

# WATCH OUT



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STROKES

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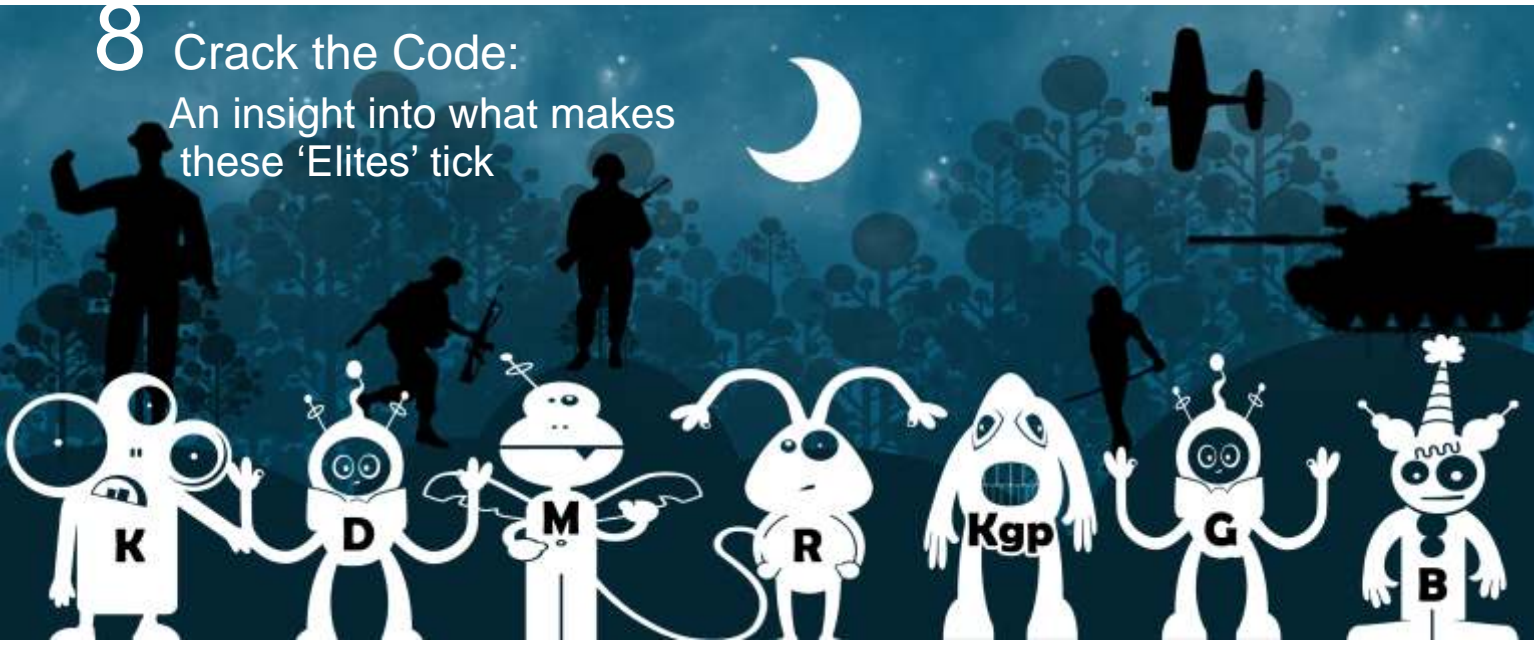
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## Zeitgeist

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Few still remember the Shell 'Career Sensitization' initiative held a few months back, and I don't blame them – A rather unremarkable three hours made worse by the fact that it was Sunday morning! But then, I wonder why I recall just this one quote from amidst a myriad of proverbs which were unleashed that session; something, I wouldn't normally have given two hoots about: "Every man I meet is, in some way, my superior. In that, I gain from him" – *Ralph Waldo Emerson*.

As I said, I wouldn't have cared about the quotation had I disagreed with it even an iota less! To be frank, I was initially appalled by this adage. Only later, did I come to realize that it was somewhat true, albeit incomplete. And yours truly attempted to complete the saying as – "To every man I meet, I am also superior in some way; and that, I must retain." Call it selfish, but that's the way the ball bounces. These are two indispensable parts of human psyche – To constantly learn and grow while at the same time protecting one's existing strengths. We live in a world of equals and being more equal counts.

But, be it Mr. Emerson's perennial byword or my crude concoction, both versions require one to evaluate his/her strengths and weaknesses against one's peers. Putting miles between himself and his nearest rival has forever been a powerful driving force; but even if this wonderfully egoistic mission isn't accomplished, the process leaves you a better person.

In this issue, we bring you a comparison of the seven elder siblings in a family which now comprises of fifteen (probably more, by the time you read this). We are eternally cribbing about Roorkee, the faculty, the courses, the facilities, the research, the.... But are we alone in this? Or is it just part and parcel of every collegiate attitude? We attempt to provide some perspective on the academics in the other IITs; ranging from their curricula and transparency in the system to the kind of faculty, course structures and research ambience. No person we interviewed is perfectly happy with his/her institution; which is good, as satiety does us no good. But the problem is – Are these 'best institutions' of India anywhere close to world leaders?

One thing which we find only too obvious is the fact that the very *ghissing* we frown upon at the IITs, all of a sudden becomes fashionable shortly after the exodus, with our alumni in IIMs and foreign universities all boasting about the number of work hours they put in! While we are left wondering as to why studying is something of a taboo here, a second question is quick to come up. If we don't study, then what *dowe* do?!

The answers, wide and varied as they are, ranging from LAN gaming and random *bakar* to vagabonding and long (distance) phone-calls, leave us wondering why on earth people would want to study in the first place! While most of these activities aren't limited to the dark hours, the pursuit of that elusive 75% renders the night more conducive for life beyond the books.

In 'Midnight's Children', we throw light upon some of our darkest and finest hours on campus. This magazine itself is drafted during some of the lesser known hours of the day. While we sweat deep into the night, fighting both harmless hitches and behemoth barricades, always endeavouring to bring you yet another issue of Watch Out, albeit only an e-Copy this time, we enjoy every moment of the process. Here's wishing you enjoy it as much as us as you relish the Zeitgeist.  
Cheers.



# Bone of Contention



After pursuing students' interests (read: issues) for so long, we thought it's high time, we try to know more about those who pretty much determine them. WONA interviewed Dr. G.N. Pillai to get a glimpse of our insti, the way he sees it.

- Q** What made you choose teaching as a profession and how far are you satisfied?  
 It had always been my dream to be a teacher but I never thought I will end up teaching in an IIT. I am pretty satisfied with my job and the life I have here. Teaching is my passion and I have been putting in my best efforts to impart the students here a quality education that they deserve.
- Q** How do you find Roorkee as a place for research?  
 Due to acute shortage of faculty, the teachers do not get much time for serious research. Besides, during appraisal the number of research papers count and not their quality. This leads to a lot of sub standard research papers which get printed in sub standard journals. Much revision is needed in the system, the things that actually matter should be given more importance to encourage genuine research.
- Q** Are you satisfied with the administration here?  
 The administration is fine but there is a lot of room for improvement. Being an erstwhile university with a glorious history, we still have bureaucracy and red tape around. People are clinging to the old culture, they are reluctant to change and the IIT culture is seeping in very slowly, which is why we can't attract young and new teachers.
- Q** .How do you find the quality of education here?  
 For appraisals, the quality of teaching in class is not given the due weightage, hence there are times when the professors do not give their most sincere efforts. The students also aren't attentive and serious about classes, with attendance being their most prominent concern. This discourages the teachers. We teachers may not be able to extract the best from them, but they are not helping us much either. The criticisms I face even after I put in so much effort into my classes are a proof of that.
- Q** Do you think the students here live up to their IIT tag?  
 No, not all. Most of them suffer from the laxity which comes in after JEE. I have seen good students here, they are brilliant but there should be more like them. There is always a lot of cribbing going on about the methodologies and quality of teaching but the effort has to be from both sides! The students just want easy grades and unfortunately they have been spoiled by their wishes being granted by some teachers.

