

CAMPASTIMES



only news that's fit to print ...

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September 1979

STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER STAFF EVALUATION, PROMISES DIRECTOR.

INTERVIEW BY SUNIL ALAGADE & V. R. DILIP.

Wednesday 08 15 hrs was a pretty cheerless morning. Nevertheless, we packed in a taperecorder, a camera and a wide variety of queries and set off for the fifth floor. Not to jump off from there as often happens, but to interview our Director. We were justifiably a bit nervous and apprehensive. But our fears were ill-founded as we soon discovered. The Director, simply dressed and leaning back in his chair, welcomed us with a refreshing candour and warmth, seldom found in Ad Block Rapport was soon established and taperecorder switched on. The Photography Editor hovered in the background looking for the right angles.

His profound understanding of student problems and his sympathetic attitude was very much apparent in the forthright and absolutely confident manner of his replies. His wry sense of humor was very evident by the remark he made when we took leave: "Be good boys!"

Read on for the details of the full interview.

CAMPASTIMES (CTS): Could you at the beginning, give us your impressions of IIT Madras vis-a-vis IIT, Delhi - the Campus, the students, the staff, the atmosphere

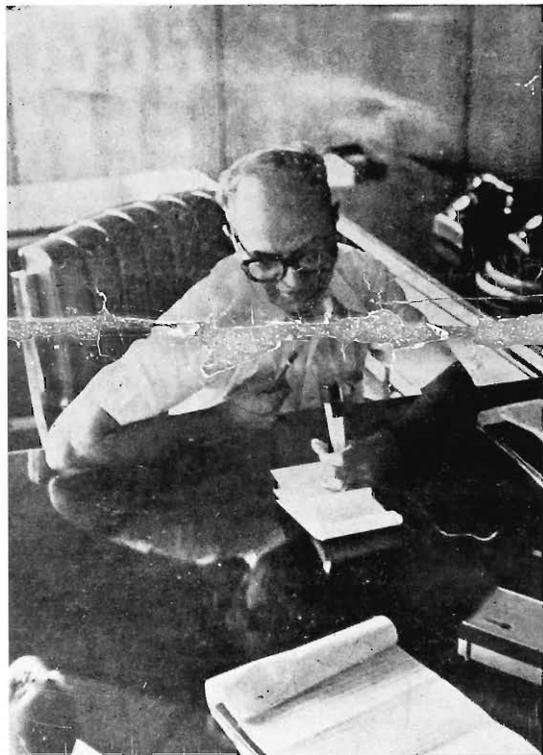
DIRECTOR (DIR): Comparisons are odious, forget them!

CTS: Any particular reason for the introduction of the new system except for the fact that it is being followed in top universities abroad. In particular, why the urgency and also why till the third year. Wouldn't it have been better to have it just for the freshmen?

DIR: The new system has been introduced because of my convictions that it is going to help the students academically and also help them to make choices of their liking. It has got very little to do with the fact that it has been introduced and followed elsewhere. The most important thing is that it is a more reasonable and a more efficient system of education than a fixed one where the administration decides what is good for the students.

CTS: Won't it be difficult for the second and third years to adapt to this new system?

DIR: If the students are going to be unnerved by these small things, they shouldn't be in IIT at all! I'm sure the boys are more capable than you think they are!



The Director, Prof. P. V. INDIRESAN

Professor P. V. Indiresan, was born in Madras in 1928. After earning a doctorate from the University of Birmingham, in 1960, he was a Professor in Roorkee University till 1965. At I.I.T. Delhi, he was a Professor at the Center for Applied Research in Electronics from 1965 to 1979. Meanwhile, he was Head of Electrical Engineering Department from 1966 to 1969, Head of the School of Radar Studies at I.I.T. Delhi from 1971 to 1975 and Dean of Undergraduate Studies between 1975 and 1978. Since the 16th of April 1979, he has been Director of I.I.T. Madras. A specialist in signal processing, 20 of his research papers have been published. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Electronics and Tele-communication Engineers. He is a widely travelled man, having visited the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland and Denmark among other countries.

CTS In foreign universities, such a system is balanced with a staff evaluation. Why couldn't it be introduced here also?

DIR There will be a system of staff evaluation definitely. There will be class committees and through these class committees and through questionnaires, there will be an evaluation of all courses. But this will be between the teacher and student. It has nothing to do with the administration.

CTS: Everyday, hundreds of students come to the Ad Block for various academic problems. In most cases, we do not know whom to approach. Wouldn't it be advisable to have a special cell just to take care of student problems, with a staff member in charge? We find that clerks are indifferent, apathetic and at times even discourteous and rude. The least they could do is to be a bit polite and sympathetic. Couldn't you look into this?

DIR: A vague generalisation is useless from an administrative point of view. The only thing we can possibly do is to issue a circular and that has no meaning. So, if you could bring in a specific case, we can call that particular person and tick him off. As far as the concept of the cell goes, there is the Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. N.V.C. Swamy at the present time. And, for all cases concerning the course, you go to the Course Co-ordinator or your teacher. The idea now is to decentralize the whole system so that, unless a specific problem arises, you don't have to come to the Ad Block at all.

CTS: There exists no doubt that the IIT's as a whole, are more fortunate than any general college in the country as regards amenities. But when viewing IIT, Madras against the other IIT's, we find that we lack certain amenities. Kanpur provides fans in all hostel rooms and there is a proposal to this effect in Bombay too. And in Bombay, there exists such a facility as the Hobbies Center where students learn the basic art of maintaining appliances of daily use. Couldn't such a center be started here with nominal fees?

DIR: You can look behind and see the blueprint we have made for a Students Activities Center. It won't be long before it gets under way. It will, however, be slightly less ambitious. Here I would like to make a small warning. If you have read Parkinson's law, you may remember what he says about monuments. For example, as soon as India House was built in London, the Indian empire collapsed. We have won the inter-IIT for eight times in a row now. So please remember (laughs) the necessity of a new building should not affect your performance in any way. As far as the Hobbies Center is concerned, go ahead and organise it. What's the problem?

CTS: The library isn't what it should be. What do you intend doing about it, Sir?

DIR: I've already drawn up a plan of attack. I'd like to make that place a better one to sit and spend some time in. I've got the AC working after quite a bit of effort. I'm getting an interior decorator to refurbish the place and get a lot more elegant and good, comfortable furniture into the place.

CTS: It is common knowledge that there exists very little rapport between staff and students here. What would you suggest?

DIR: You see, the student here is more or less put on a conveyor belt. He is given Math instruction by one teacher, tutorials by another teacher, another class, another year, another teacher and it goes on. In his five years here he is handled like a car in an assembly line. So no teacher knows any student unless he is a very mischievous boy. The alternative to this is, at least from the third year onwards, the student should be handled only by a group of five or six teachers. About 70 to 80 percent of the courses may be handled by these five or six and only very few specialised subjects by others. Administratively it is feasible,



'Look behind you, the BLUE PRINT you see is that Student Activities Centre'

but whether the student will like it or whether the staff will like it, I don't know.

CTS: Don't you feel, Sir, that the new system is going to stunt participation in extra-curricular activities? IIT Madras has a very long history of sports, literary and cultural talent. And that is one reason why we are preferred among the five IIT's both in the employment and in the higher studies line.

DIR: Whatever makes you think so? In the University of Birmingham where I was a student, The General Secretary was directed to take one year off so that he could devote his full time to student activities. He was a given his full scholarship, he was looked after very well, he was a very important person. Such a thing would be asking for too much, here. Suppose you have a very large number of extra-curricular activities, in the new system you could go a bit slow, on the academic side. That is a very important facility. Then you have the other advantage that you do not have to pass in every paper you attempt. There is an instance of a boy, I don't know his name, who is trying to get through a particular paper for the fifth time. Such a thing can never happen under the new system.

The secret of success in the new system is consistency, not extra hard work. If you are a B grade student, accept it. Your extra hard work would probably get you an A grade possibly in one paper or possibly in one semester. You have got to realise that the small benefit you get out of super effort is all that much, as the economists would tell you. Don't forget that we are also going to give a personality profile on the grade card. So your extra-curricular activities also matter. Please also remember that we hardly hear of a First class first after he has passed out. All the people who really perform well in life are not the first class firsts but those with a well rounded personality.

CTS: Everyone knows that our Security system isn't what it should be, considering that thefts have been on the increase in the recent past. Instances are the thefts of Stereo systems from Narmada and Saraswathi hostels, not to mention innumerable cycle thefts. What would you suggest, Sir?

