

WATCHOUT

Students' News Magazine

cover story

Sounds of Silence₉

verbatim

Director's Last Address₂₉



big story

It's a Wonderful Life₂₃

WE LAFF





WONA 2010-2011

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Chairman's Address

I don't get a lot of practice as far as writing goes. Sure, I can claim to be an internationally recognized essayist, a national level quizzier and a stirring orator but then you'd know it as well as I do that I'm lying and you'd rather read the Hindu backwards than read this drivel. So I'll be very honest. The fact of the matter is this- it's difficult for any tween to write a few hundred words believing the world is going to follow every iffy punctuation mark. You can't expect that. It becomes even more ludicrous to consider the existence of a magazine written by a mix-n-match group of random strangers who claim to wield the pen of journalism at IIT Roorkee.

As a child, when I was dazzling the world with my extraordinary ability to fall ill, life was (to say the least) in Technicolor. Things have changed, and how. Today, the most we can do to fight corruption is to stomp out of our homes in Anna Hazare's name and traipse back in the evening with a feeling of fulfilment and achievement (never mind the small detail of not knowing what the Act actually contains). India is supposedly the next superpower; it's only a matter of time before we fly a stealth helicopter into neighbouring Bhutan and crash it into the ravines.

Watchout has seen this change. We've seen it all. We had humble beginnings, followed by spurts of great progress, and months of intense discussions that have shaped the thinking of a set of students who try to give the Roorkee junta some respite from the turmoil in their lives. Over the past one year, we've tried to make the magazine more useful, more accessible and more relevant for the hundreds of students who all carry distinct tastes and preferences. It's impossible to satiate everyone's expectations but we tried our best. Our website is up next, visit www.wona.co.in for more.

As I said before, I don't write much. Forgive me for this small moment of indulgence. But thank you so much for contributing to the marvellous theatre of squeals that is IIT Roorkee, and by extension, giving Watchout a chance to be the story-teller of the show.

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First Speaker's Last

I can often hear the crunching sound of chocolate wafers from my brother's pockets when he's around. He keeps several packets hoarded on his person at any time, all collected from sources sundry and saved to be munched upon at his own leisure. Unlike the White Shark that believes in ravaging the innards of its prey the moment it lays eyes upon it, my brother's philosophy in life involves preserving the best for as long a time as possible- because once it is consumed, obliterated, finished, there is nothing good to look forward to. I realised in a disconcerting way that it made a mighty lot of sense as well.

The same holds for an excellent work of cinematography or penmanship. I might have reasons aplenty to envy the Maddu chronophile, but none bigger than this- he is yet to watch the best movie Christopher Nolan ever made. It mortifies me to envision a being that still hasn't been exposed to the shock-and-awe aftermath associated with said masterpiece. For the wondrous trickery of *The Prestige* has amazed me so often that it hardly makes any difference now. I have come to love the movie like none other, but the greatest desire of my life is to erase its memory from my mind so I could go over the matchless shock-and-awe ritual once again. And then again. And again.

The most disquieting truth I have grasped in the farewell turmoil of the last few days is that the only good thing in life is memories and memories alone. There was a time when as a daft freshman, I had to be cajoled out of bed by then-strangers (angels the lot) to take as much as a peep into the fiery goblet that was to spew forth names for this campus news magazine. Reluctantly, I had entered my name as well. The life I had known till then and the life that followed as a consequence were unrecognisable from one another. The life I will know now will be even further so. But rather than reclining on my chair and being cosy with such inspiring moments that were, I would find salvation in starting over again. I believe this is where I must bring my idiosyncratic rant to an abrupt end and get on with the editorial.

This magazine has undergone an unprecedented evolution in the 3 years of my servitude. Chiraunji Lal gave way to Vela Vagabond; Purple Cow flattered to deceive as a worthy mascot, but somehow still survived; we moved over placements and grades and focused instead on offbeat alumni and magpies on campus. In a way, we changed in consonance with the campus- yet, in essence, we remain the same flock of dreamers who first dared to vanquish growing monotony by founding this erstwhile print-media. Needless to say, every batch that came and passed left a lasting impression on Watch Out. Cheers were exchanged and tears were shed, Happy Days encountered as well as dark ages; there was chaos as often as harmony, disturbance as often as serenity- but through it all, the force remained strong within the mag.

Those waiting in the ranks to take over from the faithful departed bring with themselves glorious uncertainties as well as glorious promise. The magazine might be poorer for one batch calling it a day, but it will be richer for another that will join very soon. All I can do is look back wistfully at all that was and all that could have been, and reminisce about the same over a cup of coffee with my retiring brothers in arms. For one last time, I urge you to witness the contents of this issue unravel before your eyes. You will not be left disappointed.

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almost famous



Courtesy: Sanat Rath

Everything is designed in this world. But only few among them are designed well. Those that come from the palette of Sanat Rath, however fall into the aforementioned class. Architecture, Cogni, Inter-IIT Baddy, Entrepreneur, Kshitij, Design God... before his varied exploits end up filling more space than what is available to us, we better begin with the interview as it unfolds over a glass of Cola Shikanji in the Ravindra Canteen.

WONA: To break the ice with clichés, tell us about your crushes on campus?

Sanat: My first crush was on an Archi senior, Priyanka Soni, who graduated in 2009. (Isn't it an Archi thing to have crushes on your grandmothers?!) Then there were other couple of insignificant ones that didn't really last long... (And how many of them are known to your girlfriend, by the way?)

WONA: Most memorable aspect of life at IITR?

Sanat: I'll miss the umpteen numbers of Baddy hangouts at CCD and Dominos, the Kshitij trips to Mussoorie and Rishikesh, and above all, the Ravindra Canteen! (Is it another of your tricks to earn a meagre discount from Bhuppi?!)

WONA: What is that one craziest thing you have done on campus?

Sanat: Once I was getting late for an exam, and the old and weary rickshaw puller wasn't really bothered to go fast, so I ended up riding the rickshaw myself! (Watch Out Lance Armstrong!)

WONA: Were you always this good at designing, or did Roorkee do something to you?

Sanat: I always liked designing. But it was when I was asked to leave IMG in my first year, that I started devoting more of my vella time to designing. (Revenge is a dish best served designed, eh?)

WONA: How was Archi to you?

Sanat: 4 years back, I had a choice between CS @ BITS-P and Archi @ Roorkee. Now I'm glad that I chose the latter over the first one. (Don't be mistaken. In Architecture, the department chooses YOU!!!) I have always believed that doing well in a less competitive field is better than performing average in a better field. (If the grass seems to be greener on the other side of the campus, you can bet that the water bill is definitely higher!)

WONA: You recently put as your FB status that you'd teach anybody who approached you regarding any kind of design software, during your 'birth-week'. Firstly, belated birthday wishes. On a second thought, you don't really seem that vella?

Sanat: Haha! Well that status had a story. (Or so you'd like others to think?) In first year I was disappointed with a design senior, who didn't teach us much before leaving the institute. So my basic intention was to give back whatever I learned from this place. (What about teaching other not-so-glorious stuff that this place taught you?)

WONA: Alright. Time for some bitter revelations now, Khai-Khai?

Sanat: Baddy or Kshitij – Baddy
Design or Kshitij – Design
Design or Baddy – Design

WONA: Wow, that was quick. Okay now on a parting note, what do you think of us?

Sanat: You people have been doing a brilliant job, I don't think I've ever missed any of your issues. My only advice would be that you should put in more efforts on your Cover Pages. (Oh, we should have seen it coming, especially from you!)

All's well that ends well after all – especially if it ends with a chapo! Thank you Sanat, here's wishing you good luck (as if you need any) for your future endeavours...

for a few choices **MORE**

Each day in the rigmarole of life we are bombarded with numerous options – room allotments, the order to place in the canteen, choosing an elective for the next semester, or on the TV at home. From the IIT-JEE counselling to the age-old NCC/NSS/NSO confusion in freshmen year, it's very hard to imagine a world where there are no alternatives to choose from. No order in a restaurant is placed without going through the list of options in the menu. In the mess, on the other hand, we are doomed to have what is served without an alternative. The absence of choices teaches us acceptance; but their presence provides us with some security for the future.

To some people, there exists a world where there are too many choices. Too many opportunities for them to later feel the pangs of making the wrong choice. So, no matter what the decision to be made is, choices put them in a state of perplexed existence, ever raising the perennial question of 'What If I had taken the other one?' A study done by the Columbia University, US reveals that although the presence of choices might be appealing as a theory, in reality, people might find a plethora of choices to be debilitating. Probably that is why Henry Ford was so successful in selling Model T's – "You can have it in any colour you like, as long as it is black."

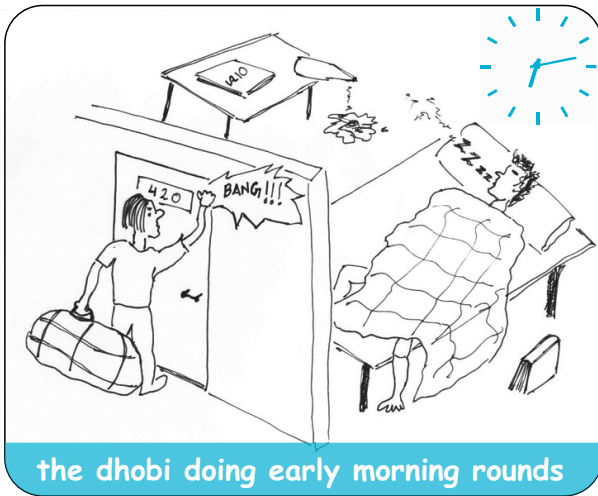
On the contrary, having a number of alternatives opens in our mind a multitude of different possibilities available to us. Choices can be as insignificant as selecting the next movie to be on our playlist or as crucial as choosing our careers. Choices open for us, the doors for making decisions that define our destiny, make all the difference between humans and lifeless puppets being pulled by the strings. If not for choices, music would have meant the same for everyone; and not Beethoven or Himesh Reshammiya.

Henry Dunant, the founder of a Red Cross society laid its foundation when he helped his countrymen during the Second World War, providing them aid with a 'red cross' on his bag symbolizing that he wasn't fighting, just helping the injured. Though he might have been doing the same work if somebody had ordered him to, the fact that he did it voluntarily made people from all over the world respect him. We can say that our choices may not decide the course of our lives from that moment onwards, but it certainly determines the way we trod the chosen path, cursing it or enjoying it.

