

COVER STORY Is it wrong to be wrong?



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### 10 BIG STORY

Paris. Milan. New York. London. .....Jhumri Talaiyya. Guantamo Bay. Nairobi. Giza (even the Mummies are better dressed than us)... Roorkee. A look at the fiasco named

Fashion.

### 15 COVER STORY

Rampant cheating. Incessant plagiarism. Inebriated corruption, and corrupting inebriation. There are a million ways to go bad, and it seems we've learnt a lot.



### FIRST SPEAKER

Although the precise date and time when this great magazine came into being has been lost in obscurity, even in the minds of the very people who are currently engaged in carrying forward its enviable legacy, the ideology and purpose of its working still ring out as clear as air horns on an early December morning. Or so we like to kid ourselves into believing. Beliefs however have a queer way of changing their nature over the course of time- not necessarily as often for worse as they do for better. When writers and readers alike forget the very objective for which they set out to undertake their respective obligations, it is the published that ends up suffering. For no fault of its own, derided stingingly by either lot- it is forced to bear the brunt of literary incompetence. There are no ethics in writing, so writers say. Readers the world over would beg to differ.

But why embroil a perfectly sensible activity, and something as pure and innocuous as writing in such unsolicited scepticism? Why, for that matter, take a definitive view at all of right and wrong? The seeds of this rather dubious debate (whether I am holier than thou, as in a manner of speaking) are sown in the human mind not moments post birth, and hound said mind for most part of the lifetime. The hardened Commissioner turns a deaf ear upon the man pleading for clemency amidst claims of having mended his ways, whereas another man in his place would coolly accept a satchel bursting open with the millions it harboured and let the criminal go scot-free. The former pursued what he believed was the right course of action, albeit with a heavy heart, while the latter did what he did without so much as batting an eye-lid or ever feeling a shred of remorse thereafter. I remember this one incident in school where I had gotten my marks deducted wilfully out of naught but sheer honesty and a sense of righteousness. I'm not sure if I would do the same again now.

It is not my intention to kill the reader with such profundity, and hence I turn my attention towards the other aspect of student life that we are covering in this issue- something that might seem bizarre and most unusual without becoming any bit impertinent. I lay my hat at the feet of the gods and goddesses of the land- the ones who dress to kill and also kill to dress- while labouring under the delusion that their emphatic fashion statements would go unheeded forever. We salute the jeans and the kurtas, the tee-shirts and the salwars, the titanium-rimmed glasses and the uber-cool ear insulators, as also the oiled hair, the pony-tails and the open flies.

As the interminable train of time chugs along at a steady pace, we enter into a period of consolidation- of working at building upon whatever we have achieved thus far. Because success is relative and because they will be keeping that in mind while scripting epitaphs in our memory, you and I can scarcely afford to rest on our laurels. As young Master Robinson would say (and his distinctly older future self would gladly testify), let's Keep Moving Forward. Thank you Walt Disney, and a warm welcome to our dear readers.

-ED

### ALMOST FAMOUS

While drying one's hair under the autumn sun in the balcony, one's eyes would invariably shift towards the terrace at the far end, where an unfamiliar face would be staring back. This is a glimpse into life in Jawahar Bhawan in the semester that just passed. That unfamiliar but friendly face belonged to none other than **Jan Flämig**, the German exchange student who arrived in IIT Roorkee at the beginning of this semester, much to the pleasant surprise of students and professors alike. Despite his extremely busy schedule in the country, and his haste to leave following the end of his exams, Watch Out managed to finally arrange a date with das einer.

### Q. How different do you think IITR is as compared to TU Munich?

Jan: There is a lot more freedom in TU. The course structure being self-oriented enables us to make our own choices. Here it's much more rigorous with indepth theory. I'm not sure what's better though.



### Q. Any interesting experiences you wish to share with us?

Jan: Ah yes, there have been so many. For instance, this one time in the mess, I was asked the question which all diners dread more than anything else- butter or jam? I made the mistake of replying with "butter and jam". (Ouch, that's the wrong conjunction mate!) The mess guy obviously thought I was a dimwit, so I passed on to the milk counter instead. And how can I forget that legendary night in Punjabi Dhaba (which incidentally is his favourite place to eat out in Roorkee), when this random Masters student approached me with the weirdest request I've ever heard. Apparently he had this friend in Bangalore who wanted to become a footballer, and he wanted to know if I could arrange for a meeting with the top coaches in Germany! (Well, can you?) Am I Luis Van Gaal's next of kin?

### Q. That's hilarious. Okay tell us, why IIT R?

Jan: Look, I had already gone for a semester exchange in Canada last year, and this time I wanted to go to a place where I would be greeted by a totally different culture. I don't have a *fear of the unknown* like so many of my countrymen seem to have about Asian countries. And coming to India obviously meant taking up an IIT- and the best one at that. (The best, seriously? It wouldn't be a bad thing at all if all Germans start thinking like that!)

### Q. What are your views about the lipstick scandal?

Jan: Forgive me, but my dear friends took me away on a trip to South India during the three days of your cult fest. (some smart friends you've got there) But I don't understand what all the fuss was about. I know it was mostly media hype, and believe me, they are the same bunch of cheap masalamongers everywhere in the world, but why people made it into such a big affair is beyond me. I did take special care to avoid any form of liaison with females following that!

### Q. Oh yes, which brings us to the standard and most unavoidable question of all- any crushes here on campus Jan?

Jan: (caught off-guard) Well, I barely got a chance to talk to any female here! There was one girl in my class, I may have spoken a word or two with her. I have no idea why there's such a big gender-barrier in this place. (We're not sure, but the horribly skewed sex-ratio might have something to do with it)

### Q. What do you think of WONA?

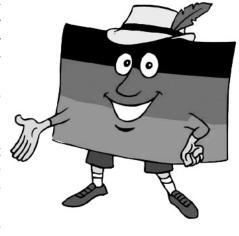
Jan: I like the way you publish the students' opinions and even by not being too scathing on the administration, put pressure on them to bring about necessary changes. That is really admirable, and something that every campus should have. You must do your job, which is bringing about awareness-the rest is in the authorities' hands.

(Danke das einer, you are very gracious.)

### Q. What are the things here that you are going to miss the most?

Jan: I will miss the friends I made here. I had a wonderful time with them- bakar night-outs, football in the Jawahar lawns and sauntering through the campus at unearthly hours. Among the people I met, I can never forget the

Jawahar fruit waalahe was always ready with a plate of my favourite fruits every time I went to him. Having a dhobi to wash my dirty linen is also something I won't be forgetting in a hurry, because back in Germany, we are forced to wash o u r c I o t h e s ourselves!



### Q. It was nice talking to you Jan. Your parting shot?

Jan: My friends, stick to your roots. I've seen a tendency here of imitating the west, which is quite strange and really unnecessary. Please be proud of your country and never change just for the sake of changing.