DIR: Let me tell you something. Our Security system is far better than many others in the country, let alone the city. We can do very little about internal thefts, that is, when the culprit being a resident of the Institute itself. But thefts from the Institute, where the goods are taken out of the Institute are rare and the culprit is invariably caught at the gate. If the students are willing to have their rooms searched whenever a theft occurs in the Hostels that would help.

There is also a Government directive which tells the police not to get into any confrontation with the students because the students are considered inflammable and the police fire. So there you are.

CTS: At present certain jobs have been provided to deserving students subject to parents income. If jobs were provided to more students in the vacation, the student will get a feel of the actual principle of work and be more qualified as an all-rounder when he steps out of IIT. Students could do jobs at the Engineering Design Center, the Computer Center, the Library, the Industrial Consultancy Center etc.

DIR: I feel that economic status should be the main criterion. In fact, I know a poor school teacher whose son is studying in IIT and who finds it difficult to support him. So you see poverty does exist. If the departments ask for such students help we have absolutely no objections. Finance is not the problem.

CTS: There are quite a large number of foreign students here. Couldn't you have a special cell for them? They have more problems than other students.

DIR: I believe they have an Advisor of sorts. Having a cell with clerks is not going to help. You and me know how bureaucracy functions. (laughs)

CTS: Could you expand on the proposed SAC?

DIR: Sure. It is going to be a complex and will be one up next to the Swimming Pool. It will house an indoor stadium with 3 squash courts or one basketball court, with a seating capacity of 1500. In addition, it will house 3 billiard tables, changing rooms, cloakrooms, and most of all, a modern cafeteria. You'll definitely see something of it (referring to us 4th years).

THE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE TO THE STUDENTS

(After a very thoughtful pause) Enjoy yourself, but please let other also enjoy themselves. Also, let not your permit of fun be at the cost of ultimate happiness. Be adventurous enough to have fun and mature enough to have no regrets later on. Above all help us to make our institution a truly joint enterprises.

We left after fervently thanking him, but he smilingly brushed it off. We came away satisfied that at last there was at the helm of affairs, a man who had vision, who had confidence who knew students like the back of his hand and who would not only make promises but would do all in his power to keep them.

INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

- * Staff evaluation to be introduced
- * An ambitious Rs 30 lakh Students Activities Center
- * Library to be renovated and expanded
- * Students to be given a greater say in the decision making process



"I believe students MUST be given a greater say in the decision making process"

Do you know where the word 'Canter' comes from? In an article in the Reader's Digest written by I.A.R. Wylie. She quotes a friend who told her, 'Most of the pilgrims on their way to Thomas Becket's tomb at Canterbury travelled on horseback, and, I suppose got rather bored by their sedate progress. To have galloped would have been indecorous but a sober intermediate gait broke the monotony.' People along the roads began calling this easy loping the Canterbury pace' or 'gait', and in time this was shortened to 'the canterbury'. About two hundred years later the word was shortened to Canter.

I. I. T. (M) TURNS VICTORIAN IN SPACE AGE!!

"Only news that's fit to print" is our motto. Digging for information which might make interesting reading we came across these draft proposals for hostel conduct rules. On being questioned, the members of the Steering Committee verified the authenticity of these proposals and requested us to publish them so that they would get wider publicity. No one knows whether these proposals have been shelved or whether the authorities are waiting for an opportune moment to spring it on us. In the best interests of all concerned, we thought it imperative that these proposals be made public and discussed.

1. The hostel is a place for intensive study. The residents should ensure a calm, peaceful and conducive atmosphere for the same at all times.
2. No resident shall engage himself in any form of ragging. Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any one found guilty of ragging.
3. Each resident will conduct himself with decency and decorum in and outside the hostel zone.
4. Each resident shall be responsible for the care of the furniture and fittings in the room allotted to him or her at the time of occupation of the room.

Any wilful damage or destruction of the above mentioned furniture and fittings or any of the hostel/Institute property will be considered as a serious breach of conduct and will carry suitable punishment.
5. Each resident will follow the timings fixed for the messes by the council of the concerned hostel. Normally late arrivals are to be avoided.
6. Residents are requested to treat hostel employees with consideration. Any dispute arising in the mess during mess hours should be peacefully resolved with the help of Assistant Warden.
7. No resident shall indulge in wilful waste or damage to food and utensils and furniture of the hostel. Breach of this regulation is punishable.
8. Loud playing of music and musical instruments inside the rooms causing disturbance to other residents should be avoided.
9. Normally each resident is expected to be in his or her room not later than 11 p.m.
10. Each resident shall inform the Asst Warden/Warden in writing whenever he is leaving the station.
11. No resident shall entertain a guest to stay with him without the permission of the Asst Warden/Warden. If the guest is to stay for more than 3 days special permission from the Warden must be obtained. In no case can a guest stay for more than 7 days.
12. No resident shall entertain within the premises of his or her room or hostel any guest/relative or friend of opposite sex without the permission of the Asst Warden or Warden. Breach of this code of conduct will entail severe disciplinary action.

13. Possession, consumption and trading in drugs and alcoholic drinks are totally prohibited within the premises of the hostel and campus. Any resident found guilty of breach of conduct of this rule will not only forfeit his/her claim for a room in the hostel but also is liable for disciplinary action.
14. Maintaining or raising pet animals or birds is prohibited.
15. All the residents shall obey the rules regarding conduct of residents in the hostels, which may be formulated by the Senate from time to time.
16. All residents are required to follow the additional rules that may be laid down by concerned hostel council for the smooth and efficient functioning of the hostels.

Campus Times invites opinions and views from all readers on these proposals. In the meantime, it may be interesting to note the reactions of the student community in I.I.T. Delhi to a similar set of proposals some time back. They were printed in their campus magazine 'Pulse'. We have taken the liberty of reproducing some of the more relevant portions here.

"In framing the new rules the attempt has been to specify what is acceptable in routine, ordinary, day-to-day life, and then to make separate provision(s), wherever necessary, for emergencies or for exceptional circumstances. We see no merit in including rules which by "un-official" agreement/connivance of the authorities are meant to be "over-looked" in actual practice" or are merely meant to be there "on paper". The inculcation of the belief that "normally" one can (and should) merrily go on flouting regulations with impunity is dangerous for a citizenry, it creates an unhealthy disregard even towards legitimate authority and towards those desirable regulations which are to be sacrosanct in the life of a community.

Rules 1 through 5 are fairly straight-forward. The term "narcotics" is used in the sense of forbidden "drugs" like heroin, LSD, methedrine etc. The use of any narcotics under medical supervision as permitted by law obviously cannot be prohibited since the term "narcotics" includes some drugs in medical usage.

Rule 6 says that female visitors to the rooms of the residents are not allowed to stay between midnight (24.00 hrs) and 04.00 hours. An analysis of its implications and acceptability is in order here.

The present hostel rules do not allow girls beyond the common-room at any time of the day. But as customs and boy-girl relations have changed over the years, it has become routine for girl-friends and family members to visit guys in their rooms. This is as it should be, and with an un-usual display of good sense the various Wardens have learnt to connive at the infringement of so anachronistic a regulation.

But this can hardly be called a satisfactory state of 'affairs' (pun irresistible). Many of us would prefer to stick to a declared regulation and not seek the obligation of the authorities in overlooking any violations. Some other students on the other hand, are quite comfortable with breaking these rules and have no trouble with their conscience.

Should there be any official restrictions at all on boy-girl relationships? If yes, then what should these be and why? If not, why not? Where does the freedom of an individual couple end and where does their social responsibility start? Who makes these value-judgments? Does the administration of a professional Institute have the right (or the duty) to lay down and enforce personal morals in the lives of its students? Does the age-group of the students affect the answers to the above questions, and if yes, how?

What is this nebulous entity called "social norms", and how do you judge its validity? Do the institute authorities have any legitimate obligation to parents of students to enforce certain rules? To enforce religious practices or observances? To decide the choice of a career?

These are some of the questions which arise when one sets out to make or mend rules on a matter of as fundamental concern to individuals and to society as this matter definitely is. Occasionally these questions are rhetorical in order to make a point.