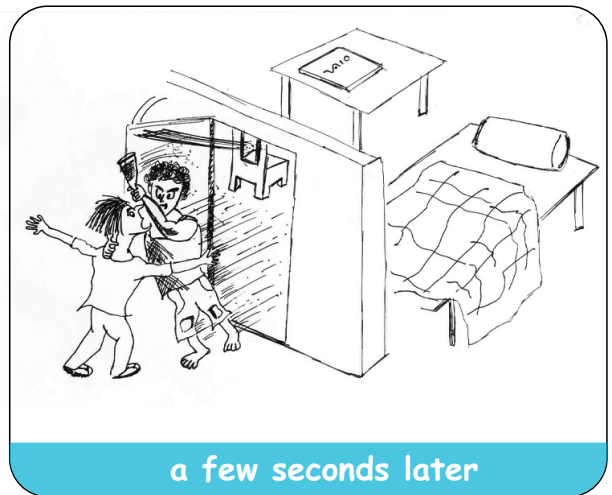
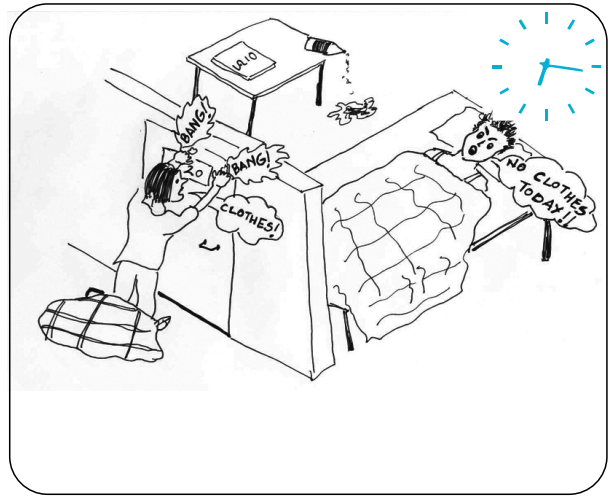
There are always two choices, two paths to take. One is easy. And its only reward is that it is easy. To quote a few lines by Robert Frost, "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference."



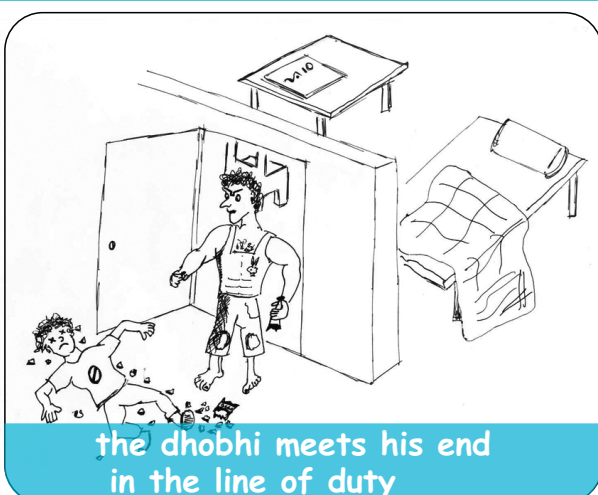
marathon gaming session



the dhobhi doing early morning rounds



a few seconds later



the dhobhi meets his end in the line of duty



next day

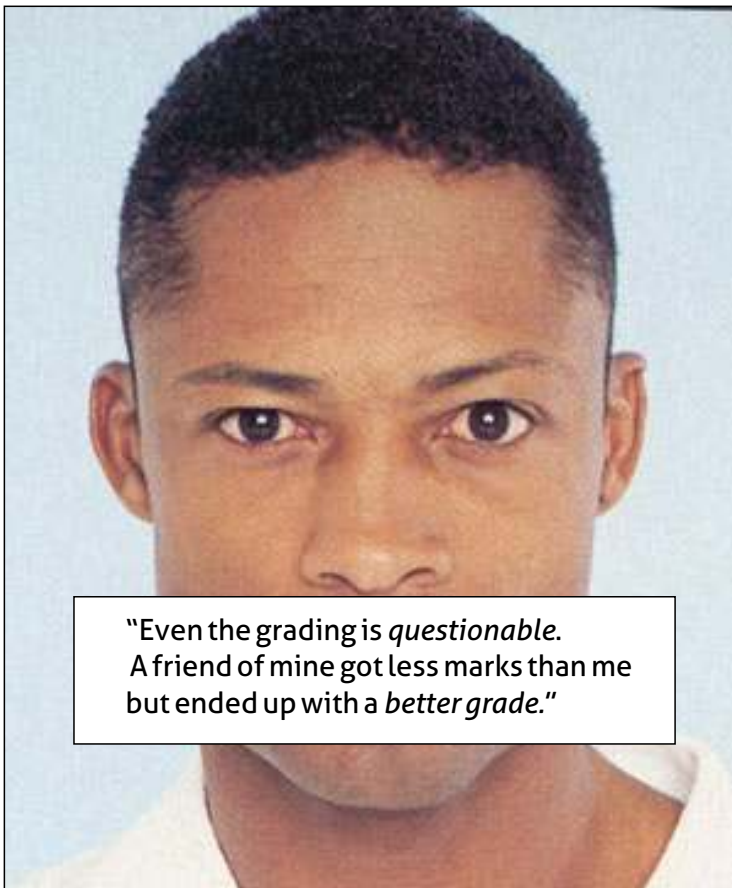
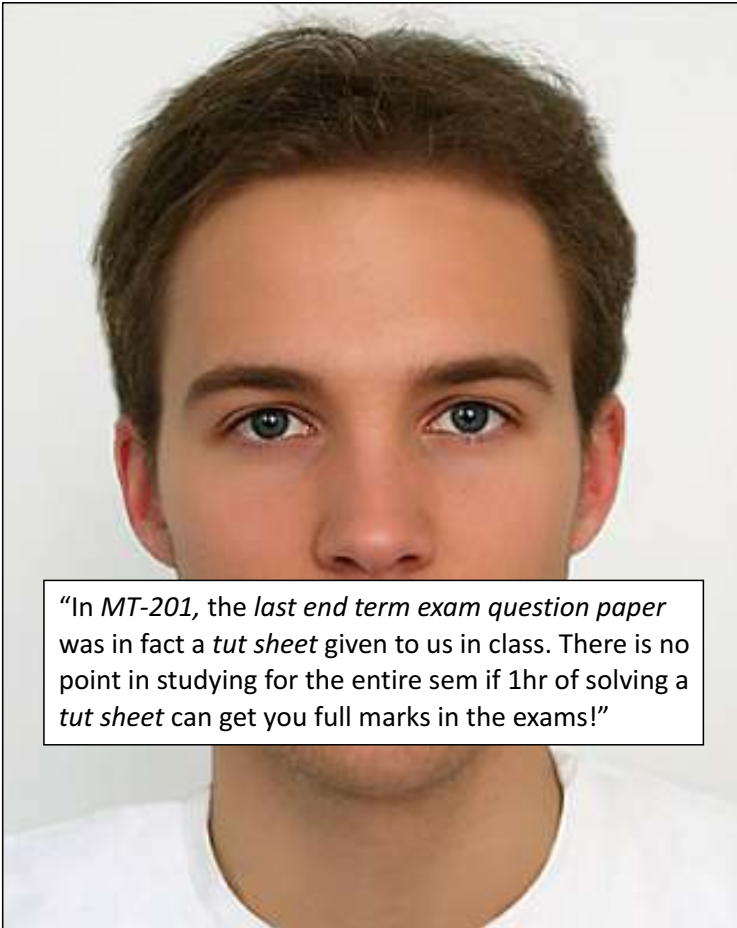
washing machines are introduced in the bhawan

sounds of silence

Everywhere across the globe revolutions and protests seem to have gained ground. Be it the anti corruption drive in the country or the various *anti-government revolutions* elsewhere, these movements bear testimony to the resilience and resoluteness of the people.

Closer home, back in the insti, what we see is a completely different scenario. However draconian and odd some of the rules may seem, the most we do about it is crib to each other. *Watchout* explores the institution, systems and thought processes that represent a forced compromise between authority and superficial autonomy, and more often than not, deny us *our voice*.





"With great power comes great responsibility" is an oft repeated but very true saying. Although most professors are content with the power, it is being responsible that some professors have problems dealing with. Within the class, the students are subject to the whims and fancies of the professors, however wayward they may be. Their limitless power can be attributed to the fact that they still believe that the insti is a university, and are reluctant to break free from the shackles of ancient times. Inertia- the tendency to resist change is engrained in the administration, or so it seems. Various cases have been known when attendance backs have been doled out as liberally as freebies during elections. A telling example would be that of the new rule regarding clearance of first year courses. This came as bolt from the blue for many a student, who woke up one morning to find themselves facing a semester back. And the administration conveniently fails to explain why the aforementioned students were not issued notices regarding the same earlier. As far as transparency in grading is concerned, the lesser said the better.

And for all their talk of being the change they want to see, the students remain happily apathetic to the aforementioned developments, dismissing them away with the same air of nonchalance as Mithun would when confronted with a bunch of small time rogues. Our protests are restricted to either cribbing about the professors or scribbling graffiti on the benches. And with representative bodies such as SAC being reduced to powerless entities, the students have been sidelined and consigned to cursing their lot.

SAC-ked

The popular perception of the *Students Affairs Council* is neatly packaged in the opinion expressed by a 2nd year student of *mechanical engineering*,

"Some years back in the summer of '05 (or whenever the SAC was formed) the professors were sitting and got too bored rejecting every students' problem. So they decided to get rid of the matter once and for all. They formed a formal body to reject the proposals and applications of the students by the students themselves, this body is famous today by the name of SAC."

This extent of mistrust in elected representatives, although common in our nation, does find support in evidence.

The SAC was formed with the objective of *redressing the problems of students and providing a forum* where the *administration* and *student body* could *exchange grievances* and *look for solutions*. However, the limited nature of the powers given to the SAC is striking. First, they cannot make decisions, but can only pass resolutions that reflect the united opinion of the student body. The decisions on all issues depend on the various deans. According to *Animesh, 3rd year mechanical*,

"The SAC is like the Rajya Sabha of IITR. Although I'm not very sure of the powers of SAC, it pretty much never raises its voice against any major problem."

This *pseudo democratic system* is claimed to have its *pros on the cons*. It is believed that on the upside, all decisions, when taken by the *administration*, have little tendency to be influenced by political biases of the student body. This argument seeks to support autocracy by claiming that the masses of the institute, all of whom are above voting age, are not responsible or able enough to take beneficial decisions for themselves. The downside argument, however, *makes more sense*. When power over decisions that marginally or severely affect their lifestyle are not taken by the students themselves, it leads to a sense of frustration with systems, a disbelief in the virtues of democracy and breeds all the qualities that the civil society wants to so vehemently root out of our society.