7:59AM: Monday morning blues... Meet Vela



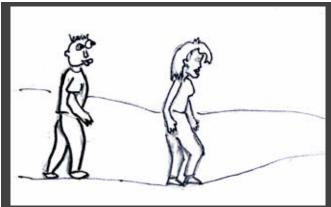
8:20AM:"So by Thompson's law.." Need to fight sleep...

E N

G

E E





9:05AM: Unidentified Female Object spotted. Vela decides to follow her and ask her out.



9:20AM: Object enters Hill View. **Red Alert:** "Run Vela Run"



8:00PM: Fear not my dear *Facchis*, Vela is here. Name the place and Chapo's on me



8:05PM:Penniless, Vela dreads the reaction of the ravenous lot waiting for him.



11:00PM: Vela settles down on his creaky old chair to study for the following day's Metal Processing exam.



11:03PM: He has just about finished reading the first paragraph, when lo! The power is gone. Engulfed in darkness, Vela wishes a slow, painful death for old Murphy.

# newsnotes

### 10th Annual Convocation Ceremony of IIT-R

he convocation has always been a time for celebration and re-union for the newly proclaimed alumni of the institute. Saturday, the 13th of November was indeed such a joyous day. The programme started with the customary Kulgeet and the lighting of the lamps. The Chief Guest for the convocation was Mr. Ajai Chowdhary. The dais was graced by the Director, Prof S.C.Saxena, and Hon'ble Shri Ashok Bhatnagar, Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Director then gave a welcome address and an annual report for the academic year 2009-2010. Later in the evening, IITR's distinguished alumni received some awards for their outstanding contribution to the institute and for making their alma mater proud. The awards for academic proficiency were also distributed. Stealing the limelight was Akhil Langer of B.Tech C.S.E., who was awarded the prestigious President's

Gold medal for obtaining the highest C.G.P.A amongst all the under graduating students of the institute, and Harbani M a l h o t r a o f B . A r c h f o r b a g g i n g the President of India Dr.Shankar Dayal Sharma Gold Medal for outstanding overall proficiency. All the degree recipients had more to look forward to after the ceremony, with photo sessions marking this red letter day.



### **Insatiable JIGYASA**

igyasa, a national level paper presentation contest and the annual flagship event of the Department of Management Studies was held on 15th November at DOMS. The theme of this year's contest was "Management Education in India: An Agenda for Reform". Of the innumerable teams that had applied, only twelve were selected for the final round where they were judged by distinguished personalities. The papers presented by the participants offered innovative ideas and rational reforms that gave an insight into the minds of today's youth, their hopes and aspirations. The gruelling question and answer session with the judges was the highlight of the event. However, as the event progressed the ideas seemed redundant and repetitive. The event went much longer than a person could sit through which resulted in an audience that consisted of only the participants and a precious few others. The event was quite ably organised by the department and we hope to see more of such events in the future. After acing all the challenges, the teams which got the podium finish were:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize :GlinAnto (Welingkar, Banglore)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Jainder Singh Malhotra (DoMS, IIT Roorkee)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Amit Kumar Ameyajoshi (XLRI, Jamshedpur)

### **Search for future SU-KAMs**

On 13th November the Entrepreneurship Development Cell organized an inspiring lecture by Mr. Kunwer Sachdev, the managing director of SU-KAM Powers Ltd. A graduate in statistics, Mr. Sachdev gave the lecture at the Bose Auditorium with a quick overview of his company's products and novel ventures. Much to the delight of budding and enthusiastic entrepreneurs, he went on to share his life experiences and journey from being an inverter mechanic at one point of time to being the M.D. of a 500 crore enterprise. Thereafter, a long interactive question answer session with the audience followed.

### **Capturing the moment**

A Photography Workshop was organized by the photography section on 15th November in the Hobbies Club. Miss Arti Agarwal, an IITR alumnus and a Bangalore based professional photographer, conducted the workshop and gave the students tips on how to improve their photography skills. Her recent award winning works were also showcased as a part of the presentation. Further, she went on to explain how photography depends less on the technicalities, and is more about the way you perceive the world.

### **PAN IIT: The Social Network**

he PAN-IIT Meet, 2010 was held in Greater Noida and was attended by eminent personalities like the Honourable President of India Pratibha Patil, Farooq Abdullah, Sam Pitroda, Kapil Sibal, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Their thoughts facilitated the discussions on sustainable development for a better future. The conference, which was held from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, was

attended by enthusiastic students from all IIT's, including our own. Among the 17 students sponsored by the institute, 7 were from NSS, 5 from SAC and 5 members of the musical band. Three days of intense discussions and deliberations were kicked off by the inaugural ceremony, presided over by Smt. Pratibha Patil.

The second day began with Gurdeep Singh, a 4th year Biotechnology student at IIT Roorkee, making a

presentation on knowledge economy, the current and future focus of business around the world. Other than this, an exhibition provided the participating institutes an opportunity to display their efforts and progress initiatives. The IIT Roorkee booth was abuzz with activity as an

uninterrupted slide show and video presentation kept the guests engaged. Posters by NSS, SIIRD, departments and the central administration provided an insight into IIT Roorkee's incessant efforts towards a better tomorrow.

The evening saw an interactive session for IIT Roorkee which was attended by a strong audience of 200, comprising of students and alumni. Mohit Sanwal, a SAC representative

opened the meeting by inviting all the dignitaries on the dais. The institute was represented by the gracious presence of Prof. S.C. Saxena, Director, IIT Roorkee, Prof. Harsh Sinvhal, Dean, Alumni Affairs, Prof. Manoj Arora, Associate Dean, Academics and Dr. Smita Jha. A short introductory video was presented before all. This was followed by a slide show-aided talk on 'Sustainable Rural Development-an initiative by NSS IIT Roorkee'. A vibrant interaction concluded the

and Dr. Smita Jha. A short introductory video was presented before all. This was followed by a slide show-aided talk on 'Sustainable Rural Development-an initiative by NSS IIT Roorkee'. A vibrant interaction concluded the rening. The conference concluded with an evening to music with the IITR band being adjudged the best all the performing musical bands. All in all, the



awaited evening. The conference concluded with an evening dedicated to music with the IITR band being adjudged the best amongst all the performing musical bands. All in all, the seminar was an enriching experience for the youth, and held promise for a better future.

### **SAMADHAN: Of Rickshaws and Yatras**

n 3rd October, 2010, IIT-R hosted Samadhan- the annual conference on social entrepreneurship. Having always been a business plan competition for social ventures, this year's Samadhan saw a change of events aiming at arousing interest and creating awareness among students about the various facets of entrepreneurship, essentially through lectures and talks by renowned names of the field.

Samadhan '10 constituted three lectures, each concluding with an interactive session between the speaker and the participants. Mr. Manoj Sharma started off the event by giving a lecture on social entrepreneurship and providing possible solutions to certain environmental problems such as garbage disposal, forest fires etc. Dr. Rajat Aggarwal then took the dais and gave a lecture on the "Cycle Rickshaw Project" on which he has been working for quite a while now. He talked about how the design of the conventional rickshaw could be improved and the rickshaw sector could be

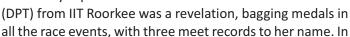
organised on the whole so as to improve the social status of rickshaw pullers. Mr. Ashish Sharma, who had been an active part of the project while in college, then explained how they had worked on ground level and finally, introduced the modified rickshaws to the campus.