This is the time to sweep these questions out from under the rug where generations of squeamish parents and teachers have left them to fester unresolved. Large numbers of us may choose not to smoke, not to drink and not to fool around pre-maritally or extra-maritally. We would choose these as personal articles of faith to live by, and would want to retain the right to reverse our decisions at our own sweet will. No doubt we must also take the inevitable consequences of "Wrong" or "bad" or "second-best" choices, but we absolutely refuse to have our options fore-closed by the co-ercive disciplinary machinery manned by an older generation, a generation of teachers and parents, mostly born to a slave nation, brought up in tradition-bound orthodoxy, rarely competent to initiate or sustain worthwhile social changes, and above all, deprived of genuine togetherness with the opposite sex throughout their dull, dreary personal lives (as evidenced by the dismal desolation of their marital landscapes).

It is the demand of the present set of young people that their search for soul-mates and life-mates be allowed to proceed unhindered by any of the traditional considerations of blind orthodoxy. And what better way than to be with friends and companions of both sexes, at work at play, in a variety of spontaneous settings in day-to-day life?

This brings us to the obsession of the law-makers with even the mere possibility of pre-marital sex. A generation whose first significant intimate contact with a person of the opposite sex came on the night of an arranged marriage, with the confused, fumbling, bumbling proximity of a total stranger, can perhaps be excused for a narrow view of boy-girl relations. The ban on the entry of girls into rooms of residents stems from this baseless phobia: that given the least bit of privacy the first thing that a young boy and girl will do is to jump into bed: what humbug!!!

It is the privilege of every teen-ager to have the privacy of his room available to himself and any friends of his choice, atleast during the daytime, whether at home or in a hostel. In post-graduate hostels some of the students are already married, many are engaged to be married and almost all the rest are within

AUTHORITIES: HAVE SYSTEM, WILL IMPLEMENT

We at 'Campastimes' in the best traditions of enterprising journalism set out to talk to the students and listen to what they had to say about the new system. And Oh my God! did we get a earful!! The reactions were as diverse and individualistic as the students of this campus. But on one thing they were all unanimous. They were totally against the evaluation method of the new system. On the other hand, the system of credits and flexibility in choosing electives were widely welcomed as a step in the right direction. We asked 4 basic questions and these were the reactions we got:

Q. 1. Have you fully understood the new system?

Ans.: An overwhelming majority professed ignorance about many facts of the new system. They felt inhibited to approach the Dean to clear up their doubts. Besides, their lecturers (as usual!) were in blissful ignorance of what was happening. Hence we could unwittingly establish a serious communication gap between the students and the authorities.

Q. 2. Do you feel you will do better in the new system?

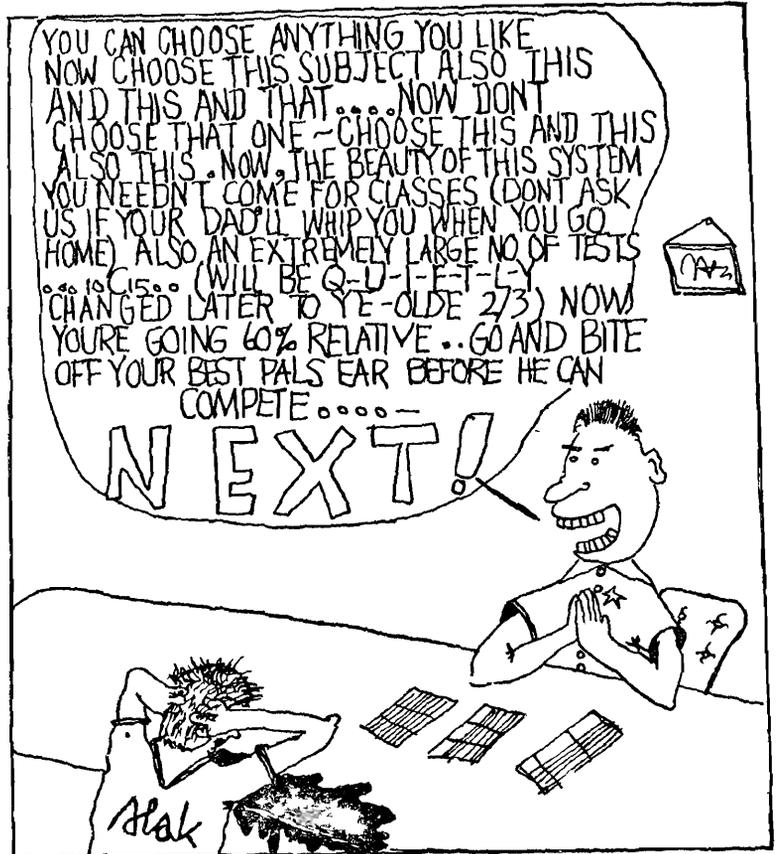
Ans.: Most of the students felt apprehensive about their performance in the new system. While it was agreed that toppers would continue to top, the others appeared to be gloomy about what the future held for them. Most of them felt that much would depend on the lecturers since the new system grants them total flexibility. In fact many students feared that arbitrary lecturers would play havoc with their grades. This they felt was one of the major flaws of the system. Many students confessed that they would now have to start sucking up to the lecturers, a thing they had never bothered to do in the past.

Q. 3. Do you feel that the scope of taking part in extra-curricular activities will be restricted?

Ans.: An overwhelming majority concurred on the fact that they would not be able to devote any time to extra-curricular activities. As most of them put it 'It would be suicidal on our part to indulge in all this, while most of our compatriots would be slogging away'. The new 'profile' system was dismissed off as 'Merely taking part is one thing. Excelling is a totally different matter. It requires dedication and perseverance on our part which is just not possible' in this new system'. Many agreed that IIT (M)'s impressive record in getting the best jobs and in Universities abroad, admissions in prestigious institutes like the IIMs was mainly due to the unique synthesis of academic as well as extra curricular activity. This they all sadly concluded, would no longer be possible.

Q. 4. What system would you prefer? The old one or new, or some other system?

Ans. While some were for going back to the old system the broad consensus was that a synthesis of the old and new systems would be most feasible. The system of choosing electives, flexibility in choosing your workload was welcomed by all. This coupled with the old grading would be ideal in the present environment felt many



STUDENTS: OVER OUR DEAD BODIES!

Campastimes thanks Sharouk Irani, Amir Ali, Nainan Kavoore, Malcolm Panthaku, Joy Aloysius Thomas and Anand Kasturi for helping us conduct this opinion poll. We are also thankful to the innumerable students who came forward on their own initiative to give us their views.

P.S.: At the time of going to Press we hear that as far as the grading aspect is concerned we are going back to the old system. We hope this is not a temporary thing but endures. The authorities, it is hoped, will take note of the results of this poll, in their future deliberations.



OUR NEXT OPINION POLL

Our next opinion poll will be on that much-reviled institution the hospital. We invite all readers to come forward with their own views and experiences. All hostel lit secs and the following can be contacted:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Sunil Alagade | 357 Godav |
| 2. V R Dilip | 104 Narmada |
| 3. Y Nagendra | 231 Saras |
| 4. Naushir Contractor | 162 Ganga. |

Continued from Page 3

"capture-range", so to say. Life - becomes most damnably difficult if you are compelled to feel that every time a lady visits you in your room you are breaking a huge law, even in the day-time.

We feel that eventually it will become necessary to leave the residents absolutely free to do as they please, day or night, so long as they don't create public problems.

The UG reps must assess the exact needs of the various age groups and shades of opinion in their section of the population, and then take steps to secure whatever system they wish to live under (including status quo).

We note in concluding this sub-section that IIT Delhi will still NOT be the first institution in India to up-date it's rules in regard to hostels being the open to visitors of both sexes. The names of half-a-dozen other institutes, including an IIM, have already been brought to our notice as places having far more liberal rules than what we are asking for. As of this writing, we are awaiting documentary evidence of confirmation before giving you more names. So much for the "society" in which we wish to bring about change!!

