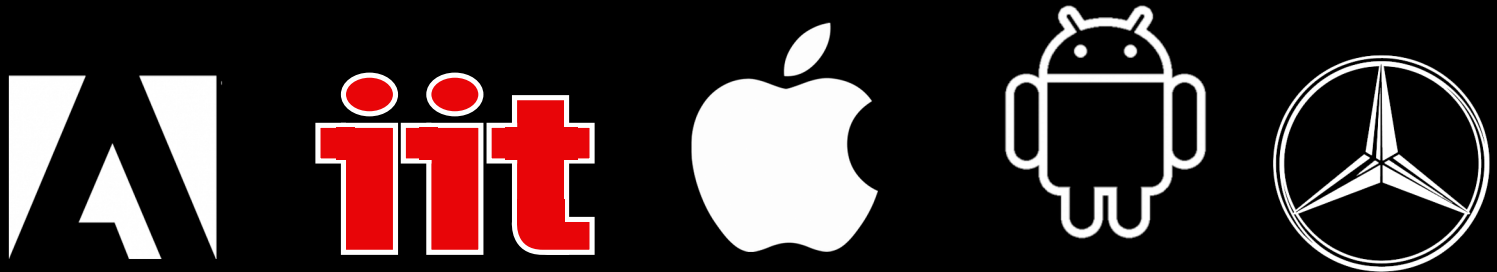
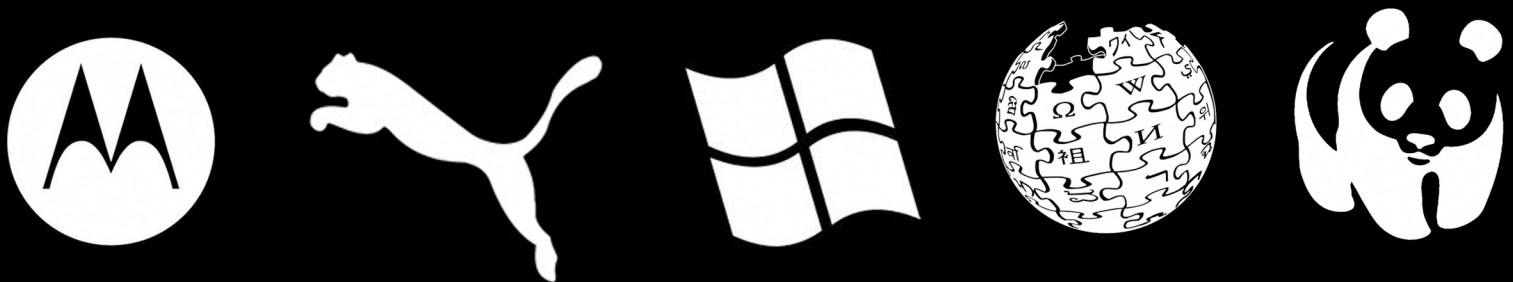




WATCH OUT

Students' News Magazine, IIT Roorkee

Volume: XXX Issue: II



COVER STORY

What makes the Brand IIT?



BIG STORY

Tales from the Crypt

IN CONVERSATION WITH
The Director

ALMOST FAMOUS
King Tyagi



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CONTENT

Editor's Column	2
Verbatim	3
<i>Interview with the Director</i>	
News Notes	4
Almost Famous	7
<i>King Tyagi</i>	
Once upon a time in Roorkee	8
Thomso Man	13
Pheking News	14
Big Story	15
<i>Tales from the Crypt- Horror Legends on the Campus</i>	
Editorial	18
<i>The Notion of Morality</i>	
Techila	18
<i>Birth of the Future</i>	
WORC	19
<i>The Fate of College Fests</i>	
Cartoon Strip	20

Cover Story 9



WE HAVE



Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

One of the greatest benefits of using a social networking site like facebook is that ~~you can look at pictures of hot girls who are friends of your friends without them knowing~~ it serves as a medium for online self-expression and a platform for social interaction with people you'd otherwise rarely meet. Another feature of facebook that I find particularly appealing is that it has apps that somehow delve deep into your personality and reveal interesting facts about you. I mean, it is only after the advent of facebook that I've had a chance to find out how much of a nazi I am, if I'm a facebook addicted internet troll or secretly a brainwashed zombie living in a post-apocalyptic world, or unflattering as it is, the fact that the Friends' character I most resemble is Gunther. But for all the eulogy I've just bestowed on facebook, I for one, rarely use it.

But I digress. I'm sure this column wasn't made so that the Ed-in-C could discuss his online social life. Or so I hope. So, let me quickly get to my point – Valentine's day is around the corner. And unless I do something different in the next few days, I'd be spending the 14th of February without a valentine. For the 21st time (If you discount imaginary ones). And by do something different, I mean get ten cosmetic surgeries and eight pack abs in less than a week. Or produce, direct, write and star in a reality series called “*WONA ke Ed-in-C ki Valentine*” loosely based on that epic TV show with Rakhi Sawant in it.

Else forever remain fettered by the shackles of celibacy that has so become characteristic of my life in IITR. Which is precisely why I've decided to finally throw caution to the winds, let go of my inhibitions, man up and turn to facebook for help.

Well, it's easier than you'd think. All you have to do is create a new account with fake biodata, do an advanced course in Photoshop and morph your photo with that of Mr. World 2011, and then send 'franship' requests to all the girls who are friends of your friends (because let's face it, none of the girls you're friends with would ever go out with you). And don't forget to drop carefully worded hints that you are loaded. Recent studies have shown that one in every 2453 such friend requests are actually accepted. So there you have it, if you try hard enough someone out there will eventually get tired of saying 'no' and finally accept your friend request. Unless you get blocked by the website administrators who note down your IP address and give it to the authorities and you get arrested for cyberstalking. Well, if nothing else works, you can always create a fake profile, put some random chick's photo for a DP, make her your valentine and exchange cheesy messages to show off to your friends and later on suffer the pangs of loneliness for the rest of your life. Phew! It's times like these that make you wish you had actually fulfilled that New Year resolution of bathing once in every three days atleast, eh?

It speaketh a great deal about the news content in the magazine when its Editor-in-Chief goes about dishing out unsolicited romantic advice in his column. Blah! Atleast, the mag's coming out this time.

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www.wona.co.in/blog



Dr. Pradipta Banerji

With the exit of Nesci, the absence of Thomso, air tickets being provided to Inter IIT sportsmen and astounding pay packages offered to students, IITR has certainly had quite an eventful autumn. As a matter of fact, this semester was kick started by a major administrative change, with Prof. Pradipta Banerjee succeeding Dr. S.C.Saxena as the director of IITR. WONA gets candid with the new director who talks about life in Roorkee, his plans for the institute and more...

WONA: What was the first impression that you got when you came to IIT Roorkee?

Director: Honestly, Roorkee seemed to me more like a resort - with wonderful weather, picturesque places in the vicinity and what I feel is the best campus in all IITs in terms of basic infrastructure. Unfortunately I have been unable to really explore the place, given that I was busy with the alumni meet, convocation duties and other things. This spring semester, I plan on surveying the departments in order to understand the work culture here. All the infrastructure seems to be in place, but the system to ensure its proper use is haywire. I found the administration quite opaque myself, as I am only involved on a case to case basis. This is also something that should change, and a general plan should be rolled out for the institute.

WONA: The student junta here feels that our IIT has not really shaken off the university culture. What are your comments on that?

Director: I believe that tradition lies at the heart of any institute and this institute has the longest surviving tradition in the commonwealth. We are all standing on the shoulders of over 160 years of effort and success. Having said that, 'parampara' has its own disadvantages. This love for tradition has been more of a hindrance in the transition of this institute from a university to an IIT and we are stuck somewhere in the middle of a poor transition process.

WONA: What are your short term and long term goals?