The enthusiastic Tata Jagriti Yatra Team, consisting of Mr. Swapnil Kant Dixit and Mr. Aushutosh Kumar took the stage, thereafter. Tata Jagriti Yatra is an eighteen day long train journey covering thirteen destinations. The Yatra, in the representatives' words, provided five red threats to the yatris- external journey, internal journey, innovation, collaboration and transformation. Both the speakers, being IlTians themselves connected with the audience and shared some lessons of life, drawn from their own personal experiences in the IIT environment. They wrapped up the session by stressing on the fact that people with an IIT degree have an obligation to work for the upliftment of the society.

### **Inter IIT Aquatics: A new benchmark in water sports**

he 46<sup>th</sup> Inter IIT Aquatic meet was kicked off with a grand ceremony at the institute swimming pool on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, and the event went on for the next three days. The meet was inaugurated by Dr S.C Saxena (Director, IIT R) together in the presence of Dr N.K. Goel

(DOSW, IIT R) and Dr Saha (Associate Dean, IIT D). The exuberance of the crowd gathered was not let down as the opening water polo match turned out to be a one sided affair with Delhi thrashing Guwahati 6 -2. The good beginning left people with high expectations for the rest of the meet. The next two days saw a total domination of Roorkee in the women's section, while the men's team failed to show any spark. Nivedita Sharma



the men's section the medal tally was not up as expected with just three medals in the bag, missing out on medals in both the relays- 4x100 freestyle and medley- at fourth place, though they were very close calls. The water polo matches were the main crowd pullers, keeping the crowd's

adrenaline pumping throughout the semifinal and the final matches. In what was definitely one of the best matches in the meet, Kanpur won the water polo championship with an exhilarating clash against Kharagpur, grabbing the winner in extra time. The organizers added some spice to the meet by conducting informal events, like diving and penalty shootout. By and large, the meet went on smoothly with the organizers doing a good job at the end



### MEDAL WINNERS FROM IIT ROORKEE

EVENT	NAME	POSITION
200M BACK STROKE(MEN) 100M BREAST STROKE(MEN) 100M BACK STROKE(MEN) 50M FREESTYLE (WOMEN): 100M FREESTYLE (WOMEN): 50M BREAST STROKE (WOMEN): 50M BUTTERFLY STROKE (WOMEN): 4X50M FREE STYLE RELAY (WOMEN): 50M BACK STROKE (WOMEN):	P.S Savan Abhishek Vats P.S Savan Nivedita Sharma Nivedita Sharma Nivedita Sharma Nivedita Sharma Roorkee Nivedita Sharma	3rd 3rd 3rd 2nd 2nd 1st 1st 2nd 1st

### **Blood** is thicker than water

October at the IITR hospital. Several IIT-ians as well as non-IITians turned up at the camp, all motivated to donate blood and contribute towards the welfare of the society, resulting in a collection of more than 350 units of blood. Teams of doctors from IMA, New Delhi and the Himalayan Institute Hospital, Dehradun participated in the camp. Due to the shortage of blood storing packets, many students had to unfortunately return without donating any blood. To appreciate the initiative taken by IIT Roorkee, the participating hospitals promised free blood to all the students, faculty and their family members, and the staff members of IIT Roorkee at their time of need.

### **Free disposal of Nuclear Wisdom**

rof. Hywel R Thomas, Pro Vice Chancellor for Engagement, Cardiff University (UK), gave a guest lecture on the 9th of November in the Mechanical Department Auditorium. Also the Director of the Geoenvironmental Research Centre, Cardiff University (UK), Prof. Thomas discussed the geological disposal of high level nuclear waste during his 2.5 hour long discussion. He c o n c l u d e d w i t h a s h o r t discussion about the job prospects in related fields, and an appeal to the students to pursue a more science based education instead of just following the industry.

### **Highlights of the 46th Inter IIT Sports Meet:**

The 46th Inter IIT Sports Meet was held at IIT Delhi from 15th - 21st December 2010. IIT Roorkee was represented by a contingent of 129 students (105 boys and 24 girls). Over 1700 students from 15 IITs took part in the meet.

The following are the various positions won by IIT Roorkee contingent In the event:

### **Athletics:**

NAME	EVENT	POSITION
Praveen Kr. Meena	800m (Men)	Silver
Praveen Kr. Meena	1500m (Men)	Gold
Praveen Kr. Meena	5000 m (Men)	Gold
Manoj Meena	5000m (Men)	Bronze
Kiran Kumar Dondapati	Shot Put (Men)	Gold
Abhay Mishra	Hammer Throw (Men)	Gold
Virendar Singh	Shot Put (Men)	Silver
Varinder Singh	Hammer Throw (Men)	Bronze
Varinder Singh	Discus Throw (Men)	Bronze
Pragati Chaudhary	200m (Women)	Gold
Yamuna Phal	400m (Women)	Bronze
Yamuna Phal	800m (Women)	Silver
Pragati Chaudhary	Long Jump (Women)	Gold
Vaishali Singh	Long Jump (Women)	Bronze
Pragati Chaudhary, Yamuna Phal, Vaishali Singh, Shivani Gupta	4x100m Relay (Women)	Gold

### **Team Games:**

GAME	MEDAL
Squash (Men)	Gold
Badminton (Men)	Silver
Volleyball (Men)	Silver
Cricket (Men)	Silver
Table Tennis (Women)	Silver
Basketball (Men)	Bronze
Basketball (Women)	Bronze
Tennis (Women)	Bronze
Tennis (Women)	Fourth
Football (Men)	Fourth

### **Weight Lifting:**

NAME	CATEGORY	MEDAL
Avinash	56 Kg	Gold
Lokesh	56 Kg	Bronze
Kenisevi Meyase	77 Kg - Open	Bronze

**Praveen Kumar Meena** was declared the **"Best Athlete"** while **Pragati Chaudhary** was declared the **"Best Women Athlete"** of the meet.

**Kenisevi Meyase** was declared the "**Best Weight Lifter**" in the meet. He also got the "**Best Physique Award**" and was declared "**Mr. IIT**".

In the overall points tally for the General Championship, the IIT Roorkee women's contingent **held the champioship** with **35.16 points** while the men's contingent finished **2nd** with 55.16 points, behind Madras.