CAMPUS CAUSERIE

LIT ROUND UP

DEBATE

Over the years, debate in IIT Madras seems to have become the monopoly of a chosen few. They would have us believe that the stringing together of words and quotations from highbrow intellectuals (Faulkner, Toynbee and Camus being perennial favourites!) delivered in the 'propah' accent is debate; we beg to differ. These debates lack passion. The caustic give-and-take, the verbal skirmishes that are imperative for the affair to be exciting and thought provoking are conspicuously absent. And so, as we watched the debates this year (both the semis and the finals) we couldn't help experiencing a sense of *deja vu*. And the final results confirmed our predictions. One word of advice to the coordinator: No doubt the idea of giving a prize for the best interjector was basically sound. But the spectacle at the debate should make you think twice before having it again in the near future. For most of the interjections were palpably absurd if not downright stupid! The debating team for this year is

1. Abhijit Biswas
2. Debjani Mukherjee
3. Asha Unnikrishnan
4. Geetha Rao
5. P. S. Rao
6. Vijay Ullal
7. Dinesh Patil
8. Naushir Contractor

QUIZ

In sharp contrast to the dismal spectacle presented by the other literary events, quiz in IIT Madras has always been an enjoyable affair. The plethora of quizzes we keep having (open, inter-hostel, M.G., Inter-collegiate etc.) confirms the dictum that 'you can't have too much of a good thing'. Any fears that the passing out of veterans like Sitaram and Bharat Epur would cause a decline in quality were promptly dispelled as we sat back and listened to the volley of queries fired, not only at the contestants but also at the audience. Shiva proved as impeccable as his predecessors in organising the event. We can only say: Congrats, but keep it up!

Biswas revealed a new facet as a quiz master! The team consists of:

1. Nainan Kovoor
2. V. Sukumar
3. Prabhakar Raghavan (Bozo)
4. Joy Aloysius Thomas
5. N. Pattabhiraman (Pat)
6. V. Shivram

KRISHNA FREAKS OUT

At 7.30 in the evening of 20/8, there were furious knocks on the door of the Gen Secretary, Narmada. Irate residents wanted to know why they weren't informed of the Hostel Day being held that day. An absolutely flabbergasted Gen Secretary took some time to think things over.

'What Hostel Day?' he asked.

'Then what are the Executive Engineer, CCW, Asst Engineers—the elite in short, doing in Narmada?'

There is no limit to what a few score men, stripped to the waist, squatting outside Ad Block can do. This is no fable but a summary of the fantastically unbelievable demonstration held by Krishna Hostel residents on Monday, the 20th of August. What fully clothed men couldn't do in a year half-naked men did in 3 hours. They brought the Executive Engineer running to the Krishna taps and showers. It is indeed a sad commentary on the state of affairs in this Institute, which only reinforces the feeling that direct action and not peaceful petitioning will get things done. This problem of water shortage is nothing new. In fact it has been with us for the past one year or so. The only thing the authorities have done so far is to keep trotting out some inane excuse periodically. The Krishna demonstration which provoked the Director to take the Maintenance Department to task seems to have galvanised these normally somnolent gents into action. Let's wait and see what they do.

Gymkhana Council Meeting

★ A REVIEW ★

No one can deny, at least not those who attended the Gymkhana Council Meeting that Major is an intrepid man. It required a lot of courage to radically depart from tradition and hold a meeting in a hostel mess. So, full marks to him for this. The Meeting got off to an inauspicious start with the power playing truant. This sparked off heated comments from the secs of Narmada, Tapti, Krishna, Cauvery, for they have a recurring problem of power cuts. Anyway, power and sanity soon restored, the Council got down to brass tacks.

If anyone thought the Meeting would go through smoothly, he was sadly mistaken. There were plenty of fireworks, mainly provided by Rajendran Nair (Cauvery Gen Sec) and Sridharan (Tapti Gen Sec). The Steering Committee was constantly on the defensive and it was only Major's skilful interventions that saved the day. He knew his facts (Kamath, do your homework in future!) and kept his cool (Martin, please note!). The highlights of the meeting are given below:

1. The Council gave its approval to the constitution committee to carry on its good work.
2. A committee consisting of Hostel Gen-secs will go into the matter of the new Hostel Management Council which has only 4 student representatives compared to 5 staff representatives.
3. Kamath's proposal to give grub to the divers working in the swimming club on humanitarian grounds was discussed at length but no decision was taken.
4. Mohilan, the Film Club Secretary informed the Council that membership wasn't compulsory but there would be stricter screening at the gates. Also guests would have to come along with their hosts.

5. M. R. Sundar, Ext. Affairs Secretary told the Council that for the present semester, the 1st and 3rd years would have the old grading system (i.e. 3 periods). Also that an Academic Board consisting of 3 student representatives and a faculty member from each Department would be set up.

6. Finally, a convener whose duties would include convening Council meetings, deciding agenda, allocating time for discussion, etc. was proposed. Nagendra (Saras Gen Sec) was elected.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- Across:
1. Bete-noire
 6. Twang
 9. Orients
 10. Parasol
 11. Xylem
 12. Newsstand
 14. Cad
 15. sea-anemones
 17. Dress circle
 19. Cos
 20. Sibilance
 22. Owner
 24. Rawhide
 26. Thirsty
 27. Loris
 28. Coruscate

- Down:
1. Bronx
 2. Trilled
 3. Nine muses
 4. Insinuation
 5. ELP
 6. Tarts
 7. Abstain
 8. Gold discs
 13. Windcheater
 14. Cadastral
 16. Mnemonics
 18. Embower
 19. Canasta
 21. Lairs
 23. Rhyme
 25. etc.

All of us eat sandwiches at one time or another without giving a thought to their noble inventor, the Earl of Sandwich, who refused to take time off from the gambling table to eat a regular meal. It was the Earl of Cardigan who popularised the style of woollen jacket which he wore during the Crimean war. We have to thank another officer in that campaign, Lord Raglan, for the raglan sleeve.

We all know how a steeplechase is run, over a prescribed course dotted with fences, ditches and other hazards. But why 'steeple', well, in the old days young racing bloods would pick out a distant church steeple and ride for it hell-for-leather over fields, hedges, brooks and gardens, the shorter and more dangerous the cut the better!

CAMPASTIMES

only news that's fit to print...



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NAUSHIR CONTRACTOR

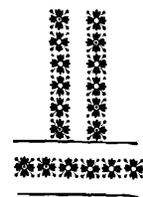
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: D. SHIVAKUMAR

ART EDITOR: ANANT AGARWAL

PUBLISHER: Dr. R. NATARAJAN



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Sir,

It is with growing dismay that we watch the tendency to denude our campus of its vegetation and shrubbery. Our Institute is justly famous for its sprawling and sylvan campus inhabited by fauna of various hues and shapes. Our once beautiful Institute now resembles a maiden shorn of her tresses, bare and defenseless. We hope the concerned authorities take note of this and take remedial steps to correct this aberration.

Yours truly
SHIVA, SURESH
and Others.

Sir,

The Maintenance Section (which includes electricians, plumbers and carpenters) is supposed to ensure that student amenities like the taps, showers in the bathrooms, electrical fittings, etc are always in working condition. Yet their working hours are the same as our class hours i.e., 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Isn't this ridiculous? Are we supposed to bunk classes in order to get anything done? Couldn't they come on Saturday mornings? The same applies to Ad Block timings where we experience avoidable difficulty in paying our mess bills and fees. Could not Campastimes highlight this genuine problem and get some sort of redress.

Yours truly,
R. NATARAJAN

(Ed: We have already talked to the Director about this in the interview (hope you have read it!) He has promised to do something about it.)

Sir,

We IITians as a rule tend to behave like pampered and precocious kids. We not only take the facilities we already have for granted but are constantly and stridently demanding more. We are always alert to pounce on the shortcomings of others (in most cases, our professors) and ridicule them. This sneering, supercilious attitude has not endeared us to our brethren studying elsewhere. No wonder they think of us as snobs! Isn't it time we did a little introspection? We may discover some harsh and unpleasant facts about ourselves!

Yours truly
RAGHU

Sir,

As we students live off somebody else's earnings, it is but right that we do not involve ourselves in things which may prove detrimental to progress towards our main goal. Past experience strongly indicates that, in this respect—

POLITICS IS OUT

So, please make it a point, that you do not publish articles or letters which have political undertones. The previous issue of Campastimes (May 1978) contained such a letter (to the Editor).

Generally speaking, if you have an all-fired enthusiasm to show your love for your country, do so by improving your grades.

V. SHRIDHAR
(droopy)



EDITORIAL

Deays cause frustration. Avoid them! was a much-touted phrase during the Emergency. Without being an apologist for that infamous era, I wish this sign was prominently displayed in every office of this Institute. The image of a dynamic technological institute geared to meet the needs of an ever-changing society is meant purely for external consumption. This you realise after you have spent a lot of valuable time and energy getting something done.