Director: Frankly, I just have a 5 year contract so it doesn't make sense in me having long term goals, but yes, I do have some short term goals for myself at this institute. To begin with, I really want to attract better PG and Doctoral students to this place and improve the on-campus research culture. Apart from that, I'll also be working on finding ways to promote undergraduate research. I see that the departments have labs that are limited to PG students or Research Scholars. I am going to remove these barriers to promote UG research. I also wish to recruit new and younger faculty into the departments and change their demography. Good internet facilities in every hostel to aid the growth of students is also high on my priority list. Further, I am going to launch many exchange programmes with foreign universities so that our students can interact with a larger audience. I also intend to market IIT Roorkee in a more effective way than it is being done now, so that we can attract better students, professors and companies.

WONA: Sir, do you mind giving us a glimpse of your personal interests and your life in R.

Director: I really love the infrastructure this campus has to offer, besides the beautiful places in the vicinity. I intend to utilise the excellent sports facilities here to the fullest. I used to be a part of the IITD Inter-IIT football team as an undergrad and have always taken a keen interest in sports. Besides, my research interest lies in earthquake engineering – I work on Structural Health Monitoring - so that keeps me busy too. All in all, I'm just getting used to the place and the people and it gives me great pleasure to be the Director of this historical and promising institute.

WONA: Message for the students ?

Director: I have an essentially two part message for the students. One, work as hard as you can. And try to appreciate the process of learning – it disheartens me to find that today's students do not enjoy the process of learning and instead are more goal oriented. The other part of my message is that - I'm here for you. So if you have any issues, let me know and I'll try to solve it as soon as possible. As I always say, I don't look at this position as an administrative head of the institution, instead I look at myself as a facilitator – so as to make everyone's life here a pleasure.

**The Director has also conveyed an earnest personal message to the students of IITR. Please visit our website www.wona.co.in or [facebook.com/watchoutnewsagency](https://www.facebook.com/watchoutnewsagency) to watch the video.

Recent Developments in the Library

IIT Roorkee boasts of a well-equipped state of the art Library - with Macintosh computers, an online Kiosk Catalogue system and full time internet service, leaving students of R-Town wondering, "Can this get any better?!". Well, it just did...

Watch Out!, in conversation with the Scientific Officer, *Mrs Nisha*, finds out about the new tech developments at our Library.

#1: The now defunct technology of issuing library books using bar-codes is to be replaced by the use of radio frequency tags. These tags, unlike the bar codes, have the ability to store information like status of issue, date of issue, late fee etc. With the help of these tags the students would be able to issue or return the books themselves, thus avoiding dreary queues. The tags shall be in the form of stickers to be pasted on the back of each book, making the book-issuing process less cumbersome. The user would only have to place it on the kiosk placed at the entrance to the central library, and (voila!) the rest is done. This kiosk would also allow students to return their issued books at any time of the day.

#2: The TBLS would also be combined and a single central smart card would be issued to the students. This card when swiped would get all the transaction details of the student from the database, making the process of issuing books more transparent and centralized. This would also bring in more organization to the library and makes the job easy for the staff. The books could now be frisked using a handheld device and beep patterns will help direct its rightful place on the shelf. There are sensors too, placed right at the entrance, that can detect books containing the tag, hence preventing thefts and loss to the library.

Amidst all the cribbing prevalent about our library, it seems we tend to overlook the efforts taken by the staff to make our library what it's worth for. The changes are yet to be implemented fully, and the transformation has gone through phase one. In all, we hope that this new technology will modernize our library management in unprecedented ways and usher into a new era of excellence.

IITR Greater Noida Extension Organizes a Workshop

A three day workshop on "Free/Open-Source softwares for Libraries" was organized by the Mahatma Gandhi Central Library at the Greater Noida Extension Centre, from 28th to 30th December, 2011. The main agenda of the workshop was to provide training with adequate practical knowledge to library professionals which would enable them to initiate for modernization of the libraries like Library Automation and Networking, Development of Institutional Repository, Design and Development of Library Website etc. by using FOSS (Free/Open Source Software). The workshop focussed on the use and application of three software packages – DSpace, Koha and Joomla. The workshop comprised of lectures, demonstration and hands on training using Open Source Software in detail. Computer lab facilities were made available for the participants for extended hours.

Glory, Glory, IITR!

Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee was awarded "Energy Conservation Award 2011" – First Prize under the Category "Office Building & Educational Institute" by the Government of Uttarakhand, during an award ceremony held at Dehradun, on Dec 14, 2011. By adopting energy conservation measures at the institute, annual (Oct 2010 – Sept 2011) savings of 16.47 lacs electricity units (about 9.75%) had been estimated against a total annual consumption of 172.13 lacs electricity units of the institute, including residences. The award was in the form of a certificate, a cheque for Rs 25,000/- and a plaque, and was received by *Dr Arun Kumar*, HOD AHEC, and *Shri Salek Chand*, Superintending Engineer on behalf of IIT Roorkee. Dr. Arun Kumar explained some of the energy conservation devices/measures in his award address that were adopted – 96,000 lpd of solar water heating systems, CFL/solar street lights, efficient tube lights and electronic ballasts, electronic fan regulators, temperature setting of AC and change of hot plates in office pantries by gas cylinders.

Way to go, IITR!

Give Me Red: NSS Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp was organized by *NSS, IIT Roorkee* on the 6th of November. A blood donation motivation program on the 5th preceded the blood donation camp. This took place in the convocation hall, where the students of the social awareness cell put up a skit aiming to clear misconceptions regarding blood donation. This was followed by encouraging lectures by *Dr. Amit Kumar* from the *Indian Medical Association* and *Dr. Bondhyal* and *Dr. Joshi* from the *Himalayan blood bank*. A short poem was also recited by *Mrs. Smitha Jha*, Professor in the HS department at IITR. A concise presentation, that was much appreciated, was shown by the *techno creative cell* highlighting the importance of blood donation. The director, *Dr Pradipta Banerji* leading by example was one of the first few who initiated the donation.

On 6th November, the camp saw a mammoth crowd assembling for the fair cause. A large number of NSS students actively volunteered to ensure smooth conduction of the camp. The end day saw a whopping *663 units* of blood being collected, breaking all previous turn out records.

Workshop on

Perspectives on Research Methodology

A two day workshop on "*Perspectives on Research Methodology: Papers and Dissertations*" was organised at and by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, in association with *Q.I.P. Centre*, on the 13th and 14th of January, 2012. The main objective of this workshop was to make the research students and young teachers aware of the intricacies and exclusive specialties of research methodology. Starting with the choice of the topic as well as the selection of the supervisor, and moving on to the problems of exploration/investigation and communication, research students have to contend with several other issues that require proper training and adequate cultivation. The various contents of the workshop aimed at giving the research students expert guidance on how to prepare a working bibliography, how to evaluate various sources and the format of papers and dissertations. The scholars were also asked to maintain the integrity of their work, as it is only for want of adequate information or

instruction that as often as not they languish, get stranded, or finally opt out of their projects. The lectures in the workshop, by experts on the different dimensions of research methodology, hoped to instil into the research students a kind of confidence and conviction that would carry them forward in their mission in the most genuine sense of the term.

Dramatics

'*The Night of 16th January*' a play written by *Ayn Rand*, was enacted out on the stages of *O.P Jain Civil auditorium* by the Dramatics Section on the 7th-8th November. Going back to the 1930's when the play was originally written, it had a special magnetic attraction for the audience. The play dealt with issues of a man's ability to regard oneself as important and exist in a society where moral decay is ever prevalent. It also dealt with issues of love, loyalty and betrayal. One particularly interesting feature of the play was that members of the audience were picked to take on the role of jury members each night. Depending on whether the "Jury" finds the defendant of the case, as in the play, "*guilty*" or "*not guilty*" - the play would have different endings. Another unique feature of the play was that it does not state what the true events were on the night of January 16th, forcing the actors performing the show to decide how much of their character's testimony is actually true. Since several witnesses contradicted each other, it was almost certain that some of them were lying. But the dramatics people decided on that uncertainty for themselves giving it a definite ending from their side. Well anyways they did justice to the play sans the minor glitches and unclear dialogues and earned themselves a good round of applause. The auditorium was jam-packed on both the days with the front rows sporadically filled with professors and their families. On the whole it was an entertaining showcase that lasted for about an hour and a half.