# The Masks We Wear



The camera has been known to carry out the task of making people look good admirably well ever since its advent. A few optical effects and a bit of skilful photoshoping later, one is hardly able to recognise the stunning image that comes out. To those who happen to catch a glimpse of it, the protagonist comes across as a very smart and handsome person. Usernames/avatars on social networking sites also provide the opportunity to present a very cool and people loving image of oneself to the outside world. The first impression based on these images, photographic and otherwise, is inevitably a positive one.

Fully aware that the fifteen or twenty minutes in front of the interviewer could make or break one's fortune, the interviewee undergoes a metamorphosis of sorts while readying himself for the meeting. The perpetually spiked hair goes flat, the goatee disappears, and the trainers give way to black formal shoes. The most formal looking shirt is dug out of the closet, pressed to look spectacular and adorned buttoned-up. The vulgarity in language is cast away; a mellow but firm tone is adopted. You thereby succeed in disguising yourself brilliantly to become exactly what the interviewer is looking for. And more often than not, the interviewer is outwitted by your vicious visor and prefers to remain oblivious to the true person within.

The first date further vindicates this hypothesis. Guys become gentlemen, girls become ladies, both trying to look their very best and hoping to make a favourable impression. It is no secret that those guys who have perfected the art of favourable projection walk away with the most desired girls, and vice versa. One finds the perfect match in the other, and the couple lives happily ever after- in a world of pretence, concealing their honest characters from each other in the process.

No bank can be successful without showing the world that their money is safe with them. No business can be run without trust. No politician can win without sufficient campaigning. It matters little whether he has worked at all, as long as people can connect with his ever cheerful face. Many modern religious gurus put up a spiritual farce and hoodwink the masses. All these have inevitably a common theme- the projection of personality.

The difference between learning and performing lies essentially in the perception of the outside world. Regardless of the actual knowledge you possess, it is the way you present yourself to the world that everyone cares about. It is very sad indeed that the world has come to this, but the fact remains that perception can never be as important as reality; perseverance and wisdom will always be valued and those who seem to think otherwise will exist merely as masks of their true selves, fooling the world with their showman antics but failing to achieve anything worthwhile.





## Wi-Fi?!!

Wi-Fi (pronounced with an 'i' as in sigh – which is often the reaction that it evokes in the users) evolved as a result of increasing need for secure internet connectivity. Probably, the single, most prominent outcome of its usage was a sharp drop in the suicide rates as the frustrated net users found it difficult to strangle themselves to death due to lack of any connecting wires. No wires mean no hassle, unfortunately this also means, no connectivity and no data transfer. Eventually this results in no usage charges, which probably explains its increasing popularity. This technology makes use of boxes called Routers that are used to route and re-route and de-route the wireless signals. All this routing and re-routing and de-routing reduce the signal intensity to safe levels in order to avoid brain-cell mutation and the excruciatingly painful growth of human antennae ultimately resulting in death (which by the year 2012, has been predicted to develop into the biggest threat to the human race, after Armageddon).

The wireless technology makes the world seem like a smaller place, by letting us imagine that the world ends at the *Bhawan* compound walls. It wasn't much of a surprise then, that a recent survey conducted by *WirelesstoHopeless.org* placed - "Server not found" as the most frequented web-page. Another independent survey carried out by *Poodle.com* reports that 42% of the damage inflicted to laptops occur when people attack them violently or throw them down ungodly distances in order to give vent to their frustration. Another 35% are due to inadvertent changes in system settings and/or spurious software that people install, hoping the connectivity will improve. The rest 23% are gamers.

Like villagers cramping around water taps to fill their parched bellies, IITians have been known to crowd near the Wi-Fi routers in desperate hope of marginally improving the signal. Too many laptops and too few routers mean the reception remains as weak as ever, leaving the junta tearing at its hair in despair. True to the name they have built up for themselves, IITians have been credited with contriving several cunning schemes to maximize the utility of the routers. These include placing MOSFETs, JFETs and home-made transistors and walkie-talkies around rival laptops to interfere with the signals; smashing and demolishing laptops to smithereens and later blaming it on the Superhighway Wireless Infidel Gang (SWIG); and using unauthorized cables to suck every single bit of whatever Megabytes per second a single router manages to squeeze out of its system. Indeed, authorities of every single hostel swear by their lives that wireless connectivity has been the reason behind more bloodbaths, massacres and scenes of carnage than tutorials, CGPAs, Schrödinger's cats and girls, all put together.



# SUPERHEROES

The dark force manifests itself in many forms – tuts, TS, mess food, etc. The *junta* needs someone larger than themselves to battle the forces of evil and save the world. Rather, save us. Presenting five superheroes our insti could do with.

# 1

## Hitch

Despos rejoice, your prayers have been answered. Be it a *ghissu* or a bond, the hitch has a match for all. Why wait for Thomso or Bhawan day to get a partner? With Hitch in town, the day is not very far when *Nayan Sukh Prapti* will become a long forgotten sacrament. P.S: Due to acute shortage of girls, Hitch shall henceforth resort to channels of “happy”-ness.

# 4

## Hannibal the Lecturer

Working currently as a behavioural sciences lecturer, he is best known for his theory of 'eat thy neighbour'. Proxies in his class have led to dwindling of class strength with proxy kings disappearing by the dozen. He is also the founder of “Animal Liberation through Human Marination”, an NGO which has won numerous accolades, for animal emancipation by controlling human population explosion. Anyone dare abolish the post of lecturer now?

# 2

## Captain Planet

Finally, a superhero who doesn't need any '*Prerna*' or '*Disha*' for the '*Nirmaan*' of a clean, green world. Tired of NSS's exploitation of the first years, Gaia, the spirit of the earth, bestowed this ex-Research scholar of the civil department with special powers. He does everything imaginable from planting trees to cleaning dog poop. Last we heard, being a planeteer could fetch you two credits. Re-Regol anyone?

# 3

## Lord Baldemort

Though an evil villain to many, this dark lord is the sole refuge of the em-baldened lot on campus. With the help of his loyal minions, he has been involved in contaminating the Roorkee water for years. It is rumoured that he owes his immortality to the seven haircruces. He is often spotted on his *vahana*, the bald headed eagle casting spells of 'Four-year' transforms on unsuspecting freshers causing them to lose all their hair in just less than four years.

# 5

## The Incredible Ghiss

From the ancient book of campus legends, comes another hero quite similar to one of Calvin's alter egos. Once a happy-go-lucky *chhaggi*, Bookworm zzzzBansal was transformed into a horrendous *ghissai* monster on exposure to G-Rays. This hero involuntarily slogs, whenever he spots a tutorial or when the TS is just around the corner and on days with names ending with a 'y'.



# IIT WARS

## IRISHMAI



## BRAND II



SPECIAL ISSUE

# IIM

IIT WARS

The Indian Institutes of Technology are a group of fifteen autonomous engineering and technology-oriented institutes of higher education established and declared as Institutes of National Importance by the Parliament of India.


We were created as equals to serve one purpose: to train and develop Scientists and Engineers for a better India. These fifteen centers of excellence are but different strokes of the same brush... Or are we?




# Different Strokes

September 21, 2001 may not be a red letter day as far as the rest of the world is concerned. But for the several thousands who have now become an inextricable part of IITR lore, this was a day which would go on to change their lives. After eight years of "brand IIT", are we a force to be reckoned with? WONA investigates...

Ever wondered why the nation's oldest technical institute is constantly ranked sixth in the India Today ratings (of the top engineering colleges of the nation), while the top honours are invariably bagged by our so-called elder siblings. How often have you been subject to cynicism by family and friends alike for opting to study in a "lower IIT"? Despite the IIT force which binds us all, why is it that certain IITs are elevated to the status of demigods and the negative stereotypes continue to surround the remaining dark horses. It is time to dispel such inane myths once and for all as we endeavour to dissect the IIT system and present you with some hot coffee to go with your languid winter afternoons.



