

# mardi gras

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The rag gets rolling once again, but before we begin, some afterthoughts on yesterday. Firstly, a factual error; it was MCC not Vivekananda which won the best college prize in Western Music last year. Details of how they fared this time are available below.

One of the judges, Mrs Charlotte Gunalan, felt that we had been too hard on the organisers and too easy on the participants yesterday. The topics in the Extempore Speaking were very good, she declared emphatically - it's entirely up to the speaker to subdue the audience. One must expect difficult topics etc, etc. Sorry you guys, we're always a little hard on the Establishment.

## WESTERN MUSIC:

We had predicted this might be the best event of the festival. I hope we're wrong.

REC Tricky came on first, and disappointed. A run-of-the-mill group, which erred in its selection of songs. To attempt the messages of evil (Strange Days and Jumpin' Jackflash) from those Satanic Majesties, Jim Morrison and Mick Jagger, with a feeble vocals section was suicide.

AC Tech was not quite as pulsating as the slide exclaimed. When they were allowed to, the bassist and the drummer pounded out a tight, well-controlled beat. The drummer was adjudged third best instrumentalist, and the vocalist also third best -- He sang well generally, but his voice flattened in the higher ranges.

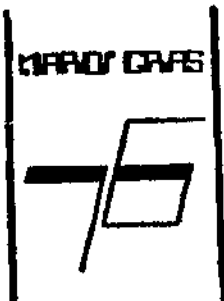
An ethereal, melancholy voice - Vivi Mathew was the balm the savage beast needed. A fledgeling of WCC; she was palpably relieved that her OAT baptism went off so well. Hope she is back with her autumnal notes next year. WCC also produced a good group song; they won third place. Emcee Ratneshwari charmed with her neat introductions and elegant walk.

STET was represented by a group of three. Less professional than the WCC girls; girlish voices, lacking husk and not quite well-rounded. But the bounce in the songs kept the audience quiet, and fetched them a special prize.

Vivekananda - Sugary and sweet, strictly under 18 music, despite their adult (erous) pretensions. The singer N. Prabhu (2nd best) was helped considerably by some good backing.

Vaishnav: The first electric group that showed refinement, and an appreciation of the nuances of electronic equipment. Though their selections consisted only of "machine music" (which means a near uninterrupted wall of 'noise') - Grand Funk, Black Sabbath - it suited them well. The bassist could show off his skill with excellent bass runs; the lead was clean and sharp with a minimum of gimmickry... Faithful reproduction of the originals was the hallmark of this group. They combined intimately, and without histrionics showed they were involved in the music.

MCC made the rest of the evening worth the wait. The trio of Anu, Sathi and Ratan has achieved near perfection; they adapted intelligently to circumvent their vocal limitations, particularly on "Ticket to Ride". The violin complemented the guitars to create a haunting, beautiful rendition of 'Nights in White Satin'. They have been playing together for an year and a half; have experimented with electronic aids, but discarded them in favour of pure acoustics.



Jyoti Nivas began excellently with some blues, but faltered later. Their program was a mixture of songs and piano solos. Much to the people's delight, their last item was a "song and dance sequence(!)"; unfortunately the girls' movements were not fluid enough to make it outstanding.

Loyola's electric group had a good, well balanced sound, but was restricted to one number. Their acoustic section took over thereafter. I have been fed on a diet of very well-played CSNY music by campus musicians (no longer with us) and Loyola's versions definitely suffered in comparison.

Some of the later participants made only perfunctory appearances. Providence, St. Joseph's, etc. contented themselves with two or three numbers each.

A great duo which the sleepy heads missed was that of Peter Isaac and Marian Machado. She threw herself into the songs with verve and gusto, and imparted some new, gutsy touches. He excelled on the guitar. A beautiful pair.

In summary: More "rock groups" turned up, but not one is an exciting, genuine find. The quality stuff still comes from the acoustic guitarists, notably the MCC trio and Peter Isaac. Their exceedingly high standard make the competition worthwhile.

Thanks to the Film Club for loaning out their huge speakers. They added a dimension to the efforts of those on stage.

### PERSONALITIES

Rahul Warrior: Casually dressed with quiet good looks -- not to be stampeded into giving an opinion (we tried). He studies in St Joseph's College of Arts and Sciences, Bangalore, and this is his second Mardi Gras. Perhaps experience helps, because Rahul has fared very well thus far. Scarcely two days over, and he has won the Extempore Speaking, qualified for the final round of the quiz and obtained the 3rd place in the Collage competition.

Last year Rahul had a very rough time during the story telling and left with the impression that IIT consisted mainly of "lousy guys with a few good guys thrown in". Having got to know IITans better he has revised his opinions to the more favourable "mostly nice guys with a few lousy guys". His opinion of the IIT audience - "They always boo when necessary...sometimes also unnecessarily".

Rahul endeared himself to us immediately by buying two copies of that journalistic masterpiece "Campastimes". His taste is catholic and he devours everything from Time magazine to pornography. His favourite music - "The Beatles". He is beginning to learn the rudiments of the appreciation of light Western Classical Music.

Opinions: IIT guys - too absorbed in their work, desperate to be introduced to girls. Yesterday's Extempore Speaking - thought the topics tried a little too hard to be witty - the standard of competition was much lower than last year.

