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# WATCHOUT



Student's News Magazine

Spring 2014 Issue



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE **SPORTS**





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## Last Things First

Several futile minutes into twiddling with my keyboard, I suddenly knew. There's nothing more clichéd than falling short of words precisely when you need them most. Now, I'm no glutton for farewell theatrics but I do hold with the thought that there's something achingly beautiful about a last word or at least that there should be. And I have to say, thoughts such as these are never pretty to get caught up in. After all, how does one elaborate upon a goodbye without ending up trifling with it? How does one, for that matter, say anything meaningful without being presumptuous or anything interesting without being meretricious? I, admittedly, am too deeply seated in these dilemmas myself to be able to come up with answers.

Speaking of dilemmas, I have finally come to understand my predecessors' brooding concern regarding whether the magazine should be led towards a more populist rather than an elitist way of writing. But I say only that I understand the concern. I have understood it, shared it and shall dutifully pass it on to the future batches but that apart, there isn't much that I've been able to do about it. As it turns out, however, the choice between elitism and populism or in other contexts, between deprivation and surfeit or tyranny and frivolity is a far more universal problem than I thought it to be. On our part, we have had this sentiment find, if nothing else, at least a loud and clear echo in the article "Status Quo".

And lo, just like that, I have gladly segued from potential farewell theatrics to the emotionally less challenging contents of this issue of Watch Out. For most of us, this semester might have surpassed our expectations by being, well, simply less forlorn than our expectations, what with an unmasked Holi break followed an anticipated, although a tad disappointing, Cognizance, in turn followed by an almost appreciable effort in the form of Sankalp. But regardless of whether or not one has the peeled eyes and ears of a news agency, it was difficult not to notice what stood out as most conspicuous around this time. I speak, of course, of the conspicuity of Sports through sheer absence from the campus during this semester. Unable to rest on the most tempting explanation of lack of sports infrastructure, WONA attempted to delve into the general milieu surrounding the sports fraternity including tournaments, selection policies and administrative support

This apart, we have tried to uncover life well beyond the point of placement from the perspective of those who've lived through having to make a choice as well as having made a choice between passion and profession. Also, to our own surprise, we have let slip a slight rarity and raised the issue of misuse of infrastructure as against the lack thereof. Elsewhere, we've allowed a couple of events the honor of being mentioned and honored the batch of 2013 for their mentionable work

Without lingering now, over unnecessary and overrated goodbyes, I take your leave in the hope that you enjoy reading the issue as much as we enjoyed working on it.

Cheers!

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## Food poisoning, bun samosas and radical beards



*Disclaimer: All animals harmed while researching for this article had signed consent forms.*

A lot of mystery surrounds the food poisoning issue in the Rajendra Bhawan Mess which through a strange leap of logic led both the canteen guy and the unsuspecting fruit stall guy to be scrounging their next meal. A committee was constituted to clear the air so that people don't die of curiosity (which is still a terminal disease in some parts of the Universe). WatchOut! got Dr. Lovely Ahluwalia, professor of the Humanities Department and the Chairman of What Was Wrong With Wednesday's Watery Dal Committee (WWWWWDC) to discuss what was wrong with Wednesday's watery dal.

**WONA:** So, Dr. Ahluwalia. What really was wrong Wednesday's watery dal?

**Lovely:** Nothing.

**WONA:** Huh? What about the two laptops, 42 bun samosas and the Bangladeshi illegal immigrant rats we paid for?

**Lovely:** I didn't say there was no problem. The problem just wasn't in the dal. In fact, the rats you paid for were instrumental in finding the real issue. The rats were divided into two groups. The control group ate in the mess and watched Game of Thrones all day. The experimental group ate the same food but were made to appear for exams on subjects like Physics and Behavioural Science. The first group, led a normal life for two years before dying when a basket of apples fell on them. Most of the rats died on impact while the rest died of curiosity as to why the apples had to fall downwards. The experimental group had symptoms ranging from upset stomachs and hair loss to cocaine dependency. A spike in symptoms was noticed before the Electronics exam.

**WONA:** So, logically...

**Lovely:** So, logically, not having any more exams is the only way we can deal with terrorism. In fact, Osama bin Laden was forced to take up arms and to grow that really sexy radical beard of his after repeatedly failing MA-102. We were led to this conclusion when we noticed a group of rats with equally radical but not quite as sexy beards trying to buy nuclear weapon blueprints from Russia. When you come to think of it, the Taliban is doing humanity a great deal by shutting down schools in SWAT valley. I think Obama is just pissed off at the Taliban for having sexy radical beards.

**WONA:** But.. but.. really? Terrorism and exam stress?

**Lovely** [breathing intensifies] : You don't see the big picture. I mean, how difficult is it to see that Exam stress is the root of all the world's problems, from recession to scarcity of Swiss Roll in Alpahar. The world really has to start focussing more on the issues that really matter.

We were unable to continue the interview when Dr. Ahluwalia dropped dead from a sudden heart attack. Though the autopsy results are still awaited, the word in the air is that the attack was caused due to a pulmonary artery blockage he got from eating too many bun samosas.

*Dr. Ahluwalia, a loving husband and a reluctant father of two, was a matka in IITR before he joined the HS Department as a professor. He also served as a member of the controversial Tuesday Dal Committee (TDC) which linked the surging popularity of MTV Roadies with certain unidentified contaminants in Tuesday's watery dal, way back in 2005. He will always be remembered for his love of bun samosas and his unhealthy obsession with beards.*

## Status Quo



NSA's PRISM program is pretty magnificent, to be honest. One entity, governmental or otherwise, with access to every mundane detail of your life. What you've been up to, whom you've been contacting, what you've been reading, all of this information together reveals a lot about you. And it is not just NSA that is doing this. UK's GCHQ is also neck deep in the PRISM controversy. In fact, even the Indian Government has proposed a 'Central Monitoring System' which foreshadows the classic debate on who watches the watchers. But just knowing everything isn't enough either. There's only so far you can go by coercing every rebellious voice into following the official dictum. True control can be achieved only if people have conviction in their beliefs which align with the propaganda. So what's next?

Right after Edward Snowden disclosed the covert PRISM program, the sales of George Orwell's 1984 increased by around 6000% because now the story of 1984, a book written in the year 1949, doesn't seem quite as far fetched anymore. 1984 portrays a world where an all knowing government controls every tiny little part of the citizen's lives. Privacy is nonexistent. It talks about a world of subversion, a world where everyone toes the official line, not because they fear the consequences but because that's the only world they know of. Aldous Huxley presents an alternative to 1984's world in his book 'The Brave New World'. While Orwell believes that the future humans will be controlled through manipulation, Huxley believes that it will be constant distraction through meaningless entertainment which would be humanity's undoing. No matter which

philosophy or belief you subscribe to, one thing seems certain, we are rapidly moving towards a world where independence of thought and uniqueness of character would be unheard of.