In Memorium, Amey Mandhan

The fates can be horribly unfair, sometimes. They can take a bright future, and in a few cruel twists, ensure that it never comes to be. That the world never has a chance to know what a life could have become. So it was with Amey Mandhan.

On January 30th, 2012, we were all shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news that Amey had taken his own life. He was our batchmate in the E.C.E. batch of 2010, and a good friend to many of us. It was hard to believe that the promising life of the good-natured guy a few rooms away had ended in this fashion.

Amey had always struck me as one of the most brilliant people I had ever known. Always up for a bakar session on anything from politics to professors, he always came across as having a sharp intellect, and an extremely interesting and engaging personality. We always believed he could go places- but it was not to be, and tragically, a tough world got the better of him.

It was great to have known you, Amey, however briefly. We wish you had chosen a different way, and that you could still be amongst us today. We hope you rest in peace, and that your family finds the strength and succor that they need to face this difficult time.

- Atulya Yellepedi
ECE Batch 2010



Amey Mandhan

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Despite his busy schedule Kanishk Tyagi (B. Arch IV), inspiring student-politician, talented inter-IIT basketball player and resident Rambo, made enough time to share his experiences with us, and in the process gives us the most enjoyable Almost Famous ever. Here's what he had, or was made, to say.

WONA: We believe you know the first question.

KT: My first crush was Sujata Singh who was in her fourth year when I was in my first. Coincidentally, I interviewed her for Almost Famous and there was a 'romantic' chapo after that (*romance over a plate of bun butter samosa? Really?*)

WONA: What about your pseudonym King Tyagi, who gave you that name?

KT: Maybe it's because of the grand chapos I give. I cannot remember a time when I denied any junior who came asking for one (*fachchas, take notice*).

WONA: What are your views on having a girlfriend on campus?

KT: Errm, okay. As you might already know a certain Meta girl was my girlfriend on campus till some time back. I know one thing for sure; they most certainly don't help you with your cg.

WONA: Considering you might know, do you think politics always ends in dirty fights?

KT: I got into politics because I think I'm good with PR and it is a good way of exercising your mind (*and body?*); I don't think the two are connected on any level.

WONA: Why do you think your team lost the elections this year, and what do you think of the current SAC?

KT: First of all, my form got rejected straightaway for some reason. Then I think I should've taken the girls on my side; I took their support for granted. And talking about SAC, *SAC toh bakwaas hain*. If SAC had any real power whatsoever, Thomso would've taken place this time.

WONA: Totally unrelated to you, what do you think about the *pot scene* on campus?

KT: It's there, it's everywhere. You know it if you are a part of it. (*that's what she said?!*) But I personally feel very sad that the industry is constantly growing and a lot of juniors have of late been becoming a part of it.

WONA: Just curious, how do you fare in your two credits for discipline?

KT: I don't regret any fights or brawls; as I got involved in them for my friends. I've done some unwise things one of which was getting drunk and marking my territory in front of Sarojini Bhawan, canine style (*Why should dogs have all the fun?*).

WONA: You know the protocol. Your views on WONA?

KT: It's a cool group apart from the fact that they laugh at really bad jokes!

We were going to crack a joke or two there but then we stopped ourselves when we realised that he won't mind losing another twenty discipline marks. Ten for each skull.





Mr. Jagmohan Chopra

Mr. Jagmohan Chopra, currently a freelance writer and a formerly Professor of Marketing MDI, Gurgaon, obtained his Bachelor Degree in Chemical Engineering from UoR in 1970. He later went on to do his MBA from FMS, Delhi.

Short, chubby, bespectacled and reasonably intelligent is how you would describe *Bhatia* after meeting him for the first time, but the *Bhatia* we knew was much more.

Bhatia joined the *Chemical Engineering* course at *Roorkee* in 1965 and contrary to everyone's expectations, cleared it in the stipulated period of four years. *Bhatia* had many passions, but the two things he loved most were sleep and carrom. *Bhatia* was average in studies, but when it came to carrom, he was the undisputed champion. It was a treat to watch him play, making the "men" and "queen" dance to his tune. In a match, he would always target the queen, saying if you get the big one, small ones will follow. *Bhatia's* day usually started at noon after a late-night session of carrom with his friends. Teachers who took the morning

classes were aware of his gingerly ways and knew that if they had to meet *Bhatia*, it had to be in the afternoon.

Bhatia's secret of success in the examinations was his flair for filling answer sheets. He would fold the answer sheet to make a three-inch imaginary column on the left and do the same on the right, leaving only three inches for him to write on. Add to this his highly illegible handwriting where all one could see was the first letter of a word followed by a straight line and you can imagine the plight of the examiner correcting his copy. While most of us would be struggling to fill one copy, *Bhatia* would fill four. "Sir, kaapeeee", said loudly with a nasal twang, used to echo in the examination hall whenever *Bhatia* was around!

An interesting incident that comes to my mind about *Bhatia* is his final year project viva voce examination. Teachers in the department had briefed the external examiner, an *IIT* Professor, about *Bhatia* and had requested him to take it easy.

"So, you are *Bhatia*?" said the examiner with a cocky smile. "Yes Sir" said *Bhatia* with a bowed head.

"What are your favourite subjects, *Bhatia*?" asked the examiner.

Looking down, ensuring his eyes didn't meet those of the examiner, he said, "Sir, all my subjects are the same."

"Should I ask you something in *Heat Transfer*?" asked the examiner.

"Sir, I had just passed in *Heat Transfer*" said *Bhatia*.

"O.K., then should I ask you something in *Fluid Mechanics*?"

"Sir, in *Fluid Mechanics* I had a supplementary."

The conversation went on for few more minutes till an exasperated examiner said, "O.K. *Bhatia*, then you tell me what is your favourite subject."

"Sir, carrom" said *Bhatia* motioning a carrom shot with his thumb and index finger. The examiner could not help himself from laughing and, seeing *Bhatia's* friends wave at him from the window, said, "*Bhatia*, I think your friends want you to be with them, would you like to go?"

"Yes, Sir" said *Bhatia* with a bowed head.

"To play carrom, I suppose?" said the examiner with a smile.

"Yes Sir" said *Bhatia* and slipped out of the room.

When the results came, everyone was surprised to see that *Bhatia* had passed.

After graduating in 1969, *Bhatia* went to *U.S.A.* for higher studies and settled there. In the first letter he wrote to his friends in India, he said "In *Roorkee*, I used to copy your tutorials. Here, these guys copy mine", referring to his fellow American students.

Keep on doing the good work, *Bhatia*!



Hijli Detention Camp, Administrative Building (Kharagpur)

The first *Indian Institute of Technology* was founded in *May 1950* at the site of the *Hijli Detention Camp* in *Kharagpur*. On *September 15, 1956*, the Parliament of India passed the *Indian Institute of Technology Act*, declaring it as an Institute of National Importance, consequently making these institutes the official Mecca of Indian intellect. *Jawaharlal Nehru*, in the first convocation address of *IIT Kharagpur* in 1956, said:

//

Here in the place of that Hijli Detention Camp stands the fine monument of India, representing India's urges, India's future in the making. This picture seems to me symbolic of the changes that are coming to India.

As many would like to put it, there is something about an *IITian* that acts as a differential due to which he is assumed to be more competent. For reasons myriad, allegations of mediocrity notwithstanding, *brand IIT* represents a set of vibrant individuals who make it big in their lives. *Que sera sera*, it's more about the means than the end, isn't it? Promises by each and every section aside, life on campus itself grooms our character and makes us better equipped to face the challenges the outside world has to hurl at us.

