

OPEN
HOUSE

CAMPASTIMES

editorial

It's a simple IIT-an truth (on the lines of a 'home truth') that the even and odd semesters are two different 'personalities' whilst one is a dour faced, humourless grump, the other is a gallivanting, shiftless, gambolling Ephesian- you fix which guy epitomises which semester, it is difficult to go wrong. The odd semester has the 'as usual', 'mundane' academic programme spliced in with a couple of side shows to break the monotony. the even is a carousal interspersed with periodic (pun not intended) pin pricks to bring you back to ground state - what with Gerhard Fischer, MG, 6-Aside, Bridge, Hostel Bays, Schröeter, and once every two years 'Open House'. Each time you think, 'now the fun is over, got to get mugging, something always materialises to drive your blues away.

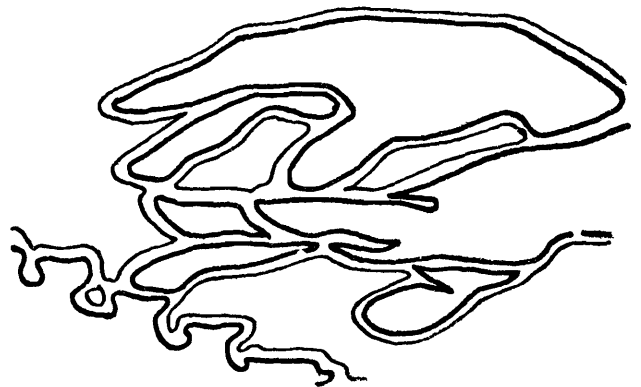
As the balance of the sem ticks away, amongst other fevers the one that will grip us is the Schroeter fever' - and we can assure you, Chief Medical Officer, that this is one fever you can do nothing about. The sports base, for peculiar reasons is very strong. There are very few people in this place who do not have a sports hobby of some kind to attend to every evening and no other happening knits a hostel together as an inter-hostel match. Schroeter brings out the best and the worst in an IITian - there is very little he won't do to win a couple of points. Competition becomes him. (the hers of this place do not figure here). And competition makes an IITian very ugly, but then it is the only broth he has been brought up on in this place.





This issue is our coverage of the 'Open House'. Like everything done on a big scale, people have both good and bad things to say about it. Our viewpoint may be from a narrow angle (we interviewed a large number of people to give it a better base) but this time, the privilege is ours. Open House if nothing else, is an opportunity for us to know of the technological potential of this place. (By no means is it small) to get the labs cleaned up (when else will all the cobwebs, and dust on the machines be removed ?) and to give our prime benefactors - the tax payers - a chance to see how their money has been spent. In terms of organisation Open House was a total success, reconvincing us that such a show cannot be reproduced by any other educational institution.

BEFORE WE FINISH WILL SOMEBODY TELL US , WHY ALL OUR CLASSROOMS ARE NEVER CLEAN , WHY THE LIFTS AND WATER - COOLERS NEVER WORK - RATHER THAN TELL US , WILL SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT .



OPEN HOUSE

The common man is a man who believes in only what he sees and sees only what he can put his hands on--- He's on speaking terms with progress and progress must be in spite of him, although for him. -----Frank Lloyd Wright.

That , in a nutshell, reflects what Open House was all about. An estimated 25000, 'Common People' flooded this picturesque campus of ours- to see what progress is all about. Industrialists were conspicuous their absence- and they, as we all know, are the pioneers who will lead us to zeniths of technological achievements. ('Where are all the industrialists in this country?', asks Prof. Swamy. 'There are only businessmen.' Being the Dean of Academic Research, he should know.)

Open House, '82 began punctually at 9:30, 27th February with a busload of bright-eyed, chattering girls disembarking at the GC. Though this was the official beginning, preparation began much earlier, and in fact, the basic profile of the event, was drawn up by a 'Steering Committee' on the 8th of January. They decided amongst otherthings that 'The Editors of Campastimes will be requested to interview at random a number of visitors and bring out an issue based on the opinions expressed.' So here we are!