1984 and The Brave New World take the case to the extreme and while most of us fear that eventuality (a small group of people controlling the majority), not many really think that it would ever *actually* happen. We believe, we do what we do because that's what we want to do. We are nationalist because we want to be. We believe in our beliefs because we think we actually believe in them. And yet, we fail to realize that the seemingly innocuous education imparted to us in the younger days is the reason behind most of what we believe in. For example, are we really nationalists or is that belief of ours solely due to the intense effort put in making us believe in it when we were young. Some of the greatest achievers of all time have claimed that their lack of exposure to traditional knowledge was the most important factor for their achievements, with Einstein being the most prolific case in point. To take another cliched example, all the scientists of the olden days were prosecuted by the church because they went against the popular belief. But isn't that exactly what the education system is doing, propagating popular belief? What if they're wrong? What's it going to take for another set of revolutionaries to change this world, for a lot is wrong with it right now?

All of this is heavy philosophical thought. An average citizen doesn't care whether he is being spied upon as long as he is getting 3 square meals a day, clothes to wear and a smile on his face. While many of us may proactively refute being a member of such a group, our lives do *simplify* to exactly this state. As long as his needs are being met, an average person would not dare question the authority of convention and habit. It takes the power of those few of us who dream, the ones who challenge the pecking order, to change society's thoughts and beliefs. As George Orwell aptly put it, the 1% who control these elements inevitably become omnipotent, while the masses wallow in darkness.

## Sonesh Jain

We've had a lot of people in this space but rarely have we ever interviewed someone who claims to have had a turnover of Rs 2.5 crore *while still in college*. In this edition of Almost Famous, we spoke to a man who has become synonymous with entrepreneurship in IITR, Sonesh Jain, co-founder and creative head of "Audegn". Despite his name being mentioned in KBC, winning numerous awards and competitions every year like the BRICS summit, the ANDC trophy at the NASA Convention 2012, he manages to be amazingly amiable through his humility. But he is extremely proud of one particular achievement- he has managed to pelt stones at every electric pole on the campus. Sonesh takes the wraps off his college life at IITR as we indulge in an interesting conversation with him over a glass of cold coffee (*which is exactly how one should treat their interviewers*).

**WONA:** Your first crush on campus?

**Sonesh:** My first crush on campus was Sukhjit Saroa. She was my senior (*It's always a senior, isn't it. Playing safe?*) After that, there were no crushes as such. (*Yeab, right. We believe you.*)

**WONA:** What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

**Sonesh:** (After mentally filtering many episodes) It's hard to reckon, but there was a friend, BOT (Anshul Gupta) as we called him. And it was the Thomso season of our first year. We celebrated his birthday at Nesci with around 150-250 people participating in his GPL. He was dragged by his legs and thrown in the mud. (*This must have been more entertaining than most of the Thomso events!*)

**WONA:** Tell us about your inspiration and motivation for the startup.

**Sonesh:** Audegn was something that evolved from all the previous campus-based start-ups that I had taken up with my friends. Those didn't make it to business transactions. But there is this flame of optimism in me that never dies out. And this is where it has brought me. Even after 3 of my startups failed, I did not give up. My diligent endeavours and strong faith in optimism have brought me where I am today, and I am still learning.

**WONA:** What do you have to say about the people who have influenced you significantly over the years?

**Sonesh:** Shreyansh Thakur was a very inspiring senior and had led the initial set-up of Audegn. In my first year, I read Punit Jaggi's interview in WONA's Almost Famous (*so we did inspire people back then*) and I have always looked up to that guy since then. Then there have been seniors like Siddarth Mahim Bansal and Arnav Thakur, who taught me what hard work and patience can create. And not to forget Sheru who would always carry that cheerful demeanour no matter how terrible the situation might have been. Also, my friend- ORAI (Shivam Gupta)

**WONA:** The claim of crores of turnover gets a little hard to digest at this stage. Explanation?

**Sonesh:** Well, it defines the value of the projects we have been involved with. Frankly, I don't have an idea what the exact numbers are right now. But when I filed the taxes, the gross turnover had been around 2.5 crores. (*and we are still counting the zeros*)

**WONA:** Where do you see yourself 10 years down the line?

**Sonesh:** I still don't know how to answer this. But I want to dominate the entrepreneurship sphere in India. (*We banded him aviators at this point*)

**WONA:** The best and the worst moments that IITR has brought your way?

**Sonesh:** The worst was 3 attendance backs in the second year that left me crestfallen. I cried for days when after toiling



so hard and being honest on my part, my grades and degree were in peril. I was working on multiple startups then and I bunked most of my classes.

As for the best moments, designing with my team members has been the best part of my life at IITR. An overwhelming moment was when Prof. Mahua Mukherjee acknowledged my work and skills for ANDC presentation. This was the first incident when I learned that some professors appreciated Audegn's progress, that they believed in my work and supported my passion. Also, there have been many prizes that I won in my third year. *(Too many for him to mention, too many for us to print)*

**WONA:** What do you do in your leisure time?

**Sonesh:** Well, I play harmonica, I write poems, I sing wildly, I read about animals, I love to flip from one Wiki article to another and I am always pondering upon things. That is something that gives me clarity. *(Just to be sure, there are 24 hours in your day too, right?)*

**WONA:** What are you going to miss about Roorkee?

**Sonesh:** The thing I will miss the most is independence. Roorkee has given me all the experiences possible in college. And yes, I will miss the discussions with 5-6 people every night on random topics. These discussions have broadened my horizons as I firmly believe that by talking to people in a group, you get to learn something from everybody and that helps you grow.

**WONA:** Your message to the people of R?

**Sonesh:** *Fight marte rabo.* Positivity is all that is needed. At any time in your life, you should be humble enough to consider other's opinions and learn something every day from anyone and everyone you can.

**WONA:** Finally, your views about WONA?

**Sonesh:** WONA has always been an interesting group. But it needs to be the kind of magazine everyone wants to and gets to read. I suggest Increasing the number of issues and making the content more informative. *(Duly noted!)*

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## Virasat 2014

#newsNotes

Virasat is one of the main cultural festivals of SPIC MACAY, comprising of an eclectic mixture of all aspects of Indian Cultural Heritage. Virasat, literally meaning heritage in Hindi, was launched for the first time in Dehradun in 1995 and is held annually during the first half of the academic year.

The festival took place from 24-27th March at IIT Roorkee. It hosted a plethora of events that included some of the most tranquil classical and folk musical performances and highly scintillating dance performances.

Virasat began with Shehnai Vadan and Carnatic music. Smt Sudha Raghuraman, a renowned Carnatic Composer and Vocalist left the crowd mesmerized with her music.

The second day was captured by Sitar Maestro Pandit Prateek Chaudhari followed by 'Mohiniattam', a classical dance

form from Kerala, performed to perfection by Dr. Deepti Bhalla followed by a few other performances.

The third day witnessed a few deviations from the schedule as the Sufi performance which was supposed to be a major attraction, was replaced by a Manipuri dance performance. Nonetheless, it managed to attract a decent audience which was dumbfounded by the intricate moves of Guru Singhajit Singh and Smt. Charu Sija Mathur. This was followed by a Hindustani music performance by Smt. Rupan Sarkar, accompanied by Shri Nikhilesh Jha and Pt. Bharatbhushan Goswami. Rupan Sarkar, a young and highly acclaimed professional classical vocalist received a lot of admiration.