WONA attempts to unravel the mystery surrounding what goes into making a global forerunner out of a laid back insomniac. *What makes the Brand IIT?*

Some people are born mediocre, some achieve mediocrity, and some others have mediocrity thrust upon them. Fortunately, such people are a rarity in R and most of us have a respectable prospect of driving a *Bentley* one day (*or so we delude ourselves*). The *IITR junta* may not buy it, but truth be told, we are members of the elite academia of this nation. And it's not just the academia, *IITians* are creating waves in the corporate sector as well. Hence, it is safe to assume that many of us will eventually escalate from these high spirited corridors, to be placed among those considered to be the pinnacle of the modern day innovation, while the rest may die trying.



The Nerd's Excalibur

Gone are those days of adolescence when many of us burnt the midnight oil and had to forgo teenage life's infinite pleasures, so we could clear the erstwhile hallowed *Joint Entrance Exam* and make it to the *IITs*. Some of us, gifted with a superior intellect, had to burn less oil while some, and there will always be some, who got here due to some fortunate divine intervention. As a result, the *IITs* boast of a number of hard-working and brilliant individuals due to this selection procedure.

Though under heavy criticism, the *JEE* is more challenging than most entrance exams around the world, if not the toughest. This intense ordeal ensures that students getting into the *IITs* are hard-working, talented, besides being knowledgeable, and possess an innate love for competition. The outsourcing baron may perhaps disagree, but *IITians* are a considerably competent lot to start with.

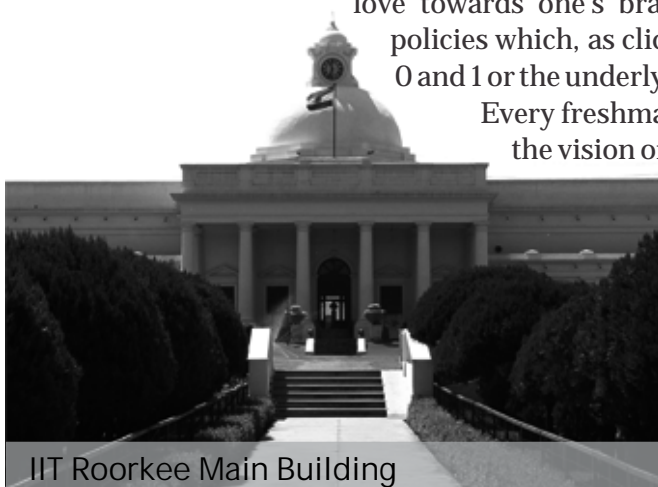
Despite the *JEE* having several drawbacks, one has to agree to the fact that selecting a few thousand bright minds out of half a million applicants can never be easy. Of course, an objective response based on multiple choice questions could be too ingenious to be a long term solution for this issue; but considering the magnitude of applicants, bringing back the subjective exam is not exactly feasible, while combining *JEE* with *AIEEE* and/or *CBSE* board exams is equally flawed. *Abhinav Sharma* of 2nd year *GT* suggests, "*Bringing back the erstwhile screening test is a better alternative compared to the proposed alterations in the selection procedure. It will ensure selection of students with better conceptual knowledge and communication skills.*" The point of *JEE* unable to check the communication skills does touch a nerve, and still remains the prime weakness of this system. Let alone producing writers who do not serve as the quintessence of the contemporary Indian male's fantasy, we hope that we don't have to take *ToEFL* classes from the Chinese one day.



The Insti's contribution

King Melchizedek in the *Alchemist* says, "*At a certain point in our lives, we lose control of what's happening to us, and our lives become controlled by fate - that's the world's greatest lie.*" Sounds familiar? This is what any average sophomore starts contemplating about largely at the end of his/her autumn semester (the sweltering sunny one). The deep, boisterous love towards one's branch is mostly stifled by the institute's academic policies which, as clichéd as it might sound, diminishes the splendour of 0 and 1 or the underlying symmetry in special theory of relativity.

Every freshman, when he first visits the *IITR* website is stirred by the vision of this institute, "*To be the fountainhead of new ideas and innovations in science and technology and continue to be a source of pride for all Indians*" written below a magnificent rendition of the main building. At the end of his stay here, the above statement baffles the average *Roorkeeite* more than any of his career choices ever did.



IIT Roorkee Main Building

Although the institute hasn't held back on providing world class hostel and sports amenities aimed at holistic development, it is technical infrastructure we are essentially lacking in. Let alone making global front-runners out of us, most of our interests don't go beyond maintaining 75% attendance in lectures and submitting tutorials apart from the last second cramming. Regarding the institute's academic policies, *Luv Tomar* of CSI 4th year says *"Current academic system is unsatisfactory and there is a need to revise the present course structure thoroughly, and also flexibility in switching courses and minor courses should be allowed."*

Reasons being plenty, the bulk of the students here like to remain unsociable and taciturn, thus stalling all scope for refining one's communication skills - which has, of late, been consistently failing to the match the international standards.

Miss Arti Agarwal, student of Architecture who graduated from IIT Roorkee in 2008, opines, "The core skills for my dept. would be design and artistic skills. Apart from that, I doubt if the insti contributed anything to me. Personally, I believe whatever you learn, you learn on your own, not because of the institute or the professors. IIT was just an experience for me, nothing more, nothing less." She is a professional photographer now and runs her own studio in Mumbai.

Theory of Relativity

Relative grading has long been considered the cause that drives the *kolaveri* in every *IITian's* mind. The single and most significant contribution of the savants on the board, in structuring these institutes of national importance, was to introduce a system of *Cumulative Grade Point Average* (fun fact: after admiring your discipline grade, look behind your grade sheet to know how it is calculated). Right from the time when the prodigies of their respective schools start preparing for *JEE*, they are acquainted with two objectives - to keep their eyes on their relative position, and off their contemporary's average gratifying existence. Although the latter is seldom practised once you make it through to the *IITs*, intellectual disparity among the country's superlative is what the recruiting firms believe to be a gateway to the *Forbes Fortune 500*. As many veterans would like to put it during the placement season - *'Beggars can't be choosers'*; hence leaving no option for the students but to achieve a more sophisticated grade than the 'other' guy - which unflinchingly becomes their mantra of success later in life.

As *Nivedan Ravi* of 3rd yr *P&I* interjects, *"Relative grading is a very good concept. Every time you try to get more and more and basically you are striving for excellence. The 7 pointer tries for 8 while the one with 8 tries for 9 next time and this goes on and on."* Ah. We wonder, if this isn't the circle of life, then what is?



Hostel life: Peers, beers and more...

It has often been remarked, on and off the record, that the *brand IIT* owes more to the eminence of its students than faculty. Not that we really disagree (or care), but it is a certainty that very few professors actually take an initiative to start productive interactions with the student population.

Hence, a major avenue for a student to groom himself is interaction among his peer groups, or by reading some life-altering books (*Atlas Shrugged?*), though we all know how well that turns out.

The journey from being a naïve fuccha to a final year student is bumpy to say the least, but it does give one ample opportunities to experience and cherish some lessons for life. And our peers (*for all the 'sir' protocol following junta, by peers we mean seniors too*) do have a vast influence on us. Birds of the same feather indeed go to *RP* together! Man is certainly known by the company he keeps, and while one rotten fruit can spoil the bushel, opening up to peers in a place this cognizant is a risk worth taking. Let us all be humble enough to acknowledge that we pick up many qualities from those around us, and the fact that we are surrounded by some of the finest minds of the country is just gravy. *IITians*, being the overly social nocturnal animals that they are, thus form or try to get into peer groups, be it sections, sports, clubs, committees or some other esteemed groups like the *Rasta* followers' community and the not-so-regal card playing society. Ultimately, everybody finds some company, and this companionship translates into many experiences, which many a times, make us better poised, more confident, improve our temperament and even convert silent introverts into irksome extroverts. Peers also enlighten us about the crude reality around us, assist us in making life altering decisions (like, say, whether to join lights or audio) and help us form a professional network of highly competent individuals. However questionable our lifestyle on campus maybe, it does find a supporter in *Gagandeep Gill*, 2nd yr IDD E&C, as he says, "*Last minute submissions and studies are elements of our lifestyle that help in our holistic development(!) and ensure that we are capable of handling emergency situations.*"

Peer interactions do have an undesirable side too, but then it's just our way of learning and mastering the old maxim, 'work hard, party harder'.

