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Work in Progress – Biswas Curriculum

The first B.Tech batch under the ambit of the Biswas curriculum is passing out this year. InslghT decided to review the curriculum and look at the broader picture.

Aim of the Curriculum

The old curriculum needed to adapt itself to the change in student psyche and the perspective of the industry. Students today are far more career oriented and want greater academic freedom. The industry expects the recruits to have multiple skills apart from a sound theoretical knowledge; analytical skills, leadership qualities and entrepreneurship skills to name a few.

It was believed that the old system did not give students enough flexibility to choose their courses according to the needs and was very harsh on back-loggers. Clearing more than 3 backlogs was a mammoth task which resulted in students facing academic-extension in majority of the cases. To avoid such a situation, the professors refrained themselves from awarding FRs, resulting in "Grade Inflation" and allotment of Self-Study courses / FF grades. More courses meant that the faculty was overloaded and the 50% increase in student population wasn't really helping their cause.

Prof. Mehra

- The current UG curriculum is liberal but inadequate on certain "core" aspects. It needs to be strict when it comes to grade allotment (including in-semester)
- The industry and student culture in the U.S./Europe and India is miles apart. While our curriculum tends towards being more world class, Indian industries are not really up to the mark. A balance has to be maintained between producing engineers suitable for Indian industries and being world class
- The problem is bilateral; students and professors need to work on the issue together. Forming course review committees at department/institute level on a regular basis shall help

Steps Taken

The Biswas committee believed that the core industry demand is very high and no UG curriculum can possibly fulfil that. Instead, they decided to go for a "Bare Minimum Program" which would touch all spheres of the department and give each student a brief overview of all his future options. This program would entitle him to an engineering degree and the surplus time hence obtained is to be utilized by the student as per his aspirations. Core internships were made optional. He could focus on extracurricular activities; do a minor or an honour programme or both.

For pursuing this minor/honour programme, he had to prove his interest in academics by maintaining a good CPI, thus solving the missing incentive issue. All core courses/ prerequisites were planned to run in both semesters to help the back-loggers while removing FF grade and self-study courses.

Implementation Problems

Though done with the best intentions, the implementation faced many issues, the major one being the inability of the institute to run core courses/ pre-requisite courses every semester. As Professor Anurag Mehra (Dept. of Chemical Engineering) pointed out – it's an open fact that the institute suffers from a faculty shortage of 25-30%, planning to run the same course in both semesters is simply not feasible.

The Biswas committee expects that students learn their core-courses rigorously. This means tougher grading and more backlogs. Since the courses aren't available in both semesters, there are always slot clashes and hence several problems arise. This

Prof. Biswas

- Ensuring flexibility in curriculum, minor program was focussed
- Lack of resources (faculty and infrastructural) did not allow to utilize the entire package. Having a class with more than 250 students does not make sense
- The TAs program quality needs ameliorating, both in quality and number
- The program is still in an experimental phase with almost 50% of the job done. It needs more time to stabilize

becomes a major challenge, especially for the final year students who fail a course in the odd semester.

Students often complain that their courses are not sequentially connected and often, they are unable to answer even the most basic questions in their discipline. Prof Alok Goyal (Department of Civil Engineering) explained – the curriculum in the Civil department filtered out some courses which gave an industry feel of the discipline, either because of a faculty shortage or because they it was felt that the course was too crude to be taught and students would anyway learn it if they entered core engineering. However, this way, students don't get to see the real life application of what they are learning and tend to lose interest in core engineering.

Since, the number of courses went down, the professors also had to cut down on topics or reduce the number of hours put into the topic or both. A general opinion on the 8-credit courses, formed by clubbing two 6-credit courses, is that these courses proceed at a very fast pace and hence force the students to cram rather than learn the subject.

Where Does Your Money Go? – We Fin(e)d Out

A lot of speculation goes on in the institute about the fine collected by the DoSA from students found guilty of violating institute rules and where and how it is channelled. So to put the matter to rest, InslghT found out the requisite details.