We wish there were more like him.

### On Campus:

Four of India's top artists, Mr Vasudev and his wife Arnawaz, Mr Nandagopal and Mr Gopinath were at the festival this morning. They took some time off to speak to us for a while.

Arnawaz, who judged the art exhibition this year and in '74 felt that there was a marked decline in standards. No outstanding works this year.

All the artists were unanimously agreed that we in IIT see too little art in our daily life. Vasudev pointed out that TIFR Bombay can boast of one of the finest collections of contemporary Indian art. Having someone sensitive to art at the top was important, but the students could achieve a lot on their own initiative.

Gopinath suggested that we host a camp for sculptors, providing them with room, board and materials, allowing them to work for a few days. The interaction would be beneficial and their output would be turned over to the Institute to form the basis for a collection. Another point repeatedly mentioned was that a radical transformation of atmosphere could be effected by acquiring inexpensive reproduction of good paintings.

#### INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC:

Mr. Rajkumar of Guindy made it worthwhile. His rendering of the raga "Sankarabaranam" was superb. He is endowed with a melodious voice and has the touch of a professional. He was ably accompanied on the mridangam by Mr. Shyam Sunder. Among the percussionists Mr K Ramesh from Vivekananda excelled. He possessed the deft fingering and sensitive touch, that is essential. IIT's Ravichandran rendered a nice lathangi on the veena. Vivekananda had a good choice of numbers. Ethiraj and Loyola were fairly good. Generally it appeared that the lady participants take to music with less verve and purpose than the male participants.

Finally a word of advice to future participants: Do not attempt popular numbers.

-- PROF K BALARAMAN

#### PREVIEW:

The most eagerly awaited event of the festival goes on tomorrow at 9.30 the Quiz finals. Dr (Wills Filter) Subramaniam conducts again and has another mind blowing spectacle in store. The first round is going to be a bit stiff and there will be a number of question sequences. Without closed circuit TV, nagging doubts persist about accomodation. Ashok Natarajan will defend his title.

Indian Light Music is at 1.30 with a large number of entries. Vivekananda, REC, MCC and CMC will be the colleges to watch and some of the newcomers promise to provide good music. IIT's Gadgil, Srikanth and Co will be there setting the pace.

Dramatics: MCC: Good on home ground, let us see what they do here. Vivekananda unknown quantity. St John's: Chetan will be missed this year. Will the new venue cramp their style? Loyola: How ever will they manage without Alfie? Guindy: They ad-libbed their way to victory last year - can they repeat their performance? The dramatics is being staged at the Central School Theatre. One hopes that the new venue provides better fare than in the past.

#### RESULTS AT A GLANCE

<u>Western Music:</u>	Vocalist	1) Vivi Mathew ..	WCC
		2) N Prabhu ..	Vivekananda
		3) SC Mehta ..	AC Tech
Instrumentalist	1) Lalith Kumar ..	Bass Guitar ..	Vaishnav
	2) John Almeida ..	Piano ..	CMC
	3) B Ravi ..	Drums ..	AC Tech
Group	1) Vaishnav		
	2) MCC		
	3) Christ College		
College	1) MCC		
	2) Loyola		
	3) WCC		
Special prizes	1) Shanti - Jyothi Nivas	2) SIET group	
Audience prizes	For the best item ... Rock'n'Roll medley - MCC		

## QUIZ FINALISTS:

1 R S Nair	IIT	7 G Panikker	REC (T)
2 A Natarajan	MCC	8 J Subramanyam	Stella
3 R Warrior	St Joseph's	9 S Menon	SIET
4 T Ravi Shankar	Guindy Engg	10 S Garg	IISc
5 C R Cauvery	Presidency	11 M A Deviah	UAS
6 Prathap Nair	Loyola	12 A T Krishnakumar	Vivekananda

Rajeev and Prakash from IIT ranked in the first five, but were eliminated since only one finalist is permitted per college.

## JUST A MINUTE:

### I Round

- 1 Abhijit Biswas (IIT Kgp)
- 2 Manju Nair (IITM)
- 3 Vasudevan R (UAS)

### II Round

- 1 C A Sundaram (Vivek)
- 2 Krishna Kumar (Guindy)
- 3 M A Deviah (UAS)

### III Round

- 1 V S Ananth(?)
- 2 Rafiq Ganjee (MCC)
- 3 Rahul Warrior (St Joseph's)

### IV Round

- 1 B Gopinath (RECT)
- 2 Louiqa Rashid (IIT M)
- 3 P Raghunandan (?)

## STOP PRESS

Enthusiastic participants with an enthusiastic audience - the result was predictable. Just a minute this year went off really well with well-chosen topics and competent participants. The only hitch was that the judge for the first two rounds was not quite satisfactory in the important role of the sole judge. Abhijit Biswas (IIT Kgp), a new find this year, seemed barely interested in the beginning, woke up suddenly and made it to the first place. Manju, our veteran Just-a-minuter was smooth enough to make it to the finals and so did our other participant Louiqa. By far the luckiest participant was C A Sundaram (Vivek); the other participants in this round were either asleep or completely indifferent and let him get away with innumerable mistakes. Indeed, the judges were kind. They even handed over points to Cauvery (Stella) for humour she did not intend.