"IIT gave me friends and not just acquaintances, teachers and not just professors, confidence and not just attitude, learning and not just knowledge, brothers and not just partners." says Praseon Gupta, CEO Techbuddy Consulting Pvt. Ltd., who is a 2009 IITR graduate.

★ It's all about the brand, honey

And yes people, this is the crude motive behind us all coming to *IIT*. We might never have been in the hunt for cutting edge technical education, or for state of the art amenities, but most of us just wanted a name that sounds cool on our resume. And that is precisely what the *Indian Institute of Technology* gives you - A name to boast about, a name which makes heads turn - *a brand*. Honestly, the fact remains that with such reputation attached to the *IITs* even a mediocre graduate from these institutes gets a better start in his career than most of the graduates from other institutes. How one capitalises on said start is left to the person but nonetheless, it's still a start.

Many people, commoners and celebrities/management gurus alike, have argued that there is no big deal in being an *IITian*, but then statistics and personal experiences show that this is as unreal as this year's Thomso. So, what has built the *brand IIT*? Probably the excellent credentials of our alumni, stupendous success in the field of finance and management, coupled with brilliant research work across many disciplines (*questionable, maybe*) - a brand is always built on the foundations of the work of past generations. Besides that, we have a state of the art infrastructure, better curriculum and above all, a decently fulfilling campus life. Yes we do have our vices but then as they say, today is the time for fun. Not that we are in a mood to let go of our vices tomorrow. We love using valuable time watching tv shows, playing computer games, engaging in high spirited encounters and even cropping the occasional grass, but then that's just who we are.

We are the leaders of tomorrow. Amen.



What the cogni!!

NOTICE

Dean's Notice: No Thomso this year.
Booyah TOC!
Date of Notice: 31 Sept' 11

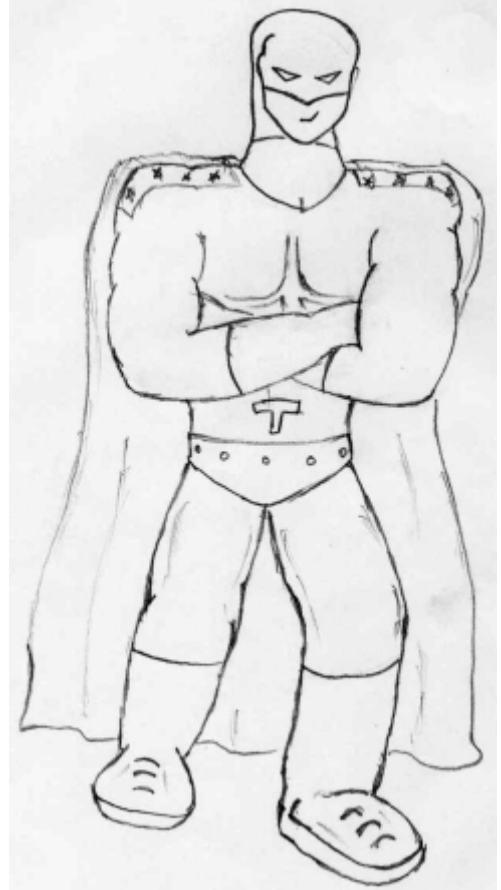


Kar shapath?
Kar shapath
Kar shapath

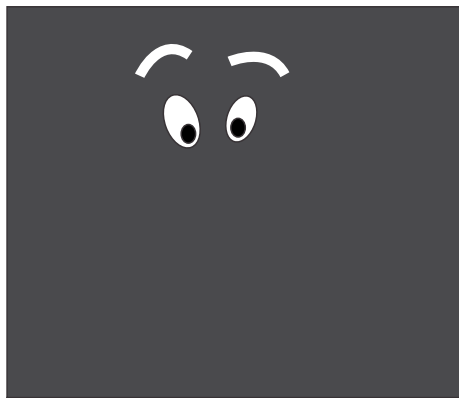
Agneepath
Agneepath
Agneepath



Stupefied, terrified, mortified, petrified and emulsified by the Admin's decision, Thomso-man vows to take revenge and single-handedly make Thomso the largest psycho-socio-cultural college fest



Meri Jung - one man band: Thomso-man showcases his musical prowess at Battle of Bands by playing all the instruments simultaneously.



The dark night: Thomso-man is about to deliver his masterpiece when the stage is shrouded in darkness due to the 10 P.M powercut.



Motomania: With the petrol prices approaching 6.023×10^{23} his super-sports bike is rendered useless.



Cyclemania: Not one to disappoint crowds, he goes up and down the library slope doing complicated stunts on his geared bicycle.

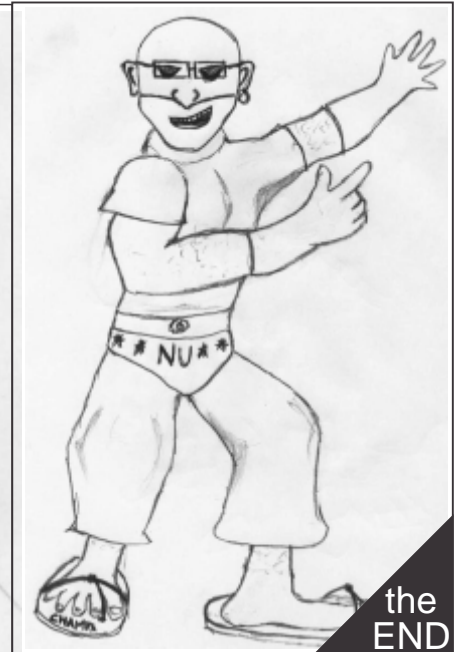
Alter ego: Srishti Bhabhi
Arch Rivals: Cogni woman
Urja, Prakriti
Team Affiliations: SAC, Cultural Council, Hobbies Club, Inter IIT, Roorkee Penfight Association, Kukaldodi Women's Beach Volleyball
Abilities: Superhuman strength, speed, agility, and endurance, Ability to cling to moist surfaces, PreCOGNITIVE Cultural-Sense, Genius-level intellect, POLYmorphism, Master hand-to-lip combatant
Notable Achievements:
•Versatile 9 pointer
•Three time winner of the Khanjarpur Book cricket championship



Foot-lose: Just when Thomso-man is attempting a moonwalk, an earthquake occurs causing him to break a leg.



Despite Thomso being a resounding failure, Thomso-man doesn't lose hope as he has a secret plan. Lips Don't Lie: Thomso-man turns to his secret stash of makeover cosmetics for help.



The show must go on: And thus, out of the ashes, a new hero Nav Umang (Dixit?) is born.

the
END

where truth doesn't hide

PHEKING NEWS

where truth doesn't hurt

Following close on the heels of the recent *Padmanabha Swamy* temple excavation, authorities claim to have found a gold treasure here at the *ABN grounds* yesterday. Although they were reluctant in giving out details, rough estimates suggest that total worth of the treasure slightly exceeds the *GDP* of India. The construction worker who originally found the treasure immediately applied for an extended leave with his company yesterday, and hasn't been seen since. If rumours are to be believed, he was last seen zooming in his gleaming new Ferrari somewhere off the coast of France.

