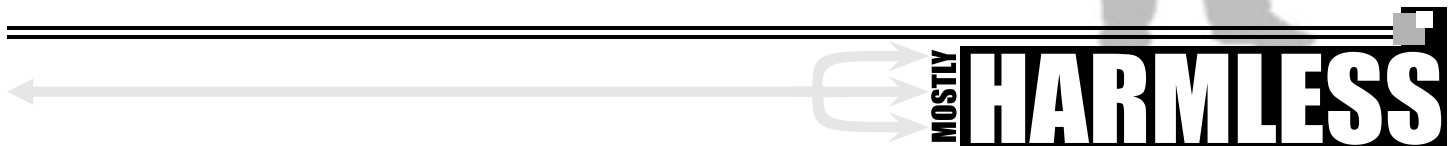
CHIRAUNJI LAL CONSPIRACYWALA TM

While the world abounds with his ever-growing rumours and fans, we unfold for our *bholi junta* the scam behind that flabby hirsute face and the nasal voice. Yes ladies(?) and gentlemen(bigger ?), you guessed it. We are talking about that emperor of annoying whippersnappers, Mr. 'Nosy' Parker himself. Ever wondered why his movie was named 'Aap Ka Suroor'? Why he always wears a cap? And why in heaven's name a 16 year old lass is cast against the baboon? I, Chiraunji Lal Conspiracywala, consider it my royal duty, nay, my moral duty, to present to you poor misled souls "**The Lice & Lies Of Himesh Reshammiya**" (source: Agent - Tango 016)

Starting from the start – I take you on a trip down memory lane, to the days of Surourus Resmier. The year was 1943. Every Jew in sight was stripped and shot down, and the same was the fate of Surourus. Despite the heavy patrolling of the coast by the Nazis, his family somehow managed to sneak out of Germany and settled in *Apna Bharat*. In due course of time, they got adjusted to the life here and, as a final show of their adaptation to their adopted land, the Resmiers became the Reshammias (ta da!). The boy – Himesh, never got over the humiliation his great-grandfather was subjected to, and vowed to never take his clothes off – including the *topi*. No one was really complaining though. He doesn't exactly have a six-pack, does he?

At 16, he somehow managed to get himself a girlfriend but during some intimate moments of coochy-cooing, the *topi* became a pain in the ar....ahem, skin. The girl threatened to leave and Himesh decided – it was the girls who would have to go, not the cap! The orangutan hung around solely with guys for a few years, until one fine day, when he was introduced to the concept of 'casting couch'. He was thrilled beyond words. What a bargain! But no director, no matter what Himesh had to offer, ever agreed. Hence he went the whole 9 yards, and came up with the reverse casting couch (RCC). The director who got a break had to well.. er!.. you get the idea! The movie was a tribute to Himesh's ancestor, and named Aap Ka Suroor.

You must be wondering how I got to know all this. Well, the naive, cute and cuddly 16 year old lass was none other than our Agent Tango: 016. This is the naked truth my friends, and hats off (or should we say, 'caps off!') to Himesh Reshammiya for concealing his past so effectively. But nothing escapes the gimlet eye of Chiraunji Lal Conspiracywala.



Long-term memory loss: Yep, you heard right. It's funny, but coming back after 2 months spent in the confines of the home base feels like coming back for a second visit to an alien planet. I couldn't even remember the faces of half the people I knew, which of course made them less appreciative of me than they might have been. I also forgot how registration works. It was a shock to me to rediscover that I need to fill out 5 forms every time I register. Now, I may be wrong, of course, but I was under the impression that there is a device- I think it's called a computer- that makes this job easier for all concerned. Of course, this is an IIT, so I guess we're doing it in the best way possible. 5 forms are probably the latest in cutting-edge technology.

It's a small world: Human beings are the masters of the world, they say. My foot, I reply. Say whatever you will, but the little denizens of the world rule over us all. Statistics say there are about a gazillion insects in the world per human being and a large proportion may be found in the bathrooms of IIT Roorkee. Not that I have any specific objection to them- I'm an animal lover as a matter of fact- but I'd rather avoid a bee sting, thank you very much. Shockingly, I believe others have faced the same problem and they actually came up with a solution- it's called a Pest-O-Flash. Wing counselors, are you listening?

Independence?: I wake up in the morning a few days before India's 60th Independence Day, and go to the mess only to see a notice saying there's a dress code for the mess now. The Insti has developed a sudden aversion to chapals in the 50th American state and the poor souls forced to sleep in washrooms. So much for independence! Though I do notice this happens a lot in India. Many colleges here do tend to impose such seemingly pointless rules- I wonder why? It seems like such a waste of everybody's time. The administration wastes time on framing these rules and students waste time on figuring out ways to break or avoid them. I believe some people actually break these rules for the simple reason that they're there... they don't want to feel imposed upon. Wouldn't it be easier just to stop this exercise in futility and focus on the things that really do matter?

Nice Library, people!: Of course, you've heard this a thousand times, so I won't harp on how great the library is, how well they've organized everything, how beautiful it looks, etc. (Oops, I'm harping on it already). But I *wish* the lifts could be cleaned. And the million-dollar question still remains- why in the name of Mpoletelo Mbangwa are there no stairs to the second floor?

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