During the last 4 years, from April 2007 to March 2011, a total of Rs. 25,11,029 has been collected as fine in the DoSA's account which is equivalent to virtually Rs. 50,000 per month. But, before

Alcohol	Rs.5000
Substance Abuse	No fine yet. At this time only parental involvement + rehab
Motorcycle	Rs.5000
Cycle in corridor	Collected by security
Public display of affection and ragging	Depends on the severity of the matter

April 2007, there was no norm of collecting fines. A student who was found violating any institute rule was either warned or had to face DAC in serious cases. While this method worked well for small offences when the students were let go with a warning, some cases had to be dealt harshly with a DAC. As the cases began to grow numerous in number, the authorities had to come up with monetary penalty to serve as a middle path between warning and DAC. A protocol was set up after April 2007 that included some minimum monetary punishment for breaching such rules.

The money collected as fine is deposited in a separate fine account by the DoSA office. The same is used from time to time by the office to sponsor or fund various expenditures of student concern. The utilization of this amount is decided in consultation with the GSHA and other student representatives.

Giving honorarium to staff & security officials	Rs. 2,62,758
Helping students belonging from financially weak background for their fees, medical expenses etc.	Rs. 5,33,054
Procurement of projector used for student activities, screenings in LT etc.	Rs. 94,500
Fixed Deposit in Bank	Rs. 1,00,000

A purchase of two more buses has been sanctioned with the remaining amount in the account. Any queries regarding the utilization of these funds can be taken up with the DoSA office. ■

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Placement Season 2010–11: A Comprehensive Lookback

With the economy on a comprehensive upswing, this year's placements were a much looked forward to affair. There were several sweeping changes with respect to how this year's Institute Placement Team (IPT) approached the monumental task of securing jobs for everyone. There were changes not only in the Placement Policy, but also to the overall structure of the IPT. Company Coordinators (CCs) were incorporated with the sole purpose of contacting companies, in addition to Department Placement Coordinators (DPCs) whose job was to hold preparatory activities for students. Changes with respect to the structure of the team and the policy have been dealt with comprehensively in previous issues (*Recall: The Placement Reformation: Through the Looking Glass & Placement Policy 2010: No Easy Game*). With this article we shall try to analyse whether these changes have borne fruit.

Lookback on the Placement Policy

Point System: This year, the system of Penalty Points was made stricter, if a student accumulates 15 penalty points, the next 3 companies that he applies to would be informed of his misdemeanours through a Penalty Certificate. This was done to counter the casual attitude that students displayed towards placements, pre-placement talks and companies. The problem lay with the personal leniency levels of individual DPCs, which differed across the board, causing discontent. No student accrued 15 penalty points and hence no company was sent a penalty certificate. This can be perceived as the students taking the policy seriously.

Students also earned reward points for attending preparatory activities held by the DPCs. On gathering enough reward points, students would be able to sign extra JAFs depending on the company in which he got placed. This incentive though, did not hold for students placed in C1 and C2 companies, making the reward irrelevant for them. Students perceive that not enough companies of higher categories have come in Phase II for students who have secured jobs in C3 and below, to be able to avail of this incentive.

There have been instances where DPCs held informal preparatory sessions and doled out points for attending them, completely at their own discretion. There was no central monitoring or control for the same, which created an issue with respect to transparency.

Students though, were severely irked by the fact that the punishment for the penalty points and rewards for the preparatory activities was released retrospectively. Both these decisions were perceived as being highly unprofessional from the side of the IPT.

Registrations: Students can register for placements just once. If a student with an active backlog in his last semester finds out that the course he needs to clear to satisfy his graduation requirements was not being offered in the final semester, then he faces an extension. He would have absolutely no chance of sitting for placements again unless the IPT deals with it on a case by case basis. The IPT responded to this by saying that a student sitting for placements who is free of academic constraints by January is at an advantage over other students; hence extension students are debarred from the Placement process.

Off-Campus Policy: The date till which no off-campus applications are permitted has been extended to 30th June, 2011 (earlier it was 30th April). This was done because the IPT believes that while they are contacting companies, people should not be able to apply off-campus as this would affect the company's decision to come in for placements. The IPT is going to contact various C3–C5 companies after April end as well.

