

EDITORIAL:

It is with a deep sense of nostalgia that we sit down to write this last editorial. This is not just because it is the last editorial that we are writing for the MANDAK RAG or perhaps the last one of our lives. Nor is it that there will be no more issues of the RAG, the joys and frustrations encountered in the process, no more opportunities to say with a triumphant smile, 'Didn't you know? The next issue is up.' Nor is it that we are now bereft of the joy that we extract from any hostel scandal or of the chance to chuckle at the latest PJ. Not that we will no longer have grub in the Mandak mess, nor that we will leave our cosy rooms and shift to an alien hostel.

Our stay in Mandakini (for most of us, atleast) will soon be a matter of the past. It will be classified with those other sets of 'good old days' and our experiences here grouped with those worth telling our grandchildren. How often you will be found in the next few years saying, 'In good old Mandak.....'

My nostalgia springs from the hard, cold fact that we have to part. No longer will the situation prevail when 'our crowd' is together again, when we come out in hordes to revel in the joys of volleyball, badminton, cricket, football, when we can shout from one end of the hostel to another at any time of day advising a friend not to study so hard.

I wouldn't bore you with all the 'crucial-year-of-our-lives' claptrap, but we must accept that we have had some of our most novel, new and exhilarating experiences in each other's company and the idea that we must now depart does lend a hue of nostalgia to the situation. Incidentally, we truly regret any hurt feelings caused on the part of the mess workers.

As for the RAG, we've been lucky that whatever tripe we have brought out was read patiently and with enthusiasm. But for some guys who helped a lot and more so others who gave us encouragement, we would never have achieved any measure of success in this Herculean task.

So, friends, thanks, all the best and 'bye for now.

H ON RAGGING, IN THE 'RAG'

-- Rajeev Jayaraman

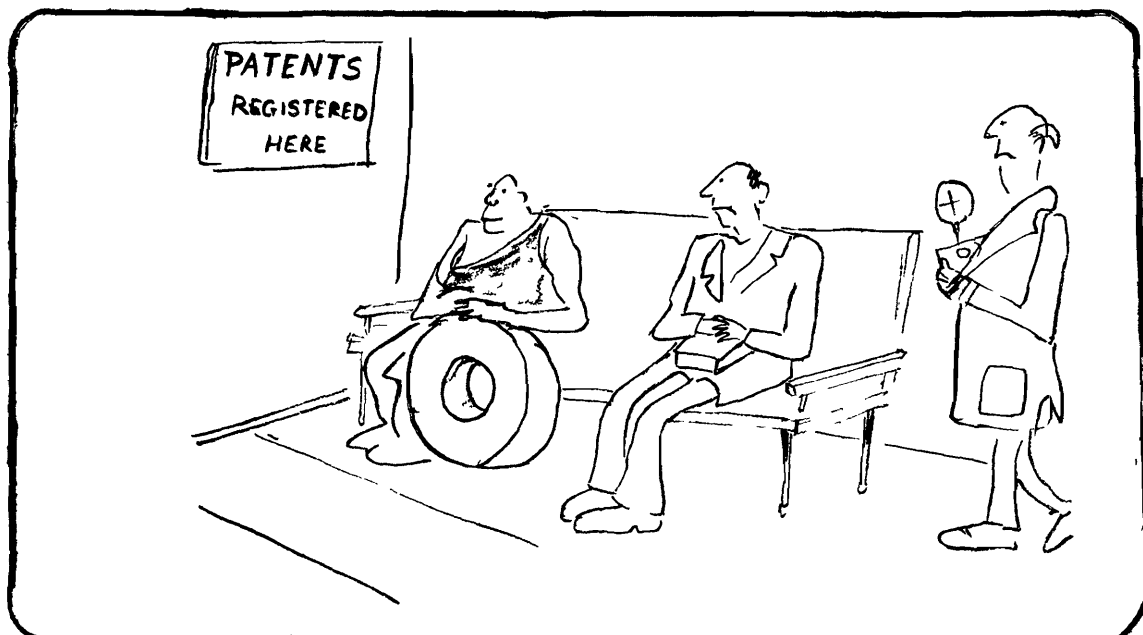
'Hey freshie, come here!' We had become used to being called in this fashion in the beginning of the first semester. Not even one of us has escaped from our seniors. Some had pleasant and others not-so-pleasant experiences during the ragging. Anyway, it's all over for us. No more ragging for us, but the burning question is whether we are going to rag next semester or not. The reactions are quite mixed and one cannot generalise opinions. On the whole there are about three opinions.