The authorities have decided to employ sophisticated technology in order to improve security about the perimeter ever since- rattling tin cans have been put on the fence walls so that nobody can enter without making noise. Also, a few particularly scary looking scarecrows have been put up inside while ferocious, police trained, killer Pomeranians roam about marking their territory within the grounds. *Mr. X Singh*, Head of Security for the Indian cricket team was immediately recalled from Australia and made in charge of operations after India lost its fourth successive test match. our intrepid reporter *XX* managed to lay his hands on him and get his interview. "I'm very happy with the security arrangements so far. We have become very strict in checking ID cards. We have also cunningly changed the board outside the *ABN grounds* to read '*ABN grounds 3 km*' while pointing in the opposite direction to deceive people." The Pomeranians, as may be expected from a diurnal, faithful domesticated member of the *Canidae* family of the order *Carnivora* made no comment.

Tales from the Crypt

In a never-before-seen show of daredevilry, Team Watch Out set out to find the trail of horror hidden well within the shadowy pages among the annals of the 160 year old campus. Braving deadly attacks from ubiquitous nocturnal creatures (not just the security guards), we also explored the ominous, allegedly “haunted” parts of the campus. But, it was highly probable that even said guards can conjure up a cutting story in their free time, which only means all day less time taken to blow into whistles and rearrange cycles to make the ones in use inaccessible. So, our stories seemed too qualified to be up for grabs lest gnarly fights break out among movie directors vying to become the next Hitchcock. Before we present before you the details of our findings, it is worth knowing that we were rather disappointed to find no references to zombie outbreaks, subsequent unexpected zombie replication or zombie apocalypse. Not a trace of love-sick vampires, destitute werewolves, oddly persistent bloodhounds, psychotic serial killers, cannibals and other ingredients of familiar horror movies was found either.

Nevertheless, there were some sightings of the unnatural and we all know that the thrill of lovecraftian horror far exceeds that of encountering corpses and phantoms and understandably makes zombies wish to die (again) of shame. And before you read on, just remember to lock your doors.



Where the streets have no guards

IIT Roorkee has always been under censorship. Be it the timing restriction for girls, the draconian 75% attendance rule or the huge numbers of guards moving around to keep a check on departments and couples alike; like vultures circling a carcass. Every department seems to be guarded much to the dismay of pranksters and the passing “lets-steal-the-exam-papers-like-the-movie” guy, what stands out like blood in a field of snow is the absence of any guards outside the *Earthquake Department*. *Jawahar Bhawan* has a guard and *Kasturba* obviously has one too, so why leave the one department in the middle behind?

If stories are to be believed, there have been numerous occurrences of the paranormal there. With voices coming from rooms to sudden flickering of lights inside, some guards even recount a story about a colleague who saw human faces in the tiles of the department

There have been many theories on the cause of these occurrences, none fitting enough. One of them goes about a graveyard being just where the department is right now, back in 1926 the graveyard was ploughed over for the foundation of the building, and our best guess is that it didn't please the dead. The earthquake department has stayed unguarded for quite some time now, and even then there has not been a single incident which would have forced the administration to put one. The Guards aren't even morally bound to look after the department. According to them they don't have to - it's already being guarded.

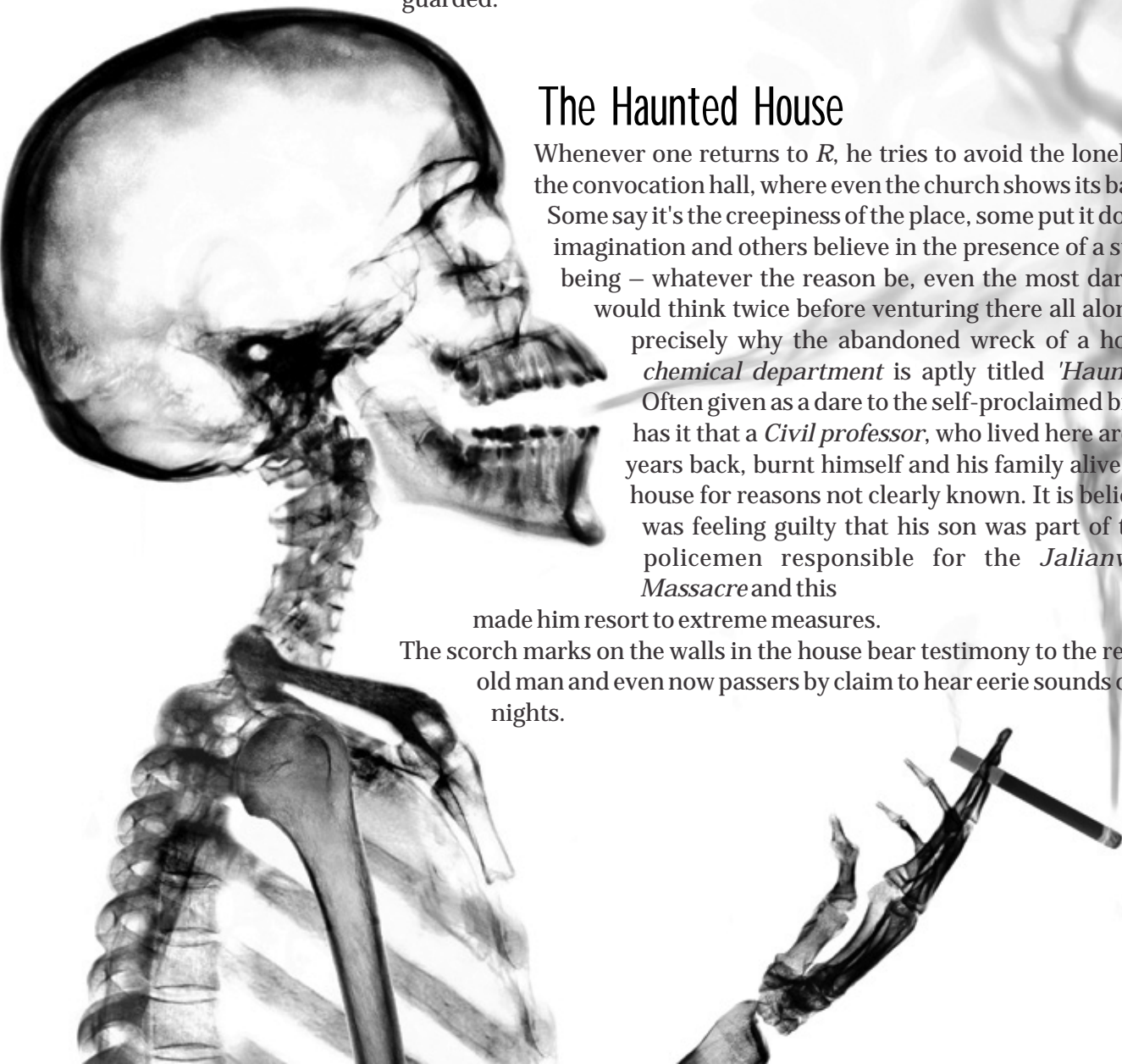
The Haunted House

Whenever one returns to *R*, he tries to avoid the lonely road near the convocation hall, where even the church shows its back.

Some say it's the creepiness of the place, some put it down to a wild imagination and others believe in the presence of a supernatural being – whatever the reason be, even the most daring of souls would think twice before venturing there all alone. Which is precisely why the abandoned wreck of a house behind *chemical department* is aptly titled '*Haunted House*'. Often given as a dare to the self-proclaimed brave, legend has it that a *Civil professor*, who lived here around 80-90 years back, burnt himself and his family alive at that very house for reasons not clearly known. It is believed that he was feeling guilty that his son was part of the troop of policemen responsible for the *Jalianwala Bagh Massacre* and this

made him resort to extreme measures.

The scorch marks on the walls in the house bear testimony to the remorse of an old man and even now passers by claim to hear eerie sounds on full moon nights.