Now, given that the SAC has limited power and narrow objectives is it fulfilling even those roles effectively? The jury is still out on that one, with people vehemently supporting contradicting opinions. According to *Shubham, 3rd year Mech*,

"Although I'm not aware of the responsibilities of SAC, it is not clear to me as to whom I should approach whenever I face a problem. Most of the students are not aware of what the SAC is doing, although it has top their priority list, i.e keeping the students informed of their work on campus."

Sailee Rane, Chemical 2nd year IDD, however, begs to differ,

"Every year the SAC proposes the trite issue of curfew of girl students, but we know it has never been considered. The SAC probably has earned the goodwill of the students for trying its best. The meeting minutes are put up on the notice board after every SAC meeting, but, nobody actually reads through."

The problem has two sides to it, it seems. The turnout at the last SAC general body meeting was but a reflection of the public apathy of the students. It would be unreasonable to blame the SAC when none of us actually attend their meetings.

a child or a responsible adult?

In a very famous article on the *causes of ragging in the IITs*, Shivam Vij, an alumnus of IIT-Delhi and Berkley had hypothesized that the root cause is that students are treated like children, not responsible adults. The argument holds that such an institutional paradigm leads to such *immature* and *insensitive behaviours* such as *ragging* and also prevents people from speaking out against it.

A minute of thought brings to mind countless instances and policies that validate this view. Restrictions on everything from entering hostels of the opposite *sex* to a very rigid academic curriculum reflect an institution that does not see itself in the light of being a guide to a very dynamic set of young adults who deserve to be given the freedom to exercise their options.

The point is elucidated by Aditya.M, 3rd year Architecture,

"We pretty much have no say at all. I would like to mention the unfortunate incident of the guy jumping off the RKB, which very well demonstrates how unfriendly and rigid our system is".

Living in No LAN's land has made *facebook* a luxury for every *RKBite*, yet all they can do lament about it and envy their luckier counterparts elsewhere. And if one would have thought that the insti would learn from its mistakes, he would be sorely mistaken. Every inmate of *Rajiv Bhawan* now faces the same problems that every *RKBite* faced a year ago. More than a year has passed and attempts to install LAN cables are being made only now. It took the administration all of three months to rectify the wifi deadline fiasco wherein wifi restrictions were suspended on weekdays, instead of weekends.

The recent surge in moral policing and drive against couples hanging out in the campus might have been appreciated had the year been 1847. Be it the unnecessary library and reading room rules like the dress code or the deadlines, or the various complexities surrounding the sports complex and the swimming pool, there are no avenues left for the students to voice their concerns.

However inconsequential the above instances may seem, the fact remains that our *insti* is ridden with such trivialities. Akin to the proverbial drops adding up to form an ocean, the many trifling trivialities have accumulated to make our system an unenviable one. All we do is crib. *Cribbing* it seems, has become the *favourite pastime* of the students. Although *tee shirts* bearing corny IIT related *taglines* might be a big hit back home, they only serve to highlight the abyss of complacency we currently reside in. The fact that the insti does not give two hoots to the above issues, is indeed worrisome. *But more worrisome is the fact that nor do we*. In the wise words of *Pink Floyd*, we have become comfortably numb.

NEWSNOTES

the invention of newspapers in the early 19th century, official bulletins and diaries were circulated at times in some centralized empires.

The first documented use of an organized courier service for the diffusion of written documents is in Egypt, where Pharaohs used couriers for the diffusion of their decrees in the territory of the state (2400 BC). This practice almost certainly has roots in the much older practice of oral messaging and may have been built on a pre-existing infrastructure.

In Ancient Rome, Acta Diurna, or government announcement bulletins, were made public by Julius Caesar. They were carved in metal or stone and posted in public places.

In China, early government produced news sheets, called tyas, circulated among court officials during the late Han dynasty (second and third centuries AD). Between 713 and 734, the Kaiguan Za Bao ("Bulletin of the Court") of the Chinese Tang Dynasty published government news, it was handwritten on silk and read by government officials. In 1582 there was the first reference to privately published newsheets during the late Ming Dynasty.



increased crossborder interaction created a rising need for information which led to the first news sheets in 1556. The first newspaper of Venice first published the news in 1565. These early news sheets were handwritten newsletters.

- Dr. Ajoy Ghatak Lectures
- IITR's New Extension Campus
- Regional Workshop
- Reverie
- Dhun
- Multi Activity Center
- Sarojini Room Allotments
- E-Summit
- Roorkee's Oldest Alumnus passes away

Dr. Ajoy Ghatak Lectures



Dr. Ajoy Ghatak

A series of guest lectures by Dr Ajoy Ghatak was organised in the *Bose auditorium* by the *Physics Department*, on the 12th and 13th of April. Dr Ajoy Ghatak, a professor emeritus from *IIT Delhi*, is a renowned physicist in the field of *Fiber Optics*. The lecture series was held for two days, with topics discussed being *Special Theory of Relativity and Measurement in Quantum Mechanics*. The audience turnout was appreciable and the auditorium was packed to its capacity on both the days. Although Dr. Ghatak's initial efforts to add humour to his talks were rather evident, the people present were kind enough to be patient and wait for him to get comfortable. Unlike the usual physics lectures, Dr Ghatak's lecture could connect with the audience better, and was in all well appreciated by the physics and non-physics majors alike.

IIT Roorkee's Illrd extension opens at GreNo

On Sunday, 3rd April, 2011, IIT Roorkee inaugurated its new extended *research and development (R & D)* centre and campus in the Knowledge Park II area of Greater Noida, NCR. The new campus was inaugurated by *Mr. Ashok Bhatnagar*, Chairman, Board of Governors; IIT Roorkee in the presence of *Dr. S.C. Saxena*, Director, IIT Roorkee. This GreNo Campus is spread over a land area of *10-acre* plot surrounded by lots of technical and management institutes all around it. Moreover, the academic block is a three-storey building which has 16 lecture rooms (with a total capacity of 1120 students at a time), software labs, faculty offices, a library and a computer centre. Students will be provided with virtual class rooms on satellite network pattern. Through which, students will be able to get lectures from renowned professors and even interact and ask questions. The institute will initially focus on embedded software, bio-technology and other high-end research in Greater Noida. It would surely be a great help for the students residing in Delhi-NCR region. Unlike the Paper and Pulp Technology centre in Saharanpur, the proposed facility in Greater Noida will not be called a separate campus of IIT Roorkee but will be just an extension of institute's activities in high-end technology.

Greater Noida IITR Campus organizes a Regional Workshop

In association with *International Hydropower Association*, a two – days regional workshop on Green House Gas emissions from hydropower reservoirs was held during April 4-5, 2011 at *Greater Noida IITR Campus*. The IHA has carried out a UNESCO sponsored study on the same subject. The main objectives of the workshop were to give guidance on how IHA can help on the application of the GHG Measurement Guidelines to new GHG emissions measurement programmes, to present and discuss recent applications of the *GHG Measurement Guidelines* in South East Asia and South America, and to perform a “hands-on” exercise simulating the use of the GHG Measurement Guidelines for the development of a *Planning Document (Monitoring Strategy)*. Apart from a few international experts from UK, Norway, Brazil, France, and Malaysia who were present as resource persons, about 50 participants representing Hydropower developers (Government, CPSUs, private), CWC, CEA, MoEF, NIH, and researchers from various academic institutes, state governments participated in the workshop.

REVERIE :: *Chance pe Dance*



The literal meaning of the word reverie is dream or daydream. Regardless of the fact whether the *Choreography and Dance section* of IITR is aware of this, they showcased a fine display of their talent on 7th of March as a part of the '*Cultural Week*'. The programme received a decent turnout from the IITR junta with cheers and hoots even threatening the occurrence of the programme in the early stages. The show began with the customary lighting of lamps by *Dr. M. J. Nigam*, the Chief Advisor, Cultural Society, and even boasted of the attendance of the deans. This event consisted of some routine solo performances namely '*vandana*' and the signature '*robot dance*'. The highlights of the event were its breathtaking duets which were beautifully choreographed and executed. They garnered huge applause from the crowd and set the mood for the rest of the performances. '*Looney tunes*' and '*New trend*' among others deserve special mention for the energy and effortless motion of the performers.

Besides these there were some magnificent group performances that showcased various elements of the world around us viz. culture, youth, puppy love to name a few. A special tribute to the *26/11 Mumbai attacks* deserves special mention as it struck a chord with our hearts. For those two odd hours the performers were the '*stars*' of the campus and their faux-pas were quite graciously forgiven by the audience, as everyone only wished to revel in Reverie

DHUN :: *Rock sako toh Rock lo*



On the 18th of April the Music Section of IIT-R brought to us yet another marvellous show, their second this semester, *Dhun*. The audience were spared the misery of a lack lustre host and the performers were left to do the talking. The program sparked off with beautiful Hindi numbers, *Mahi Ve* and *Haule Haule* by *Rohit* and *Kartikeya*. An enthralling instrumental, the original sound track of *The Pirates of the Caribbean*, was flawlessly played by the musicians including *Hardik*, the lead guitarist and the very talented *Aniket* on the keyboard. Another highlight of the evening was the cover of the famous hindi song *Dum Maaro Dum* by *Ayush*, a fusion well-appreciated by everyone present.

The breath-taking performance of *Tornado of Souls* by *Vasudha* delighted the audience. Other noteworthy acts were *Happy Ending* by *Stephy Thomas* and an entertaining Telugu number, *I Love You*, by *Swagat*. The show had a grand ending with back to back acts of rock classics like *Dance of Death* and *Sweet Child of Mine*, again by *Vasudha*. This effected in some head-banging from a crowd that remained regulated but appreciative nevertheless, for the rest of the show.

The show came to an end with a speech by *Dr. M.J. Nigam*, the Chief Guest, who rued the aping of western culture and retorted that it is *Hindi songs* which have an ever-lasting effect on the soul. Overall, an evening well spent and the turnout, consisting mostly of students was pretty commendable.

Multi Activity Center

Construction work of a one of its kind *Multi Activity Center* started on 25th May, in the area opposite to *Rajiv Bhawan* behind *ABN Ground*. Cited to be the next, and perhaps the only, big thing Roorkee junta can boast of in the future, the four storey structure is planned to have *an auditorium, a restaurant, a post office, coffee corners, food courts, shops, banks, and a bowling alley* among a multitude of other useful things the IITR campus needs. The construction work at the site is expected to be completed in 15 months.