Of all the days, the last one received the highest response from R junta. It started with a Rajasthani folk music and Kalbelia dance performed by Shri Bundu Khan and his troupe. It was followed by the mesmerizing display of Odissi dance by Smt Kavita Dwibedi.

The most appreciable performances were the Sitar Vadan by Smt Sudha Raghuraman on Day 1 and the Rajasthani Folk Music. On the whole, the event was a successful one, giving the IITR crowd a chance to get a sweet taste of Indian 'Virasat'.

## ROBOCON

The tides of March, this year, brought with them much news for R-land to take pride in as twenty people who call themselves 'Team Robocon IITR' left for Pune to participate in one of the most anticipated events for the robot lovers across the nation, 'Robocon'. The group certainly put up a good show, standing 5th among the 89 who participated and fetching the award for the best aesthetics. The quest of the competition, organised by MIT Pune and held from 6th to 8th March, was to find a winner who would then represent India in the international event under the same name.

The competition was at Balawadi stadium, Pune which happens to be the same stadium where the commonwealth games took place, hence affording the participants nice accommodations and nicer hospitality. The race to the finish seems to have been quite a long and onerous haul. Long, because the teams were divided into 30 groups to be pitted against one another in league matches to shortlist 15 teams, further put through knock out matches and still further presented with a series of challenges before the ranking was finalised; and onerous because competing teams included IIT Delhi, Madras, Kanpur, SRM, BITS, Nirma, etc.

Our team was hot on the heels of MIT Pune's who were the defending champions. "We slept for around 18 hours in the entire 6 day tour" recounts the group leader Divye Anand Gupta giving us a glimpse of the amount of effort the team put into it. Both the teams scored equally in the quarterfinals but the MIT Pune got an edge due to better timing in the challenge. Although team Robocon missed it this time by a whisker with a lag of just about 26 seconds, yet it has proved to be a great stride in the direction of winning the coveted challenge and encouraging wider participation from fresh enthusiasts.

## Life After Convocation



Life is simple. We take birth. We survive. We leave a few imprints of our existence. And then we die. However, inevitably, there comes one unruly and inexplicable moment somewhere in between these phases that baffles, frightens and creates anxiety amongst even the most brilliant and organized minds: 'The end of college life'. Our institute may be visualised as a giant archway into the woods, from which several roads diverge. The roads are long and windy with their ends invisible, with some leading to known or heard of destinations and others leading to unknown paths and destinations. Although this road-traveling analogy may be similar to one famous work of the prolific poet Robert Frost, one can't really question its relevance in this context. For the first time many people face the predicament of answering the ultimate question: What now?

While some who seem to have already 'figured it all out', quietly set out to fulfil their destinies (after updating their facebook status, of course). Watch Out! News Agency sets out to explore this mysterious life outside the campus doors; its enigmas, its challenges and the ensuing difficulties people face during their quarter-life crises.

### The traveler, the dreamer and the writer



Tarun Madan, an IIT Roorkee alumnus, is one of the most remarkable pass-outs that exemplify one phrase: from passion to profession. After his B.Tech in Chemical Engineering, a job in Schlum, lots of travelling and finally settling for an MS in Austin Texas, he started his own company: holidayen.com. "I decided to combine my passion for technology and traveling with my new found interest in entrepreneurship,

leading to the conceptualization and development of Holidayen," remarks Tarun. Remembering his student days in Roorkee, he attributes his association with IMG as a catalyst in making that decision. Like all jobs in Schlumberger do, his job facilitated majority of his travels and provided a chance for global interaction. Apart from giving him a lot of content to create a travel blog, these tours brought out the travel aficionado in him which eventually led to his travel startup.

"With a passport falling short of blank pages, I could see that travel was quickly becoming a passion and I knew it would soon be time to move on to some place different. The nostalgia of student life and the yearning to learn more had also kicked in enough by that time to make me apply for graduate school in the US, and I ended up at the University of Texas at Austin". University of Texas offered a number of opportunities to take courses in diverse fields unrelated to his major. Tarun, being on a constant lookout for trying something different, enrolled for an entrepreneurship course where he worked as an associate with the business school incubation program of Texas Venture Labs. He, along with Mitanshu Garg, also from IIT Roorkee, now runs holidayen.com. It helps international travelers explore and plan their travel around the world.



What Silicon Valley is to a technical entrepreneur, the Vatican is to a creationist. The heroic tales of the valley fascinate every startup enthusiast from the far-off corners of the world. Vikesh Khanna was clearly not the first one to fall in love with the bright Californian sunshine. Graduating from IIT Roorkee in 2007 with a B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, Vikesh



joined Microsoft IDC, Hyderabad. Even with enough money in hand to do pretty much everything he wanted, he was not able to extract the necessary satisfaction out of his work. “I was working on a product that did not particularly excite me - partly because it was not my interest area, and also because smaller companies in the valley built cloud backup products years before we even started. IDC is a great place for people who want to settle down, but I wanted to bleed while I was still young”. His dissatisfaction and a sublime interest in the realm of application development were primarily the reasons he pursued courses on Coursera and built apps in his free time. His chrome extension app for Quora (called Quorum) was noticed by a Quora employee. One thing led to another and he was called to Palo Alto for an interview. He failed in the interview but, like any other tech-geek, he immediately got hooked by the eternal pleasures of Silicon Valley. After many unsuccessful Mountain View job interviews and several rejected MS applications, he settled at the divine Silicon-Valley boot camp: Stanford. “The application process for MS is exhausting and takes a lot of time. I was mostly honest about my intentions. I was passionate about software engineering and building consumer products. I got rejected by all the schools I applied to, except Stanford. I had no research background, not even a tech internship during undergrad, no publications - I had a disastrous profile for grad school.” Fortunately, he had many hobby projects up his sleeve and an insatiable attraction to technical startups. Stanford was the place he needed to go to. His life at Stanford calls for a different article altogether. “This place is inspiring beyond words, and the opportunities are endless. It's really what you make of it, but it's incredibly exciting. I am doing some really interesting work on data mining, machine learning and graph analysis”.