Corridors of Dor(o)m

It is common knowledge that *Ravindra Bhawan* has been the most confusing and twisted of all the *Bhawans* gracing *IIT Roorkee* what with all the sudden dead ends, the confounding crisscrossing of stairs. Out of all the narrow corridors, the one traversing the infamous corridor on the ground floor gives you the shivers for no apparent reason. Residents and neighbours report that there have been instances when they saw the sudden flickering of lights, heard moans and the sounds of someone dribbling a basketball, from a room in the middle of the night. All these would have been uninteresting, if not for the fact that the room has in fact been locked for the *past 4 years*. The lights and the sound could easily be the result of a prankster, but after examining the room, an inch-thick layer of dust on everything confirmed that the room has been undisturbed ever since and there was no sign of a break in. So the question remains – what causes these unearthly experiences?

It's said that an adept basketball player was found brutally murdered in the room some 20 years back.

Ragging : Surreal Interaction

An embargo on ragging was placed by the Hon'ble Supreme court as an obvious upshot towards numerous deaths in countless institutes in the country.

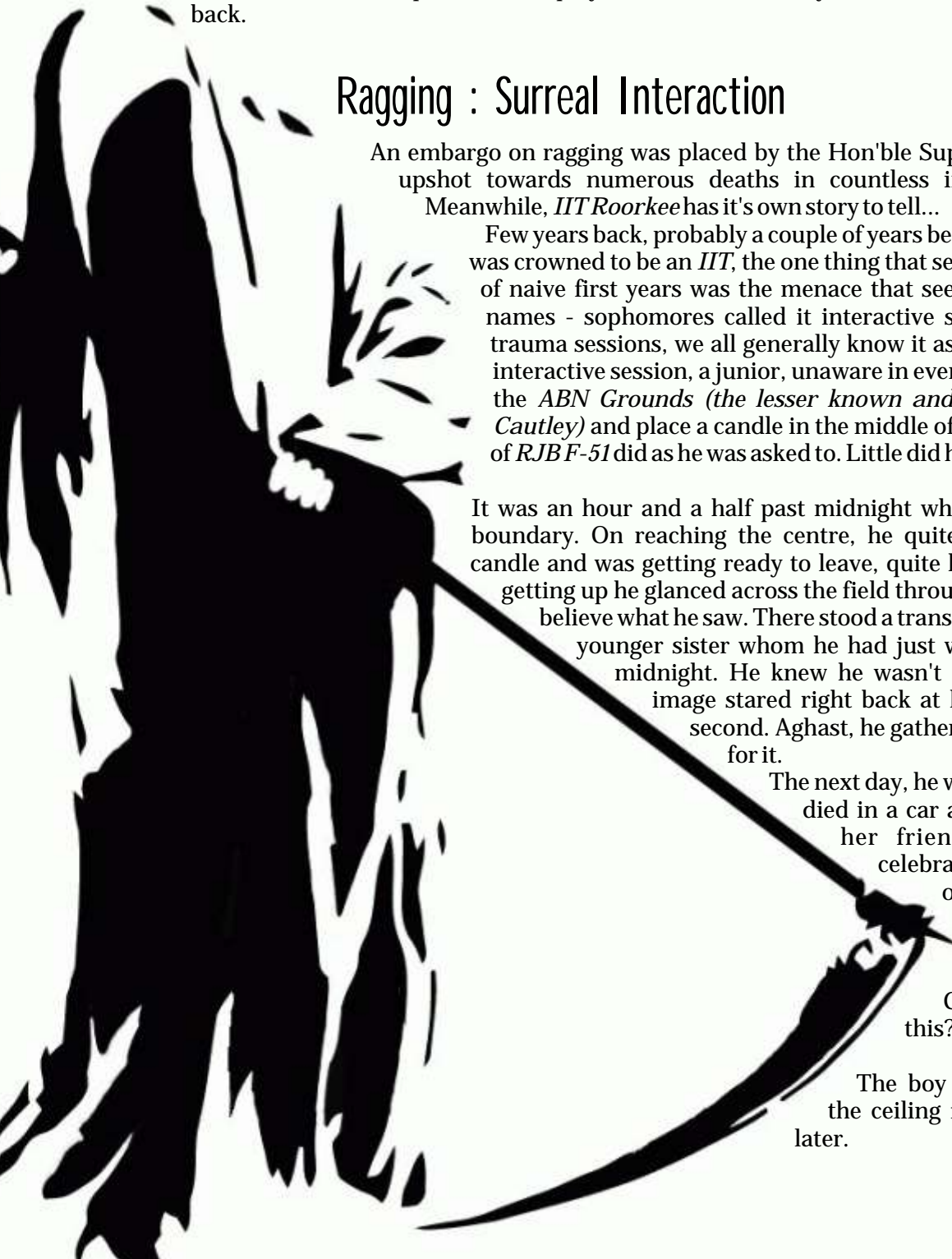
Meanwhile, *IIT Roorkee* has it's own story to tell...

Few years back, probably a couple of years before *University of Roorkee* was crowned to be an *IIT*, the one thing that sent shivers down the spines of naive first years was the menace that seemed to have a number of names - sophomores called it interactive sessions, freshers called it trauma sessions, we all generally know it as ragging. During one such interactive session, a junior, unaware in every sense, was asked to go to the *ABN Grounds (the lesser known and desolate ground next to Cautley)* and place a candle in the middle of it. The reluctant occupant of *RJBF-51* did as he was asked to. Little did he know...

It was an hour and a half past midnight when he entered the ground boundary. On reaching the centre, he quite meticulously placed the candle and was getting ready to leave, quite happy with himself. While getting up he glanced across the field through the candle and couldn't believe what he saw. There stood a translucent floating image of his younger sister whom he had just wished for her birthday at midnight. He knew he wasn't hallucinating because the image stared right back at him for more than a split second. Aghast, he gathered all his strength and ran for it.

The next day, he was informed that his sister died in a car accident along with few of her friends while she was out celebrating her birthday. Millions of questions started emerging. Could the previous night have been a premonition? Could he have prevented this?

The boy was found hanging from the ceiling fan of *RJB F-51* two days later.



Imagine a world where the providence rests with a Boolean function, which has a ready return of 'good' or 'bad' for every query of karma. Arjun's conundrums would have been answered by a truth value. Nothing would be inexplicable. Life wouldn't be so maddeningly complex. But, given a choice, would we want to live in a world so simple and dry? The parallels of 'good', 'bad' and their inscrutable differences add colour to the universe. There is no way that evil can be completely exterminated. And there is no reason for it to be. Ironically, opposites give meaning to each other.

There are good rulers, and bad ones. There are just administrators, and corrupt ones. There is joy and there is sorrow.

There is prosperity; and there also, is gloom. They not only complement, but define each other. Sometimes, a devil's advocate is needed to fight against the truth and establish it. Converses have coexisted since time immemorial and will continue to thrive in tandem for centuries to come. In their concurrence, there lives a perpetual continuity. Although mortals forever aspire for joy, sorrow has its own crucial place in the scheme of things. Misery protects a man from complacency and inaction. It makes us realise that performance of duty is a universal law which applies to both, the microcosm and the macrocosm. Even an atom couldn't do without the 'negative' electrons. Their action has a bearing on universal stability. If they stopped revolving, simply because all was well and they needed rest from years of running in circles, the world would cave in and collapse.

Absolute justice is an ultimate dream. But, injustice is inevitable, and also imperative for a harmonious equilibrium. Oppenheimer had become "*death, the destroyer of worlds*". But, in that destruction, he had brought peace. A communal havoc for some, the atom bomb was, for some others, a whip of reprimand that had quietened a rioting lot.

Choose whichever side you may, make sure that the conscience is convinced. Remember, the devil is also on a holy mission. To perceive everything as it is and to be unmoved by misplaced minds and thoughts could only be our escape to sanity.