### FACE OFF

Is a B.Tech degree enough for a student to become a complete engineer? Postgrads and Undergrads seem to opine differently on the issue. Here goes a showdown between members of the two clans

All our choices, including the eventual career path, depend solely upon our interests. So for anyone who feels like joining the production line or any line different from the core in his branch, a B-tech degree is a qualification good enough to certify that he has a sound technical



Prasun Kumar IV Meta

base. Only those who want to pursue careers in the research and development lines must go for specializations and masters. But then, the answer to this question is affected by various parameters like the methodology of the undergraduate course, the relevance of the courses taught and the emphasis laid on their practical applications. In premier institutes like the IITs, such factors don't really come into play. The courses taught here are relevant and sufficient enough for a person to survive and thrive in the industry. The basics and the fundamentals essential for the industry along with their practical applications are taught properly here. Moreover a compulsory core intern that is followed by a project report and presentation help the student to acquire valuable industry experience.

I feel that for a person who wants to join the industry, a Master's degree is an obsolete waste of time and resources. The two years that I spend surrounded by books (as if we haven't had enough of that already!) could be better utilized if I straight away join a company. In two years time, I will definitely gain more knowledge about my work and also get accustomed to the various tools and machines to be used. A first timer joins any industry as a junior engineer no matter what his technical qualifications are, so there are seniors whom you can learn from and also they can give a more accurate picture and analysis of the work to be done. And then for a person passing out from an institute such as an IIT after a few years a person is given the task of managing projects, so more than his masters he needs a good judgment, sound temperament and a skill to manage the people under him. A lot also depends upon the framework of an industry so anyone who can adjust and adapt to it faster will have the edge over the others.



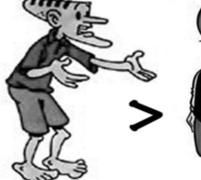
Abhinav Malhotra

The time now calls for specializationeven an MBBS cannot hope to survive in today's world, then how can a B.Tech? B.Techs are taught only ideal cases, smoothened situations which are a far cry from real industry. In the entire duration of a B.Tech course you

study the core subjects only in the third year. The first year is common to all, the second year has the basics of your core along with a few common courses and the fourth year basically has presentations and project reports. How can a person expect to be competent in any industry with a solitary year of studying core subjects?

More than experience, a strong base is required in order to understand all industrial processes and then suggest modifications in them. The only time a B.Tech student gets any practical exposure is during his internship and his BTP. In industries like pharmaceutics, the knowledge of four years is enough because there is a set of predefined steps which you have to follow to ensure smooth functioning of the plant. In industries like petroleum plants, aircraft industry, building dams and other projects on a large scale the B-Tech knowledge can be considered to be of grass root levels. A person with a Masters will be more capable of maintaining the safety of the people working in the plants and to take measures to ensure maximum efficiency at minimal costs. Also, in supervising and regulating a work you need to have strong fundamentals so as to judge the functioning of the unit. The only time where I feel that a person with specialization has wasted his time is when he seeks a job which is different from his area of specialization, but then acquired knowledge is never really a waste.





Circa 1847. Thomason is munching on the last tidbits of his coconut cream roll-sitting in the newly constructed all-purpose mess- enjoying his meal immensely, except for the little matter of his tie falling on his plate and transporting some of the gooey mess on to his polyester shirt. His buttons, constructed meticulously out of the hardened scales of a Kaziranga rhino and emblazoned with the logo of the then lost under-water city of Solanipuram, pop out and hit the bearded gaffer serving gajar ka halwa smack on the forehead. The result is an unceremonious eviction from the mess for our hero, who walks dejected towards the Ganga canal to drown his sorrows.

One button popping out-voted the greatest fashion disaster of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. That night, Thomason made a



### Roorkee wears Prada

В

rom the mandatory blazer and tie of the University era to the Galloping IlTians of today, fashion in IITR has certainly come a long way. Unlike those days, there aren't any dress codes imposed on students in the messes and classrooms, and that has only served to bring to the fore the avant garde trends of our native Armanis and Calvin Kleins. They cannot be blamed for taking some liberty with their fashion sense, considering that they spent the best part of their previous lives in baggy pants and morbid sweaters, having no better occupation than to ogle at oversized skirts that flirt dangerously with the floor. Whacky hair-dos, Osama-esque beards, multicoloured sweatshirts with gangster hoods, low-waist jeans and stylish heels- at first sight, one would almost think that IITR owns the word fashion. Or not.

Come *Vogue* and our fashion stalwarts are left red-faced by their richer cousins from Dehradun and Delhi. Forget the oily-haired geeks and the khaki clad Masters, even those who boast of something called a fashion sense pale in comparison to their more illustrious compatriots from down the road. And that doesn't really come as a shock for a town where far from a praiseworthy style of dressing up, the inhabitants instead boast of questionable hygiene and a couldn't-care-less attitude. In our defence, we are IlTians, the crème de la crème of the nation, and we give as much attention to fashion as Rakhi Sawant gives to world peace. And as the age old mathematical adage goes, beauty\*brains=constant.

Despite the clear population majority the male gender enjoys, the fashion statements they make are not any better than those made by Bhuppi or even Laloo Prasad Yadav. Some turn up for classes (and even for placement interviews allegedly) impeccably in their hawai chappals, while a few of our south Indian brethren clearly illequipped to such low temperatures seem to have taken refuge in monkey-caps and bear-skin jerk-ins. Some adorn airy lungis, oversized polyester shirts with floral decorations and bright painted-on jeans unabashedly, just as unabashedly as their metropolitan counterparts wear the same Metallica tee-shirts and low-waist jeans over and over again. Be it coconut oil or Bryllcreem that they apply, the hair is still as unkempt as ever.

If you thought men are from Mars, then IITR's behenjis are from a galaxy far far away. While the former lot loafs around in chappals and ponders over the futility of dressing up for a class, the females are busy brushing their hair and taking last minute looks into the mirror. But to what end? An anonymous 3<sup>rd</sup> year has the cheek to pip, "As far as I am concerned, there is not much difference in the dressing styles of the gentlemen and the ladies". The ones who dare to apply colour to their hair, lips or toes are branded as witches and burnt at stake. The fact that even the metropolitan gals seem to transmogrify into Savitris upon their arrival here tends to raise an eyebrow or two. As much as we'd love to crib about the inmates of the fortress, maybe deep down, the idealist within us can't help but pride that the sisterhood's pursuits still remain intellectual in a country where dressing morals seem to dropping by a few centimetres of clothing material every passing year.

#### Don't judge a book by its cover

The campus is home to birds of different flocks- there are the simpletons who chose to remain blissfully ignorant in their world of formal attire, the truly intellectual who don't give two hoots to how they dress up in public, and then there are the wannabes whose sincere attempts at flashiness end up inviting a lot of scorn and derision. But in a place like Roorkee where up is down and down is up, the question of whether a person can be judged by his fashion sense has been a fundamental one plaguing us since way back in 1847.

This doesn't happen too often, but none of us can deny that we have never once mistaken the gender of a person from a distance, when the person's back is turned against us. Without once meaning to offend anyone, one can squarely place the blame for the same on the rapidly converging fashion trends in males and females. While long hair, pony-tails and ear-rings are common among guys now, it is no secret that tomboys are calling the shots in the sisterhood. And then, there is the "happy" lot. Keeping in tune with public perception, these fine young men are often spotted with other fine young men, adorned in tight tees and flamboyant jeans (only the cowboy boots are missing). As far as judgment goes, the common IITian sticks to his clichés – bespectacled are the geeky lot, the boldly dressed ones are promptly branded deviants and the bearded ones, failures! Perhaps it is time we cast aside our petty cognitions and broaden our horizons.