If we rank all the available jobs in this world on the basis of the risk involved, the job of a field engineer in Schlumberger will stand somewhere between that of Batman's and of the guy responsible for cleaning

windows of Burj-Khalifa. The job of a writer, on the other hand, involving fatal risks of paper cuts is comparatively less adventurous. Anirudh Arun realizes both of these into one personality. A 2011 pass-out with a PPO in the Oil and Gas exploration company, Anirudh published his novel “The Steadfast Tin Soldier” in July 2013. The novel focuses on the life of a teenager who must fight against society's expectations and pressures in order to assert his own dreams. In spite of having spent considerable time travelling every day, in the unforgiving terrain of deserts, oil fields and rough seas, Anirudh, unlike most protagonists in follow-your-heart-and-fly-high movies, still enjoys his job. “Schlumberger's job profile is exciting and fast paced. Sometimes, I wish for a break or for stability, but at other times I get to experience things that most other jobs will never allow me to.” Taking a break from his job was something he never had to do. Apparently, the writer inside him had never left him



“Writing a novel took a lot of my time, and I started during my final year in college. I changed and revised much of what I wrote after leaving Roorkee, and as the novel progressed, my writing became more regular and intense”, adds Anirudh. While working, writing served him as a stress-buster as well as a nonchalant hobby. He recounts that the only troublesome part he experienced during the writing period was when he approached the publishers. The post-editing stages of the novel involved ample hardwork and patience from his side. Eventually, it paid off and the book was finally published. It has received very positive reviews so far by many established newspapers and critics. Anirudh Arun, a WONA and EDC alumnus is a fine example of

work, life & leisure management. He still believes in himself. He still has the knack of writing. He still has the penchant for entrepreneurship. But most remarkably, even after all of this, he still has his job.

### The placement step

In recent years, the offer obtained at the placement cell has become merely a stepping stone in the lives of many individuals. Truly, the paths of an engineer seem to converge to an inevitable MBA. Ashok Tyagi, the current CFO of DLF and a '83 batch pass-out, however doesn't believe so. "I have seen people working tirelessly, even today as an engineer in very prominent roles with only their B.Tech. degree", says Mr. Tyagi, "But seeing today's trend, most people find MBA a quick entry into managerial decision making. It is an advisable option since after 10-15 years of experience, your task primarily involves managing the projects. An MBA, just gives you a deeper insight into that." Mr. Tyagi with a B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad in 1985, has dealt mostly in the field of finance, corporate planning and real estate his entire life. After working with the big players: ISSCO and Genpact, Mr. Tyagi now holds the post of Chief Financial Officer in DLF, a famous real estate giant. He attributes his success to his deep fascination with the world of finance. He serves as a remarkable advisor when it comes to corporate decision making.

To the ones who don't take the cliched Job+MBA road, there is another elegant career which demands an indistinct knack of people skills and decision making: the public sector. Mr. K.K. Sharma was the first Director General of Competition Commission of India (CCI). He has also been head of Antitrust Division, Commissioner in IRS of India, Commissioner of Income Tax and a very active member of ICN, Merger Working Group. After finishing his M.Tech in Mechanical Engineering in 1988, Mr. Sharma joined the Indian Revenue Services

(IRS) through UPSC exam.

Acknowledging the sheer depth of his resume he adds,

“ You can google me and write about my degrees. Let's talk about something else. ”

After a law degree, a Ph.D. in Competition Law (Bangor University, UK), a PG Diplomas in Economics (King's College London) and another diploma in IPR Laws (NLSU Bangalore), Mr. Sharma (now retired) heads an international law firm, dealing in strategic consulting. "After completing my masters degree in Roorkee, I had a few offers in my hand through the Campus interviews, TATA being one of them. But since the beginning, I wanted to go for UPSC, because the idea of working in the public sector is something that was very popular in those days." He, according to him, is having the time of his life. In his cheerful demeanour he adds, "The job is very exciting. While working as an IRS officer I found a deep fascination towards law, especially antitrust and merger control. I continued my studies even after securing an office." His voluntary retirement a few years back came as no surprise.

All of the stories mentioned above clearly show how spectacular the life of a student from IIT Roorkee can be. The confidence and the exposure instilled in a student after spending 4 or more years in the environment of a college like IIT Roorkee, transform him into a balanced individual with a constant hunger for new experiences and a thirst for knowledge. This freedom of thought and independence of action along with technical dexterity shapes the student's personality in the real world. It is more than evident that once we are out in the open, the world is ours to take. The only thing that is left for us to do is to get out of our comfort zones and take it!

## In Conversation with SAC-P

The 2013-14 academic session got as the Student Affairs Council President an undergraduate, a post that has long been ruled by the PhDs. Given the number of complaints that the students of R have, the SAC had enough in their hands for one session. Whether they performed up to the expectations or not is always a controversial question but we are happy about one thing, no matter if SAC had a role in it or not, the roads are no more in a dug up state. We spoke to the SAC President, **Nikhilesh Singh**, about what the SAC was upto.

**WONA:** What are the new committees that have been set up under SAC this year?

**SAC-P:** A committee to look into Academics related issues called “Lakshit” was just set up recently. The idea is to involve students from different spheres of the college to look into the course structure and bring out the students’ point of view on the academic structure of the college. Besides, recently, the students complained about the inconvenient timings of the Hospital. Most students have classes till 6, but hospital facilities are only available till seven. When we looked into the issue we realized that our institute hospital has only one doctor who is permanent. Thus she is handling most of the hospital. All doctors have a clinic which they have to manage in the evening because of which they cannot stay back. Considering this, we initiated a hospital reforms committee constituting of 4-5 members. Within 6 months we sent reports and recruited two more doctors for this work. A Non-Veg mess committee was made to introduce Non-Veg into the IIT messes, on popular demand. But many opposed this move of ours including the Jain Society. Their sentiments could be hurt, hence this was not started due to Navratra. After Navratra, a few professors also complained and consequently the work stopped.

**WONA:** Does SAC have any role in the appointment of Professors?

**SAC-P:** Things are already well-defined there. Ratio of Professors is already decided at 1:20. As of now we are just trying to meet this prerequisite. The only thing SAC can do is comment about quality of the professors or their salary and suggest improvements. The rest of the structure is set.

**WONA:** Has anything been done about the improvement of budget allocations to different Student sections that are unhappy with it?

**SAC-P:** Yes, this was brought to our notice. HEC needs a lot of equipments which were not there originally. They had to take the equipments on rent and consequently the load goes on the students. So, we passed a budget of all the equipments needed by them.

Besides we also passed a proposal to make the full Student's club fully Air-conditioned. We have applied to the AC committee and by the next two years it might be done.

**WONA:** For about two years rumours of a Multi-Activity centre have been doing rounds. Is any such centre really under construction?

**SAC-P:** Yes, I would like to clear the doubts regarding that. The initial contract was cancelled and hence the work was stopped. This was when the current SAC had not been elected. After we were elected we conducted meetings with NBCC (National Building Construction Corporation) where the issue of these buildings came up i.e. the SAC building, hostels and the Multi-Activity Center. The contractor was changed and as of now he has promised to complete it by December.

**WONA:** What about the institute budget? Do you know the figures or does only the administration know it?

**SAC-P:** We have the authority to ask for it if I require. But, I am not interested in knowing it. It doesn't matter, "How much came from HRD etc". I know it is all sufficient, but the problem we have identified is that it is being spent at the



wrong places. A few girls suggested that a new girls hostel is required. Their proposal was studied and approved and work on it has been started with immediate effect. Similarly, married hostels were also needed. So, budget doesn't matter, whatever we ask for we get it from the MHRD.

**WONA:** There has been a lot of speculation about the random allotment of Bhawans for boys. Is anything being done in that area?