There are some guys who support ragging to the core. They defend ragging as if it were their divine birthright. These are the ones who get fabulous thrills ragging others. I know of certain guys who are so desperate to rag, that they practise paining and ragging guys day and night. I really pity next years' 'freshies' who get ragged by them. The ragging that they will be dishing out, I guess, will be of a 'healthy' sort or atleast that is what they tell me.

The second class, I think, is a majority, which believes in light ragging for introductions and so on. This class is more interested in knowing their juniors (makes you feel quite senior eh?) Ragging should be a pleasant experience for those who get ragged by them.

The third class consists of the guys who are not at all interested in ragging.

Ragging in IIT is not indecent but it is decidedly painful in the sense that one has to put up with hopeless PJs and gags. There isn't any oath-taking or anything of that sort here but in certain colleges including IITD there is a pledge which every junior takes after ragging. It is quite funny to watch them do it. There is a row of juniors each with his left hand on his posterior and his right hand raised as in a German salute. The seniors read the



BRAIN TEASER

PRIZE RS 10

- Mukund Srinivasan.

The island of Atlantis started with an initial population of P_0 at time $t=0$; of which S_0 had never had smallpox before.

At any time t (in years), the corresponding values are P and S . Now every year, 1 in every m of the S persons catches smallpox. Of the persons afflicted, 1 in every n persons dies.

Find an expression which gives S at any time t , in terms of the above quantities. (Those underlined.)

**

Hand in your solution at Room No. 152, by Friday, April 17.

MOSES 'COINS' A NEW RECORD

MADRAS, April 10.

David Moses, a 1 year student of IIT Madras, broke the record in coin snatch here today. He placed 54 coins on his upturned elbow and caught them all at one snatch. If you'd like to try, place your hand on your shoulder, palm upwards, balance some coins on your upturned elbow, and try and catch them by jerking your hand forward. - Reuter.

Complete the series:

M Q 8 4 5 8 7

Each figure consists of a number along with its mirror image.
Hence the next figure will be 88

MISLEADING HEADLINES

How often do we find interesting headlines only to find ...
Read on, friends.

Body Dissolved by Chemistry Professor

MADRAS, April 4.
The Central study team, headed by
Dr J G Jolly Director of the
blood transfusion department at
the Post-Graduate Institute of
Medical Education and Research
in Chandigarh of Blood
Transfusion and Im-
munohaematology was
dissolved

Dr Jolly told newsmen
that the team would submit its report
to the Central Government in about
a week.

The founder of the 18-year-old
voluntary blood donation move-
ment in Chandigarh, Dr Jolly was
emphatic that

Transfer of hepatitis virus was
one of the common hazards in
receiving the blood of a professional
donor

ENRAGED HOUSEWIFE POISONS ENTIRE FAMILY

From A. N. Prasad

BANGALORE, April 10.
A housewife of Rajaji-
nagar, in a fit of anger
destroyed an entire family

of cockroaches. The
cockroaches had been x
feasting on her love
letters from her de-
ceased 4th husband.

MATE SUES FOR SPEEDY SEPARATION

From A. N. Prasad.

BOMBAY, April 10.
1st Mate Mohan Ram sued
the East India Shipping
Corporation for early

retirement. 'I am dis-
gusted with the life in the
Merchant Navy,' he said when
interviewed by our reporter.

Note

The closing date for receiving entries for the Blurb Contest
and for the Photo Caption Contest is Tuesday, April 14. The
photographs have been reproduced below for your convenience.

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