Sarojini Room Allotments :: *One is a Party, Two is a Crowd*

For the first time in the last few years, the administration decided to offer double rooms to third year *B. Tech. residents* of *Sarojini Bhawan* with effect from the next semester. This move was based on the argument that the single rooms being vacated were insufficient to accommodate the enormous count of the upcoming third year. This news evoked vehement objections in the affected second year batch. They believed it unjust to be denied single rooms when, all other batches, including their juniors, were being extended the privilege. *"We have to prepare for competitive exams in the coming year. How can the Dean not understand the importance of the matter,"* Ipsita of second year had a resentful tone. A collective letter was drafted and sent to the *DOSW*. The *SAC President* was also asked to intervene. Consequently, the *Sarojini Bhawan* room allotment, scheduled for 26th April was delayed to buy time for reaching a solution. A negotiating Wing Councillor reveals that the distribution of rooms in *SB* had never before, been planned, as such. So, even with an increased capacity in the new *Kasturba Bhawan*, the administration's laxity in the preparation of a proper arrangement was much to blame for the chaos. They appeared reluctant to disturb the present scheme in any way. The official response was however, worded to sound like an empathetic consideration for the *PhD scholars*, to whom, *SB* has been home for the last three to four years. *"To make them move with all their belongings would not be right"*, said *Bhavjot Kaur*, the *SAC President*, sounding convinced by the administration's stand. Of the many proposals doing the rounds, a popular one was to accept the new entrants of the next academic session into *SB* and shift all the other *B. Tech.* students to *KB*, which would be best able to meet all the requirements for single rooms.



Many a soul have chosen to let go of the surety of the well beaten path in exchange of a more fulfilling career of an entrepreneur, and have found it rewarding in all aspects. Keeping this ultimate end in mind, *Entrepreneurship Development Cell- IITR* organised their flagship fiesta on *entrepreneurship* viz. the E-summit. Growing to almost double its size over last year, the event lasted from 9th-17th April and was based around the central theme "Follow Your Heart". Team EDC

arranged a bevy of lectures, panel discussions, workshops and games, inspired by the central theme, to enthral students with all kinds of ambitions.

With the IPL (*read: cricket fever*) going on in tandem with the *E-Summit*, there was a possible conflict of interest in the minds of the audience. Though we can't say for sure as to who triumphed, but the *E-Summit* audience surely wasn't disappointed as the lectures and panel discussions were thought provoking and satisfied people of all tastes. The opening lecture on 'Women Empowerment' by *Mrs.Saundarya Rajesh*, an entertaining session by *Mr.Nitin Gupta(a.k.a. Rivaldo)*, an IITB graduate who is now a full time comedian, another lecture on 'Technology and Entrepreneurship' by *Mr.Gaurav Chauhan*, and a session for wannabe authors by *Mr.Pushpendra Mehta*, all remained the highlights of the festival. Among others, an event which deserves a special mention was the interactive session on 'Careers in Social work and Policy making' by *Mr.Mikul Bhatia* and *Mr.Anshu Gupta*, which captivated every single attendee on the evening of 11th April at the Senate Hall.

E-Summit '11 also witnessed some novel panel discussions which synchronized the diversity in the profile of the speakers and their knowledge to its relevance for the audience. There were discussions about career opportunities in *Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering, Electronics, Computer Programming and Coding, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering* and *Architecture*. These sessions, on an average, involved three panelists and eventually turned out to be more like a series of lectures rather than discussions. Apart from these, there was a highly interactive panel, comprising of *Mr.N.K.Sehgal*, a 1971 pass out, who has worked with the government and the manufacturing industry, *Mr.Shayak Sen*, an avid designer and co-founder of *Cheese Corporate Care*, and *Mr.Ashutosh Goel*, an analyst with *Nomura*. Besides these events, workshops were held on topics like *B-Plan writing, World of Finance, Investment Banking and Facebook publicity*. Also there were games like *Business Bazigar, Second Innings, GoldRush* and a *B-Quiz*.

Change of Guard :: IIT-R's new Director

Dr Pradipta Banerji succeeded *Dr S C Saxena* (2006 – 2011) as the director of *IIT Roorkee* with effect from the 1st of August, 2011. *Dr Pradipta Banerji*, a Professor of *Structural Engineering* at *IIT Bombay* since 1988, had done his graduation with a B.Tech. degree from *IIT Delhi* in 1981, securing the Director's *Silver Medal* as the top-ranked graduating student in *Civil Engineering*. He then completed an M.S. and a Ph.D. in *Structural Engineering* from the *University of California, Berkeley, USA*, with a specialization in *Earthquake Engineering*. He has also been till recently the *Dean* (Alumni & International Relations) at *IIT Bombay*. Also he is a member of several international professional societies. Considering his qualifications and accolades, the IIT-R junta surely is expecting a lot from *Dr Pradipta Banerji*.

Sri Arya Bhushan, Roorkee's Oldest Living Alumnus, Dies at 92

Sri Arya Bhushan, who was believed to be the oldest living Roorkee Alumnus, died on Saturday, February 26th. He was 92 years old. Sri Bhushan was a one time winner of Regatta, an annual Rowing Contest held during the Thomson College of Engineering era, and was also a scholarship holder for his excellent academic achievements in college.



Sergeant at Roorkee

My Company, Roorkee - KC Goyal,
SN Gupta, Arya Bhushan, GD Mathur,
CP Govil

Competition and Prizes, Roorkee
Kali Charan, LC Agarwal, Arya Bhushan

After graduating from the Thomson College of Civil Engineering in 1940, with an Honours Diploma in Civil Engineering, Sri Bhushan found his first job as a Civil Engineer in the Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh (then known as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh). He later moved to Indian Railways, and after his retirement as the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety in July 1976, worked as a Hindi Advisor to the Railway Board, for vetting the translations of Technical Manuals. Also, he co-authored a book on remedial measures for prevention of Railway Accidents - 'Indian Railway Safety - the Ultimate Goal to prevent Railway Accidents', which has recently come out in the market. Sri Bhushan, along with his wife, had migrated to the US in December 1980 to live with his son in Palo Alto, California, where he died after prolonged illness.



"Queen Victoria with her Grandsons"
CP Govil, KC Goyal, VM Menglik, Mrs. Ampore,
Arya Bhushan, GD Mathur, SN Gupta



Class of 1940, 50th Reunion, 1990



Class of 1940, 60th Reunion, 2000



Class of 1940, 60th Reunion, 2000



ONCE UPON A TIME in ROORKEE



The insti has been home to myriads of generations, each generation with a story of its own to tell. Stories that were legends during their times and have now become a part of the insti folklore. WONA attempts to uncover some of these stories as erstwhile students share a nostalgically nuanced and sepia tinted version of their lives in the insti. This time around, we lay our hands on the memoir book of another passout, Sushant Singh. HEC Secy and also the Secretary of LitSec in his time, Sussa shares with WONA one out of many unfadable experiences during his 4 years in Roorkee.

The editors of a college magazine are really asking for trouble when they ask an 'alumnus' who graduated only the previous year, to write a column like this. The reason why I put *alumnus* in quotes is that to people like me, graduation is a transient process. We still like to think, however hopelessly, that there is a chance that we would get to live those years again. It is thus with the greatest of difficulties that I have been able to trim down this piece to a shorter version than the longer cathartic version it really should have been.

The event narrated will, I hope, paint an accurate picture of what being a *faccha* was about back in 2006. They will also shock you with the sheer naiveté of the characters and might make you look back at your very own 'black and white' view of things which many college entrants have.

In the year 2006, there was, first of all, no wi-fi in your room. Yes, that means the time you now waste comfortably in your room facebook-ing would have to be wasted elsewhere. Secondly, the R-word was still fear inducing rather than the guffaw inducing avatar it would later acquire. This meant, all places of pleasurable interest were barred, on paper at least. Try to imagine a month without room internet, UG, gym, CL and all other hangouts you wouldn't know anyway if you were new. Another pain in the neck was the act of making new friends which, if you are in a coterie of schoolmates, can be very trying indeed. It was under such circumstances that a meeting of four schoolmates (P,Me,A,N) with the most shocking of agendas took place.

P: Did you talk to your roomie about the thing we discussed?

Me: patient: No, couldn't get around to bringing up the subject. What if he doesn't like yours anyway?

A: Same here man. I don't like my roomie's exuberant stache. Anyway, we have N's single room problem to deal with first.

N: My parents think it's better for me if I stay in a single room. I'll have to think long and hard about this.

Me: You can't do this to us. It's the question of a whole year.

P: Yes, only God knows how we are going to survive in this hell hole if we have to contend with our present room-mates.

A: My roomie keeps asking me weird questions. And I think its people like him they call a ghissu.

Me: Mine cracks the worst jokes ever and to think I would have to spend four years in the same class as him!

P: This just keeps getting better and better doesn't it? We will have to find a way to stay together. The warden apparently doesn't allow room swaps. We do have our work cut out.

None of us of course was obviously got around to taking such a drastic step. A's roomie became a closer friend of mine than A himself. And my own room-mate remained my next room neighbor for all the next three years. All of us became much more like others, the thing we had feared and shed our parochial attitudes.

This isn't the most amusing anecdote of my four years by far. But the aforementioned meeting (lasting all of 5 minutes) does stand out in my memory highlighting the contrasting and simplified thinking of the *facchas* in my days as compared to the extremely objective oriented younger 'uns I would encounter later.



Prof.R.P.Saini

Has the Hobbies Club been able to do justice to the IITR crowd, in promoting enough hobbies in the campus? Watch Out once again turns to the unsuspecting mess goers in search of an answer. Here's what we found out in our surveys, and what Dr. R.P. Saini had to say about the same in his interview:

Q. Reasonably high percentages (54.87%) of students in the campus feel that the HC is just a way of obtaining easy grades. What's your take on that?

However disappointing as it may sound, this kind of approach among students towards the Hobbies Club depends entirely on their wish. But students should realise that a hobby is hard work one shouldn't do for material gain. Activities that are a part of the hobbies club should be looked upon as agents of recreation, only then would quality work come out of various sections under the Hobbies Club. Though we are seeing improvements in this direction and some students have made significant contributions in the recent past, it'll still take some time to see a considerable change in the general outlook.

