



J.A.M./Preliminaries:

The Physics Lecture Theatre, being accustomed to the normal, meagre kindness, meted out to it by the IITians, must have been pleasantly surprised to receive unstinted homage from a few hundred people. The organisers were efficient in all their departments - they even arranged to delay the start just enough to put the audience in the right frame of mind for what was to come.

Strangely enough, the only Physics which transpired was almost as misconceived and funny as the normal lectures which form our staple diet. Raghunand's novel rendition of Einstein's theory of Relativity shook the foundation of Physical Science, as we know it today - but it did fetch him that point for humour (as it turned out, the only point in this category for the day).

Biswas (IITM), of the built-in-alarm, seemed mysteriously and invariably capable of coming alive in the dying moments of the minute - his was a facile victory.

The second round was quite insipid - with things brightening up only at the fag end when there was a tie, between Sudhakar (Nizam) and Prakash (Christ). The audience suddenly became inexplicably vocal and the tie breaker degenerated into a free-for-all, with the audience clear winners.

Gopal (MCC) did not look too happy with his score. With some entertainingly optimistic objections he lost three points. Praveen (Vivek), when accused of having 'the cutest little baby face', tried to exonerate himself by saying 'So did Mussolini', Hitler and Napoleon.'

Indra (IITM) scored 5 points twice. This round was enlivened when Miss Mukherjee brought to book Prem (St Johns) deservedly one felt, for a breach of etiquette. He belligerently demanded a point for humour(?) and got a crisp censure instead.

The other rounds may have been one-sided, but the final was a walk-over. The lucky two to be selected without sweating were Gopinath (RECT) and Mathew (IISc).

It was observed that though most of the participants were quite capable of talking without committing any noticeably objectionable bloomers, only one or two made any effort to actually present coherent ideas - humorous or otherwise. One wishes there were more incentives to tempt the speakers to talk sense and to do so in lively fashion.

One hopes (Never gives up, what? Hope, I mean) that the finals will be more entertaining.

Classical music:

Since, we, the Faithful, know next to nothing about it, here's the inside story from one of the Ancients viz the esteemed T.T. Narendran!

So tremendous was the response (17 colleges) that the organisers had to hold two sessions with a lunch break - much to the dismay of the movie goers! What's more, quite a few participants were almost professional types - enhanced the standards of the competition and embarrassed the judges, too!

Vocal singing was generally mediocre but for IITM's Sundar and SIET's Uma Maheswari Sundar (I B Tech) started off with a rousing Kirwani and virtually eclipsed his more seasoned team-mates and Wow! What a thundering ovation he got!! Of the remaining singers, only Loreto's Sanchita Biswas is worth mentioning.

Instrumental music had numerous entries, mostly violins, veenas and mridangams. Violin - three professionals were on view - Sundareswaran (Loyola) was acrobatic while Radhakrishnan (also Loyola) was melodious but VVRavi (Viveka) exhibited the best all-round ability. The profusion of violins fetched Loyola the best team prize. Veena - sorely disappointing. Ramachandran (RECT) lone exception. Mridungam - lots of them were in the competition, some of them guilty of prolonged, tiresome tani avarthanams - and ultimately it was the women's libber (or isn't she?) from SIET - Sukhanya on the Ghatam - who best'em all to it. And the tabla player (Jagdish of IIMCal) who tried putting fundas to the audience and the judges (?) stood second. MCC's Vijayakumar impressed with anovel mridangam-dolki combo.

Sukumar AC Tech waged an engaging dual with the Spanish guitar trying to extract gamakas out of it.

Audience - unbelievably sober and discerning - and mainly non-smoking.

Collage:

It has been pointed out by reminiscing veterans that this is the most crowded Mardi Gras. Concrete evidence of this was the attendance at the Collage. Based on experience and an indigenous system of estimation, the organisers expected about 40 entries. So they armed themselves with enough paraphernalia for 60 - and finally about 80 turned up. All kind of hued paper had to be commissioned to meet the new contingency.