All the people we talked to had pretty much the same things to say: All of them were impressed by the scale on which it was organised. "We're completely lost!" said three teachers from KVIIT. There were, naturally, a few cribs : some people found the volunteers explanations unsatisfactory. Most people found that the map given in the Programme Sheet was difficult to follow and this difficulty was enhanced by the inadequacy of signboards. (in particular, directions to the nearest toilets

were absent.)

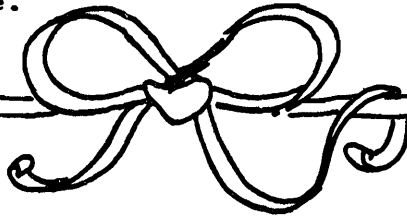
Almost all exhibits drew moderate crowds but there were some which hogged the crowds because of their high-tech names. Long queues were seen at the Computer Centre, the Color TV lab, the Photography exhibition, the CRD, the electron microscopy lab, and of course, the computer games. CLT films turned out to be very popular. Some other crowd drawers were the Murukku making machine, potato chips machine and the towing tank. The EDC and the ICC deserved more attention than they got—as did the lab schedule sheet put up in a notice board in MSB. Nothing wrong with it except that it was put up on February 20th, 1977.

The canteen, as expected, did roaring business though some people felt the prices were a bit on the high side. A noteworthy feature was that they were perpetually either out of coffee or short of cups. The token sales were going on simultaneously and independently leading to a sales peaks rather reminiscent of a capacitor discharge.

A lot of effort went into publicity for the Open House. 2500 posters were displayed all over the city. Besides, slides were also shown at 22 movie theatres. The director addressed a press conference which was featured on Doordarshan, AIR and three major newspapers. An information brochure was also made available to visitors for 50p each, all 2500 copies of which were sold out. It gave a lot of relevant information but could have been more artistic in its get up. The same may be said of the brochure distributed by library. Perhaps they should've taken the cue from the striking ICC handout. Most of the posters and charts displayed were also lacking in appeal. There were a few exceptions, noteworthy amongst these being those in the Process Control Lab.

Transport was very efficiently organised with five buses making trips to the gate every five minutes. Our sympathies to the volunteer who had to keep announcing 'Welcome to IIT Open House. Blah- Blah- Blah...'. But it seems that only a small percentage of visitors used the buses- just 1200 tickets were sold on the first day against an estimated crowd of 12000.

Talking about twelves, there were just 12 student exhibits. Continuing to be the 'cream of the creme' takes up a lot of the IIT-ians time, apparently- and whatever time they do have free, they seem to prefer to spend on earthshaking matters like Rough drafts of the New Constitution, Closures of village gates, Selection of Deans and the like. We are after all, an Institute of National Importance.



overheard

some volunteers explaining technical terms to a 'Common Man'.

Q: What's a Harmonic Function ?

A: Something like a Music Concert ...

Q: Could you explain, please, what you mean by 'Ground State' ?

A: YOU know, coffee - before brewing ...

Q: What is this Hermitian Operator ?

A: A recluse surgeon.

Q: What do you mean by 'Spectra' ?

A: Well, ... Yes! A Spectra is a female ghost !



What went into Open House.

- 1) Central budget - Rs 40,000.
- 2) Departmental expenditure - ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000 per department.
... And a LOT of hard work.

... and what we got out of it

- 1) Canteen sales of around Rs 12,000.
- 2) CRD on-the-spot sales of around Rs 5,000.
- 3) Orders booked by the CRD - furniture, vehicles etc. and an order for 50 canteen kiosks from the Fisheries Dept.
- 4) Bus tickets worth approximately Rs 1,000.
- 5) Brochures sales of Rs 1,000.
...And a LOT of publicity.

Basic research is what I'm doing when I dont know
What I'm doing !

- Werner von Braun.

seen

Near PLT - A pile of nuclear physicists.
In HSB - A set of pure mathematicians.
In the Chem Dept. - A line of spectroscopists.
Outside the Hospital - A complex of psychologists.
In the Biochem Lab - A colony of bacteriologists.
In the Naval Arch, Dept. - A knot of nautical engineers.
In the Library - A stack of librarians.