### **Roorkee's fashion legacy:**

It is basic human nature to counter any problem with excuses, and Roorkee's inability to provide viable fashion avenues is a convenient cushion to rest our lame-ass justifications on. Admittedly, it is the conservative mindset of the junta on and off campus and the incessant clamour of the self-proclaimed moral police that makes Roorkee as much of a tinsel town as Taliban-occupied Afghanistan.

A pretty girl promenading in red-haute miniskirts in Connaught Circle would hardly raise more than an eyebrow or two- but the same in Roorkee is nothing short of a thought crime. While dress-codes have not been explicitly laid down in our rule-book, there is an unspoken consensus on campus about dressing with dignity (the same dignity that was set as a precedent by our ancestors a century ago). However, the fact remains that the likes of Javed Habib and Shehnaz Hussain haven't exactly become hostel-hold names here. As far as branded clothes go, while Koutons, Adidas and Flying Machine act as saving graces, we are not really spoilt for choices in Roorkee.

Despite everything, there are a select few on campus who stand out by virtue of being fashionably eccentric. Whether it's the collared up fluorescent shirts or oversized dark shades at night, their fashion style is either way ahead of our times or so far behind that no one remembers it. Walk into any DJ event and you can spot them practicing one dance step after another with all the grace of angry chimps stomping on cockroaches.

Grieving the long snapped connections with the outer, slightly more fashionable world, Roorkee has grown into a tinsel town with its own share of the gorgeous and the grotesque. Absurdity in diversity is seen at its best here. Some, like Rohit Doshi profess that, "fashion is a camouflage for the unconfident". Then, there are those who'd stuff themselves into the trendiest of clothes, without any compassion for the dress or their own appearance. While dictionary.com may define fashion as 'a prevailing custom or style of dress', fashion is after all what we define it to be. To end it with the epic words of the Bardto be or not to be- that is, was and shall always be the

question.

### **Wisdom of the Classes**

#### Priyanka Soni, IITR Alumni

"The Fashion sense in Roorkee is defined by anything even remotely fashionable brought to this place by people from cities like Delhi. Alas, in recent past it has also been defined by 50%+30% discounts at Koutons and some other stores."

"It's better for girls to tone down the fashion because Profs are the first people to form a negative image than the peers"

"New trends wear out too soon in Roorkee because it is a small campus, hence you keep running into the same people many times over in the same day and there are just a couple of places to hang out."

On Shopping -"I never shopped in Roorkee (except for sports wear). I occasionally went to Doon on a fun trip and happened to check out some stores. In general I'd rather shop in my home town or stop at CP"

#### Richa Gupta, Ex-FashP, IITR Alumni

"One thing that I strongly feel is that students need to get over the school bags sported by almost everyone in Roorkee, especially the girls if you compare it to other colleges & cities. College girls are expected to carry handbags than shoulderbags."

"Don't just blindly follow(&/or flaunt) what's 'in',you should also be able to carry it well!

### **Wisdom of the Masses**

### Gaurav Prajapati, Btech Electrical 2<sup>nd</sup> year

"I was a fashion disaster in my first year, but now my floral shirts and cream colored tights make me look cool"

### Vikraman Karunanidhi, M.Sc. Physics 2<sup>nd</sup> year

"If your hair doesn't have oil, it's as bad as eating rice with a spoon."

### Anonymous fourth year

"A girl once went for her internship interview in noodle straps, leather pants and boots. And guess what, she made it through!"

The number of Nobel laureates having formerly studied in the IIT's of India is at a staggering value of... zero. Archimedes' bathtub, Newton's apple and Einstein's inflatable universe might be good bedtime stories, but can we expect PC's bun panga any time soon? WONA asks resident genius Dr. Alok Mishra, Department of Physics, on the prospects and realities of pure research taking place on campus,

### **VERBATIM**

#### How conducive is research on campus?

The administration is still caught in a time

warp. A lot of unnecessary paper work is demanded. Contribution is infinitesimally small on the individual level but undergraduate research has got into shape with the institute's research programme, SURA. One of the incidents I am really proud of is that 6 years ago, a 1<sup>st</sup> year CSE student approached me for a project on string theory- we did it and it was published as well.

#### What are your views on Science as a career option?

With science as a career, people should realize that it takes time to get recognition. With the opening of new IITs and other research institutions, people are now rushing to fill them up. Besides, there are many research institutes which are slowly coming to the limelight particularly because of individual contributions. Considering the number of opportunities that have come up of late, their lies a great potential for science students in India.

#### Do you think students here live up to the IIT tag?

I personally feel that students entering the institute through JEE must be smart enough. Reasons are unknown as to why only a small fraction of students are eager to learn, though they are inquisitive. Even though a lot of students take up internships, their work other than academics, I feel, is negligible.

### What according to you is the difference between IIT's & the lvy League?

Basically the difference lies in the quality of teachers and the freedom given to students. Students should be given the freedom to do what they want, under mentorship. Also lesser amount of paperwork exists there. Here in IIT, the administration lays emphasis on details which reduces one's flexibility to do work.

### What is your current field of research?

I deal with unification of forces. My prime interests lies in string theory and space-time dimensionality. From 2007-2009 I was dealing with cosmological aspects of string compactification geometrics and since 2009 I have been working on its phenomenological aspects. Also next summer I would be visiting LHC as a member of a theoretical group.



In the greatest tie-up of the century yet, WONA joins hands with none other than Julian Assange. If you thought divulging White House secrets was blasphemous, then brace yourself for startling revelations of hitherto unseen proportions. We proudly present WONALeaks - A very very special story indeed.

Hail the saviour! Hail the mighty, silent and ever so haddu VVS Laxman! If the fall of the tyrants, those infidel usurpers, those fairness cream proponents of doom, the Australians (hisses and jeers) occurs before our eyes, it must surely be due to the heroics and death-defying innings played by India's most understated epitome of efficiency, VVS Laxman. Those battle-ravaged Aussies now fend for their lives against a resurgent England, who were given the boot ages back, courtesy [mun mein] Rajnigandha. And yet, our hero's history has remained engulfed in mystery. The angst that riddles this great cricketer is a story; the helmet hides the grief within. Long before the Chappell brothers tried to infiltrate, and violate, the Indian dressing room, long before Bhajji was wrongly accused of calling Symonds a monkey (when he was only insulting his family), and long before bearded Indian doctors were proclaimed as the latest auctioned acquisitions of the Taliban, the land of Australia was a desert island. It still is. The Laxman household lived in an expansive estate in Sydney- his father, Dashrath, was the pioneering creator extraordinaire of the Laxman Rekha, a kangaroo repellent that he named after his beloved son. The Rekha was a rage all over- a quick, efficient and carcinogenic way of getting rid of those mangy varmints, who had a notorious habit of pooping in your backyard. It wasn't long before the State Health department decided to incarcerate Dashrath for alleged usage of Koala teeth in his trademark product. It could only go downhill from there, as eventually after a protracted legal battle the family was deported back to India. Now, piecing together evidence from Wonaleaks and some highly trusted tabloids of England, we unravel the following conversation:

**State prosecutor:** G'day Mate! Hope you're having a bonzer time!

**Ambassador:** G'day! Just playing boomerang with my sons! We'll be having tucker soon!

**State prosecutor:** Nice, mate, nice! I was just wondering, Outback Bob and I were having a chat about the Laxman boy. Plays good cricket. We're wondering if we could have him back.