**SAC-P:** Of course. We have realized that mixing of students should not be encouraged. This was due to the instance of suicide in Cautley Bhawan. It was realized that the student was earlier in a Bhawan surrounded with friends, but this year his room was isolated and was amid the B.Tech students, which could have been one of the reasons for his feeling of loneliness. So, instead of mixing, the students of same course will be allotted rooms together.

**WONA:** Everyone is happy to hear about new ID cards but nobody is aware about the current status of that process. Would you like to tell us by when can we expect the new IDs?

**SAC-P:** ID Cards was yet another major issue that we have tackled. A student, Abhishek Jaiswal, went to London where his ID Card posed a problem due to its unofficial look and fragile state. We realized that the current ID Card doesn't portray a very good image of the institute in the society. Hence the process of making new ID cards is in full swing and they will be out before the End semester examinations.

## Sports Invitational Tournaments

With Sangram not having been conducted over the last three years, IITR sports fraternity sorely needed something apart from Inter IIT in order to gain the much needed tournament experience. This year, from March 28 to 30, IITR hosted invitational tournament of Football and Badminton. For an event that was hastily put together at such short notice, it was very well conducted.

The football tournament saw participation from 5 colleges apart from two teams from IITR, namely A and B. IITR-A included the upcoming players while IITR-B included the veterans who had secured a Gold and a Silver in last two Inter IITs. The final was played between IITR B and DIT, Dehradun Institute of Technology. DIT eventually won the tie 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw in a game that was fought both sportingly and literally too, due to a brawl that cropped up in the second half. The other participants of football tournament were NIT Kurukshetra, SRM Ghaziabad, RIT & COER Roorkee.

The badminton tournament also saw the home team finishing 2nd with BITS Pilani taking the first spot. The tournament saw participation from the likes of BITS Pilani, IIT BHU and NIT Kkr.

Basketball and Volleyball will also be conducting invitational tournaments in the month of May. Overall, this initiative by the sports authorities is commendable. We can only hope that this translates to an improved performance in Inter IIT 2014, the real test of skills and strengths for sportspersons of IITs.

## The Good, the Bad and the Sports

*Far out on a pale blue dot in the Western Spiral Arm of the Milky Way (more accurately ZZ9 Plural Z Alpha), amazingly primitive carbon based bipedals have always engaged in competitions to establish physical supremacy over other males in the herd. Sports, as they call these competitions, culturally evolved as signaling systems that serve a function similar to courtship rituals in other life forms. Though other signaling systems like name-calling and banging on chests are dying out slowly, sports remains an integral part of these lives. This can be attributed to the huge following for sporting events (and a severe lack of chest banging competitions). Some of the major sporting events with a widespread following on the radio, TV and telepathic channels are The Intergalactic Thumb Wrestling Championship, popularly known as The Olympics, the other Olympics which is organised by the Earth every four years and the Inter IIT Sports Meet which was organised by IIT Guwahati last year.*

The dismal performance of the Roorkee team in the Inter IIT Sports Meet 2013, despite boasting of one of the best sports infrastructures among colleges in the country, is no secret. With a lowly total of 2 team gold medals in the 49th edition of the meet organized by IIT Guwahati this year, IIT Roorkee finished sixth in Men's championship. A fall from second position in 2011 to the current state, even with the silver lining of retaining the Women's Championship, is something no IIT would expect. Although the administration may blame the fall on injuries of senior players in some major sports, such a drastic change in fortunes is bound to bring any team back to the chalkboard.

### Wake up, play in Inter IIT, go back to sleep

The void created by the unavailability of a quality sports tournament between successive inter-IITs was highly apparent this year. Sangram, an Inter college sports fest on the lines of Udghosh(IIT Kanpur) and Sportech(IIT Delhi) was started in IIT Roorkee a few years back. It is said that Sangram didn't have a glorious repertoire even before it was first cancelled but it served a dual purpose. By giving teams a chance to test new players in a competitive environment it served the purpose of

conditioning them to help make up for the loss of experienced players who would pass out eventually. It also gave the teams a reason to remain in prime shape in their off-season.

The sports fest was, sadly, scrapped in 2012. It was attributed to the apprehensions relating to the performance of the Institute in the Inter IIT, which was to be held in Roorkee in December 2012. This eventually led to the cancellation of Sangram 2013 as well which was scheduled for March. The ceremonial cancellation of Sangram continued in 2014, even though this time it was mentioned specifically in the academic calendar.

Mr. Sukumar, the Sports Officer of IITR remarks, "The presence of local and private colleges here gave us a tough time while handling the crowd. Such teams would often indulge in fights and irrationally rude behavior. Even then our teams didn't get good teams to play with. Due to all of these factors, our players did not play very seriously. Many senior players avoided playing in the Sangram matches. Hence, the Deans decided against organizing it. It wasn't worth it at all."

To compensate for this, starting from 2014, all sports secretaries were asked to hold invitational tournaments in the spring semester. Successful culmination of the same for football and badminton this year marks a huge step in the positive direction. Although small participation in both these events might be a cause of concern but given the fact that these were only the first editions of the tournaments and were organized on a very short notice, the effort was appreciable. Similar tournaments are expected to be conducted at the end of this semester for basketball, volleyball and a few other sports.

### Cold winter and lazy spring

Among all the existing woes of sports department, the improper utilisation of the spring semester for sports purposes is probably the prime tribulation. However, the



administration's co-operation in this regard is no worry at all. The end of autumn, or what can be regarded as the Inter-IIT semester calls for constructive action on behalf of the sports secretaries and joint secretaries. Apparently, going through a really tiring placement season and the fact that they have played their last inter-IIT degrade the enthusiasm of post holders in sports council. This reflects poorly on their performance as official representatives in SAC.

One possible solution is that the posts, that is, the Secretaries and Joint Secretaries, should rotate with the Inter IITs and not academic sessions. Seeing how Inter IIT seems to be the ultimate aim, providing the heads with a year to prepare seems more logical than having an off season. The problem the Sports Council finds with this solution is that these elected people have a role to play in SAC too and since the rotation of posts in the SAC takes place in the beginning of every academic year it is currently impractical to implement the idea. Mr. Sukumar adds, "the appointments are not made keeping in mind just the Inter IITs. Sports Secretaries and Joint Secretaries are responsible for all other Institute and Inter-Institutes sports activities as well."

### **Suitably backed and well supported**

One thing almost every section on the campus complains about is lack of support from the administration. When asked about the co-operation from the administration Mr Sukumar, quite surprisingly, had no complains. "Administration extends full support. There is no problem from their side. It's just the students. Players are casual, secretaries do not attend meetings regularly and seriously. Many of them think if they play, they'll get tired and sleepy and won't be able to study. This is a very wrong notion", adds the sports officer. This could mean two things. The Sports Council has either made peace with whatever insignificant support they've got from the administration over the years or it falls pathetically short when it comes to translating

this support to tangible results.

Mr. Sukumar may wholeheartedly appreciate the centre's supportive hand but there are still many shortcomings in administration which contribute to the overall under-performance on the field. The substantial reduction in the credits awarded to sport proficiency NSO combined with a lack of promotional gesture towards Inter Bhawan sports activities, supports the aforementioned claim.