The whole affair is so frustrating and an exercise in futility that it is no surprise that many people with good intentions after getting bogged down in this endless redtape just give up. All this coupled with the daily academic pressure of periodicals and attendance regulation effectively ensures that the students remain totally apathetic and indifferent to the various problems that cry out for solution. Insulated from students and their problems by layers and layers of rules and regulations, the bureaucracy plods on merrily, oblivious of the frustrations they are creating. No one can deny that some sort of norms are imperative for the harmonious functioning of society. But should they be created to justify the existence of a bloated bureaucracy? These people are supposed to help us to expedite things. But their behaviour is reminiscent of the pagan high priests of Egypt at whose altar the populace was supposed to pay obeisance. It is a strange anomaly that the Director is far more approachable and sympathetic to the students than these bureaucrats! This was dramatically apparent during the recent water shortage. There was not a drop of water in the hostel zone and these people were totally indifferent if not smugly complacent (shades of Nero!). It was only the swift intervention of the Director that brought some succour to the harassed student

population. But it is impossible for him to look into every small issue that crops up from time to time. He has to allow his subordinates to handle them. And this is where the endless buck-passing and sloth ensures that these problems are never solved.

Is there nothing we can do about this? Are we so powerless that a bunch of bureaucrats can hold us, the so-called cream of the country, to ransom? No, surely not! The need of the hour is for students to unite and to shake off their languor. The Director has openly said that if students are willing to come forward and propose solutions, he is ready to accept them and what is more important, enforce them. So let's accept the challenge and show him what we are capable of. He has also declared that he has no faith in the ability and competence of the bureaucracy. What more telling indictment can there be?

[Ed: I wish to thank all those who helped me in bringing out this issue. In particular I wish to place on record my grateful appreciation of the role of our publisher, Dr R Natarajan. In spite of having an extremely busy schedule he was always available to lend a sympathetic ear to our grievances and to assist us in every possible way. In fact without his firm, unswerving support this issue would never have been possible. Secondly I wish to thank the Finance and Accounts Officer, Mr Nambiar who took a personal interest in expediting many matters for us. Lastly I would be remiss if I were to fail to mention the contribution of Mr. Sethuraman our typist, who cheerfully worked even on holidays to complete our work in record time.]

THE LIT SCENE

MY IMPRESSIONS

by Bharath Sethuraman

A few words on what has come to stay as the 'Lit-Scene' would not, I think, be appropriate in a campus mag like ours

The stress this year would be on two items—debating and creative writing. We, the organisers, are concerned about the complaints we receive that debating has degenerated into plain speech-making and has lost depth completely. As what we hope is a corrective measure, we are introducing this year group debates at both the inter-hostel and the institute open levels. This would, we feel, have two important influences—

1. shift the emphasis from superficialities like accent and 'big words' to solid matter and argumentative skills and
2. involve a greater number of people in the debate. The main drawback is organisation—but that's our headache! We hope, if time permits, to hold non-competitive debates on matters of topical interest, which should draw large audiences

The second item, creative writing, is something that has long been neglected at IIT. It really is a pity, for writing is such a basic skill and yet we are wholly deficient in it. The fact that we are technically oriented people is no excuse whatsoever for our lack of interest in writing. Consequently, writing is going to be given a much needed fillip this year, and it is hoped that the response from prospective writers would be good. We would like to point out that for the many amongst us in IIT who would like to take part in some activity somewhere but have 'stage fright', writing offers a very convenient outlet! Besides, most of us, if I remember correctly, could write fairly well when we joined IIT—it is not too late now to resume our skills!

As the response to elocution last year was very good, we shall be going ahead full steam with it. There is talent in IIT for this event, also, it has audience appeal.

Quiz retains its position as one of the most popular events going in IIT thanks probably to the insatiable appetite we have for knowledge of the extra-curricular kind! Similarly JAM and Guessword are still fairly popular, and we shall continue with all three. As for crosswords and vocab tests, I don't think the IITian will ever tire of them!

We have dropped certain events from the institute level, for we felt that the standards were dropping in them and that they are primarily party-level games. Examples are Tintoretto and 20 questions. However, these events are excellent at the intra-hostel level, and need not necessarily be 'killed' outright.

Finally, the list of coordinators

Creative writing	— Chandy (Narmada)
Crossword	— Sailesh and Rohit Ramaswamy (Godavari)
JAM	— Dinesh Pai (Saraswathi)
Quiz	— Shiva (Godavari)
Vocab	— Ram (Tapti)
Debate	— Spitty (Saras)
Guessword	— Naveen Rao (Saras)

NOT SO COSY!!

by 'TEADRINKER'

The smug look of a man who knows he is making a pile by conning a couple of thousand up-and-coming technologists—every one of the near half a dozen Kumar's possesses it. I'm referring to Cozy corner and the conmen who run it. We IITians have no other resort but to drink the apology of the concoction affectionately referred to as 'tea' and at times 'coffee'. No discernable difference between the two actually! The writers' code prevents me from using harsher but more apt terms to refer to the eyesore that rests between Narmada and Godavari which caters to gentry from as far as the holy Ganga to the not-so-holy workshop.



It is indeed a sad commentary on the state of affairs in IIT (M) with its vaunted boast of excellent amenities if it cannot provide its inmates with a simple cup of tea which does not taste like rat poison. We are made of sterner stuff and have withstood the onslaught on our gastric lining for more than a year now. But the conmen are never satiated. They tempt the gullible among us with rectangular

pieces of an orange hue (the bajjis!!). How much more can the system take?!! I wouldn't be surprised if the conmen come up with pink hexagonal stuff tomorrow. They definitely are capable of it, for from orange rectangles to pink hexagons is but a step!

Assuming that everyday, 1,500 brave men patronise the kiosk (and that's a low figure—mind you, for they have 4 sales points on the campus totally), their daily turnover is bound to be Rs 2000, to state a conservative figure. And a monthly clean-up of Rs 60 000 for these Mafiosi! And they cavil that they are not allowed to run the show during Mardi Gras! Let them do it once, just once, and the anti Mardi Gras school will have a ball! In fact, we doubt if Mardi Gras would go through the full 5 days. They don't have the basic decency and hospitality to provide us with something to rest our bottoms on, while partaking of their cup of rat poison, for however stern we may be, we find it just that wee bit difficult to take things standing up. Our insides are making vociferous appeals to cry halt, not to mention our exteriors (the bottom, in particular!). Promises of cafeterias have come and gone like our central ministries. Our new Director has got some excellent and more important Concrete plans for one. Let's hope he carries them out expeditiously.

P.S.: At the time of going to Press we hear the Director and the Dean of Students visited Cozy and took him to task for the poor quality of his wares. He has been given an ultimatum—Improve or quit!

*** ** ***

THE FIVE AGES OF AN IITIAN

DEVOTED, FILLED WITH INSPIRATION,
ARRIVED AT THIS GREAT INSTITUTION,
HE TRIES TO GLEAN AS MUCH HE CAN
TO MAKE HIMSELF A FUNDA MAN

SOME LASSITUDE NOW DOES APPEAR
HIS IRON WILL TURNS WEAK, I FEAR
NO MORE ALL HOURS DOES HE ATTEND
BUT CUTS HIS CLASS HIS TIME TO SPEND

THE THIRD YEAR FINDS HIM QUITE EFFETE,
HE KNOWS NOUGHT BUT THAT HIS COG SHEET
WILL SEE HIM THROUGH HIS SOJOURN HERE
AND FETCH HIM JOBS—NOW AIN'T THAT QUEER ?

SO ON THROUGH LIFE HE PLODS HIS WAY,
STOIC BLISSFUL. COME WHAT MAY
WITH TUTS, AND TESTS HE SELDOM QUAILS
THEY STAND BY HIM WHEN ALL ELSE FALLS

AND NOW THE CREAM HAS CHURNED TO BUTTER
OUR HERO'S FANS ARE ALL A FLUTTER
TO SEE THE SMART(?) YOUNG MAN RECEIVE
HIS B TECH! WHAT DID HE ACHIEVE ?!

I. M. KNOTMI

AHOY THERE FRESHERS!

by O Mi God

Hello, Freshers! Congrats for having chosen to study in this temple of learning. Of course, on your first visit to this campus, you must have congratulated yourself a thousand times. Congrats again (for thinking like every other sucker!) What you have seen is an illusion. After your five years in this institute you will have learnt a lot about life and very little about your discipline.

Allow me to describe some of the species you may or may not come across. Whether this is a rule or an exception, decide for yourself.

Professor: Numb on one end and dumb on the other. He does his work as though he were praying to God—regular but his mind is wandering into the realms of a subject which is easier for him to comprehend. He knows not what he says. The knowledge he has can fit into a microscopic dot. (With the latest technology available you can fill a lot in a dot, but this dot is very different!)