**Ambassador:** Jumbucks! It isn't possible now. We just relocated him to the vilest place in this here country, Hyderabad.

**Prosecutor:** Shame that, guess we'll have to take the Waugh brothers now
The rest, they say, is history

### TECH-ILA SHOTS

#### THE BIGGEST BROTHER

Imagine a supercomputer in some obscure corner of this universe being fed trivial and seemingly pointless bytes of information about your daily life- the name of the charming girl you just met, your shoe size, your grades last semester and so forth. Now what if this computer had the power and means to connect these microcosms of information to determine your past, predict the future and know the present? In short, the key to unlocking every secret information about you and then to lay it bare before the world. Amidst such fears of an approaching Orwellian dystopia comes Google's latest offering, Chrome OS. Following Google's core tenet: Keep it simple, stupid (KISS), Chrome OS is based on the ground-breaking yet inevitable merger of the PC and the Internet. Google does away with the desktop and loads the browser upon booting (a mere 7 seconds at last count, and still decreasing!). The browser, serving as the focal point of your computing, can be used to run multimedia applications and surf the net, simultaneously.

This Linux based operating system could have several farreaching consequences. Hard drives will be rendered useless by a concerted shift towards web-based applications, internet speeds will necessarily burgeon and the spotlight will no longer be on processing power. By integrating all daily applications with the internet, Chrome has taken the first step towards cloud computing for the masses. Although widely hailed as the OS of the future, Chrome has seen its fair share of criticism already. Google's primary target being Netbook users, the de-focus on computing power may result in intensive applications (ala Photoshop) and heavy games not being compatible with this OS. Further, contrary to the open source dogma, Chrome OS will not be available as a download to run and install and will only ship with select hardware. Thankfully, Google has released the source code of Chrome's basic framework under the Chromium OS project. Farfetched as it may sound, the fact remains that Google has now forced its way into every sphere online, be it email, social networking or even maps. And now with its entry into the OS market, fears of a totalitarian relapse are hardly misplaced.

All said and done, Chrome OS holds enormous potential and might bring an end to the OS wars. This could well be the one operating system to rule them all. The one OS to find you, and in darkness decimate you!



### EDITORIAL

#### RANDOMNESS OF NATURE

Can the course of nature be totally random? Have we been sent here with no definite aim or purpose to serve? This might be a truly frightening possibility- but considering that humanity has forever grappled with the terrible inability to control its own fate, randomness and seeming unpredictability of nature gains all the more prominence. It stands to reason that any person's life is strewn with incidents of remarkably haphazard and erratic nature. If one looks for such instances among the ordinary experiences of life, numerous examples that come to mind include stock prices, coin tosses and weather patterns.

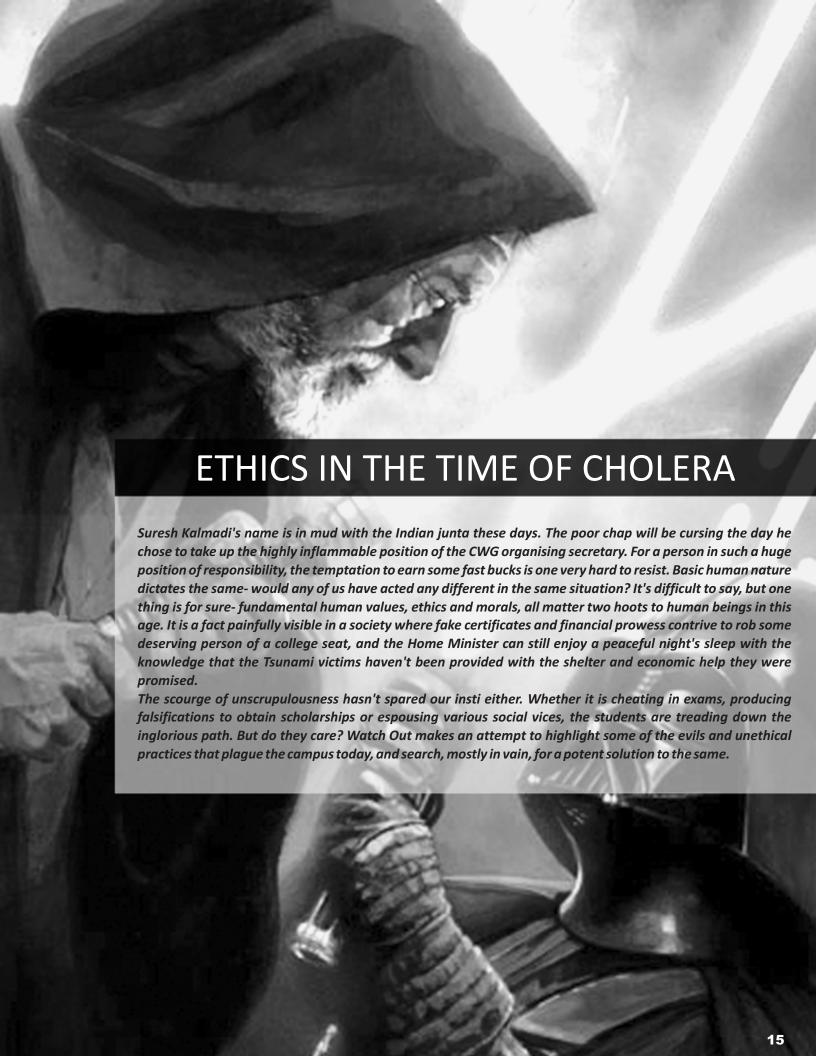
The defining aspect of all these phenomena lies in their obvious unpredictability – they are unknown ahead of time, and generally cannot be forecast with anything approaching perfect accuracy. The very thought that our universe could have been lucky to have survived for so long, is ludicrous and scary at the same time. We could not, for example, arrive at a principle like that of entropy without introducing some additional principle, such as randomness.

Belonging to an age where the use of the word 'random' is so painfully frequent, where different meanings are provided to it in different situations, it might bother us to discover that that which seemed arbitrary should in fact possess some inherent pattern (explicit or less so). True randomness being theoretical and purely subjective is not that blasphemous an idea as it is often considered to be. Random sampling using atmospheric noise or radioactive decay has proven successful with various algorithms to test true randomness. Mapping triplets from a long string of numbers to spherical coordinates might indeed form a noise sphere proving the existence of the connection one number has with the next.