### **Formalities in the name of competitions**

Inter Bhawan in itself has a totally different story to tell. Currently, the Bhawan tournaments are as interesting as Vogon poetry. The sense of pride and emotion that surrounds the Inter Hostel tournaments of various other colleges is something that IITR can learn from. The tales of age-old hostel rivalries in other IITs add a completely new dimension to the lives of students there. This, sadly, is absent from Inter-Bhawan tournaments mainly because of two reasons. Firstly, students rarely feel attached to their hostels since they are allotted new rooms every year. Secondly, the involvement of Bhawan administration when it comes to conducting and promoting Inter-Bhawans and allocation of funds for the same is minimal. For the Inter IITs, the college administration provides support and encouragement to the players. Special camps for players, kit, shoes other merchandise with proper refreshments make it an enjoyable affair for players. The Inter Bhawan events on the other hand provide no such motivation. The concept of pride in representing your hostel is alien to IIT Roorkee.



Another contrasting situation is observed between the inter-bhawans and institute opens held for racquet games like Lawn Tennis, Squash, Badminton and TT. While the institute opens are a huge success, receiving a large number of entries, the inter bhawan events are a disappointment. Even the chief sports officer agrees that students



need to be called specially just to get them to participate. If such neglect continues then it won't be long when the Inter Bhawan would face the same fate as that of Sangram.

In the absence of a magic bullet

It is understood clearly that the performance of players in Inter-IIT is the ultimate test of the sports department's initiatives and efforts. But that is just not it. It is a matter of intense pride for our institute. There can be many constructive steps which can stimulate change in our institute's odds in the tournament.

Firstly, introduction of more medium scale tournaments along the lines of Sangram can be a possible solution. These tournaments, unlike Sangram, should be invitational in nature. Taking into consideration Roorkee's proximity to Delhi NCR region, teams of

nearby colleges and of DU can be invited to participate. Introduction of a distinct 'Bhawan Culture' can facilitate students' interest in domestic tournaments. Although the creation of house rivalry is something that takes years, it is not the only problem that stands in its way. The rotation of hostels on the basis of year and branch is yet another issue which prevents this.

None of these are possible as overnight changes. But a constant endeavour on the part of authorities as well as the students can bring about the change that this institute badly needs. None of the IITs have any special quota for athletes. With an even playing field in terms of new students it shouldn't be impossible for IITR to rise above others and carve out a legacy for itself. We can only hope that this happens soon enough.

## One In Hand versus Whatever's In The Bush

If there's anything that comes more atavistically to us students than a tendency to wish away exams during the exam week and the attendance rule during winter mornings, it is the tendency to whine about the lack of infrastructure on campus. And although this tendency to whine is undeniably one of our chief staples as a news agency, yet we couldn't help but be pleasantly surprised to stumble upon a contradicting opinion that sees the under-utilization of resources and not the lack thereof as a bigger problem. Fascinated, WONA set out in search of these heretics to hear what they have to say about a need for students to go against the grain by clamouring less for newer infrastructure and instead working to better use the precious little existing one.

A clear advocate of going against the grain, Anany Tripathi of second year says, "We spend so much time

cribbing about what we don't have that we forget to notice what we already have. From the departmental libraries to the Air Hockey table at the hobbies club, a lot of facilities we have been provided are often misused or under-utilised. The common rooms in hostels never see a good number of people except on a very few days. It's a very obvious choice between the uncomfortable steel chairs and the cosy bed in your own room. If these common rooms are made into more livable environments with better chairs, couches, some newspapers and magazines it would be a great place to spend some time. Also, the Central Library and the reading room should be open 24X7 to help the students who want to study someplace away from the noisy hostels."

Parag Nandi, another second year student, voiced the

widely felt concern about the state of our cultural activities. He says, "Our theatre and music culture is very weak when compared to many other national institutions. In comparison, the BITS Pilani Campus' cultural society is so active that they have a play or a music show almost every week. Expanding the cultural Section and making the process of getting a place to rehearse a little less cumbersome will help in utilising the Open Air Theatre, the Convocation Hall more efficiently. Activities like the recent screening of a movie by the cinema club is a brilliant idea to bring more utility to the Convocation Hall."

Speaking for the gaming community which, incidentally, makes up more than a major chunk of the student population is Avichal Agarwal, a student of Geological Technology. "There are a lot of places in the Institute which can become great spots for LAN gaming, if we are given access to them. The New Examination Hall, The TV rooms are some of these. I've heard that in IIT-Delhi the examination hall remains open all night for the students. It's a great gesture from the part of the Institute to trust the students like this, which will never happen here. TV rooms are almost never used mostly because of the necessity to submit five ID cards and to convince the guards that we are not up to any mischief." Vishnuraayan of second year suggested that the dining halls of the hostels can be used as a reading/common room when the mess is closed.

"In my opinion, the Open Air Theatre is definitely the most underutilized facility on campus. It has a lot of

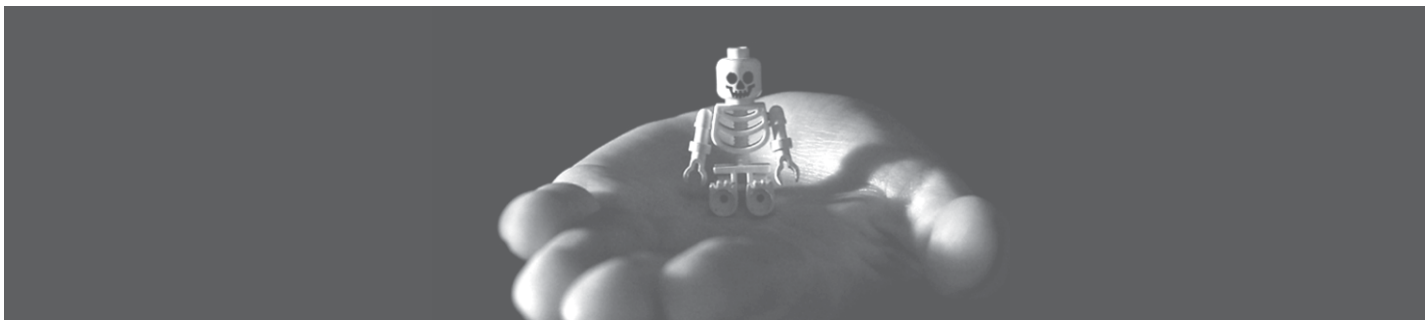
potential to be a great venue for Music and Dance shows. Being a member of SPIC MACAY, we face a lot of trouble in finding a proper place for our shows. Though our shows being popular and are being attended by a large number of students and professors alike, the convocation hall is always out of bounds for us. There are many facilities in our hostel, Kasturba Bhawan, which are seldom used properly, like the reading room and the gym. The gym doesn't have a proper trainer, as a result of which there is a disinterest among the inmates to visit the gym. The Wi-Fi routers are installed all over the Bhawan but they never connect to the internet", says Kajal Mittal, a wing counsellor in KB.

