

# mardi gras

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26 January 1976

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Greetings once again to everybody. We hope you've been awaiting this issue with keen anticipation,

The day began with an NCC parade to commemorate the 26th anniversary of the Republic - bet you forgot all about it. Shortly thereafter we had the inauguration of the Swimming Pool. Only an IITian can perhaps appreciate what a landmark this is. The final year students heard promises that the pool would be ready in a few months - in their first year, now at last the dream has come true. IIT Madras can now boast of its own slightly larger than life-sized pool. Mr K Easwaran presided over the inaugural ceremonies, which were mercifully brief. Then came a spectacular (!!) display of not so-coordinated swimming and some diving. The Foundation stone of the students' Cafeteria was also laid this morning. Those of us who remember the fate of the Students Amenities Centre, which was 'started' a couple of years back, can only speculate on the future of this project.

And now back to Mardi Gras.....

## QUIZ FINALS

The Quiz, as expected was an unqualified success, the only major hitch being the lack of closed-circuit TV. This generated some unnecessary banging on the back door, but these are unavoidable nuisances. One wishes that the concerned authorities had been less uncooperative in this respect - the TV has been used for a number of festivities without any damage. Now one supposes it will be taken out of mothballs on state occasions when the attendance will not warrant it.

The first round consisted of eight oral and two visual questions per participant, and six of the twelve were to be eliminated. This round concluded with a shock elimination: Ashok Natrajan. He had rushed here, sans breakfast; found himself committing simple errors. Regrettable.

I felt some participants were unlucky in receiving particularly difficult questions, while others escaped lightly. The luck of the game.....

There was a subdued air of tension initially, as bouncers with grim determined faces manned the entrances to the crowded CLT. This provoked one wag to call for the CRP.

Second Round: R Warrior shone initially. He delved into the nooks and crannies of his memory and came up with correct answers with regularity. For instance,

- Q. Why did Lady Godiva ride in the nude?  
A. To protest unreasonable taxation by her husband.

M. Deviah of UAS (who also responded to catcalls of 'Cow') misbehaved somewhat by chucking a paper missile and nearly wounding my colleague. Sabita Menon drew generous applause when she answered a cricket question that had even this well-informed audience stumped. Five runs are awarded if a fielder stops the ball with his cap.

The others did not lag behind. More such inspired guesses (?) followed, and it was evident they had warmed up sufficiently to enjoy themselves.

Printed at the Reprographic Section of the Central Library IIT Madras



Things Indian seemed to be an area of darkness for the participants. As Mr Chander observed "It is sometimes easier to answer questions about Timbuctoo than about Rajasthan".

The three who came through this 60 question session were G Panniker, R Warrior and M Deviah. R S Nair of IIT tripped over some elementary questions, and was nowhere in the running.

Third Round: Was Dr Subramaniam's spectacular brainchild. It was designed to be exacting and nerve-wracking. But the participants seemed clueless and could only grin weakly as the blockbusters were posed to them. Finally, as question after question went by unanswered, the rules had to be relaxed. The penalty for guessing was removed, and the participants stirred.

This last phase was perhaps the one enjoyed most. The audience was treated to a profusion of slides and music; and an enthralling reading from Miss Vishalam and Mr Chander (who proved to be a capable and entertaining Quiz-master) of Madras Players. It was a superb, professional piece, and received an ovation.

Dr Subramaniam's daring experiments with the participants' senses of taste and smell were interesting for their novelty.

The race was close, and Panniker jumped into first place answering an easy question about Thurber.

From start to finish, it was Dr Subramaniam's aplomb, adept handling of the crowd which made the show such a huge, well-attended success. The reward for his painstaking labours and elaborate preparations was the willing compliance of the audience and the warm ovation that he received.

RESULTS

1	G Panniker (RECT)
2	R Warrior (Christ College)
3	M Deviah (UAS)

#### 25 January 1976 - Report

The Evening: The 'Surprise' item - an ensemble from the Kalakshetra presented a programme called "Dances of India". It drew a considerable crowd which stayed interested throughout the show if not appreciative. Siva Leela was a well choreographed rendition of an old Tamil Legend, followed by a neat Kuchipudi item. The Santhal Dance pleased with its colourful costumes but its authenticity was suspect. The Kathakali and Bharata Natyam items were executed in the approved classical style. Gujarathi dances followed - the Deepa Garba was performed with twinkling lamps on twinkling toes. Kolkali after the interval with its intricately specialised movements drew loud applause. Vana Varnana, the Harvest Dance and the Kurathikummi were graceful enough but the earthy rhythms from which they are derived did not emerge through the slick costumes and the professional veneer. On the whole a new experience for old festival hands and a few insights into our cultural heritage.

#### Clay Modelling:

In all there were 35 entries; the crowd was conspicuous by its absence. The affair being mainly in black and white, the regular members of the "Onlooker Club" had to go away disappointed.