Q. What are your future plans for the HC? How supportive has the administration been through all these years?

The Hobbies Club, which is only one of its kinds amongst all IITs, was started as a part of the UoR. In coming future, I hope the hobbies club is able to fulfill the basic objective for which it was built - to be an agent of productive recreation for students. For that we plan to introduce some new hobbies and some more structural changes in the functioning of the Club very soon. This might take some time but as of now improvements have been seen. Our interaction with the administration has been quite healthy; they have always welcomed a justified budget and have been supportive. I'm sure they'll continue to be a help in our future endeavours as well.

Q. What do you think has led to the recent success of the SDS (Software Development Section) Labs?

SDSLabs was a student initiative and it is good to see that its advancement has been on a steep rise of late. The students of recent batches were well motivated to work towards its improvement and their recent achievements have only been a result of proper planning and execution.

Q. On Srishti:

Srishti, our annual Techno-Hobby Festival, has been the major occasion of the HC through all these years . Such events definitely help in promoting hobbies in the campus, but I fear at some level it has led to the idea of hobbies club being restricted to Srishti alone. Although it's true any kind of input given to Srishti does help the HC, one must understand that that is not the only thing. I'd appreciate if such contributions are made by students throughout the year.

<p>Are you a part of any section in the Hobbies Club(HC)?</p>	<p>Do you think Hobbies Club is just another way of getting easy grades?</p>	<p>Do you think the no.ofactivities/ proficiencies offered by the HC sufficient?</p>	<p>Is the Hobbies Club only restricted to Srishti?</p>	<p>Have you gained any new Hobby from the HC after coming to IITR?</p>

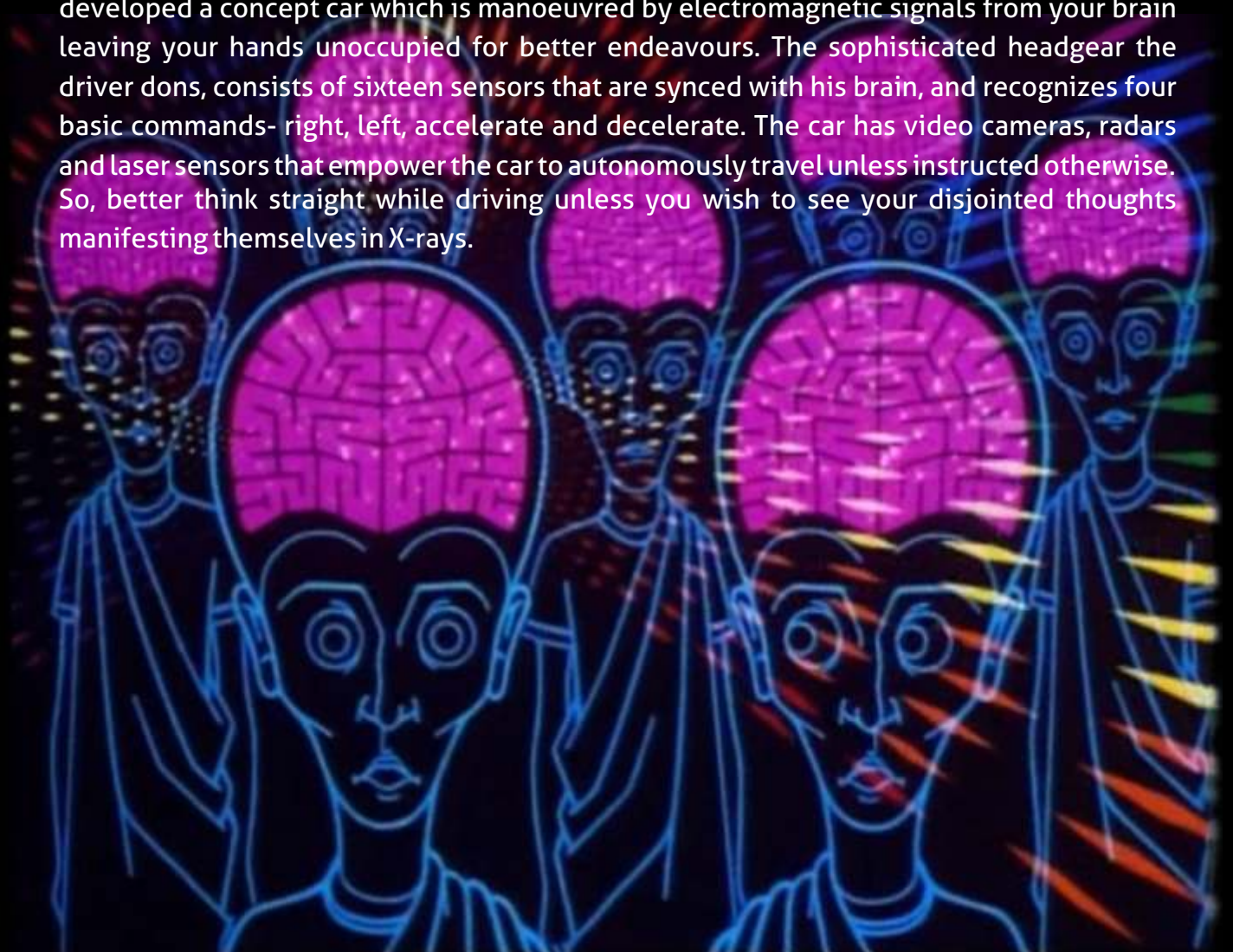
intuitive technologies

Descartes once declared that Intuition was one of most potent tool for knowledge. For years people have believed in it as clairvoyance, but the time is nigh for technologies which use the same scientifically and emerge triumphant. Intuitive technology liberates digital information from its shackles of 1's and 0's and elegantly integrates it with reality, thus making our response to stimuli much more suave. Recent advances in eye-tracking and thought-controlled driving have helped bridge the gap between the physical world and digital devices.

Eye-tracking is an ingenious technology developed by a Swedish enterprise, 'Tobii', the beauty of which lies in the mathematical algorithm that helps simulate the user's eye using corneal reflection and image sensing to calculate the point of gaze with extreme accuracy. Infrared illuminators create reflection patterns on the cornea of the eyes which are then processed by multiple image sensors to detect the exact position of the pupil and iris. It is however surprisingly liberal with the user's head movement and the whole exercise is undetected by the user, thanks to IR radiation.

The eye-tracking prototype implements several useful and viable applications such as zoom and scrolling function on a computer screen, monitoring the attention of operators viz. guards, drivers, surgeons, students, or any user and brings inattention to notice. Psychologists use gaze patterns to reflect a person's brain activity and are thus able to gauge his attention, distraction, vigilance and workload levels in a direct and clear way.

In recent years, apart from its application in eye-tracking, the automobiles field has emerged as the new playground for such technologies. Circa AutoNOMOS labs have developed a concept car which is manoeuvred by electromagnetic signals from your brain leaving your hands unoccupied for better endeavours. The sophisticated headgear the driver dons, consists of sixteen sensors that are synced with his brain, and recognizes four basic commands- right, left, accelerate and decelerate. The car has video cameras, radars and laser sensors that empower the car to autonomously travel unless instructed otherwise. So, better think straight while driving unless you wish to see your disjointed thoughts manifesting themselves in X-rays.



lifts don't lie

Lifts (also known as elevators by the unimaginative) are the result of an advanced 43rd century experiment on time travel. The inventor, Da Vinci, came back in time, invented the lifts again in the 20th century, and went back to the future.

Unfortunately, he left behind an esoteric instruction manual, written in a strange tongue that has now been moved to the inaccessible inner sanctums of the central library along with other equally rare literature such as the *UnDead Sea Scrolls*, *How to dismantle an atomic bomb for dummies*. Recently, Roorkee cables released by Wiki leaks describe an unexpected visit by the aforementioned pioneer along with certain multi-headed creatures from the planet 51 Pegasi B. The elevators, as the cables report, are time portals that leverage existing diplomatic relations between humans of the future and advanced races from exo planets. The negotiations between them indicate some sort of joint advanced scientific experiments (#cablegate09783462). The ignorant junta are blissfully deluded into believing that these highly advanced machines (estimated to have 41.43 gazillion times more intelligence than the earthlings that use them) were merely for travel between two floors.

And as though being underemployed and overburdened isn't unkind enough, the lifts are obliged to camouflage their identity at all times. The endless verbal projectiles hurled at them, only adds fuel to the fire. Ergo, one can't really blame the lifts for whisking away the incorrigible amongst the junta and treating them for a while by passing small currents through the superconductive minerals, until lift operators pull the hostage out. The brightest among us – the ones who actually decipher the instruction manual are sent to other distant timelines.

Lying along the corridors of desolation mirthlessly, in the darkest hours of the night, the high frequency shortwave groan that the elevator emits is actually a landing call sign from the aliens from exo planets. This occasionally causes a misunderstanding among fish species residing in the Solani river by interfering with their hydronic communication. However, before they could employ the indigenously developed tracker to identify our sulk from the future, they forget what it was they had to demystify, and swim about their businesses.

what's in an acronym?!



The first time I witnessed it I was *shocked*. The barbaric intention of the *inflictors of pain* was beyond my comprehension. The irrationality of it, apart from being annoyingly stupid is amusing. I sympathized with the unfortunate till 'it' turned to the dark side. *You-gave-me-one-I'll-make-sure-you-get-too (two?)*. I am talking about the three letters, which have become the unquestionable law.

GPL ?! General Public License? Global Paintball League?

Think college. *Gas Producing Loafers? Gay Proliferating Limit? Game-Party-Laze? Gin-Pizza-Latte?* Think Roorkee.

Ghissu-Padhaku league? Geo Physics ke Legends??!

Sadly, *none of the above*. They symbolize the most unproductive, most cheered, and the ugliest-named occupation on campus. The female R-crowd have thankfully remained immune to this *atrocious activity*, although a few budding-Bellatrixes tried to breed the curse. This makes me think. Didn't I feel like kicking that person for the achievement? Who am I kidding? I am too awesome to be bothered with such nonsense.

Will I get a GPL for this? No comments.



it's a wonderful life

In the land of nerds, leisure is a scarce commodity. But when the odd free hour bestows itself on us, even the most resolute ghissu wouldn't pass up the opportunity to catch up on the latest movie or book. Irrespective of grades and branch, the student junta finds itself divided into movie fanatics, book lovers, hardcore gamers, music freaks whenever presented with free time.

WONA reports on the lives of R-land students as they emerge from classrooms, ready to have their minds relieved from the monotony of the day

With the college being located in a town which boasts of *one single screen theatre* where mosquitoes and bugs are your only companions, the *Junta* has taken solace in the comfort of their rooms and refuge in their laptops.