Warden: You are sure to see this guy at least twice in a year—the inaugural and hostel day. He works with a real detached feeling—and he puts his fingerprint on the paper wherever necessary. [Sometimes a creature of this species comes to the hostel to take home a couple of things but at such times he appears blacker than Blackbeard's Ghost.]

Hospital: If you ever get an opportunity to enter this heavenly abode (no pun intended!) as an in-patient, do not forget to carry along with you a copy of 'Cancer Ward'. Reading it will help lift your dejected spirits. Hope that you are good at diagnosing your own malady. Probability that the doctor will make a wrong diagnosis is fast converging to one. There have been many instances when the patient got cured (by nature) and left the doctors puzzled.

Security: If you ever lose your bike report the loss and forget about it. Their main function in recent times has been to prevent those bad wicked seniors from getting at you freshers! If some burglars do manage to get at your things, well, it is your tough luck, you can't blame them! You may be flattered to know that it is you, not your possessions which get priority!

Ad. Block: This is the place where the Director and his Deans decide our fates! But more important than these decision makers are the numerous clerks out there. They are always shoo-ing you out of Ad block and asking you to return later (to be shoo-ed again!) A couple of nice people still work there (You will take a long time finding them).

Mess: This is an apt word to describe the joint where you replenish your energy. Whether you really do so is the billion dollar question! One thing you must never do is to step inside the kitchen. You won't be the same man again. It is pure legalised fleecing with you dear fresher being the dumb sheep! Anyway, learn to grin and bear it, Many believe that it is part of the system which makes sure you develop endurance and tenacity, qualities every IITian should possess!

P. S: More of this if I am still around!



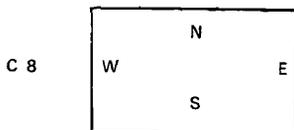
Bridge In My DreamLand

by V. D. PRABAKAR

Playing a crucial match, in a big prize money invitational tournament, against good opponents, I pick up as the dealer S 10,5 H AQJ 73, D J 10,5,3; C A,5. I find my partner still brooding over the slam he had gone down in the previous deal when I opened the bid with ONE HEART. West PASSES. My partner comes back to the present with a startled 'What happened?' and then after a brief glance at his cards, surprises me with a bid of FIVE HEARTS. East PASSES. With my good trumps, my action is straight forward and I bid SIX HEARTS. Now, a kibitzer at my partner's side, who had been restless during the bidding hesitantly points out that my partner is bidding with the hand belonging to the previous deal. There is a lot of confusion around the table and the tournament director is called. He gives the ruling that the bidding continues as it is. My partner apologises repeatedly as he picks up his correct cards and after a long trance, bids SIX SPADES. East PASSES. Not wanting to let my partner play in his confused state, I bid SIX NO TRUMPS. My partner looks relieved. To my great surprise, this is passed all round and I find myself in six no trumps after this unique action.

West leads the CLUB EIGHT and my partner apologises once more as he spreads the dummy. So I see.

S K, J, 6, 4, 3, 2
H 4
D A, 9
C K, Q, 7, 3

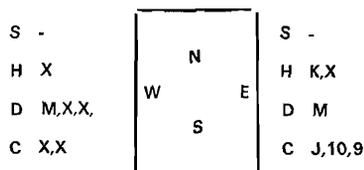


S 10, 5
H A, Q, J, 7, 3
D J 10, 5, 3
C A, 5

I find that, even assuming that the heart finesse is right and I somehow manage to get five tricks in spades, we have only eleven tricks. However, I find that East can certainly be squeezed in hearts and clubs. (By inference, he has J 10 9 X of clubs and he hoped to hold the hearts king.) But if I use up one

entry to hand to play a spade hoping that West has A, Q bare in the suit, he can kill the other entry to hand destroying any possibility of a squeeze. Having decided to preserve the entries on hand, I win the first trick in dummy with a king, East following with the six and call for a small spade!! East plays low (naturally—it would have been a defence from the fourth dimension to play the Queen from QX) and I the ten. West goes into a long trance before winning with the Ace and then shoots back the ten of hearts, which I win with my queen. Now I find that the entry to squeeze East in hearts and clubs has been knocked out. However, all is not lost yet. I play straight to the king and East obligingly produces the queen. Now I know that I surely have them—since West did not lead diamonds originally, he has utmost one of the missing honours in the suit and East who would be busy protecting hearts and clubs would not be able to guard his partner from a finesse in diamonds. So I continue to reel off the spades watching the discards carefully. Since the hand is almost double dummy at this stage, I will give all the four hands.

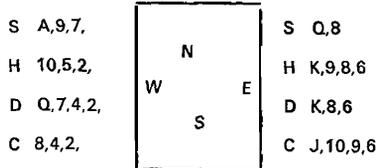
S 3
H —
D A, 9
C Q, 7, 3



S —
H A, J M-Missing honour(s)
D J, 10, 5 in diamonds
C A

On the last spade East shakes his head and discards the diamond king and I the five. Now I cross to the club ace, discard the club seven on the Heart ace and lead the Jack of diamonds and pass it when West plays low and claims the contract. The four hands were :-

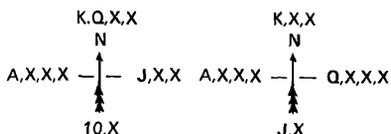
S K, J, 6, 4, 3, 2
H 4
D A, 9
C K, Q, 7, 3



S 10, 5
H A, Q, J, 7, 3
D J, 10, 5, 3
C A, 5

Post Mortem

The handling of the spade suit was a very effective deception which few people have the guts to try. Other similar holdings to be remembered are :-



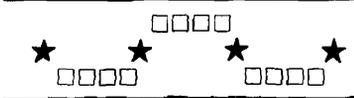
One word of caution - We should try the deception only when for some reason you don't want to play the suit from the South's hand and also for obvious reasons, the hand weaker in honour strength should be the closed hand.

In the gaurd squeeze, note that the ace of hearts should not be cashed earlier in play (Try it) To identify a gaurd squeeze, look for the following :-

Whenever all the conditions for a simple squeeze are satisfied except the entry, look for a finessing position against the squeeze's partner in a third suit.

Any woman can give you a good time; but only, a few can put the stars in your eyes—thus speaks a hoarding on the highways. Another truth is brought forth to us with striking lucidity 'Any man can have a good time, but a few have the stars in their eyes' Of course this does not refer to the fashionable introvert who 'pops' in tabs to find himself riding the crest of an illusory galaxy This just means how scarce the quality 'creativity' is 'Creativity is next to impossible' says the old gentleman with a benevolent twinkle in his eye and a pontifical wave of his hand 'There's too much of a rat race for anybody to do anything creative' says he with well-mannered cynicism It does not seem to make one hell of a difference to us whether he is a detractor of the rat race or its most ardent advocate Not surprisingly, he may turn out to be one of the educational experts in the country who just accept the idea of 'creativity' although in slightly bad grace as one admits defect

When Arnold Toynbee says 'To give a fair chance to potential creativity is a matter of life and death for any society', he does not mean to jerk a tear out of somebody's eyes It is an apocalypse, a grim warning that a static system is the dark harbinger that rings the death-knell of Society It refers to the tremendous



IN SEARCH OF CREATIVITY

by a Peegee



responsibility that is reposed in parents and factors while dealing with their wards Perhaps the pedagogic luminaries of our country would like to dismiss Toynbee's statement of 'idealistic claptrap' In fact there seem to be no educationists and humanists in this country. Modern methods of learning have been inducted into the system but modern thinking which is essential for the development of an individual and moulds a person's attitude towards the world and makes him relate himself to things around him is sadly missing A modern student is aggressive without being assertive and complacent without being confident In Western countries there is growing realization of the fact that emphasis has been mislaid on a kind of ineffectual learning that never motivates any thought processes.

The meek acceptance of a passive social role is all that the student can achieve with a static system of education The coexperience of the teacher and the student in discovering something together is a far cry Barking up the wrong tree and indulging in a wild goose chase do not look so contemptible when a teacher and a student decide to join hands in blissful partnership. The creative student-teacher relationship is a theme that does not seem to make sense to our professional researchers, Research has just become a part of a consumer market that churns out commodities nicely packaged to disappear into the black hole of a decadent society It is strange that in certain cases the degree of matrimonial marketability conferred upon a research student is higher

than the Ph D degree itself What is drastically needed is a thorough reorientation towards creativity and a rejuvenation of elements of freshness in research outlook In a world of material dross it is not desirable to impose financial constraints to the extent that the student prefers to tread the hackneyed path of existing ideas (in the process carving out a pedestrian niche for himself) instead of experimenting and exploring Adventure becomes a thing he savours on the OAT celluloid screen but it never can become a part of his life 'Herd conformity' and group instincts' raise their hydra heads in research too and the upshot is a bandwagon of idolators at the supposedly highest level of mental activity. Self expression becomes a stranger and a meek, unproductive sameness takes the place of individuality The result is a glorified pen-pusher replete with technical jargon.