IIT-M shares its campus with the Guindy National Park. While scarce eye-candy rarely elicits the words 'dear', the double-E variant is much more common as they are seen crossing the roads.



With a central library as large as the IITR Hobbies Club and hardly any Technical Festivities to boast about, IIT Delhi cuts a rather sorry figure in comparison to the likes of IIT Bombay, KGP, Madras and our own small town institution. So much for being the best engineering college in the country (according to a recent India Today poll).

## A for Academics

42. The most enigmatic and mystifying number in modern day literature has been known to spell doom for our dear Archi students. In contrast, the software architects of IIT Kanpur breeze through their week with just a third of the torturous hours. The disparity that mocks us in the face is not that stark in the other IITs, where the average contact hours range from 25 to 32. When it comes to the number of courses that one has to bear in a semester, IIT Madras and Roorkee inflict the maximum agony with a whopping eight courses in the sophomore year. The junta at D, B and K are luckier in that respect with just around five to cope with. The requisites of every field being as different as chalk and cheese, it is difficult to generalize this phenomenon and compare different departments. As Aishwarya Sharma, Editor of IITB's news magazine puts it, "The number of contact hours depends on the number of credits you wish to take up in a given semester, which again, varies from department to department, batch to batch, and honestly, person to person". The luxury of vella-ness will continue to remain the perquisite of the denizens studying at the bottom of the slope. Seven examinations in two days, twice a semester, can leave even the perennial ghissus gasping for breath and casting an envious eye on their lucky compatriots in Bombay and Guwahati, who just face one mid-sem per semester. However, a recent survey undertaken by Watch Out (read Sept '08 Issue) showed a clear majority in favour of two midsems as it gives the mortals once more chance to make up for their debacles. Regarding the grading system, the general consensus is that there is opacity in awarding of grades, and that a standardized system has to be implemented. B. Srikanth of IITD feels, "Though there is reasonable transparency in the grading system, grade caps exist even in classes having large strengths. Not more than 3 A+s and 5 As are generally awarded, thereby affecting our GPAs." The great IIT system, often considered to be par excellence, is yet to break free from the shackles of ancient times. Roorkee does not walk alone in the world of mundane, outdated and redundant courses, with most of the other IITs being guilty of the same inanity. "I wonder why an Electrical Engineer needs Ecology, Biology and Design courses in his third semester", laments G.Vignesh, 11nd year Elec IDD, IITM. However, Kanpur remains the sole beacon of light in this Dark Age, boasting of an Academic Review Committee (ARC) managed by the student senate to periodically review curriculum and suggest relevant changes.

cover story



Waiting for the apple to fall  
 Our revered Professors, always engrossed in their path-breaking research, have been known to shoo away hapless undergraduates on being approached for academic guidance. The situation is not the same in the other IITs, with students showing greater enthusiasm towards liaisons with Profs for research work. Not surprisingly, it is Kanpur which leads the pack again with initiatives like NERD (Notes on Engineering Research and Development), a magazine that highlights the research work on campus with special focus on UG research oriented in the engineering sphere, but draws a sad face when it comes to the sciences. Most of the profs are very helpful and ready to work with students." While we students incessantly grumble about the lack of opportunities, the profs stand their ground claiming that it is the students who have to take initiatives and that they are always willing to help. Let us see who will blink first.



It is surprising that an institute known for attracting geeks has a very active hostel life and with LPs unheard of, the only restriction as Akshay, 1st year, Elec IDD laments, "girls are not allowed into guys' hostels and vice-versa after 10PM". No wonder B-Land is so sought after.



One of the biggest breakthroughs in Algorithmic Number Theory in this decade is the AKS Primality test, named after its founders Agrawal, Kayal and Saxena from IIT Kanpur. The remarkable paper published in early 2002 was the first to show that testing whether or a not a number was prime could be done in polynomial time; and went on to receive international acclaim. Whoever said undergraduate research is a farce sure didn't think of this!

Not yet (P)laced: Receding Job-Line  
A Place for everything and everything in its place?  
 The heart-wrenching sight of final years, lost in the vortices of uncertainty, inevitably makes us wonder about the answers to life, our placement scenario and everything else. Amidst ridiculous rumours about placements exceeding expectations in other IITs, comments like "Placements were fairly bad this time!" by an IITB student bring into focus the real picture. With even IITs starting to speak about the percentage of students placed, the writing on the wall couldn't be more apparent. The cut off for dream jobs in our own institute stooping to an all time new low (4.5 Lakhs as opposed to 7 Lakhs the previous year) has redefined the phrase 'Requiem for a dream'. And yet, being children of the same god, even the metro IITs find themselves in a similar predicament, something we can take solace from.

According to Dr. Sanjay Dhande, Director IITK, "This time companies are unwilling to give long-time offers and the number of employees being recruited by each company has gone down"! With the original favourites (read consultancies and IT firms) deciding to give the nation's premier institutes a miss, the various placement cells are trying to leave no stone unturned in their attempt to seduce the likes of IOC, BHEL, GAIL, SAIL, etc. The scenario is best exemplified by IIT KGP's placement statistics

2007: 85.77%  
 2008: 82.09%  
 2009: 68.11% !!!!



Alumni Inter-farce?

Contrary to popular belief, the role of our alumni is not just limited to certain senti people returning to the campus to relive their days of glory. From staging plays (The name is Bhand) and providing scholarships like Heritage fund, to arranging sponsorships for Thomso to placements, they seem to be glaringly omnipresent. But yet we still have some catching up to do as far as Alumni Interface is concerned. In all other IITs except Guwahati, alumni play a significant role as far as funding and interaction is concerned; talks about various facets of academics are a regular feature. As Nitish Srivastava, 2 year CSE, IITK puts it, "The students are allowed to freely contact alumni at reunions. Recently, Alumni Mentorship Program has been setup to allow alumni to mentor students through direct one to one interaction." Moreover alumni in K and M have also helped set up labs and fund research, something ours can take a leaf out of. That is not to say that our alumni haven't done any jugaad for us. Haven't you wondered why a superfast train stops in a humble hamlet like Roorkee? We only have our alumni in the railways to thank. As expected, Guwahati, with only a 15 year heritage presents a sad face although according to its students, the network is growing.

Conclusion:

In a battle of equals, there can never be only one winner. Despite hogging most of the national limelight, every IIT has its own cons, and we still have a long way to go before we can face the likes of MIT, Caltech. Yet, in an era of red-ocean competitiveness, it is imperative that the great IIT name should not be allowed to fall from grace. Infamous sweatshirts like, "It is difficult to be humble when you know you are the best", epitomize the snare of complacency we seem to be caught in. It is important for today's scholar not to stop learning and become one the teeming millions. That being said, the fact remains that the IITs still house the top 1% of the nation and as far as external perception goes, it is the IIT tag which matters. For the Gates' and the Jobs' and the John Nashes of Harvard, the three letters which makes heads turn are I, I and T and seldom the letter which follows. One surprising phenomenon observed was that, even though our respondents were frank when it came to accepting the shortcomings of their institute, they made no efforts to hide their passion and sense of pride felt towards their beloved institute. This very pride is missing in our land as is evident from "This System sucks" graffiti on the benches of the EC Department. The vision of the pioneers who led us on to this revolutionary road eight years ago stands on the verge of vindication; perhaps all that we require is one push to scale the peak. Is it wrong to dream that one fine day in the not-so-distant future, an A.I.R. I will take up Archi in IIT Roorkee. In the end, only one thing matters. All IITs are equal, just that some appear to be more equal than the others.