Laptops for a long time were the sole dominion of the gaming fraternity. Frequent cries for each other's heads and conquests of empires were the only leisure available to students. But it has since taken a backseat, and now *movies* and *TV-sitcoms* galore reign supreme on laptop screens in the various rooms. Start to finish runs of various sitcoms and serials have become the order of the day. "*Most of us don't really have the time for a two-hour movie. Hence, sitcoms and TV shows attract a majority of people here. At the end of the day, watching a sitcom with high amount of comic element in it does provide the necessary entertainment*", quips Aditya Katare, *III year, Metallurgy*. The language of the people frequently has references directly lifted from various sitcoms and shows. From *Barney's philandering ways* to *Dexter's instincts*, the junta has been mesmerised and enthralled.

It's very common to find people shutting down their social lives just to engross themselves in the charisma and mystique of such characters. Not only TV Series, but also movies contribute to a major chunk of students' leisure pass times. Though *Bollywood* and *high octane Hollywood action flicks* still rule the roost, there are a few who go for classics like Sergio Leone's *Spaghetti Westerns* and Hitchcock's thrillers. "*Being a part of the cinematic section, I tend to watch a lot of movies. I have specially developed a liking for foreign language movies and have been watching classics like 12 Angry Men and Citizen Kane.*", claims Palash Sharma, *Electrical, III year*. '*3 Idiots*' has become one of the most admired and sought after movies because of the way it faintly resembles the life of the masses in one way or another.

Other movies that are worth mentioning are the latest *Salman Khan* starrer *Dabangg* which has taken the world by storm. Of late, '*Delhi Belly*' seems to have contributed a lot to the insti lingo. A large part of the R-Land's masses is considered to be a part of *Kanti Shah's fan base*. The "*so bad, it's great*" genre of movies seems to have become a part of IITR folklore. If any movie, other than the yesteryear classic *Sholay*, has left an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of the junta, then it has to be *Gunda*. Firebrand characters like *Bulla* and *Shankar* have had their dialogues forever embedded in the minds of the people and continue to enthrall newcomers every year.



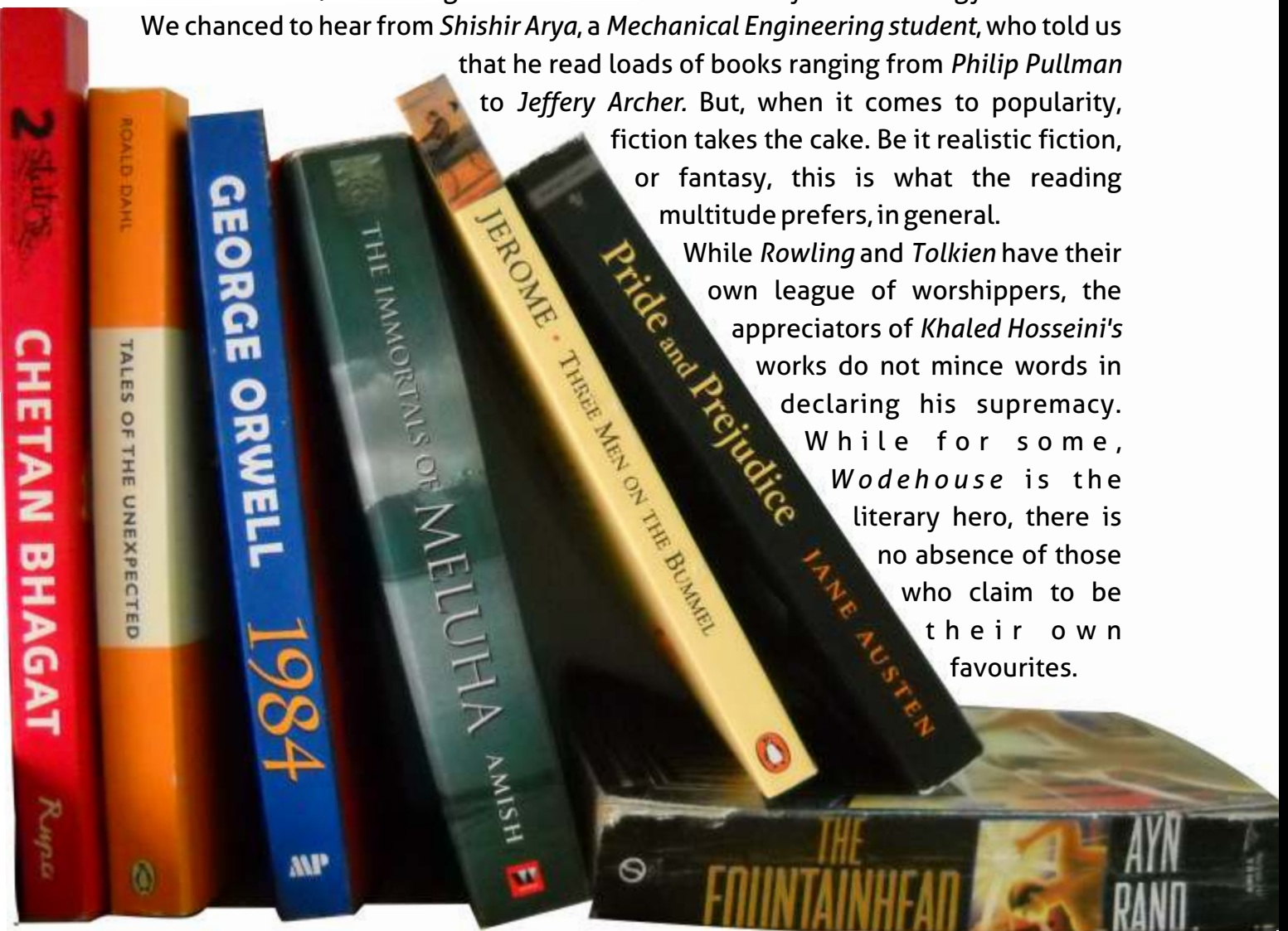
turn the page

While movie viewing becomes an integral part of people's campus lives, few would say that they prefer to be mesmerised by books. In a land of textbook worshippers, the creativity of language struggles to find admirers. The ways of this world bring even the most ardent reader's ride to a standstill. Only the ones truly determined and dedicated manage to keep up the minimum needed connection with the sphere of words. When asked about it, *Shivangi Tiwari* of *GPT third year* realised, "a maximum of one or two novels a semester is appallingly low when compared to how much I used to read."

A lot of us seem to concur on the opinion that too many distractions and little solitude eat into our reading time. A third year *Civil Engineering student*, for instance, blames the uninterrupted Internet for the decline in her reading habits. Some of those living in darkness till now, attempt to sneak out of their cocoons and seek the virtues trapped in layers of papyrus. Their journeys begin with *Dan Browns* and *Chetan Bhagats*, and remain largely stuck there. The simpler media of pictorial communication (comics) too, have only a few followers. Although the loyalists still find their heroes in *Tintin*, *Asterix* and *Calvin*, the mention of these eternal characters does not bring the expected childlike excitement on many faces. Amid such gloom, there also exists a section of nerds, who acquire the ability of being able to quote paragraphs from creations unheard of by the popular masses. Non-fiction, though with few takers, is not altogether extinct in these hallways of technology.

We chanced to hear from *Shishir Arya*, a *Mechanical Engineering student*, who told us that he read loads of books ranging from *Philip Pullman* to *Jeffery Archer*. But, when it comes to popularity, fiction takes the cake. Be it realistic fiction, or fantasy, this is what the reading multitude prefers, in general.

While *Rowling* and *Tolkien* have their own league of worshippers, the appreciators of *Khaled Hosseini's* works do not mince words in declaring his supremacy. While for some, *Wodehouse* is the literary hero, there is no absence of those who claim to be their own favourites.

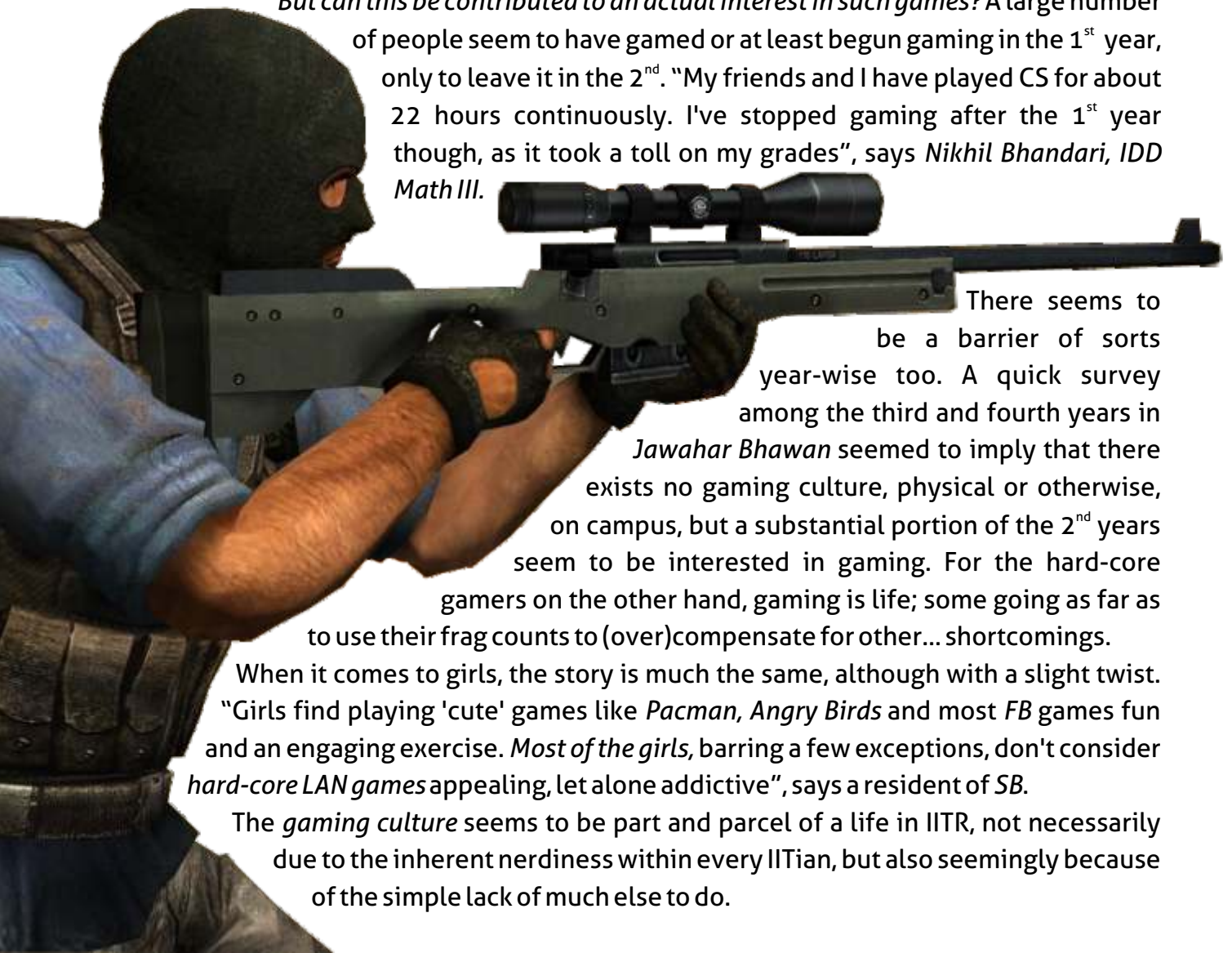


the name of the game

Mts and end-semesters always bring a degree of quietness to any Bhawan. The incessant chatter, the odd Punjabi songs blaring from woofers, sounds of doors being open and shut, and the occasional “*Headshot mar!!*” are missed as the quintessential sounds of everyday life.