While a gripe about poor facilities and infrastructure might have become one of those college life accoutrements that one can't do away with, one can not deny that a far more constructive step would be to shift focus to how the existing facilities can be improved into being better utilised. A reasonable amount of interest on the part of students as well as authorities in improving facilities like the reading/TV rooms, gyms etc in hostels could go a long way in seeing these facilities better and more widely used. And of course, a tad more activity in the Convocation Hall and the open air theatre could very well serve as a much needed positive distraction, taking our minds off what we're missing and towards what we have.

# Watch Out! Batch of 2013



## Comfortably Numb



*"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities." -- Albus Dumbledore*

All our lives, we've been told what to do and what to think. Do this. Don't do that. This is wrong, that is right. This is *true*. Study this subject. Top your class. Go to this college. Take up that career. Live *this* life.

We never seem to make our own choices. Or explore the confines of our own mind. Or try something new, something that hasn't been directly induced in our mind by something external. I don't know if free will *is* an illusion, but it certainly has become one.

We've always just *known* what to do. Because we've been told. We've never given much thought to our actions, our dreams, or our decisions. And as a result, we've become scared of and inept at making those choices. Or making any choices at all. Because we've never really made any.

In the early stages of our lives, it never seems to matter, since we have clear goals, a well-laid out path, even if it's one laid out by others. But what happens when we don't? When we falter, when the future is obscured in dreamy mists? When the time comes to make choices, to think, and to decide, all on our own, we are unable to. We've never really learnt *how* to think when we don't know *what* to think.

And so, we face identity crises, lack of motivation and a feeling of emptiness. And in our numbness and our ignorance, we look around for others, searching for life in a sea of solitude, looking for someone to show the path, someone to follow. As we've done all our lives.

But you know what? All those *others*, those confident selves, those immaculate personalities, are looking around for others too. And thus we are led, led by the chaos of randomness rather than the direction of intent.

We avoid our choices, even the ones that really matter. Especially those ones. We assume they'll resolve themselves, because they always have. And the cycle goes on. We keep on ignoring the questions we ask ourselves, denying them, moving towards a comfortably vague future. This habit of being *passive* keeps reinforcing itself.

Despite what we'd like to believe, or what Ayn Rand would have us believe, we are not creatures of reason; we never were. We are simply creatures of habit. And the thing about habits is, we invariably seem to pick the wrong ones.

So here's the harsh truth. You are alone. No one is going to make those choices for you. You may be comfortably numb right now, but that's not going to last. The conveniently obscured future is going to come into focus, and you won't even know when it happens. Stop letting life puppet you around. Take control of your own self. It's going to be hard, you'll have to figure it out yourself.

Step out of your circle of comfort, and go seize the day. And keep on doing it.



--Jayant Jain



## Cognizance 2014

Cognizance 2014, the annual technical festival of IIT Roorkee commenced from 21st to 23rd March 2014 marking the 12th edition of the event. Cogni, as the IITR junta likes to call it, is one of the largest technical festivals in Asia had called for participation from colleges and engineering schools all over the country along with some competitions at school level. And it was indeed a technical fair, with a number of competitions, exhibitions and guest lectures which gave the science and tech enthusiasts a chance to look at some of the next generation innovations happening around the world. “Imagineering Change”, the theme of the 12th edition of Cognizance, showcased a celebration of science, technology and management, fuelled by some of the basic elements essential to scientific and technical inquiry curiosity, wonder and discovery which involved a lot of participants over both campus and online events in a span of three power packed days.

The guest lectures by RK Khandal, Dr. Victor Benno, Dr. Pawan Aggarwal, William Baker and many more

provided enough food for thought for the students and took them to another level of brain power. Many career-talks by certain institutions also encouraged children to pursue science-related careers. Not only science and tech, many events were also conducted to encourage entrepreneurship too. There was Ideaz too, a national level paper presentation competition which sniffed of innovation throughout. Powerdrift and Armageddon were the popular events among the countless events on campus apart from numerous online events such as cogni-street and illushun.

The festival highlighted the educational, cultural and financial impact of science and tech in our country and featured interactive sessions, hands-on activities and dynamic speakers to engage the students. Embodied by the spirit of innovation, each event was well-planned and exclusively moulded to captivate the participants in science and showed off the ways how technology can be fun indeed.

## Sankalp 2014

Sankalp manifested its motive through its pre-event manifesto, leading many to expect a magnificence rarely seen, come the annual extravaganza's debut. The modus operandi aimed at bridging the barriers amidst different social strata, ferrying across all social, economic and cultural boundaries. The NSS put on display a conduit to put the above ideology in practice.

Sankalp was conducted on the 29th and 30th of March, offering the participants an ideal opportunity to put both sides of their brain to work. Brilliance toned with creativity was the need of the hour. Utopia, a case study analysis targeted the rural economy and ways to provide more boom to the same, by leveraging the resources at hand to the best possible extent. ‘Innovision’ involved the participants putting their thoughts to paper, presenting practical, yet efficient solutions to the existing

educational institutions' apprehensiveness in resonating their programs with the societal needs. A model rural parliament added spice by providing a platform for different minds hailing from a variety of backgrounds to join hands in discussing constructive and efficient ways for overall rural upliftment and elevation, the pathetic conundrum of the Public Distribution System being the primary area of focus. Events like ‘Solaris’ focussed on igniting young minds with the scope of sustainable technologies and the scalability of renewable energy sources in serving a larger, wider audience. To lend the entire occasion its share of flaunt and flair, Sankalp involved a short film competition, a quiz, poster design and a rambunctious, entertaining yet conclusive debate. Talk sessions and motivational lectures on the current global socio economic crisis were enlightening as well as inspirational. Exhibitions lent the occasion a different

dimension, focussing on child rights, drug addiction counselling, art, culture and reduction of rural migration.

Sankalp without doubt, conveyed a message. But the number of ears which received the same did not inspire awe. For a debut, Sankalp stood out for excellence in

thought but at the same time, for impropriety in management and frugality in participation, which was nothing short of dismal from outside IITR. Nevertheless, the NSS needs to be commended for organising a social fest, the first of kind in the IITR precincts thereby letting in some hope for such events in the future.

## #mostlyHarmless

### 300 seconds

A highly irritating alarm breaks his sleep. 7:42am, his phone displays. A quick calculation tells him that he can still make it to class on time. He shakes his head, fighting the urge to just fall back and sleep for some more.

With 5 minutes left, he is on his way. The short cycle ride is his favorite part of the day. No answering phone, no replying to text, no meaningless conversation to make, no unnecessary smile to force. 5 minutes, all for himself and truly for himself. 5 minutes to worry about world problems, to fret about his own future, to analyze and then smile at the weird dream he had had and to enjoy the wind in his face. A luxury and something to treasure, he values it at that level.

This time, he is happily enjoying the morning chill before the afternoon sun takes away the beauty. But it isn't long before a part of his mind starts comparing it with how things developed over last one year. The morning calm and freshness, it was there to enjoy too. But just like the morning, it didn't last long. And now in hindsight it seemed laughable that he didn't see it coming. All the signs were there! But were they? Or were they apparent only after a year's worth experience in the unknown land? She was a player and he got played, that's what happened. Just that neither of them knew it then.