IIT G: As common as dogs are in IIT Roorkee, there are Leopards in Guwahati. Jokes a first year, "It's a standard excuse of ours for being late in classrooms! 'Sir, there was a leopard blocking our way!'"

The grading system in IIT Kharagpur is the epitome of transparency. Re-evaluations for all the papers are conducted as many times as the student sees fit, till all his grievances are addressed. So much so, the deadline for bringing out the final grades more often than not spills on to the beginning fortnight of the following semester! The students can come after enjoying a nice vacation, and still get any mis-marking rectified, much unlike dear R.





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## SOCIAL Samadhan just got bigger !!



EDC, IITR hosted Samadhan '09, the social entrepreneurship B plan competition for the fourth consecutive year with the theme this time being 'Youth Empowerment'. With ONGC as the platinum sponsor, Samadhan '09 offered teams with a large number of opportunities including intensive mentoring, attractive prize money and corporate exposure. Eight teams made it to the final round of the event, with teams travelling to Roorkee from as far away as Goa. 'Spornado', 'Disha', 'Avakyam', 'Shilp Sangam', 'Art Think', 'Books Yatra' and 'Grooming Gears' were the various B-plans under the broad field of empowering youth. Samadhan also comprised of the 'Start-Up Showcase', where many IIT Roorkee's own entrepreneurial ventures were thrown into the limelight. 'Zigndog', 'Ambicales', '3s Consultancy' and 'Techbuddy Consulting' were the four start-ups which participated in the event. The elite panel of judges comprised of Mr. Manoj Sharma, who is a

Consultant in the Social Service arena and has done several UNDP projects, Mr. M K Bhagwani, who has more than two decades of experience in working with the Government of India, UNICEF and other reputed organizations, and Mr. Rahul Arora, who is presently the country director of Acara Institute. The chief guest of the event was Dr. H O Gupta, Dean of Academic Research, IIT Roorkee. With a prize money of INR 30000 and ET Now, PagalGuy.Com, MBAUniverse.Com, CareersIndia, YourStory.In, IndyaRocks.Com, IdeaWicket.Com, CollegeKhabar and JAM Mag Samadhan had all the essential ingredients of a "big" event.

'Avakyam' presented by professors of MDI Gurgaon, a premier management college of the nation, won the main honours of Samadhan 2009. 'Spornado', Department of Management Studies, IIT Roorkee and 'Disha', Department of Management Studies, Goa University were the

first and second runner ups respectively.

Inspite of all that has been mentioned above, it is a matter of confusion and dispute if the event could be called any success. Unfortunately IITR's lackadaisical entrepreneurship spirit was what which actually hogged the limelight, being the only but equally glaring lacunae in an otherwise punctiliously planned and executed event. The entire event was undermined with a very poor turnout inspite of it being hosted unequivocally to spread some entrepreneurship and biz fervour in the campus, something which has gained a very strong grip these days in leading engineering colleges like BITS, Pilani and IIT Kharagpur. Whether this would be attributed to disinterest among students or poor publicity would be is irrelevant. Riding on the success of Samadhan' 09, EDC shall be expecting a lot more participants in the events to come this semester.

## GYAAN STIFKI 9,10,11

STIFKI organised three seminars last semester, and not surprisingly, the number of takers have increased drastically this year.

The first seminar was held on September 14th. The professors who presented their projects were Dr Anil Kumar, Head centre of Nanotechnology on 'An overview of centre of Nanotechnology', Dr. R. Balasubramanian, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of mathematics on 'Image Water making and 3-D reconstruction' and Dr. P.Arumugam, Assistant Prof. in the Physics Department on ' Unified model for finite nuclei and nueutron strars'.

The second seminar witnessed three interesting projects displayed by Prof. Surendra Singh, Professor, Deptt. of

metallurgical and material sciences on 'Thermo-mechanical ageing of 2014-Alluminium alloys', Dr. Vineet Kumar from the Chemical Engineering Dept. on 'Modelling and computer simulation' and Dr. Rjat Agrawal from the Deptt. of Management studies on 'Social Entrepreneurship'.

The third seminar, which was held on 4th and 5th November witnessed a massive audience from all Departments. The main focus of the seminars were Group Discussions, Resume making, and Personal Interviews. The speakers for the seminars were Prof. Harsh Sinvhal, Dean Allumni Affairs, IITR and Prof. V. K. Nangia, Head, DOMS. The three seminars were a success, with considerable takers. For those who are looking for a project, watch out for the STIFKI seminars in the days to come.

## MUSIC

### They came, They saw, They 'banged' their heads



After the subsidence of the panic spawned by Swine flu, Pehla Nasha finally happened. The event witnessed numerous power packed performances that blazed the stage with energy. The opening performance- Kartikey's "Saiyyoni" set the mood of the

evening and enthralled everyone. The hanger was jam packed with people and thundered with the cheers and zest of the crowd. For those who turned up late in the evening, the event could have been a wishful miss of disastrous rendition of "Ye Ishq Haye". However performances like "Love Story" by Shruti and Vasudha Khurana and "Chaliyya" turned out to be few of the graceful deliveries of the event. The final performance by Rohit, who sang Kailash Kher's "Jhoomo Re" took almost everyone off their seats and set them dancing to its energetic beats. With an exception of a few bloopers by the lights and audio section and some catastrophic performances(Read: Headbanging on Amaranth), the event turned out be a crowd puller.

## GYAAN INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

Professor B.B.Bhattacharya, Vice-chancellor, JNU delivered a lecture on the Indian economy on 24th September, 2009. As an expert in economy, he has earned a number of honors including the Amity Lifetime Academic Achievement Award, Ambassador of Peace by Universal Peace Foundation and the Socrates International Award. The venue was jam packed with students not only from IIT but also from other colleges and schools. He highlighted the fact that despite the global

meltdown, India is still maintaining a healthy 6 plus growth rate. He brought into notice that rural India, which accounts for 70 percent of the population, is not at all integrated with the global economy, thus preventing crisis. He concluded by saying that given India's strong fundamentals, not only in the real economy, but also because of a fairly stable state regulated financial system, it is capable of getting back to its high growth trajectory sooner than the rest of the world.

## CULTURE SPICMACAY - Padmagatha strikes a chord.

SPICMACAY once again made us come face to face with the exceptional talent in our country by organizing a puppet show under the name PADMAGATHA, showcased by the Dolls Theatre Group, whose spectacular shows have gathered appreciation worldwide. The love of art and theatre brought some young enthusiasts together to form this group. The show was directed by Shri Sudip Gupta, who has been into puppetry since 1983 and has been instrumental in showcasing this media as a performing art. Apart from directing puppet shows, he has also worked in various films and television wherein he has experimented with new technologies and has applied them in his

plays making them more colorful and fresh every time.

The show commenced with the illumination of Deepshikha by Shri Sudip Gupta, which was an attempt to depict the story of Shakuntala in 13 different scenes. A charming and unique depiction of the play with the help of puppets made the O.P.Jain auditorium come to life. An intelligent amalgamation of props (like duppatas to create rippling effect of water), lights and music, enthralled the audience. The show attracted a huge audience of about 350 with children in majority who seemed to be spellbound by the artist's display. All in all SPICMACAY ended the semester with an exceptionally good show.





## GYAAN NASA '09



The students of the architecture department brought home laurels from the annual convention of the National Association of Students of Architecture

(NASA) at Chennai. After a month of back breaking hard work, team IIT Roorkee (most of whom were 1<sup>st</sup> yearites) bagged the special mention for the coveted UNESCO-NASA Louis I Kahn Trophy for in-depth documentation of Siddhpur, Gujarat. Meanwhile, the team comprising Siddharth Mahadevan (B.Arch II), Shashwat Singh (B.Arch II) and Vasif Nawaz (B.Arch V) secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the highly acclaimed design contest – Transparency '09 – with their innovative design of an eco-resort in the sea. Adding to the celebrations, Shreyank Vyavahare (B.Arch III), representative of the IIT Roorkee contingent was elected Vice President (Communications) of the National level body with a landslide victory.