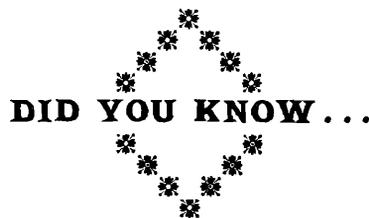
When the objective of the postgraduate studies is believed to be the 'pursuit of knowledge', research perhaps has to be considered as an experience in creative understanding rather than as a mere career On the other hand, material ends like elevation to higher positions seem to determine the general attitude towards research A Ph D. degree is a fait accompli however moderate the ability of an individual is and sponsors on a national level seem to regard competency by the number of publications rather than by their quality Unless proper intellectual exchange is the result, conferences and seminars become mere annual jamborees and it is dubious whether any credence can be afforded to the conference papers.

Leading institutes like ours seem to take a thoughtless pride in housing a multitude of PG and research students and are happy that a sense of equality has been struck with the UG's If this is achievement, it is in a retrograde sense Education can ill-afford such weird objectives based purely on numbers If maturity and motivation were primary factors for PG studies, we will, much to our surprise be left with a minority; microscopic but creative. Since mediocrity is stunningly regular, a creative individual can be spotted by his 'deviousness' It is inevitable that, the queer fish will encounter problems of adjustment and not surprisingly he may crack under psychotic pressures A latitude on a time scale is what he needs to actualize better, since such an individual's mental process does not hinge on set periodicities (say 8 to 4 o'clock routine) The malaise afflicting an institution is precisely the lack of creative faculty who can strike rapport with such members of the student community.

The cultural environment of an institution is what nurtures or kills creative potential. The inspiration for the actualization of such a potential cannot be derived from any metaphysical source It has to come only from the members of the faculty, who, unfortunately, are ensconced smugly in layers of insulation. There has been no history that the higher levels of consciousness in a society are represented by people who are purveyors of platitudes The stickler for routine rather assiduously drives the nail into the coffin of anything new A ritual however elaborate, cannot become a process and gibberish can never take the place of proper communication The constant devaluation of human standards in education finally leads to a bankruptcy at the research level There has been a quantitative spurt in the number of research students and since the relationship between the teacher and the student is depersonalised and diluted each student has to just fend for himself Not infrequently a student becomes an albatross round the neck of a 'mentor' who wants to jettison the onus, albeit with a degree

The problems that boggle the mind of a research student in his day-to-day existence in an institute like ours are quite a few in number The globe trotting personages in the faculty generously contribute to an impersonal and cool relationship between themselves and their proteges In fact these

students grapple with their problems alone and the surrogate 'pilot' at home is more of a patron than anything else Though electronic trouble-shooting is the main purpose of C E C, this important organ seems to be expending itself in activities like arranging for training programmes etc Students involved in fabrication work are at the mercy of the workshop and an uncomfortable feeling of receiving an undeserved bounty is thrust upon a student whenever he has some work carried out by the said Department. Any misuse of powers in the allocation of available funds has to be counteracted The delay caused in the disbursement of fellowship money is frustrating and it is suggested the Institute extend the privilege (given to normal employees) to the student at least in this regard The interference by selfish elements in research activity is to be encouraged The energy of the students is sometimes harnessed for such purposes as assisting their guides in the writing of books and tutoring his children into making the grade in certain coveted tests! The question of a doctoral committee assessing the merits of research has to be taken more seriously. If the composition of such a committee is not relevant to the fields of research being assessed, a volte-face is not out of place. One could do away with such committees and put an end to this painful farce A broader perspective that takes into account long term objectives is to be exercised while offering Research level courses It is known that certain courses offered at the research level are just a slightly more pompous version of the courses at the lower levels Staff selection modes have to be considered seriously while the student selection modes themselves require a lot of fresh thinking and a reorientation in objectives. Therein perhaps lies the hope for better standards in general.



1. That the lyrics of 'Jubilation' sung by Barbara Streisand and 'Puppy Lane' by D. Osmond are written by Paul Anka?
2. That the javelin used by men and women are different in weight? (800 and 600 grams respectively)
3. That a Norwegian was the first Secretary-General of the UN? (Trygve Lie)
4. That Ayatollah in the name Ayatollah Khomeini is a honorific title meaning 'the sign of God'?



Grass widow. During the years when Britain kept an army in India, officers posted there usually took their wives and children along But most of the military establishments were in the intensely hot coastal areas, and those officers who could afford it sent their families to the hills for several months each summer The higher terrain had a lush carpet of grass, in marked contrast with the barren plains, and a man who had dispatched his wife to the hills jokingly said that he had 'sent her to the grass' This is how the unusual expression, 'grass widow' came to be applied to any woman who is separated from her husband, but not divorced

Every year the standard question at the beginning of the year is 'How are the Freshers year 1!' This year it went unanswered thanks to the combined efforts of the authorities (understandable) and the Steering Committee (et tu, Brutes!) Healthy interaction was the 'in word (God knows what it's supposed to mean!) The normal IITian was rendered speechless by a rule which loftily declared 'Abusive language reflecting on parents and relations (sic!) shall not be used'. Anyway, undeterred by all these hurdles we set about trying to talk to the freshers and spotting the talent in their ranks. To all those Jeremiahs moaning about the lack of talent bedevilling our cultural scene we would say only one thing: Watch out for these youngsters. They are good! And we are sure we have uncovered only the tip of the iceberg. We apologise to all those whom we were unable to meet due to various reasons. We are sure they understand.

JOY ALOYSIUS THOMAS

What better way to commence a fresher's feature than to talk to the brainiest of the lot? So we set out to rag—oops 'interact' with Joy who is the JEE No 1. Appearance-wise he is the standard prototype of a 'funda brain', bespectacled and aloof. It is only when you talk to him at length that you discover the range and variety of his interests. He has already made it to the Institute quiz team. Besides he is a fairly good debater. Asked what he thought of the new system he made a wry face. Interpret it anyway you like!

ASHOK KUMAR

Badminton has always been a very popular game in our Institute if the crowds at the courts are any indication. Badminton fans might be glad to know that there exists in fresher ranks a player who will definitely be in the top 5. Ashok not only has style and power but is also very consistent which is the hallmark of a class player. We are sure he will render yeoman service to the Institute in the years to come.

AKBAR ALI

It was generally felt that the passing out of ace athletes like Chaki would deplete our Athletics squad. The arrival of Akbar Ali who is an ace sprinter (4 x 100 is his speciality) on the scene is highly reassuring. Ali has represented Calcutta twice at the Inter City Meet. When we talked to him he sounded pretty disappointed at the lack of facilities in IIT (M). Well, Ali that's IIT for you!

MURALI

The most exciting find of the season about whom everybody is raging is no doubt Murali, the basketball whiz. He is the only B Tech who has tremendous potential which we hope is fully exploited to our Institute's advantage.

Over the years with monotonous regularity freshers have been closely interrogated by their worthy seniors about the quantity and more important the quality of the Female species.

languages (If not all, almost all!) She simply adores 'Rhythmic poetry' and 'Arnold-Tenyson and Byron'. After obtaining this choice bit of information we decided discretion was the better part of valour and beat a hasty retreat!

PRITI VERGHESE

Last, but not the least (not by a long chalk anyway!) is the cool and composed Priti Verghe. Apparently, she has come to IIT, for 'its life, its activities' (?) and to acquire a well-rounded personality. (Looking at her, we found this hard to believe!) 'I don't read trash', she declared scornfully. The lady is an 'intellectual' who loves soaking up 'literature' by the gallons. Her favourites: Fyodor, Mikhail, Alexander and Leo (Dostovetsky, Sholokhov, Solzhenitsyn and Tolstoi to the laymen!) Her favourite composer: Strauss [who's he?]. 'I am willing to meet and talk to all kinds of people' she added graciously. We are sure countless hopeful IITians will be thrilled by this piece of information!