3 minutes later he realizes that he had fallen in the trap again, an emotional dead end. He berates himself for

losing control and wasting his valuable time on her. She's gone! Forever! All the attempts at disciplining his mind seem to have had no effect whatsoever. But he's always had a tough time coming to terms with the whole thing. He shakes head again, this time to clear his mind. If only it was that simple, a quick shake and problem solved. He started wishing for a random motorbike to come and hit him and end it all but his luck isn't that great. And then he spots her. No, not the one behind his troubled thoughts but someone new. For one fleeting moment, he is hooked, unable to think anything, unable to see anything apart from her. A few seconds later he comes to his senses, after having passed her. He tries to explain to himself the last minute but he just couldn't fathom his fascination. She wasn't dressed spectacularly, as far as he could remember, neither did she look like a runaway model. In fact, she was ordinary enough to be indistinguishable in a crowd. But she wasn't in a crowd then and he got a proper glimpse. He chuckles to himself, thinking just how crazy the day can get.

He is sure he's probably never going to get to know her. A year back him would have held onto some hope for this but his current self dismissed that hope without a moment's hesitation. He reaches his class 10 seconds early, just about enough for the last part of his ritual. He composes himself, puts on a fake smile, acts as cheerful as is expected from a college guy and enters the sea of meaningless conversations.

# 49th Inter IIT Sports Meet 2013 - IIT Guwahati

IIT	Athletics		Badminton		Basketball		Cricket	Football	Hockey	Lawn Tennis		Swimming		Squash	Table Tennis		Volleyball		Waterpolo	Weight Lifting	March Past		Total		Rank	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women				Men	Women	Men	Women		Men	Women	Men	Women			Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
BHU							4	2							2		4				Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
BHUBANESWAR																					7.5	6.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	
BOMBAY	12	4			2	2				10				4	6		2	2	6	6	8.5	7.5	54.5	22.5	III	
DELHI		2	10	10	6			10	2	2	4						4	4		2	7	7	45	27		
GANDHINAGAR												2								10	7	7	9	7		
GUWAHATI		6		6		4	2						2		10	10				10	9	9	31	37	II	
HYDERABAD																					7	7	7	7		
INDORE																					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5		
JODHPUR																					7	7	7	7		
KANPUR	20	10	6				10		6	4		4	4	6			10	2	2		7	7	65	35	I	III
KHARAGPUR			4	4	10		6	4		6	10	6		2	4			4	4		6.5	6.5	54.5	20.5	III	
MADRAS	8		2			6			10		6	10			10	2			10	4	7.5	7.5	61.5	21.5	II	
MANDI																					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5		
PATNA																					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5		
ROORKEE	4			2	4	10		6	4		2		10	10	6		6				7.5	7.5	35.5	43.5	I	
ROPAR																					6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5		

S. No.	Degree	U.G. Registered Students					
		Registered		Offers		Salary Details	
		Total	Above 6.0	Above 6.0 Placed	Total Offers	Highest Package	Average Package
1	Architecture and Planning	47	37	37	43	10.00	5.47
2	Biotechnology	32	27	23	30	28.00	7.73
3	Chemical Engg.	56	46	36	37	14.70	6.67
4	Civil Engg.	106	89	73	81	32.00	6.62
5	Computer Science Engg.	49	40	36	52	73.00	35.04
6	Electrical Engg.	112	97	79	82	30.45	8.92
7	Electronics & Communication Engg.	52	41	37	43	16.00	9.62
8	Production & Industrial Engg.	44	39	31	34	32.00	7.54
9	Mechanical Engg.	77	63	56	73	17.16	7.35
10	Metallurgical & Materials Engg.	86	65	48	52	10.15	5.95
11	Pulp & Paper Technology	48	39	30	39	13.40	6.33
12	Chemical Engg IDD.	23	21	14	15	17.16	8.56
13	CS IDD	22	16	16	24	73.00	21.19
14	ECE IDD	16	12	11	14	20.00	11.47
15	Process Engineering and M.B.A.	20	16	14	15	10.00	6.77
16	Polymer Science and Technology	14	14	6	7	9.82	6.80
17	Electrical IDD	13	12	11	11	12.00	8.19
18	Int. M.Tech Geological Technology	18	14	8	9	17.10	8.53
19	Int. M.Tech Geophysical Technology	23	14	7	7	32.00	21.60
20	Int. M.Sc. (Applied Mathematics)	13	12	10	10	12.00	8.18
21	Int.M.Sc. (Physics)	11	9	3	3	8.00	7.70
22	Int. M.Sc. (Chemistry)	4	1	1	1	5.10	5.10



## Chairman's Address

When I first realized that I had to write this address, I wasn't sure what I would write about. I could argue that even right now, as I am writing these fleeting words which will cease to exist once you close this copy of the mag, I have no clue what I am writing about. Any words of wisdom that I could have passed on to my juniors I have already enunciated enough number of times in the last few group meetings. And there's no point in boring you, the readers, with words that are not intended for you. Yet, I have the duty to fill this annual column with words that add value to the last issue of this session.

Which is the one group on campus that can claim to have members who have been part of Dramatics, Music, Cogni, Thomso, various sports, SDS Labs, Photography etc? Certainly not these individual sections. Watch Out is that one group where the sheer variety in characters has been the single most influencing factor in my college experience. And still it is one of the most misunderstood group in the campus for a lot of justified reasons. That I personally don't care about these opinions shouldn't come as news to you, dear readers, for I have happily completed three years in this group. For the general population of R, we are a news magazine and this is something that I cannot deny. And yet, serving as *the* news magazine of IITR wasn't ever my purpose with this group. With the negligible value that the institute sees in campus journalism, unlike our western counterparts, it just doesn't seem to be worth our time. *This happened in Cognizance on that date with so and so saying this about it*, isn't something that I am interested in writing about and, I am sure, isn't something that you want to read either. For now, we do still keep a few pages aside for news notes but once we switch to publishing on [www.wona.co.in](http://www.wona.co.in), those pages will surely be better utilised. And when that happens, whatever little resemblance this magazine holds with a news agency will cease to exist. So then, why does this group exist?

The purpose of this group, as far as I can see, is to be the force that can convince an IITian to sit up and step out of his comfort zone, to be the cause of change in the campus and be the harbingers of better times. Most of our stories have been on this line and while we have been partially successful, rest assured, we are aware that there's still a long way to go. I'd be fooling myself, more than anyone else, if I said that I think Watch Out can single handedly cause a widespread change in mentality on the campus. But I can argue that we are well poised to do at least *something* about it. We cannot preach but we can bring to you stories about people who have refused to get lost in the herd, we can raise issues through a coherent article rather than being a random voice in some Facebook group. There's a lot we can do. It might not be enough at the end of the day but it would amount to something. If we are able to initiate a discussion around a relevant topic then I'd consider our job done.

This column is my last real contribution to this magazine and now I can sit back and relax, for I am certain that I am handing over the reins to the best possible team for taking the legacy of 21 years in the right direction.



-- Shashank Mehta



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