Unfortunately by June 30th most new recruits already start working and companies are done with their recruitment cycles; the probability of off-campus applications being accepted so late is very low. For someone who has failed to secure a job till so late, the extension seems unwarranted and extremely harsh. The policy is applicable to students who de-register from placements as well. The IPT says that students are allowed to apply off-campus to companies which haven't come for placements if they take permission from the IPT. Also DDs stay in campus till June 30th and hence a uniform date was sought till which off-campus applications are debarred.

Lookback on the New Team Structure

It has been seen that the division of work between CCs and DPCs generally resulted in more output than last year. More companies were contacted. DPCs of some departments held a lot of preparatory activities, something that might not have been

possible last year, as the CCs were overburdened. But some students were of the opinion that CCs were still overloaded and that this resulted in updates on the placement blog being uploaded on very short notice, causing students to miss out on JAF signings, tests and interviews. The IPT responded by saying that late updates have been because of short notice by companies and not because of CCs' negligence. The IPT also says that in such cases they have personally called people up to inform them of the same.

The DPCs of quite some departments were perceived to be 'infy lukkha.' Preparatory activities varied greatly from department to department and were very DPC dependant.

Various points of discussion relating to placements:

- The people making the policy are not answerable to the students because they are as Prof. Ravi Sinha puts it, 'the employees of the placement cell'. Students perceived some decisions by the IPT as being autocratic and at times severely unreasonable.

For example, the Buddy Policy was very biased against DDs; in that the IPT put an arbitrary clamp on the buddy policy from 10th to 27th November, a time when DDs are quite free (due to no endsems) and when they can take maximum advantage of the buddy policy. In contrast, Btechs had already taken advantage of the same earlier when DDs were busy with their DDP Stage I deadlines. The IPT claims that placement activities, including the Buddy Policy, were stopped during endsems as a result of a directive from the Academic Office.

- Not informing students of which companies are expected to come later in Phase II, or even which companies are going to be contacted, leaves the students with no room for manoeuvre and was tantamount to coercing them into signing present JAFs. Though, the IPT does make a very valid point when they say that the list of companies to be contacted is not released for fear of other IITs getting hold of the same.

Overall, even though there have been some niggling problems and a few serious inadequacies, the overall

Stats Package

In terms of pure numbers, this year's placement season has been an unmitigated success. As can be seen from the accompanying

figures, no one can dispute that the IPT has done an extraordinarily good job, but there has been discontent brewing within the student

community regarding the placement policy, IPT structure and organisational hassles during placement.

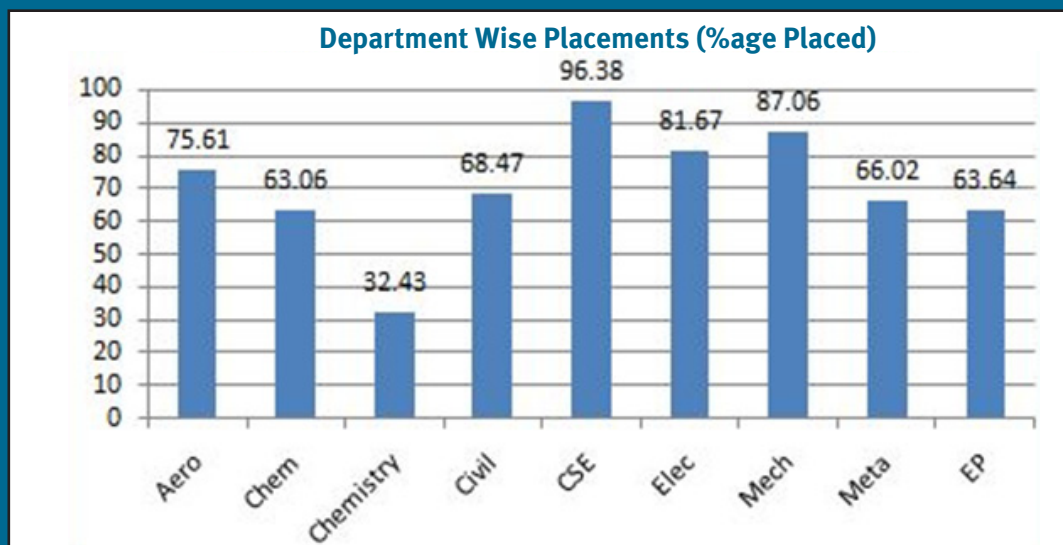
Year	Total Students Registered	Total Students placed in Phase I	% of Students placed in Phase 1	Total Students placed till 3 rd March	% of Students placed till 3 rd march	Total Students Placed
2009–2010	1111	518	46.62	660	59.41	840
2010–2011	1247	720	57.74	815	65.36	–
%age Change	12.24	39.00	–	23.48	–	–