The scene was quite serene and strangely inspiring. In the picturesque setting all the girls looked like so many sylphs from the forest. Everybody worked manfully and for a time - 'Here a snip, there a snip; Everywhere a snip, snip!' And then there was the announcement.

The time has come to herald our new town crier - Sack. A long-legged individual with the aspect of a half-wit, he is the new self-appointed compere for MG 78. His comment at the Collage - 'Some cats are observed going around with cameras. Use them!' This broke the ice, and the camera men took off for a while.

Art work, however, went on unimpaired by these proceedings. The event lasted for a surprisingly long period - and when the last entry was handed in, the sun was setting.

The entries are reportedly promising and an interesting time lies ahead when the judges arrive on Sunday.

Dumb Charades:

This is indisputably the Nadir of the festival so far. Conceding that there were diversionary occupations available in the Dramatics, the movie and what have you - the steady state attendance for this event must definitely indicate that it does not find favour with audiences.

The participants seemed singularly lacking in imagination and preparation for the event, and even those who had ironed things out beforehand seemed to miss out their cues habitually.

Loyola and IIT M were definitely in a different class. Their miming was well-conceived, well-executed and well-sensed.

Most of the Colleges throw discretion to the winds and frankly and unabashedly left everything to the laws of probability others indulged in heart-rending, muted appeals to the audience. In any case at no point of time did the proceedings rise to anything above mediocre and the audience looked on with sympathy most of the time.

Personalities:

AJITHKUMAR (IIMC): Modest and soft spoken Ajith won the quiz in fine style. Ex-IITian (KGP), has been around here (MG'75). Feels IITM has declined over the years. Interests: politics and history. Catholic reader, anything from Peanuts to Spinoza. Digs movies of all kinds. Fantasizes a lot. Avoids females if possible, but it's rumoured he had a soft corner for certain Bong Chicks. Thinks Mardi Gras the most popular festival around - he's seen quite a few. Do try to meet him - it's worth the effort.

Movies:

In a frantic effort to feed these hordes that have descended upon us, the Chosen People, a few movies were arranged in CLT or so your I.C. has been lead to believe. It's a shame a few of ye feckless missed CHARLY, Boy!. What a movie! What direction! What acting! What music!(Ravi Shankar and Alla Rakha). Definitely the Gras' high point for yours truly. Wish you'd seen it, What?

Also rans were KOTCH and BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE. Polansk's ROSEMARY'S BABY slated for today, should be good.

Postview: Quiz

A big success as usual, but "the excellence of the written quiz gave no warning as to the Charade that was to follow" - Ajith, IIMC.

Your Intrepid Correspondent, who, alas, was also at the receiving end, supports the sentiment vigorously. The elimination rounds had far too few questions. And the second round, far too many audio-visuals. Agreed, movies are a capital idea, but why Hindi? We object strongly and cry-linguistic imparity! Why not in the lingua franca, pray?

Sitaram cheerfully smashed dozens of electric bulbs. Otherwise, the dapper young Dr Subra carried the house with hardly any hassle. Good show, Subra - you're going from strength to strength.

Post view: General: All in all a day best left behind. The Dumb Charades and the Dramatics (except in patches) left a fairly unsavoury taste in the mouth. One can only look forward to a better fare in the days to come.

IITians are predominantly the strong and silent variety. Please help them overcome this inborn shyness.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE:

Classical Music

Best College : 1) Loyola 2) RECT 3)SIET

Vocalist: 1) R Sundar (IITH)
2) Umamaheswari (SIET)
3) Sanchita Biswas (Loreto)

Instrumentalist: 1) VV Ravi (Viveka)
2) Sukumar Prasad (AC Tech)
3) Rohini Parthasarathy (St Joseph's B'lore)

Judges' Special mention for percussionists:

1) Sukanya (SIET)
2) Jagdish Acharya (IITM CAL)

Late News - MG77.