But the thought is not just mathematical as it applies very well to life, the universe and invariably everything else. The question of whether there is anything such as fate at all or if it is just a load of tosh, is related to the law of cause and effect. After all, who knows what effect the bread you ate last Monday might have on the presentation you have this Wednesday. The notions of 'Karma', 'fate', 'will of God' and 'Quantum mechanics' were all born to be different ways of discerning unpredictability.

Ironically, Albert Einstein was a non-supporter of Heisenberg's uncertainty, the tool Bohr used to expose the flaws in his thought experiments. Proving the supposition-the orthodox Copenhagen interpretation- based on describing observables in terms of pure randomness and the collapse of uncertainty was to prove a mere impasse. Just as Schrodinger's cat is either dead or alive regardless of the vault being opened, the underlying order that the universe has is indisputable, albeit ulterior. If so, what is the end then to the cycle of misfortune that life is? As Holmes once said, "There is the great standing perennial problem to which human reason is as far from an answer as ever".

Quoting Einstein, "Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous." Howsoever banal it may sound now; God wasn't playing dice when he made us





#### The Greatest Heist

Greed is the name of the green eyed-monster that has been running amok in R-land for the past several years. The evil practitioners of IITR can easily give even the disgraced CWG organizing committee a run for their money. Financial fraudulency is no longer restricted to just the bureaucratic elite sitting in high offices, having now become an alternate and admittedly smarter (and definitely more rewarding) source of income for some of the brightest minds of the country.

'Tradition dictates that corruption should thrive at all levels in a Government Institution', comes as a striking justification from Pratima Rathore, 3<sup>rd</sup> year B. Arch. One doesn't need to look much farther than our own institute to see how this works. For instance, isn't a person's ability of organizing a major event judged to a large extent by his subtle dexterity in filling up his own coffers? It should come as no surprise that students are not averse to pulling off their own version of the Satyam saga inside the campus, and in great style too. 'I remember that prizes weren't distributed to the karaoke winners in Thomso 2009. Nobody has any idea what happened to them', reminds Charul Agarwal, 4<sup>th</sup> year.

What is a matter of greater concern is that the ignorant junta does not seem to be unduly worried by all this. "It's actually the extent which matters", says Sachin Gupta, 3<sup>rd</sup> P&I. Is there some pre-defined degree of wrong-doing, some limit beyond which certain wrong-doing should be frowned upon, nay dealt strictly with? Such dubious characterisation is hardly going to do anybody any good. The kind of behaviour that allows one to tolerate even mild corruption reflects heavily on the general opinion on accumulation of easy money all over the country.

"Money is without doubt the biggest incentive for any rational person to work at his full potential", Anish 3<sup>rd</sup> year ECW opines, providing certain vindication for the above hypothesis. "Embezzlement of funds is obviously there. But to a certain extent it is justified in fests as students get a taste of the real world", feels Deepak Jaroli P&I 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It comes as a compromise, a part of your evolution as a fitter individual for the cruel means of today's society. To what extent this actually justifies the act is questionable though.

# Laplace Transforms

### **Another Brick in the Wall**

Books, grades and research are no longer the holy trinity of an engineering student's life: they have been replaced by the much deadlier troika of proxying, cheating and cribbing. The time when indulging in these vices used to prick one's conscience is history. While calling proxies and cheating in examinations have reached all time high levels now, so much so that even the professors seem to have reluctantly accepted this unpleasant affliction, whining about anything and everything has become an inseparable part of a student's life here.

"Nobody seems to care a great deal about ethics. It is widely accepted that honesty seldom pays; in the end, all that matters are the grades you obtain", says Shikhar Srivastav, 3rd Year. Although such an attitude exists among the students, are they really to blame for this? "Why should I be expected to go to classes and waste my time? Of course I will ask my friend to proxy for me. And I'll gladly reciprocate", says a student on the condition of anonymity. While many feel that the 75% attendance rule is an archaic remnant of the draconian UoR era, others feel it is entirely justified. Granted the long exhaustive classroom hours, it may be argued that the institute needs to take some efforts, however superficial, to becalm the students.

Rearing its ugly head behind the spectre of this menace is the omnipresent problem of cheating. A good percentage of students seem to have developed this knack on their arrival in IITR, while some others owe it to their experience. "Although I have never been that good at copying in exams, I never felt guilty the few times I did so. Instead I felt good, I got

good grades even after studying less", admits a student, with a sheepish but unapologetic smile. Though some subjects do seem like long lists of random facts all put together haphazardly, can cheating be condoned even morally, if not in the rule book? Reasonable or not, does the end justify the means?

"I would never support cheating; but it would be sad to see anyone fail or get a bad grade after an entire semester's hard work just because of 1 or 2 marks. It's not like the professors make life any easier for us", says Rohit Doshi, 2nd Year Electrical. And this brings us to the third black mark, cribbing. The general feeling people tend to garner is that of defiance, of cribbing against anything and everything they perceive on campus. Though the professors seem to give us endless grief over this tutorial, that practical or low attendance, is disrespecting them justified?

"There is a popular notion among students that most professors are not good, and I cannot disagree with that", guips a student. "Profs are more often than not arrogant and unenthusiastic. I don't sympathise with them one bit", he continues. This seems to be a chronic problem, inbred within us either due to peer pressure or sheer incompetence. Whatever be the case, blasé comments on professors seem to cross a line, more often than not. "Kuch nahin aata" seems to be their favourite line, however overqualified their teachers might be. "The credentials and experience of the professors here surely demands respect, but their mentality drives us against them", seems to be the general consensus. Though these don't seem to be tangible problems at all, some sort of compromise must be found. Blaming the system has become so clichéd it no longer makes any sense to do so. A stronger forum for student-teacher interaction is definitely a must. More personal attention to each student seems to be one of the logical solutions, but the question of feasibility springs to mind.

#### **Dum Maro Dum**

Dimly lit rooms, Pink Floyd playing in the background, and half a dozen visibly stoned people swaying in unmistakable euphoria: have a peek into the seductive life-styles of the 'high-flying' 'free-spirited' community of IITR. The propensity for social intoxication has reached all-time high levels, with more and more once-innocent people embracing the dark side for a medley of reasons, most commonly under the influence of their chums who have already strayed down this road.

"The driving factors for those taking refuge in such addictions vary from peer pressure to melodramatic relationship sagas", feels Anish 3<sup>rd</sup> year ECW. Sandeep Chatterjee, Electrical IDD 4<sup>th</sup> year, has his own opinions - "Most guys do it because they are bored with life; others do it for entertainment and to give company to their friends. Pressure of studies doesn't really have a lot to do with it".

These self-proclaimed RocknRollas have little or no regrets about taking up drinking. The practice of emulating their seniors in every possible way goes a long way in instigating the students to indulge in such activities. And needless to say, the authorities are as helpless about the scourge of

alcoholism as a chicken in a butcher's hands.