	2010–2011	2009–2010	%age Change
No. of Day1 Profiles	27	21	28.57
No. of Day1 Offers	118	82	43.9

Category	No. of companies till 3 rd March
C1	57
C2	38
C3	59
C4	26
C5	12

C1 ≥ 8.5 LPA
 7.0 LPA ≤ C2 < 8.5 LPA
 5.5 LPA ≤ C3 < 7.0 LPA
 4.5 LPA ≤ C4 < 5.5 LPA
 C5 < 4.5 LPA
 (LPA – Lakh per Annum in Indian Rupees)

* The categories above are purely based on remuneration and have not been verified by the IPT



result of the new structure and policy was quite good. Prof Sinha claims that companies were generally much more pleased this year with the professionalism displayed by the students. It is rumoured that a Day 1 company even sent in a letter of appreciation.

Day 1 Organisational Hassles

A lot of companies demanded to come on Day 1 and threatened that they wouldn't come otherwise. This caused major hassles for the IPT. They were caught between a rock and a hard place; in their aim to maximise the number of job offers, they tried to accommodate as many companies as they could on Day 1, but this led to students missing out on interviews due to clashes and shoddy scheduling. Several untoward happenings left many students more than just discontented:

- Candidates were pulled out mid-interview by Prof. Ravi Sinha. In some specific cases, in the second round when the candidate did not have any other interview to go to, he refused companies 5 extra minutes with a candidate. This may have been unavoidable in some cases (as interviews invariably tend to overflow their slots and clash with other slots), but from the students' point of view, if they are not being given adequate time to prove themselves in an interview, then they are being severely handicapped with respect to other candidates. The IPT claims that students were pulled out only after their allotted duration of 20 minutes was up, not before that. They say that if a schedule is not followed there would be a domino effect and other companies would be angered. Students though refute the fact that everyone was given their full allotted time.
- Overall slotting was pretty haphazard.

Interviews overlapped and several students missed out on interviews due to delays and poor scheduling. A certain Day 1 Slot 1 company came in with just 3 interviewers because of which it ended up interviewing students till day 2 Slot 1; throwing schedules totally awry. The same company held students to ransom by promising them interviews later, which forced them to ditch other companies' interviews and in the end, students missed out on both.

- Companies were seen stalling candidates - throwing offers in the 1st round itself and giving under the table offers to selected candidates to gauge if they stick with them, hence putting candidates into sticky spots. The volunteers are supposed to report these - but it becomes difficult because the candidates insist on keeping it a secret for their benefit and it's hard to detect. This is really unfair to people who are scheduled for 1st round interviews later.
- Slotting of interviews in the second round was done depending on the preference of the student and the order was very clearly shown in the list that was released on the blog, which in a way indicated to the companies quite clearly what the students' preferences were. This messed up conversations of a lot of students with companies, affecting their chances in the process.
- The preference form was not given till the students asked for it, which was well in the second round of interviews. There were cases where company officials handed out forms and made candidates fill it in front of them. The placement team did not remember to give it to the students.

- The cumulative effect of the slotting woes was that by the time the last few candidates had their first round interviews, some companies already had a list of selected candidates in place and the former had considerably less chances of making it to the next round. Certain companies selected their candidates without having interviewed all the shortlisted students. On intervention by the IPT, allegedly dummy interviews were held.
- Certain claims were made that some students used *polit* to get into shortlists of smaller companies by meeting seniors who had come back as interviewers.