RPGs and strategy games rule the roost, followed by FIFA in the popularity ratings. Outdoor games rank only a distant third. Though *Call of Duty* does have some fans too, *Counter Strike* and *AOE* have been found to be the most popular, by far. Even the most hardcore gully cricket enthusiasts abandon their favourite pastime, and hardly do people use the facilities of the sports complex. Of course, there are always a few exceptions. *Harshvardhan Patel, Civil III year*, is a regular at the badminton courts even though he isn't a part of the NSO. “*I started playing regularly recently, and I've become really good. I got selected for the inter-bhawan team this semester and I'll try for the Sangram team next year*”, he says. Though there are a few others like him, they represent only a miniscule fraction of the IITR junta. Surprisingly, one of the more popular sports among non-NSOites seems to be rowing! The *Rowing Club* in Roorkee seems to have quite a few members from the campus who use it regularly. Despite all of this, a vast majority of students are barely aware of the various sport-related events across campus, professing a greater love for computer gaming.

But can this be contributed to an actual interest in such games? A large number of people seem to have gamed or at least begun gaming in the 1st year, only to leave it in the 2nd. “*My friends and I have played CS for about 22 hours continuously. I've stopped gaming after the 1st year though, as it took a toll on my grades*”, says *Nikhil Bhandari, IDD Math III*.



There seems to be a barrier of sorts year-wise too. A quick survey among the third and fourth years in *Jawahar Bhawan* seemed to imply that there exists no gaming culture, physical or otherwise, on campus, but a substantial portion of the 2nd years seem to be interested in gaming. For the hard-core gamers on the other hand, gaming is life; some going as far as to use their frag counts to (over)compensate for other... shortcomings.

When it comes to girls, the story is much the same, although with a slight twist. “*Girls find playing 'cute' games like Pacman, Angry Birds and most FB games fun and an engaging exercise. Most of the girls, barring a few exceptions, don't consider hard-core LAN games appealing, let alone addictive*”, says a resident of *SB*.

The *gaming culture* seems to be part and parcel of a life in IITR, not necessarily due to the inherent nerdiness within every IITian, but also seemingly because of the simple lack of much else to do.

the sound of music

Whether one is exercising his *vocal chords* while performing his *daily ablutions*, or cursing the obnoxious sounds blaring from his neighbours' speakers, or trying to mute the volume of his cellphone ringing '*Tandoori Nights*' in the middle of a lecture, they all bear testimony to the extent to which music has permeated our life.

Campus Life in IITR without music would be as incomplete as *Himesh Reshammiya* without his cap. Be it the *cyclewallah* outside *Cautley Bhawan* listening to music from a bygone age or the *Gaga fan* with his headphones on while going to the class, music forms a part of our lives like no other leisure activity does.

"I am not a fan of western music. I find Bollywood music and old Rafi numbers very soothing", shares Abhishek Jaiswal, III year, GT among 5-7 % other people in the campus who'd choose Rafi over Metallica anyday.

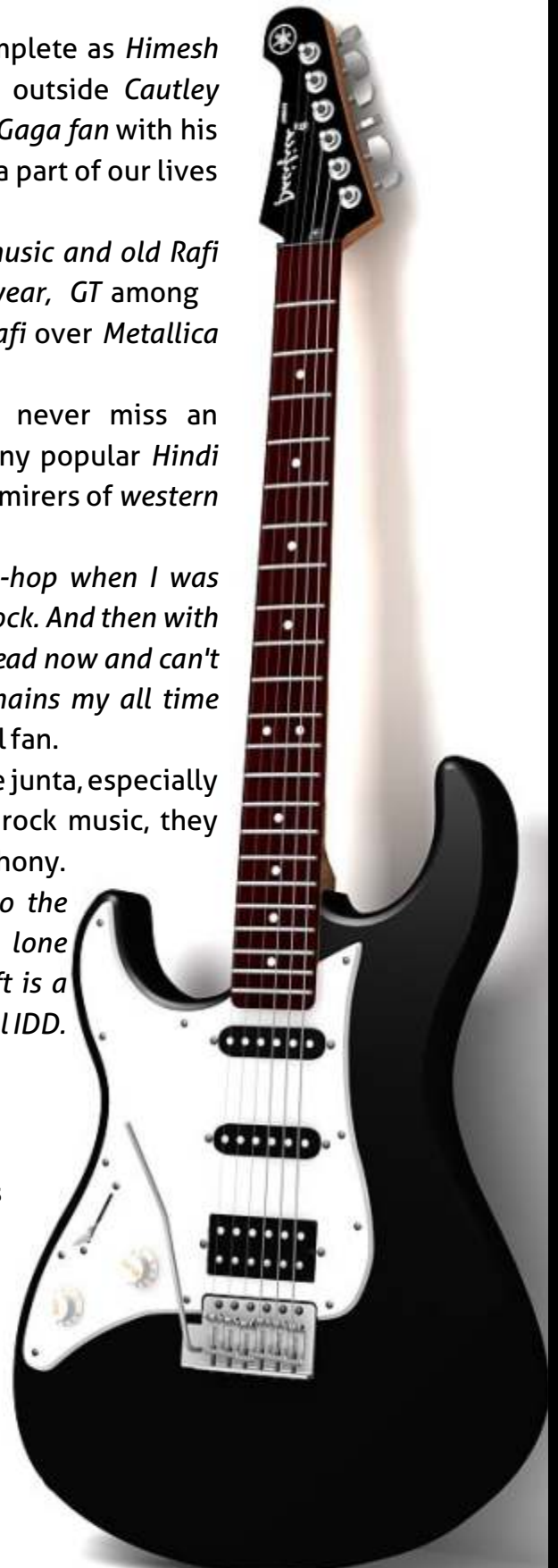
Where there are ardent *Bollywood lovers*, who'd never miss an opportunity to shake a butt or two on listening to any popular *Hindi number*, there is also no end to the large number of admirers of *western music*.

"I used to listen to a lot of mainstream rap and hip-hop when I was younger (in school), before being introduced to metal rock. And then with age I developed a liking for metal. I'm a proud metal-head now and can't stand the sound of Enrique or Akon. Iron Maiden remains my all time favourite band", says Rahul Wadhvani, a die-hard metal fan.

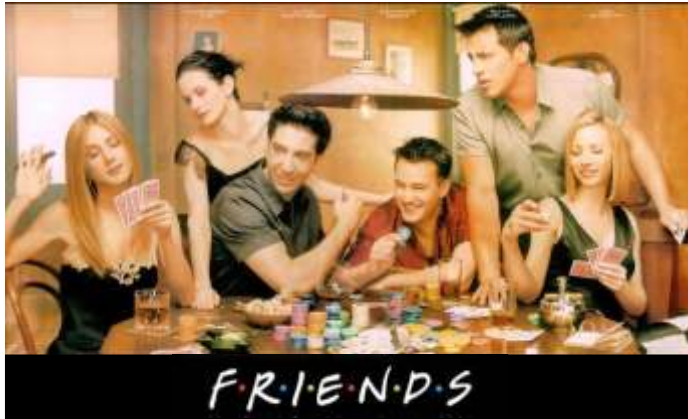
Soft rock also seems to be a popular genre amongst the junta, especially the girls. Although many girls welcome the idea of rock music, they refuse to believe that metal is anything but cacophony.

"Older bands like Beatles, Pink Floyd and U2 still do the rounds in the girls' hostels with Coldplay being the lone exception. And for the record, a girl liking Taylor Swift is a baseless stereotype.", says Sailee Rane, III year, Chemical IDD.

Whatever may trouble us in our day to day lives, seeking solace in any of the above activities helps us rejuvenate and stimulate our disgruntled life where books have become burden and extra-curricular are for the niche. The *common R-man* hides himself in the safe haven of the holy trinity: *Books, Films and Gaming*.



wona polls :: *internet survey*



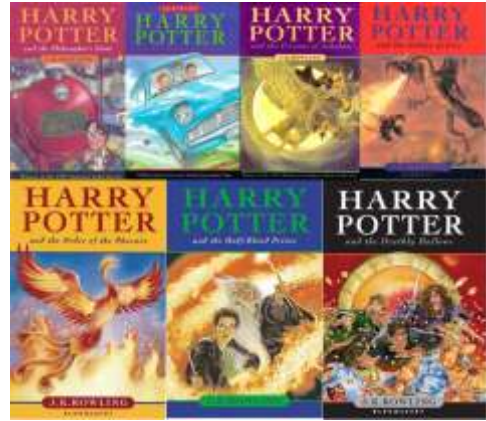
TV-Series

Friends
 HIMYM
 Dexter
 Two and a half men
 Prison Break
 The Big Bang Theory
 Castle
 House
 Sherlock
 Lie to Me



Hindi Films

3 Idiots
 Rang De Basanti
 Taare Zameen Par
 Chak De! India
 A Wednesday!
 Kuch Kuch Hota Hai
 Andaz Apna Apna
 Jab We Met
 Dil Chahta Hai
 Guru



Books

Harry Potter - J.K.Rowling
 The Godfather - Mario Puzo
 5 point Someone - Chetan Bhagat
 The Da Vinci Code - Dan Brown
 Lord of the Rings - J.R.R. Tolkien
 The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini
 To Kill a Mocking Bird - Harper Lee
 The Fountainhead - Ayn Rand
 3 Mistakes of My Life - Chetan Bhagat
 Angels & Demons - Dan Brown



English Films

The Dark Knight
 Inception
 The Shawshank Redemption
 Lord of the Rings Trilogy
 Kung Fu Panda
 Forrest Gump
 Harry Porter Series
 Pirates of The Caribbean Series
 The Social Network
 Schindler's List



Dr.S.C.Saxena

director's cut

This time Watch Out meets the man who has given this institute a makeover quite literally. Dr S.C. Saxena, our Director, who was relieved of his post on 30 June tells us about his journey through IITR and how he is leaving as a happy man.

