

Mardi GRAS

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Yes, the long awaited rag has at last descended from Olympus. We, the Faithful, have labored and toiled away long and mightily to produce this monumentally eloquent showpiece of journalistic excellence. So, observe with dumb reverence, ye lesser mortals, as we go by scattering pearls before you.

The binge started off the usual half hour late. Guptaji added uniqueness and infallibility to our list of virtues. Everybody welcomed everybody else and thanked everybody else too. Thank you for participating. Thank you especially for going. All the same, this was to be the most enjoyable part of the afternoon.

First bad scene; Extempore. Standards touched rock bottom this time. CN Sashi (IIM Cal); shades of Anil Gadi - quoted statistics by the yard. Hasn't mellowed with the years. Bad.

Raghunandan (Vivek) circulated friendship. Kept audience at bay with fluent (mis)quotation from Paul Simon and John Donne. Not bad. Digs what the audience wants.

Sammy, though below par, was slick and hence tolerable. The rest of the field was so barren that it was left to the audience to entertain themselves, which they did with some telling thrusts at the speakers. Very poor show on the whole.

Results: First: K Narayanaswamy (IITM) and P Raghunandan (Vivek)
Second: Rajiv Buddhiraj (Sydenham's)
Third: Thanikachalam (Gandhi Medical)

SECOND SCENE: WESTERN MUSIC

Much was expected of this bash, touted as the 'Event of the Gras'. Started a couple of hours earlier than usual. Participation - enthusiastic though slightly low and taken - twenty-four colleges participated. Diverse styles were observed - rock to folk, ambitious semiclassical to frankly unidentifiable.

SIET - started off well, taming a rather violent audience with a good performance.

IITM disappointed. Was it because you weren't competing, or weren't you competing because you were so disappointing?

Loyola - So - so. Good instrumental backing, but let down by the vocals.

During the 45 minute break an enthusiastic crowd consisting of several Children of God (and a brace of bonafide Grandchildren) had a go.

Nizam College - Good show there, Shakeela!

Mt. Carmel - we wouldn't mind seeing (hearing) some more of the pianist.

IIT KGP - the high spot of the evening. We thought so. The judges thought so. Well done, brethren, especially brother vocalist.

RECT - Audience liked them. Unlucky with the judges. Sorry, Nevil.

Loxeto - Easy on the eye, easy on the ear. Terrific costumes (Oh, well, music, too)

REC (Calicut) - Unexpectedly good. Drummer, slightly overenthusiastic, smashed his drums.

St Joseph's College of Commerce - Sheila John got us to 'Believe in Music', all right!

Christ College - God help us!

Audience - Surprisingly well behaved and docile even though the OAT was bursting at the seams with a mammoth crowd.

Hon'ble mention for Viveka even though they didn't win any prizes.

Generally, the standard was good.

Results:

Vocal : First MMC
Second IIT Kgp
Third Nizam Hyd

Instrumentalist: First IIT Kgp
Second Loyola

Group First IIT Kgp
Second RECT
Third Loyola

Colleges First IIT Kgp
Second Loreto (Cal)
Third REC(C)

Special mention: Leela Walters (MT Carmel)

IMPRESSIONS



This year we're going frightfully original. We divine that you're sick of others' impressions. Hence, lo and behold - the absolute jazz on "Everything You Always Knew On What IITians Feel About MG".

Average guy's reply:- Like it's cool having these chicks around but boy ain't it a drag. By the way what about an intro ~~www....~~

Females' crib:- Grub gets worse; bathrooms forever occupied; lotsa guys hanging around (Yeah, we know that's something new - but are you cribbing or bragging about it?).

To be fair and square, here's the scene from the other end: Oh, the usual stuff:-

IITians - bright, brainy, bogged down by work, bit reticent (Goes to show how easily our visitors are deceived).

Campus - Ooh! I simply adore it. And my, imagine, real deer!

Nasty Revelation - They hoof it down here not.

'cos MG's a funda scene, but merely to play truant.

There's one for our ego.

Postview and Preview:

The first day was a day of hard fought battles. First we had the keen combat between the air-conditioners of CLT and the hot air emitted in copious quantities by the extempore speakers (the A/C lost). At night we witnessed the fresh air around OAT being put to rout by the smoke. The army would have been impressed by the efficiency of this smoke screen. Standardwise a rather disappointing day, but for some flashes in Western Music and Clay-modelling.

Today's big item is the Quiz at a new venue (OAT) with an old quiz master (guess who?). IIM (Cal) have already won the team trophy with 102 points with IIT M coming in second. Ajith Kumar of IIM licked the rest of the field in the prelims, scoring 47 points as against 37/2 by Vellodia who placed second. So Ajith should be the man to put your shirt on, but we can't really say until to night.

Closing Comment: During Mardi Gras, the campus has a high floating population.