## ADMIN CHANGE OF GUARD

The year 2010 has seen a lot of changes in the Administration. The baton of Chairman, Board of Governors has been passed on to Sri Ashok Bhatnagar, Former Chairman, Railway Board & Principal Secretary to the Govt. of India. Other changes in administration are as follows:

### Administration, BOGs and Deans

Dean Academic Studies – Prof. H.O Gupta

Dean Administration – Prof. G.S Srivasatava

Dean Finance and Planning – Prof. Pradeep Kumar

Dean Academic Research – Prof. Surendra Kumar

### Heads of Departments

Civil - Prof. A.K Jain

Metallurgy – Prof. P.K Ghosh

Earth Sciences – Prof. P.K Gupta

Mech – Prof. Satish Sharma

Metallurgical – Prof. S.K Nath

Paper And Pulp – Prof. Satish Kumar

WRDM – Prof. Nayan Sharma

## GYAAN MyInnoSpace

MyInnoSpace is a firm which offers Design, Development and Consultancy services for diverse business backgrounds. They are now considered as “one stop shop” for all unique, distinct and quality design solutions.

It's a group of intellectuals with varied backgrounds, experiences and skills. Science, technology, engineering, design and architecture are some of our their

specializations. Started in December 2008, with a group of established designers and developers, the firm has continuously delivered with commitment to excellence. Since its inception, the firm has shown exponential growth and earned noteworthy acclaim by their clients which includes some renowned names like Robosapiens, Cognizance, and tBits.

## GYAAN IDEAS @ IIT ROORKEE

The Intro Lecture of Ideas@IITRoorkee was given by Professor V.K. Nangia, HOD, Department of Management Studies. Addressing a packed hall consisting of students from all years, Prof. Nangia gave a highly illuminating talk as he explained the System and Structure of functioning of the institute. He eloquently pinpointed the differences between the working of a Corporate firm and the IIT Roorkee system, as well as the hierarchy involved in decision making. As the audience listened with rapt attention, Prof Nangia gave out several examples from his rich experience, spanning over an amazing 35 years.

The students were given a copy of the rules, guidelines and format of the contest, along with a sheet containing a sample problem statement. Prof. Nangia discussed this write-up, the implications and flaws related to it, as he sought to clear any doubts regarding the methodology to approach the competition. In a nutshell:

1) Scope: It is necessary to lay out the scope of the problem being tackled. This includes the aspects which one is addressing, whether it is applicable only to a specific segment of the campus, and who shall be affected by it. It is important to mention the boundaries within which one is working and the factors which are being excluded.

2) Facts: All claims and details should be backed by facts from verifiable sources. Such Data collection can take place through two sources:

Primary Data: From people directly involved in the process of decision making and/or control of the functioning.

Secondary Data: From sources such as the Annual Report of IIT Roorkee, books and other documents. Forming a Questionnaire for data acquisition may be one such step.

3) Problem Evaluation: On the basis of data collected, the history of the issue and knowledge of its functioning, the problem statement may be framed.

4) Evaluation: Among the possible solutions, the best one should be chosen and proposed with details regarding its implementation, the timeline involved and the financial resources required. It is also recommended to have a list of the approvals required to pass the proposed idea.

The end of the lecture was marked by a presentation by a group of 3rd year B.Tech students, who conducted an Energy Audit of the institute. These students conducted their studies on the electricity utilization on campus, and suggested an action plan to optimise the energy consumption, which was presented in front of the executive board of the institute. It was a fantastic example of the effect students can have on the way their institute works.

## SPORTS INTER-IIT 2009



The 45<sup>th</sup> Inter-IIT sports meet was held at IIT-Kanpur from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2009. The Inter-IIT Aquatics Meet is held separately as part of the main Meet each year preceding the main Inter-IIT Sports Meet. This meet includes a total of thirteen sports namely Aquatics, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Chess, Football, Hockey, Squash, Tennis, Table -Tennis, Volleyball and Weightlifting. Amongst the afore mentioned sports, chess and squash were included only as trial sports with their medals not being counted in the final medal tally.

The dream of IIT-R winning the overall championship remained, just a dream. However, IIT Roorkee put on a brilliant effort in both the Men's and the Women's overall championships. While Roorkee was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Men's championship, it landed with the 3<sup>rd</sup> position in the Women's championship. At one point of time there was a great sense of euphoria amongst the members of the contingent as they felt that they actually had a great chance of winning the overall championship. The reason behind this

premature happiness was twofold; firstly the overall gold in the athletics event in both the men's and women's category was won by Roorkee, whose performance on the athletics events was outstanding, with athletes thoroughly dominating all the events; and secondly, as many as six other teams had entered the semi-finals of their respective events. However the bubble did not take very long to burst, with lamentably, all the semi-finalists crashing out in that leg of the tournament. These teams, however, were not written off just then. In the third place matches, five of the teams managed to bag the bronze medal. These were the men's teams in badminton, basketball, hockey and volleyball plus the women's team in table tennis and swimming. The weightlifting team performed splendidly and went on to bag the silver medal.

All in all and most importantly the meet was a lot of fun for all the participants, and as they say "Winning is not everything, it's the effort that counts". Better Luck Next Time Roorkee.



Inter IIT Final Men's Scorecard		
IIT	Total Points	Place
Bombay	79.83	1st
Delhi	51	2nd
Guwahati	10.08	
Kanpur	49.83	3rd
Kharagpur	18.25	
Madras	35.17	
<u>Roorkee</u>	<u>41.67</u>	<u>4th</u>
Bhubaneshwar	<u>8</u>	
Gandhinagar	6.75	
Hyderabad	6.75	
Indore	7.17	
Mandi	6.83	
Patna	6	
Punjab	6.08	
Rajasthan	7.33	

Inter IIT Final Women's Scorecard		
IIT	Total Points	Place
Bombay	22	4th
Delhi	14	
Guwahati		
Kanpur	26	2nd
Kharagpur	6	
Madras	34	1st
<u>Roorkee</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3rd</u>

IITR in individual sports(Men)	
Sport	Place
Athletics	1st
Badminton	3rd
Basketball	3rd
Hockey	3rd
Volleyball	3rd
Weightlifting	2nd

IITR in individual sports(Women)	
Sport	Place
Athletics	1st
Swimming	3rd
Table Tennis	3rd



# FEST THOMSO '09



Thomso 2009, the annual cultural fest of the institute, kicked off on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, continuing for another three days. It was arguably, one of the best college fests IITR has seen, especially in terms of the entertainment quotient. Thomso was officially inaugurated at the Convocation Hall as the chief guest from SBI lit the ceremonial lamps. The first major event of the first night was Thahake, the “Hasya Kavi” show, which had famous poet Ashok Chakradhar as its main attraction. Youthanasia, the dance floor, saw huge crowds with a medley of DJ's, rookie and pros, who tried to get the people dancing for all four nights of the fest. Throughout the day and in between major events, a number of informals kept taking place to keep the masses occupied. The second day had Vogue, the fashion show, whose highlight was a ramp walk by models of the Lakme Fashion Week. Battle of Bands was also received very well, with highly enthusiastic crowds, although girls had to be evicted

from the hangar as soon as time crossed 11pm. Benea Reach, a critically acclaimed Norwegian metal band, was the greatest attraction on Saturday, with rock fanatics finding themselves in an inebriated stupor by the brilliant performances from the foreign artists. The grand finale lived up to its name as Jal, the eponymous Sufi-Rock band giving a spectacular performance on the final night of Thomso, with the entire ABN ground filled to the max. The various sections of CulSoc also had their events, such as Footloose and Abhivyakti from the Choreo and Drams sections. The LitSec also had its share of events with rising quizmaster, Avinash Mudaliar, hosting Titans of Trivia. Thomso was a much improved affair than last year's, although glitches in scheduling ensured that some teams from other colleges could not participate at all in certain events. With a record breaking number of people coming to the campus, the security personnel found themselves with a gargantuan task to handle them. Rogue events aside, the fest was very memorable

## EVENTS CONVOCATION 2009

With the Senate bedecked in lights, something to which it had shied off even at Diwali time, all knew it was celebration time in campus. The newly out alumni showing off their campus "old" campus to proud parents and themselves seeing it in a new light altogether coupled with the photo sessions drenched in nostalgia undoubtedly made up for some sentimental stuff. But the reunions, the section *chapos* and the Disoriented Partying the day before epitomised the panorama of emotions and memories of our IITR diaspora

unite at this year's convocation. More than a thousand students under various programmes were privileged to receive their degrees from Er. E.Sreedharan, Head DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Corporations) whose life has been no lesser than stuff of folklore for an engineer of today. The Convocation Hall was in all its splendor matching the glory of its students.