Techila:: The Birth of the Future

The *death of Apple's head honcho, Steve Jobs*, brought a closure to an era, but prior to his departure, he paved a way to the future by gifting the world *Siri*. Initially launched as an app and later converted as an integral part of the latest *iPhone 4S*, *Siri* has been touted as the most advanced speech-controlled personal assistant ever designed. Promising to become ubiquitous in the near future, there have already been several attempts at making similar software for other platforms like the *Android OS* and *Windows Phone OS*. But how did this piece of software come to be?

Siri seems to be the brainchild of *Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)*; the American version of *DRDO*, only with faster cars and better guns. DARPA was set up to 'prevent technological surprises' to American interests after the Russians beat them into space and has since invented everything from the Internet and cloud computing to automated vehicles. Nearly 10 years ago, in a Matrix-esque plot, DARPA, along with one SRI International set out to build self-thinking computers from which were born the *CALO (Cognitive Assistant that Learns and Organises)* project and the *PAL (Personalized Assistant that Learns)* program. CALO, with three Indians at the helm (we have a finger in every idli, it seems), was developed to be used by military strategists to do anything from planning out offence and defence manoeuvres to working out their daily schedule. Surprise attacks by terrorists and the like immediately sparked off a warning system which automatically showed the officer in charge the various defence capabilities that could be used to stop the attack. Choosing your priorities for a meeting from a list resulted in a folder being complied with all the files required, ready to go!

Around 2007, SRI International, not wanting to miss out on the commercial opportunities of PAL, started developing an *iPhone app*. On 5 February 2010, *Siri* was launched without much fanfare as a personal assistant and Steve Jobs as he was wont, in a flash of genius, quietly and discreetly bought the vendor (called *Siri International*) for a rumoured \$150-200 million in April 2010. The app was discretely removed from the App Store. Seventeen months later, *Siri* was presented to us: completely revamped and *Apple-d*, leaving its competitors to play catch-up.

Though several glitches and anomalies have since shown up, it cannot be denied that *Siri* has forever changed the way the *smart phone* was used. And every time a video of *Siri* answering a weird question or dispensing sage advice pops up on *youtube*, you cannot but wonder: What if *Siri* goes sentient?





Dr. S.N. Sinha

With the absence of Thomso in the wake of lipsticks and controversies, and the possible abeyance of Sangram in foresight, academic year 2011-12 has passed without the usual tamasha that is characteristic of IITR. Concerned about the present and future of the campus festivals, Watch Out! interviewed the newly elected DOSW, Prof. S.N Sinha, Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering, in search of answers, if any.

WONA: Let's begin with what every student of IITR wants to know. Why was this year's Thomso cancelled?

DOSW: The basic reason behind not having Thomso this year was all the hullabaloo surrounding last year's informals fiasco and the bad name that our institute got. Various local as well as national newspapers made derogatory comments about IITR and its students, which is totally unacceptable. Students should learn to be more responsible if they want the administration to trust them in organizing such a big event.

WONA: Don't you think this institute deserves a cultural fest?

DOSW: I understand that it definitely does, but the fest has to be organized differently. It was being observed that the quality and standard of the fest was deteriorating over the years. As an example, there should be some criteria in place for inviting the participating teams. We have hordes of students coming from every Tom-Dick-and-Harry Institute whose demeanour and sense of discipline don't match with what IITR expects.

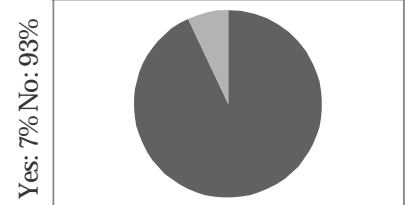
WONA: So, can we expect Thomso to return next year?

DOSW: The decision of cancelling Thomso was taken only with respect to this year. SAC has been given all the authority to propose reforms, improve the event and bring it to the standard of an IIT. For this year, SAC organized Nav Umang which was an intra-IITR fest, but as far as the decision regarding next Thomso is concerned, we're still unsure.

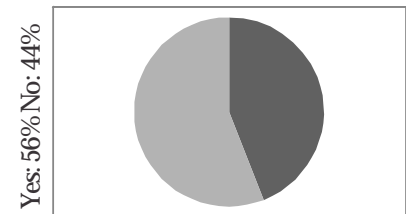
WONA: Should we accept Nav Umang as a substitute for Thomso? Is Cognizance 2012 going to bear some brunt too?

DOSW: Most certainly not. Cognizance is a highly respected technical fest, and we might as well introduce some cultural events in Cognizance, if it involves quality national level artists. And yes, for this year atleast, Nav Umang can be regarded as a substitute for Thomso. Let's see if we can bring back Thomso next year in a more acceptable form, provided the SAC is able to present a better layout for the fest that is promising and up to the mark.

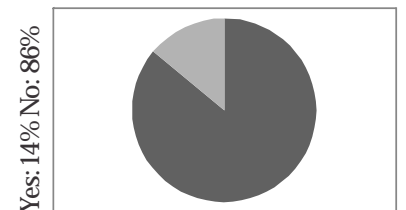
Students' Survey:



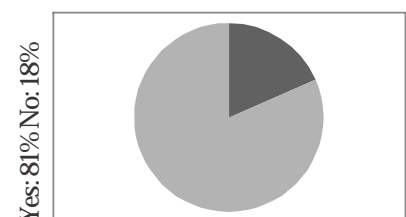
1. Do you think it was right to scrap Thomso because of the fiasco last time?



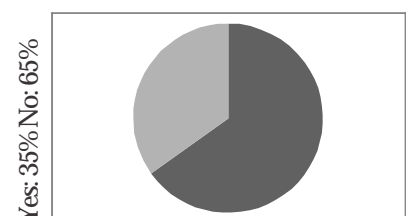
2. Do you think the admin. will bring Thomso back?



3. Does Nav Umang suffice the needs of a cultural fest?



4. Do you think Thomso is a pertinent issue in a Technical Institute as ours?

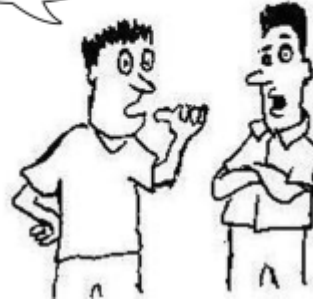


5. Did you actively take part in the Thomso events last time around?



Dude! That's a cool offer.

Damn it! I wanted just 1.



With the IITR junta suddenly becoming health conscious and clamouring for change, the Nesci guy decides to make them offers they can't refuse. Or so he thinks...



This life form is distracting

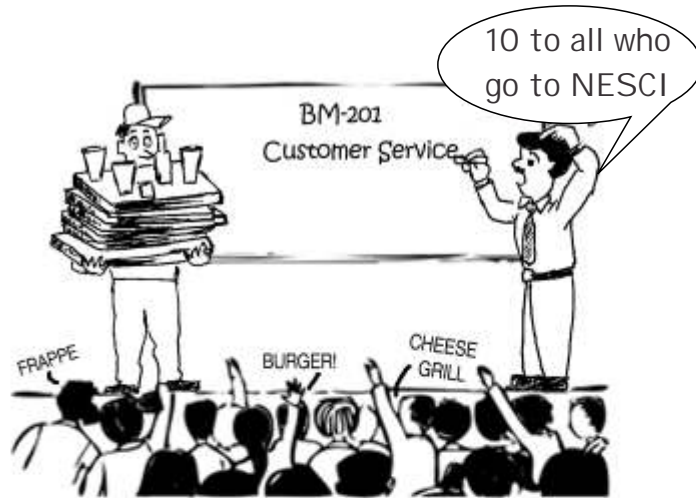


Bargaar le lo!!

in your face DOMI NOS



30 seconds or free



Pal... yaad aayenge ye pal...

Entertain them to Feed them

I can't take this anymore. Lets go.



Sadly, none of his tactics seem to woo people and this brings about the rise of a new world order
LIPTON

The Fall of NESCI



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