The IPT says that they have created additional posts of Associate Coordinators for next year. These will be pre-final year students and they will help solely in scheduling interviews of students and proper handling of the same. They will try to ensure that such problems do not repeat themselves next year.

This article has presented to you both the highs and the lows of this year's placement season. In terms of pure numbers, it has been a resounding success over the previous year, but certain incidents have resulted in antagonising the students. In hindsight, several issues could have been better handled; there is certainly a scope for improvement. Students would appreciate a more student friendly policy. Let's hope that the next Placement Team takes these issues into consideration for the upcoming year. ■

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ISMP – The Silent Guardian

The Student Mentor Programme at IIT Bombay consists of three programmes - the ISMP or the Institute Student Mentor Programme, the D-AMP i.e. the Departmental Academic Mentor Programme and the Preparatory Mentorship programme. The 3 units provide a support system academically and socially for the entire student community and in particular, the undergraduate freshmen.

The ISMP also serves as a channel of constructive interaction between senior and junior students. The D-AMP in some departments serves to provide academic mentorship for students with academic difficulties while in others, mentors all 2nd year students. The D-AMP mentors micro-monitor students with backlogs and help plan their course load.

The Preparatory Mentors mainly provide mentorship to the students undertaking the preparatory courses of the institute.

The Team:

- The ISMP presently is an 80 member strong force with most students mentoring 12-14 freshmen. Mentors for freshmen are selected from to-be third, fourth and fifth year students through personal interviews conducted by the ISMP heads. The ISMP Heads last year were fifth year students Manish Shetty and Rahul Srinivasan.
- The mentors are supposed to be good role models for the first years with their ability to provide sound advice to them without any personal bias. This year a "Mentor Cabinet" was constituted of those students who have 1 year of mentorship behind them, to help the Head Coordinators manage the programme better.

The Functioning

- Although the selection of institute mentors is done carefully, there exists no mechanism in

place other than random checks and mentee feedback to ensure accountability from the mentors. Once selected, the ISMP functions on trust and goodwill; with the 2 Heads overseeing its operation. There have been instances of freshmen saying that they would have appreciated more frequent meetings with their mentors. Mentors are broadly advised to meet their mentees once in 2 days initially to once in a week later.

- Jhonny Jha and Dhruva Shah, the new ISMP heads say, that the "Mentor Cabinet" helps keep a closer tab on mentors. Additionally, it gives guidance to new mentors and provides a platform for them to raise extreme situations or concerns regarding mentees which are better addressed by a group of people.

Initiatives this Year:

- To train the mentors, regular meetings and interactive sessions are arranged with the ISMP Faculty Advisor (presently Prof Nithyanand, who has taken over from Prof Vikram Gadre). This year, an interactive hands-on session with CREST, an NGO, was organised to teach the basics of identifying and dealing with mentee problems.
- An online forum was launched by the ISMP to enable seniors and to-be freshmen to interact even before the semester began. The forum was hugely successful with freshmen. Additionally, a letter written from the ISMP team was sent to the parents of each freshman. Translations of the letter into many regional languages were available on the Freshmen Forum. This initiative is appreciable but few freshmen acknowledge having received such letters.
- A Mentor Handbook and comprehensive feedback from mentors and mentees somewhat formalised the functioning of the ISMP this year. The ISMP also facilitated the creation of a Blood Group Database to assist students in case of emergencies.

The D-AMP:

The D-AMP is at a nascent stage as compared to the ISMP. As of now, departments are struggling with devising a D-AMP which will bring a visible change to the students' performance.

- Till now a major reason for the failure of D-AMP was the delay in mentor-mentee allotment as ISMP and D-AMP teams had common mentors. ISMP mentors were busy in the 1st month but now that the 2 teams are significantly different, this problem should not arise.
- To make a difference to a student's performance, a mentor might have to go the extra mile and tutor the student himself. Such a commitment is often not possible from senior students.
- The faculty advisors are often apprehensive about sharing confidential information about the student grades with mentors. This problem has been eased by the intervention of a department specific faculty D-AMP coordinator.
- The defiant attitude of students towards slacking academics makes the mentorship process more challenging for mentors and any help the mentor is willing to provide is either rejected or taken sullenly.
- The D-AMP suffers from low visibility in the institute with many students and faculty advisors unaware of the facility itself!