All even the entire occasion befitted a college of such repute. Undoubtedly a source of inspiration, pride and pleasure to us students of the campus.

## STORIES ALUMNI CORNER

Name: H.K.Mittal

Mr. H.K.Mittal is the current Director of Mercator Lines Ltd, a leading shipping company. He is an M.Tech Geophysics passout of the UOR batch of 1973. Born and brought up in a business family, Mr. Mittal had always wanted to start his own venture. After passing out of UOR, he started an ethyl acetate manufacturing company. His main motivating factor in starting this venture was Prof Dr. V.K Gaur. He went on to start a shipping company, which has made it to one of the established

players in the Indian shipping industry today.

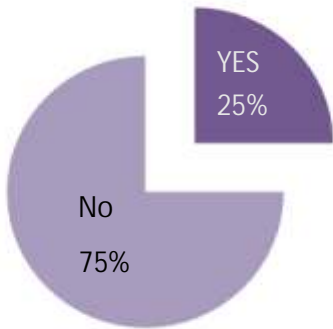
His Life-Fundas:

"I firmly believe that, when you start your career, you must think deeply where your interests lie. Carry off your start-up project with your full heart and soul behind it. Use every opportunity to interact with experienced people and get their opinion. Always aim for a relatively bigger target, but not very big otherwise if you could not achieve in your initial projects, you will have lot of discouragement."

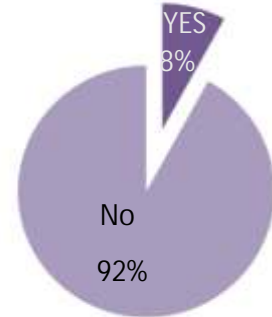




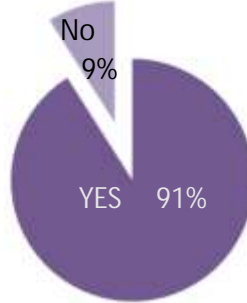
Fed up with the messes of R-Land, the junta of IITR turn to our canteens, scouting for edible food only to face the inefficiencies in the canteen services, regular shortage of items, wavering food standards, and unhygienic canteen premises. WONA investigates the functioning of canteens, how it is affecting the students, their perceived inadequacies, and the changes that the students would like to bring about in the canteens on campus.



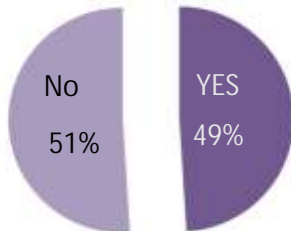
Q: Are you satisfied with the pricing and variety of food in the canteen?



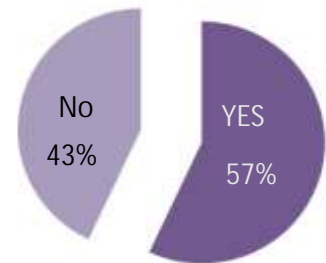
Q:. Are you happy with the hygiene of your canteen ?



Q: Do we need more eating joints in the campus?



Q: Are you satisfied with the canteen timings?



Q: Are the canteens given too much autonomy?

On  
Hygiene of  
Canteens:

I feel that there is a lot of scope for improvement. The issue is that whether it be the edible items, the brands used, the self discipline of the contractors- everything needs to improve. It happens primarily because the contractors are supposed to keep a low cost for everything, so they end up cutting corners wherever they can. The dishes are sometimes not properly washed, the oil is not of a certain minimum quantity.

On the pricing of food and  
autonomy:

I think we need to develop an overall mechanism to maintain not only the price, but the quantity, quality and hygiene of the food as well. The prices should be as low as possible. We enforce regulations on the prices and strictness is maintained initially. But this eventually goes off and the fact that the canteen people are tightly pressed on pricing, leads to improper pricing. I think the canteens should be autonomous as in this way, they shall look for returns and hence, shall compete in

Interview with :  
Prof. R.P Maheswari  
Ex-Chief Warden  
Rajendra Bhawan

About the possible measures  
that can be taken:

Surprise checks can be conducted. But then, all of us have to handle our academics, our work and our family so having a concrete system is difficult. I, myself have no schedule as such, but I conduct my own share of surprise checks.

On what he envisions  
the canteens to be?

Ideally, we should have 1-2 central canteens, open to everyone. Right now, the new hostel- Radhakrishnan Bhawan, shall have another canteen. We should have one that side as well. Recently, I went to AMU. My colleague and I ate in the central canteen, which was a state of the art, 3-star place. The best part about it was that it had both professors and students, eating at the same place. This is what i would like to see. The canteen should be a common place for both students and the faculty to relax and eat.

# MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN

*When the lights begin to change, I sometimes feel a little strange... A little anxious when it's dark...*

As the witching hour sets in and darkness prowls the unusually silent streets, Roorkee is taken over by the Dark Knights. The lights begin to fade, silence falls over the space and mere mortals give in to slumber, when the Nocturnal step out of the shadows and ride into the growing night.

Welcome to the IIT R nightlife.

College resets your biological clock. Sleep is a luxury saved up to while away boring classes, for night-time is when *Bhawans* come to life, and no one can avoid the temptations of the unholy hours. Ranging from gamers to geeks, football fanatics to feminists and jabberers to Johnny Walkers, everyone seems to chase the thrill of insomnia.

Outside, in the world of civilization, nightlife usually spells discotheques, pubs and hot wheels, but the *crème de la crème* of the country exiling in Roorkee are fated otherwise. But never submitting to the shackles of destiny, generations of IIT R have actually managed to ruin themselves due to an excess of night-time carousals!

We have realized that to enjoy college years you need nothing more than *the right spirit*. Read on, as we uncover how IITR keeps itself awake when the darkness falls...

## Vice or Otherwise

One dingy room, bottled-up spirits and three idiots is all that it takes to make a memorable night.

DPs make for l a s t i n g reminiscences – those explicit exploits; that perfect, floating sensation; that emotional call to one's ex... One merrymaker after



the other gets knocked down, making way for the Last Man Standing, who is an honorable man (but who might be barely standing). Memories of last night seem completely wiped out excepting the distant strains of Pink Floyd and the caress of the flaming elixir.

## Lady Gaga & Poker Face

Voted this year's hottest song, night-time awakens a fresh interest in the song and its lyrics. "I wanna hold 'em like they do in Texas please, fold 'em let 'em hit me raise it baby stay with me"

We know you get us, just keep a poker face.



## Burning the Midnight Oil

A few wise ones skip the ongoing merriment with gentle disdain, and absorb volumes after volumes with the conviction of being a cut above the rest. Lost in the world of tutorials and assignments, the ongoing monkey business has no appeal to them. Their nightlife is precisely the same as their days, the difference being that they now have greater focus, more time and more peace. Resented by others for being big know it-alls, the greater good in them gets its due around the needy exam time.