"Presence of alcohol shops just outside the campus aggravates the situation. The students are heavily influenced by movies, which to a certain extent glorifies it", opines Shikhar Srivastav, CS IDD, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. "It's totally a matter of personal choice, and I don't consider it too bad a thing. I have however observed that people who drink regularly prefer to stay laid back and withdrawn from campus activities", says Anshul Deedwania Int. MS Chemistry 2 year.

Drinking has long been accepted in all societies with no worse an adjective than 'a necessary evil'. The tonic they gulp down with such relish may not exactly work wonders for their hearts and livers, and their neighbours may not take very kindly to their drunken antics, but drinking leads to quicker bonding with fellow students, takes one's mind off more pressing matters and in many cases, succeeds in projecting the drunkards as some sort of daredevils in the eyes of the meek ones who are derided for passing the offer. Whether the devils know that they're merely delaying the inevitable is another matter altogether.

### **Wrong Diagnosis**

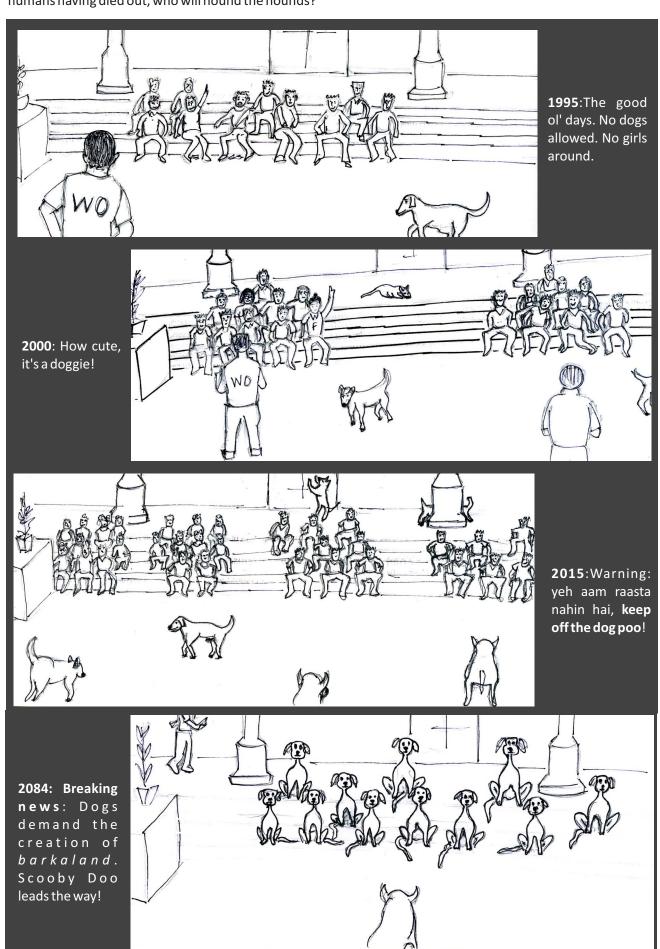
Hitler rose to prominence in 1930s and the world saw doom. We might not face problems of such epic proportions at the moment, but there is little doubt that we are riding downhill, and on a very steep slope too. Corruption will not stop breeding contempt from the society overnight- people might become more tolerant to it than before, but what is wrong remains wrong for eternity in the eyes of every saint and sinner in the world. To open our eyes to this epidemic would take courage of a very different sort than what the likes of Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar boasted of.

Every saint has a past, but does every sinner have a future?



### It's a dog's life

Inspired by the government's increased population intake into IITs, our canine friends on campus decided to take matters into their own hands. Senate Steps shall soon be witness to a terrible population inversion. With the humans having died out, who will hound the hounds?



### $\mathsf{W} \mathsf{O} \mathsf{R} \mathsf{C}$

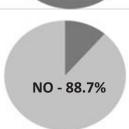
Convocation has come to pass, and the newly declared expatriates of our college have returned. Tears of reunion aside, their presence raises some cynical questions. WONA tries to understand the reasons why certain students vow never to return, while others would gladly spend a day or two in their beloved alma mater. We ask Dr. Harsh Sinhval, Dean of Alumni Affairs, IIT Roorkee, on the relationship of the institute with its ex-students:



### Are you proud of your alumni?

YES - 79.7%

Do you think the current institute platforms for interaction between students and alumni are beneficial?



### What according to you is the importance of such an interaction?

I consider student-alumni interactions to be of considerate importance. Knowledge of the accomplishments and the current positions they hold in their respective fields gives the students a role model to look up to and to strive to reach their level of success. Having contacts with the alumni helps the students get a larger scope of contact with the outside world for the advantage of building up a strong interactive network and also helps to improve placements and internship contacts.

### Do you think the alumni contribution to the institute is sufficient?



### What is your say on the current state of the contribution of the alumni towards the institution?

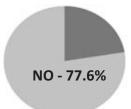
Contact with the alumni makes the institute more resourceful financially and networking-wise. The issuing of the stamp depicting 150 years of IIT-R was possible due to contacts with the alumni present in the relevant fields. Financially we cannot say the contribution is very sizable, however in all the other aspects the alumni can be considered of great importance.

### What are the platforms that the institute has offered for student-alumni interaction?

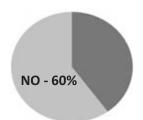
There are several schemes that have been taken care of by the institute to promote interaction between the students and alumni:

- 1) IIT-R heritage foundation which organizes lectures by its alumni at regular intervals.
- 2) Jubilee Alumni Meet which is conducted annually wherein the 25th, 50th, 60th jubilee alumni meet. This includes interaction with the students.
- 3) A major step towards this would however be the soon-to-belaunched online portal-SAMPARK where a student can choose a desired alumnus as mentor with his/her approval.

Do you think initiatives like PAN-IIT are efficient for such an interaction?



Do you see IITR and UoR alumni differently?



### The participation of IIT-R in PAN-IIT has been ever increasing. Do you think this is part of a general trend where alumni are looking forward to giving back to their alma mater?

PAN-IIT is organized in India and the USA every alternate year. The participation of the alumni of a certain institute is greatly determined by the venue of the meet. This year's venue-Delhi obviously managed to attract a larger crowd. Also previous year's PAN-IIT brought great honour to our campus as it was headed and well organized by Mr. Ramesh Mehra, an alumnus of our institute.

### Do you see the UOR and IIT-R alumni differently?

The IIT-R alumni has been freshly started in the year-2002. Being too young and focused on developing their career, the current contribution of the IIT-R alumni does not equal the contribution of the UOR alumni towards the institute. The change from UOR to IIT has given the institute a well established brand name and has helped with an increase in government grants. Though the institute has lost its individuality to a certain extent as being a part of a larger system requires it to fall in line with them, the prosoverweigh the cons. The IIT-R alumni will definitely equal the contributions made by the UOR alumni in a few more years to come.



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