Q. How has the journey been through all these years?

A. Great, I will be completing my 5 year term on 30 June. But I have been a part of this institution for over 40 years. I was a P.G. student here in 1971 and have been associated with the institute in almost all possible ways; I have been assistant warden, warden, professor, H.O.D. and now director. I have seen the system from all the directions, inside out. To come back from a private sector to government sector was a big step, I left the post of Dean at Thapar institute to come here because I wanted to come to my roots and give back to this system and I am quite satisfied.

Q. When you came here in 2006 what were your plans regarding this institute?

A. Being an IIT we should support research but I felt this wasn't happening so I wanted to focus on P.G. education and multi disciplinary fields. To achieve this I increased the number of PhD students from 275 to 1000 and made the promotion process more rigorous. I have moved through every department to search for young minds to mould to help me realise my dream. Now we have a selection committee every for promotions based on the research done by the faculty and the number of papers published by them. As a result now the sponsored data has gone up by 3 times. 8 Patent culture has also been promoted. According to me everyone should have a project.

Q. What were the challenges that you faced during your tenure?

A. After the inclusion of OBC bill it was a big challenge to accommodate all the new students. But we combated the situation by planning early, we were nearly a year ahead of other IITs in the matter of accommodation. Right now our capacity has increased from 3900 to 8500 and we are proud to say that only 5% of green area was cleared to make new hostels. Faculty strength is an issue, we have 400 faculty members but 900 are needed, we are recruiting now and have even built more houses to accommodate them.

Q. We have built an Extension centre in Noida, tell us something about it.

A. Yes we have developed 10 acre of land in Noida near Delhi. We were at a great disadvantage as compared to other IITs due to our location but now we have an extension near Delhi which can be used for placement, for collaboration with foreign institutes, to increase our industrial association and many other things, it now depends upon the faculty and students how to use it.

Q. How do you compare U.O.R, Thapar and IITR?

A. When we were U.O.R, we were still competing with IITs even with $\frac{1}{4}$ of their capital but finance was a problem and the work done here was tough and challenging. In Thapar I was the head of everything and was able to implement my plans without any resistance which has helped them a lot. But none of them could match the level of an IIT it's perfect. There are no financial problems and government doesn't interfere with our working rather they help us.

Q. How are our relations with the alumni?

A. They are very good, we are still in touch with many of them and programmes like PAN-IIT also help, in fact the PAN-IIT held at Chicago 80% contribution was from IITR.

Q. What according to you are the strengths and weaknesses of IITR?

A. Our academic fabric is excellent; if we consider our factual performance we come 2 in rankings. Here people care about each other and there is no feeling of animosity for each other, good relations exist between professors and students. Our biggest disadvantage is our location but our new extension at Noida would help us negate it. Our working culture still resembles UOR's system that needs to be changed.

Q. There was a case of suicide on the campus, what do you have to say about that?

A. That was a sad incident. The student in question had some academic and other problems. The pressure in an IIT is large and society is responsible for that not the institute. We have a psychologist for help now but students should come forward.

Q. As you approach the end of your tenure do you have any regrets?

A. No, I leave as a happy man. All my targets were achieved and I am satisfied by the work we have done. I am satisfied.

Q. Any parting message to the students?

A. I would just like to say that everyone should be aware of what is happening on the campus and if something is good then try to make it better. In the end I would like to quote a line from Alchemist: if you have dreams and really want to achieve them then the whole universe conspires to help you achieve your dream.



Kushal Vora a.k.a Bora
1 + 0 + 2 = F \m/

Vikesh Khanna
Our potential, your passion

Shalu Agarwal
Dance Sarojini Dance

Piyush Tariyal a.k.a Pinky
I had to call my police waale uncle all the way from haridwar to find my stolen pencil and even he couldn't find it!! ish.. this system is sooooooo bad!!

Vishwa Krishnakumar a.k.a Ghiswa
I can be your hero baby

Prachi Agarwal a.k.a Godmother
Quis custodiet ipsos custodes

M.V.R. Murty a.k.a Murta/Murut
Blah.. Blah.. Blah.. Will he ever shut up?

Anirudh Arun a.k.a Kondy
Mere paas EDC hai, Schlum hai, Fun-tee hai.. aur ab baal bhi hai! Tere paas kya hai?

C. Karthik Vaidyanath a.k.a Jetty
Mere paas teri maa hain!



Pranav Singh a.k.a Panav/KSP
*Pranav ban gaya
 gentleman*

Pradeep Sharma
*Kyun paisa-paisa karta hai,
 kyun paise pe to marta hai?*

Prasoon Gupta
Done the new!

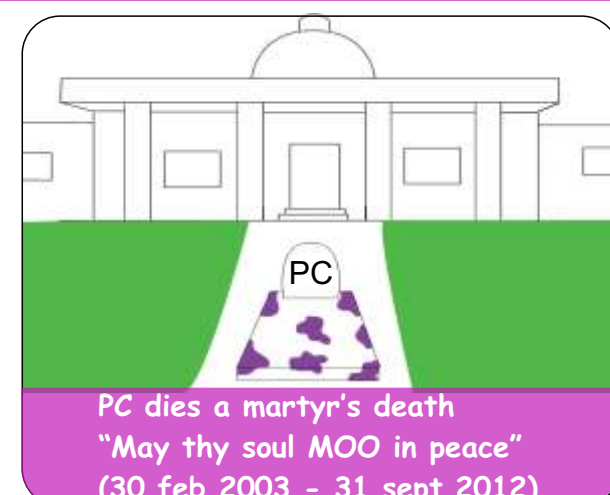
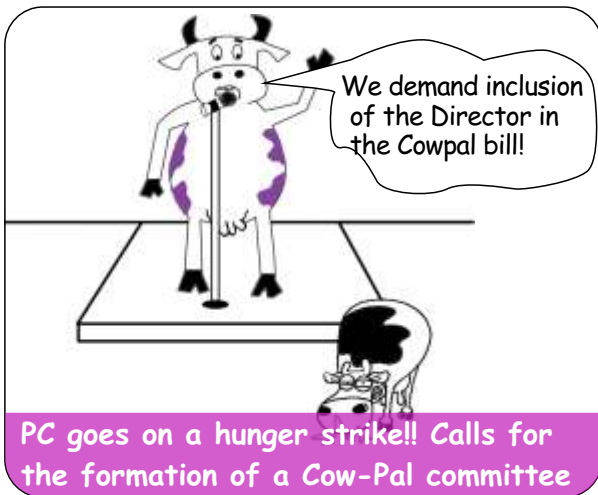
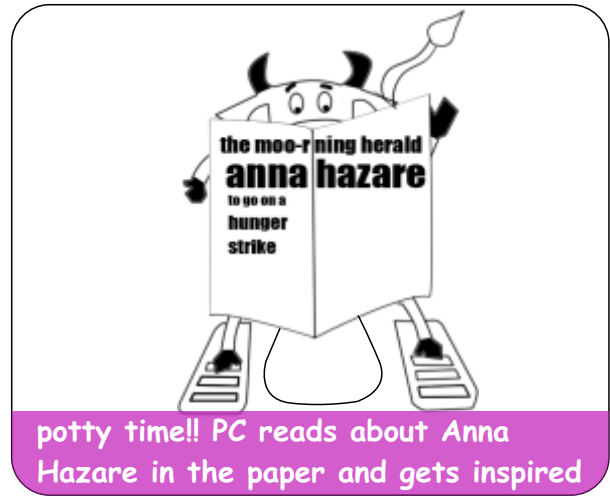
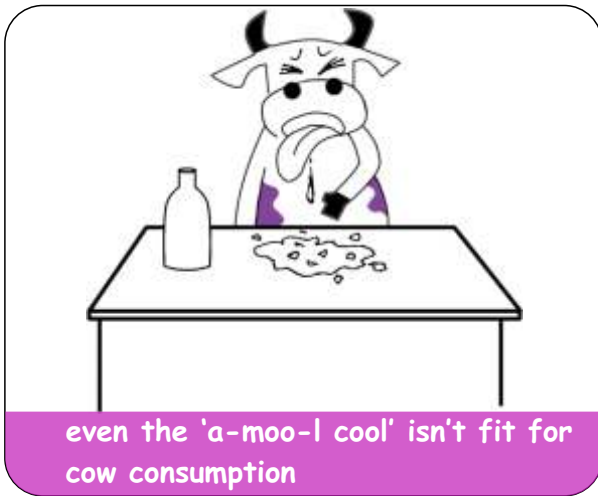
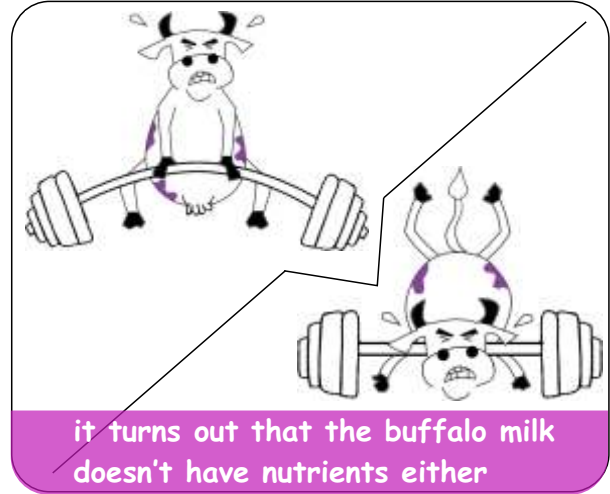
Yamuna Phal
Tan ki shakti, man ki shakti

Rishabh Sood
Dare to think beyond IIPM

Amit Kumar a.k.a Dang
*Machli jal ki rani hain, jeevan
 uska pani hain*

Amogh Kabe a.k.a Baabe
Who let the dawgs out?

Swaraj Singh
Booze is the secret of my energy





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