## Sarojini: Night-in-Jail of Roorkee

Since the 150 years of this *insti*, the gates of Sarojini have always clanked shut sharp at 10 pm. Grim are the fates of the fairer sex because come curfew hour, *chapos* have to be abandoned, meetings aborted and duties surrendered. The starry-skied night and the promise of adventure have to be foregone.

Of course, the past has witnessed outraged rebellion at this oppression but all such efforts have been deftly thwarted by the authorities. And so girls are damned to a modest life of movies, *bakar* and more *bakar*.



By night the canteen transforms into a hub and random pieces of gossip fly over the plates of Maggi, Pav-Bhaji and chips as girls settle into their daily dose of character assassinations, movies and scandals. Most get hooked to soap-series, while the other self-declared superior half stay buried in their course books.

## Fists Of Fury

The kingmakers and his cronies step out into the shadows to connive, conspire and kill. Plots are hatched, daggers are drawn and Poli rears its vicious head everywhere. The black of the night provides the perfect backdrop for endless discussions and debates on Politics and the coming of a new dawn. What starts as a harmless bakar session might culminate into people losing their tempers, the atmosphere turning red-hot with the tension and the induction of yet another Gang War into the blood-stained pages of the insti's History. (Perhaps a bit more)

## Hitch Hiking through the Stars

This is what the freebooters love to do. Amidst the night's activities, they often drift to the Bus-T for a nightcap of chai and an early bite. Right across the road is the coach that can whisk them off to the serene Himalayan hills, through winding roads and mesmerizing views. Mussorie, Dehradun and Rishikesh are the popular getaways, for they offer a quaint mix of tranquility, exotic food, hookah and hippies. The stars provide the

perfect canopy to lie down and await the first rays of the sun. (until the stars don't feel so far away!)

Minor hitches such as the restriction on leaving the campus after 11 o'clock are mockingly waved aside as students



learn to vault gates or befriend guards, even as the ominous BIS vehicle looks on helplessly.

## Good Times

Maybe staying in Roorkee is a little low on the fireworks quotient, but we grow to relish the simplest of pleasures. Nothing can beat having hot Maggi in the middle of night, or chilling out at a shack with friends and the numerous, aimless contemplations on life.

Night life is incomplete without the mention of the football frenzy that breaks out almost every other twenty-four hours. Like the bun and samosa combo we swear by, football goes best with a smattering of rain, the moon lit field and the inevitable exhilarating shots. Ardent followers of the foota-religion troop into TV rooms to watch their Gods In action and the evergreen ManU vs. Chelsea debates can be heard ringing throughout the match. Another such passionate set of people are the music aficionados who jam their way through the late hours with their bands.



Of course, overdoing sleepless semesters has other impacts. There is too much cut-throat competition amidst us, to live on with such ritualistic wastage of time. The world is full of people whose attempts to pull all-nighters, ended with them dozing off for the 8 am classes and subsequently, winding with two extra subjects next semester.

## Act: Every Day Scene: Dawn

Coffee cups littered on the floor. Empty bottles. Figures slumped up against the walls. The night has come to an end and oddly, all activity seems frozen. Classes begin and the usual routine takes off but the magic of the night will not be forgotten for long. The wheels of time keep turning....

Music is the soul of the college scene, and budding guitarists and singers spend dusk to dawn, chasing their dreams.

## Committed to the Cause

Unaffected by the commotion around are the love-smitten Reliance night-scheme beneficiaries. Found in every nook and cranny of the hostel, their limitless inquiries and ultrasonic-pitched talk over the phone can dissolve hours, days and months. However this necessarily doesn't classify as a life...

Similar nightlife-deprived souls are the ones who back off to bed at 10. Extreme qualities of diligence, sincerity and regularity snatch from them any kind of nightlife and they spend what could have been their most wonderful hours, safely tucked into beds. But Amanbir Singh (III yr Electrical) justifies his view as, "I sleep at 11:30 pm since nightlife doesn't work for me. I'm better off starting the day early."



# PERSPECTIVES



# V FOR VENDETTA



Four months of misery. Boredom. Torture. Suffering. Pain. Agony...

We are provided with but a few moments to get back at all the injustice meted out to the innocent *junta*.

One of these moments: The response forms. Behold!





"Cout, cout!! Cin. cout! God, I can't concentrate with all this noise!!"



Meanwhile: Outside, the gangs of IITR assemble for a showdown.



Our brave PC tries to instill calm, much to the annoyance of the warring tribes.



PC tap-dances.



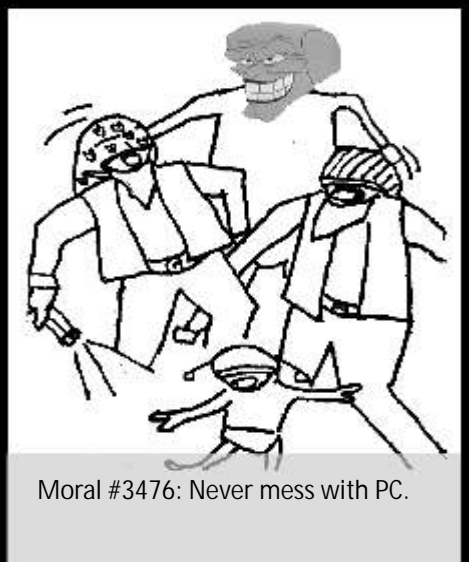
Sobbing, PC reaches the abode of the higher powers.



He hides his face in shame. Behind the mask of (an) Authority.



Shortly after: Govind is scourged of its evil bandits.



Moral #3476: Never mess with PC.

## Himaja, CS Dual-5th year

Getting rid of the imposed time restriction is like a wish which we have happened to make a cherished dream. It is our natural tendency to grumble for anything that doesn't suit our whims. Given the small town that Roorkee is, there is negligible night life outside campus and it's anyway way too dangerous to venture out there. Library and other campus facilities are closed by ten and hence girls have no reason to stay out late. As for the section and other activities, the girls can get special permissions for some events. Same goes for research scholars working till late hours in labs. Extending the time limit till 12 can be a solution for those who want to study in groups late at night. The girls need to realize that our safety is a liability of the institution failing which everyone from our families to media will hold it responsible. Not everyone can be considered sensible enough and such freedom might invite recklessness. Outsiders cannot be barred from entering the campus as some of the places are linked by these roads only. This is a protective measure adopted by the authorities and should not be removed but extension till 12 can be considered.



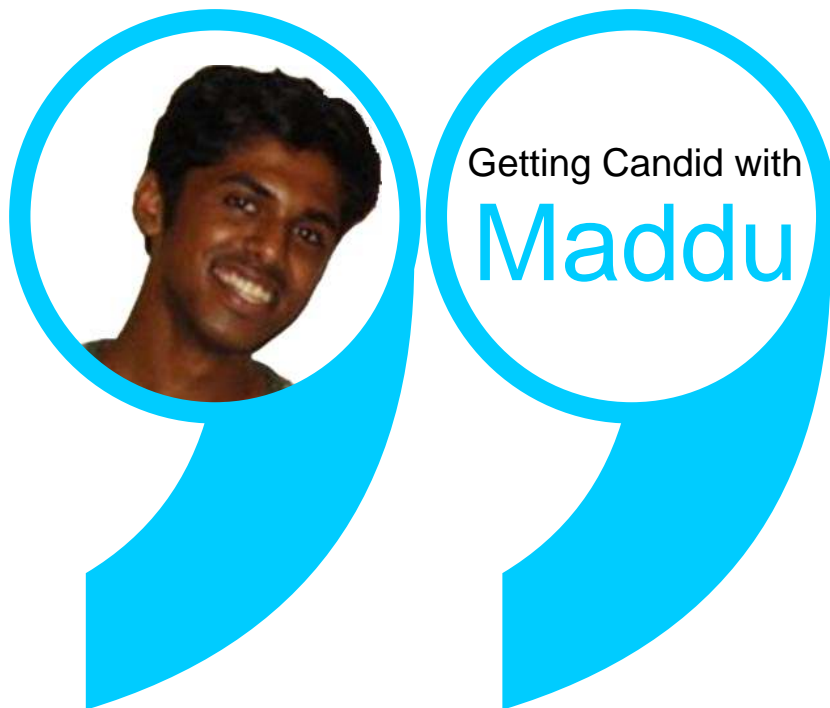
# Is the time restriction imposed on girls justified?