Campstimes thanks all the freshers, the secs of Alak, Mandak and in particular Raghu and Billy for the co-operation and help they extended.

HOWZZAT ?

1. A famous scientist was offered the presidentship of a country to which he did not belong. Name the scientist and the country. This happened in 1953.
2. John F. Kennedy won a famous literary award for a book of his. Name the book and the award.
3. There exists a difference between the American and the British billion. What is it?
4. The US President's aircraft is the AIR FORCE ONE. What type of aircraft is it?
5. What is the meaning of BOURNVITA?
6. What does the phrase 'Queen Anne's, dead mean'?
7. The Ford Maserati cars are all named after one natural phenomenon. What is it?
8. Harry Pattersen is a famous novelist's pseudonym. Whose?

ANSWERS TO HOWZZAT?

1. Albert Einstein and Israel.
2. The Pulitzer award for his book 'Profiles in Courage'.
3. British is 10¹² and the American is 10⁹.
4. The Boeing 707—200B.
5. The limit of life's essentials.
6. That's old news.
7. Different winds—Simon, Bora etc.
8. Jack Higgins.

FRESH AS A DAISY

by Naushir Contractor

NAINAN KOVOOR

When we asked him to describe himself he promptly replied: A masochist. He has irritated many with his eccentric behaviour. But people now have changed their opinion about him, following his spectacular performance in the Institute open quiz. A product of La Martiniere, Calcutta, he speaks disparagingly of his Alma Mater. Nainan told us he is interested in Maths especially polyhedra. From all this you might have guessed his branch (you are right, it is Electronics!)

MALCOLM PANTHAKI

He comes as a relief, especially if you have just met (as we did) the above two. He is a typical effervescent IITian with no inhibitions of any kind. The fact that he is a Karnataka State champion swimmer (incidentally he comes from Bangalore) whose timing is minutes (if not hours!) ahead of the IIT record doesn't seem to have affected him in the least. Besides he is good at other games like table tennis, shuttle etc. and is an accomplished debater. He has got a lot of potential in him. Let's hope he blossoms forth in the coming years.

JAYANTILAL

Someone had told us to meet this fantastic football player who had just walked into the Institute team. So we went to meet him expecting a big, brawny chap (you know, the standard type). We were surprised when a soft-spoken, reserved boy spoke to us introducing himself as Jayantilal. He comes from Fiji and has played a lot of football there. His entry might prove to be the infusion our football team needs to revive its flagging morale.

in their year! These saps don't seem to have learnt anything from the disappointments of previous years. IITians symbolise the dictum: 'Hope springs eternal in the human breast'. This year was no exception as we waited with bated breath for the arrival of the new crop. They came, we saw, wish we hadn't. Amen!

PURNIMA BALASUBRAMANIAM

She looks and sounds like a school marm and we wined under her stern gaze. She was totally disappointed and disillusioned with good ole, IIT (M) (so what's new?) her interests—Carnatic music, Hindustani classical, ghazals... (whew!) She is interested in dramatics and short-story writing. 'Don't you think studies are a necessary evil?' she asked us. We hurriedly replied 'yes, Ma'am' and fled!

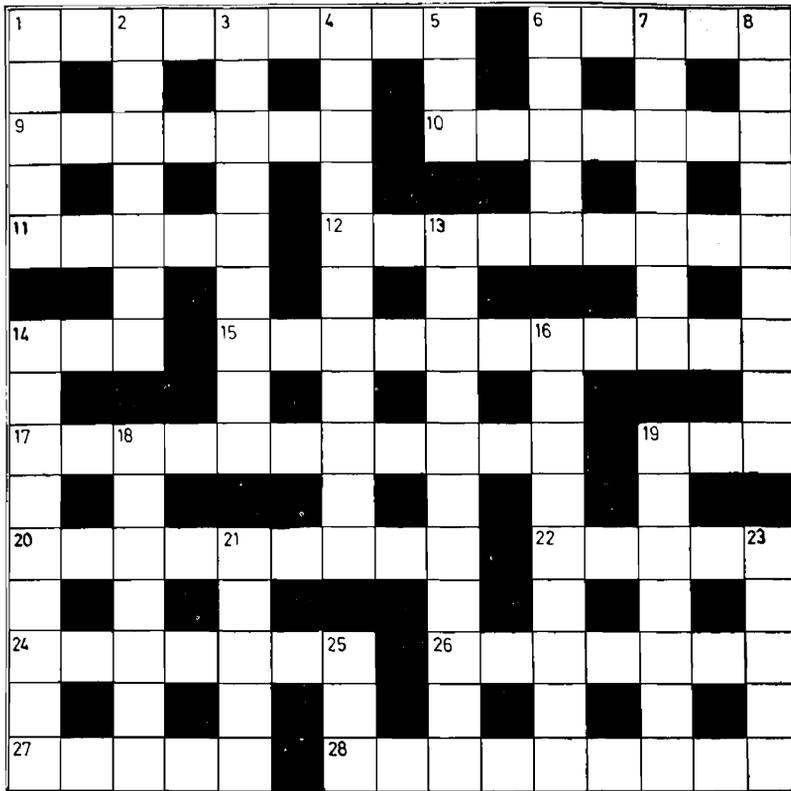
MEERA SITHARAM

It was a pleasure to meet the bubbly, effervescent Meera. She may be a veena virtuoso but she is no prima donna. She has taken part in innumerable classical music competitions and has won laurels in all of them. She will no doubt be a big boost to our classical music squad. When we asked her about her hobbies, she naively replied 'Bird watching'. She has come to the right place for IIT is famous for its eagle-eye-ornithologists!

MALATI VEERARAGHAVAN

There exists in the ranks of budding young electronic engineers a bespectacled young lady whom the National Integration Committee would do well to proclaim as a model. The lady in question is Malati Veeraraghavan who hails from Orissa and knows all the Indian

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 5

ACROSS

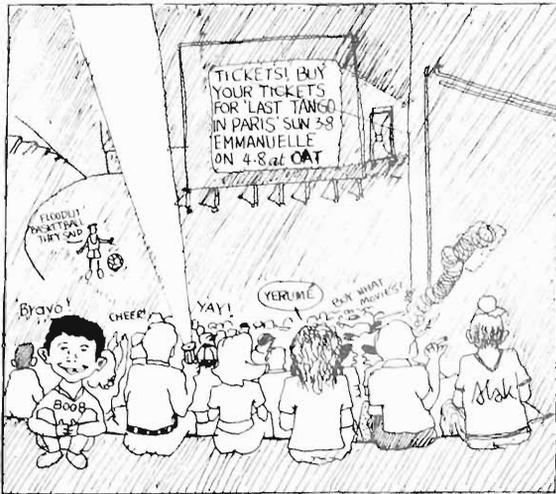
1. This bugbear is an alien black beast! (4, 5)
6. An onomatopoeic pull of strings (5)
9. Sets in the east? (7)
10. It provides protection from the sun-gods after father (7)
11. Nature's water-carrying vessels (5)
12. Points are given support at this stall (9)
14. Scoundrel who runs errands (3)
15. Bestly married owners? (3-8)
17. A ring of seats (5, 6)
19. Counties which produce lettuce (3)
20. Hissing which dirties the clean ibis (9)
22. Confess hesitantly to being the possessor (5)
24. Whip makes a sore skin (7)
26. Eager to find a dollar among three tenners (7)
27. Look back, Lancelot, at that slender animal (5)
28. Scintillate and catch a puss in a business tick (9)

DOWN

1. Part of New York where navy is split up in a container (5)
2. Warbled and flowed (7)
3. Calliope and Clio were part of this ennead (4, 5)
4. Covert suggestion about a country without a bottomless hole (11)
5. A lot of aid given by a rock group (1, 1, 1)
6. Pies for a sailor on the shore? (5)
7. — and he has a dishonour to forbear (7)
8. Record prizes for record sales (4, 5)
13. Jacket for a breezy conman? (11)
14. Pertaining to a map which is 14 followed by something starry (9)
16. Helps to remind bad men on Monday joining the civil service (9)
18. Shelter a painful expression in a burning coal (7)
19. Card game in which you scan a star (7)
21. Rails rudely in dens (5)
23. Versify to sound like rime (5)
25. And so on, briefly in an ancient tongue (3)

WHAT THEY SAY..... and

WHAT THEY MEAN



HUMOR

CARTOONS BY : MAHABOOB ALI
339 - GODAV

CAMPASTIMES

STYLE