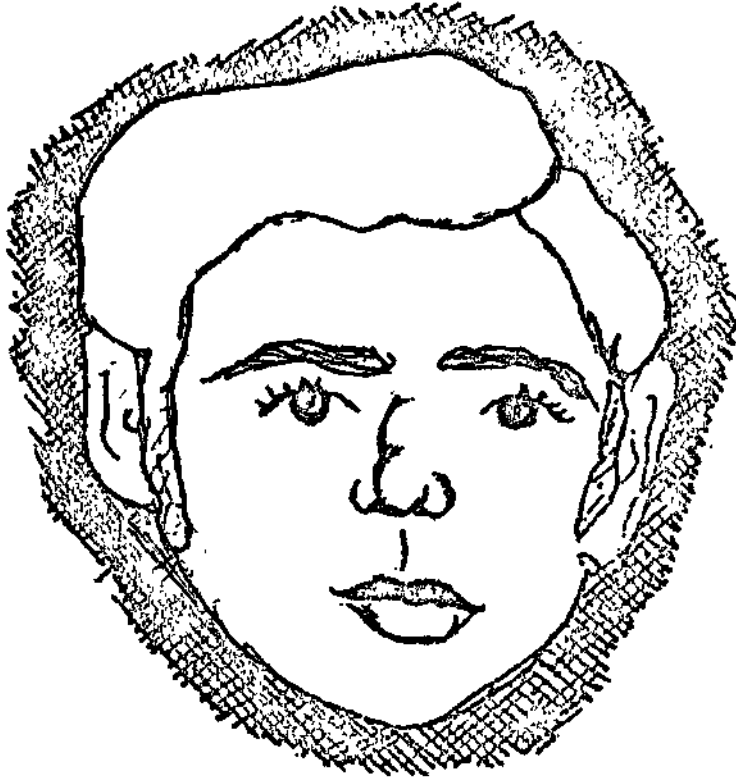
The entries ranged from 'Rodin the thinker' to 'Nandi Bull' with a lot of clay thrown in between. Janaki Nair of SJC Bangalore evolved a shocking structure in clay. The masterpiece, however, disintegrated on submission and was promptly christened "The Bastard Son of King Richard III". She won the Judges' Special Prize for girls. Mohan Singh, the Godavari mascot, and his motley gang with their "Brian on the Motorbike" impressed and merrily rode away with the Judges' Special Prize. The other prize winners were:

- 1st Rajiv Sharma (Gandhi MC Hyd) - for a structure titled 'Repentance' bearing a striking resemblance to Rodin's Thinker.
- 2nd A Mahadevan (IIT M) - an abstract piece called "Neandrath"

The moral of the affair: "Clay modelling is not everybody's plate of clay".

And here are the results of the Indian Classical Music:

	<u>Best College</u>	<u>Vocal</u>	<u>Instrumental</u>
1	Guindy	Uma Maheswari (SIET)	Shyamsundar (Guindy)
2	Vivek	Raj Kumar (Guindy)	K Ramesh (Vivek)
3	Ethiraj	Sudha Venkatraman (Ethiraj)	G G Ravichandran (IIT)
			Special: Sundareswaran (Loyola)



Today we give you.....  
Bhaskar Bhat. Our artist had great difficulty in executing this sketch.....so mercurial is this remarkable man. As Social Secretary he has worked indefatigably to ensure that everything runs smoothly during these five wonderful days.

When Bhaskar was informed that he was next in line for character assassination in this rag, he took the news impassively. Perhaps he felt that his virtuous, upright character was so well known that he had nothing to fear. Our native caution warned us that if we smirched so good a man we would instantly be murdered by an enraged populace.

So we'll leave you to discover his virtues yourself and retire gnashing our teeth.

-- WHAT IT EEST

#### Preview:

9.00 am and the Just a Minute Finals. The field looks unpromising, but Rafiq Gangjee, Abhijit Biswas and Manju Nair have it in them to keep a packed CLT entertained. Ompa, crafty old fox that he is, will be in the chair and with the neat new gadget to help him, there should be no complaints in this department.

Story telling: 1.30 pm CLT. We expect another rib tickling narrative from REC's big mouth Rajaraman. Christian and IIT will have to safeguard their 'classy' reputations. One hopes that the topics will prove workable.

Sketching begins at 2.00 pm. A casual stroll around should reveal the existence of quieter but no less important talents.

Treasure Hunt: 8.00 pm. A rough and tumble chase through the unexplored viscera of our campus. The faint-hearted, lazy but brainy ones can crack the clues while the adventurous seek out their quarries. The organisers promise that the clues will not be inordinately difficult. Starting point: Godavari Hostel

Scoop: The clues have been composed by staff members!?!?

#### Tit bits:

O.P:- we love you, we really do.....

Deft definition: Collage: decolletage mahal

Murphy's Laws: 1 Nothing is as simple as it looks  
2 Everything takes longer than you think  
3 If anything can possibly wrong, it will

-- Courtesy: Dr Subs

MANDI GEMS