The time restriction imposed on girls confines our college life beyond academics to a few hours with the classes getting over usually at six. It's the culture of a college to work at the late hours of night and this limit places a ceiling on our involvement in the groups we are a part of like IMG and cultural society or to the college fests. There is a lack of night life for guys as well, why not put a restriction on them too? The only reason offered by the authorities is our safety. The campus is unsafe during day as well. They should make efforts towards tightening the security like in other IITs rather than going for the convenient way and locking the girls in. Our campus links some places but given the light traffic at night, it can be strictly and closely monitored. . The reason sounds all the more absurd when the security guards tend to ignore any misbehavior by the road mongers but are always against anyone dropping a girl or even exchanging notes. It's about our freedom; I might want to see what senate looks like at 2 A.M. To conclude, I would say that girls are mature enough to take care of themselves and they know their limits very well. So there is no point in curbing their freedom forcibly.



## Ratika Sablania, CSE-3rd year





Architecture. Entrepreneur. ITC. Thomso. Cogni.  
Kshitij. IMG. Athlete. Design God...

MANOJMADHU.

**Q.1. Who was your first crush on campus?**

**MM:** I had a crush in school. As I am still in touch with that girl, it never really finished. So was never really interested in any girl on campus.

*(And we thought you got married to an on-campus girl!)*

**Q.2 How was your life (5 yrs) on campus?**

**MM:** One thing I loved about my time here was the complete freedom that we have. You can do whatever you want, and there are also many opportunities. Like the time I went for the *fokki* graphics workshop at IDC IIT Bombay.

**Q.3 What was your most memorable aspect of life at IITR?**

**MM:** Myself roaming around with Vaibhav Chugh and Sandeep Panda in the night (*section - 377 wasn't authorized yet*), at the cemetery at Solanipuram (*where no one was around obviously*) just having some *bakar-shakar* and suddenly the idea of "myinnospace" coming to us.

**Q.4. What is your most hilarious memory on campus?**

**MM:** This was a foursome between me, Chugh, Panda and Naman. (*OMG!*) We were supposed to be doing a Kshitij interview and what we did instead, was that we picked up a couple of guitars and sang Kannada songs for two-three hours.

**Q.5. You are referred to as the graphics God in campus. What's your comment on that?**

**MM:** I am actually very happy. In the second year I got the chance to be the design coordinator of Cogni and Thomso. That, combined with the exposure I got from the graphics workshop in IIT Bombay, helped me a lot. I actually used the exposure and opportunity that was given to me. (*Bombay. Exposure. What kind of exposure?*)

**Q.6. What's your viewpoint on section 377?**

**MM:** I bet a few people in IIT would be happy about it. If you're not happy with a girl then go with the guy. Being in that position, I would have gone with the guy as its important to be happy. But don't

worry, as of now I'm straight. (*And why should we worry?*)

**Q7. What was your favorite hangout place ?**

**MM:** We used to hang out a lot near the cemetery in Solanipuram. On campus it used be the top of the Architecture wing where we had our *bakar* sessions. And also the IMG lab.

*(Now, we're hearing a lot about this cemetery... Whatever did you do there?)*

**Q8. Now that you speak of it, who do you think is the hottest girl in IMG?**

**MM:** There were hardly any girls in IMG. The very few who are, are geeks.

**Q9. Finally, What do you think of Watch Out?**

**MM:** You guys present news in a wacky and sarcastic manner which is hilarious, though you guys could do better with the design.

*(We're trying! We're trying!!!)*



# Economies



china

"Made in China" is a phrase that has become so ubiquitous in our daily lives that we can hardly (putting it a tad melodramatically) imagine a world without it.

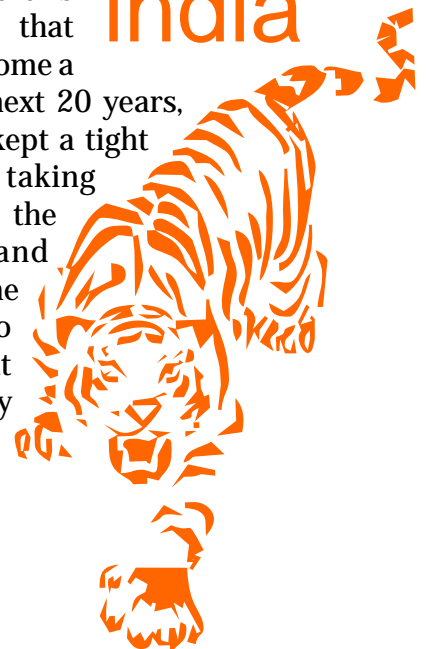
Surprisingly though, this phenomenon didn't exist back in the 80's when more than 53% of the country's population was under the poverty line. Since then, the government has adopted a number of policies including many five year programs in favour of an export based economy. Such market oriented reforms implemented over the course of two decades have unleashed the forces of individual initiative and entrepreneurship, even while China has retained a control over the economy. The government's decision to allow the country to be used as an export platform has made it a major power in the Asian market and in fact, the world at large. No longer can it be called a Communist power, for China has perfectly exemplified a beautiful (yet fragile) balance between regulation and a free market environment. It is currently the third largest economy in the global arena with a GDP growth of over 10%, which only went down last year due to the global meltdown. The basic Chinese



policy has been of import of unfinished raw material and export of CHEAP finished product. This has been possible due to the cheap and large population of skilled labour and flexible government policies towards industry. The vast majority of China's imports consist of industrial supplies and capital goods, notably machinery and high-technology equipment and about 80 percent of China's exports consist of manufactured goods, most of which are textiles and electronic equipment, with agricultural products and chemicals constituting the remainder. The country had an economy worth \$2.5 trillion by the end of 2008.

It is quite clear that the Chinese policy has been of a mass production and cheap rates, and this might really help the country to surpass the US by 2020's. So what does this spell for our own Bharat? There is practically no doubt that India is primed to become a world power in the next 20 years, but while China has kept a tight leash on activities taking place in the country, the lack of direction and overall control from the government seems to have made the Great Indian Dream a highly chaotic one. "Made in India", anyone?

india







# HOLOGRAPHIC KEYBOARDS

Virtual Reality, man's dream sometime back is now headed towards realization. The gadgets which the “spy kids” toyed with and rendered you jealous might soon be at your helm. Yes, the keyboards (and a lot more) can now appear and perish in mid air.

An alliance between Holographics (3D technology) and computer systems has led to this much

anticipated invention. Based on the concepts of Electromagnetic waves and their interference, this keypad

take s commands by a mere punch of your fingers in the air. It starts with a laser, recording the image of a real keyboard on a photographic film. This image with well defined depth cues is then mounted on a plastic surface with infrared sensors behind it. From here, it is projected in the air. Once human skin starts playing with the illusive keypad, these dormant sensors come to life and start interpreting the master's instructions.

Besides requiring nominal strength as there is actually nothing to touch, these keypads show immense resistance to temperature changes, moisture and dirt. Moreover, they are extremely hygienic in their operation and hence are apt for food processing industry and medical imaging. Since, this technology expands the horizon of human to

computer tactile interaction; the ever-growing IT industry also patronizes it with pride.

But, hang on; this

**- G.B. Shaw**

not out in the market

is, the price tag is pretty repulsive. Also, the technology available at present may take minutes or even hours to decode the instructions you key in. So, only after some more advent may you be able to flaunt your own pocket gadget which is at the beck and call of your finger tips.

h a n g i n g device is still and even if it