- The freshmen appreciated that information flow among the mentors was good and reliable and claim that the 880-strong freshmen batch was regularly updated by their mentors. Academic help sessions were organised for various subjects, and although they were conducted by the faculty, ISMP was instrumental in arranging them. In some cases mentors who were also TAs conducted help sessions themselves.

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MI 2010 – “Could’ve been better”



Anant Gupta – MI OC 2010

- We wanted to reach out to the best colleges which would, in turn, guarantee us the best participants for our competitions. We wanted MI to be the best 4 days of their lives
- The low turnout was majorly due to shift in exam date for Pune University and not due to lack of publicity. Also, since none of the 4 days were on the weekend, we had fewer people from local colleges.
- Comparing Katatonia with PTree would be wrong as the two bands have entirely different genre. But people who were metal fans, found them good, and that’s what we expected.

The 40th edition of Mood Indigo, the annual cultural festival of IIT Bombay was held from 20th to 23rd December, 2010. In the months leading up to the actual event, Mood Indigo tried to make its presence felt by means of the pre-MI events. This year, in addition to Livewire, Aagaaz, the street play competition, too held multi-city eliminations. A significant portion of Mood Indigo publicity was done online. The Facebook page was promoted in a big way and was rewarded by 13000 likes, a healthy jump of 8000 from last year.

Desi Tadka gone bland?

Mood Indigo 2010 shall, unfortunately, be remembered as ‘the one with no spice’. The crowd was minimal, the ambience - bland and the pronites - boring. The Mood Indigo theme - Desi Tadka, seemed to have been lost somewhere behind the huge publicity banners. When asked about the same, Anant Gupta, OC Mood Indigo, replied - ‘We tried to incorporate the theme in a more subtle way. This time we went for a less visual impact and pushed for integration of themes in our events. We had Indian magicians, mela events etc. For the ambience, we decorated the main building corridor with kites, lanterns etc. We wanted the theme to be implemented in our events, and not just be an eye-candy.’ Now whether a theme like Desi Tadka was suitable for such subtle implementation is anyone’s guess.

Competitions

Mood Indigo Competitions this year was bigger and better than ever before. The events were executed professionally, the participation was top-notch and where they might have lacked in event innovation, they more than made up for it in terms of bigger cash prizes.

Omniscience; the mega quizzing event was generally well received. The big bucks drew hordes of quizzers from all over the country, something MIs of the past had failed to achieve. The quizzes were well researched and the filler quizzes were impressive as well.

The street play event this year, Aagaaz, went multi-city and held eliminations in Delhi and Ahmedabad, in addition to Mumbai. Even though a few issues were raised on the non-uniformity of competition across the cities, the captivating performances in the finals settled all lingering doubts.

The music competitions were up to the mark as well. The events saw good, quality participation, with IITB’s own Shaadarsh winning Mantra. Livewire and Swaradhana, the solo classical competition, witnessed high levels of competition and were appreciated. The events, however, did suffer from poor organization and infrastructure.

Other notable events included Wordgames, Book Cover Design and Digital Designing competition. All these events witnessed high participation and were widely appreciated for their innovative formats. It wasn’t, however, a dream run

either. The Entertainment Quiz stood in stark contrast to the rest of the quizzes in Omniscience. The quizmaster seemed uninterested, the crowd management was poor and the finals were uninspiring and insipid. Also, the speaking events left much to be desired in terms of both organisation as well as the level of participation. The Group Extempore event seemed as if it had been prepared a couple of hours before the actual event.

Informals

The Informals Department this year tried to move away from the norm and focused on events which were more varied. According to Ishan Shrivastava, Core Group Member, Informals - “This year we tried to come up with a very diverse set of events which didn’t just cater to the literary arts circle. We focused more on the elimination rounds since it witnesses more participation than the final rounds”. It was certainly an impressive ideology and a lot of events were highly innovative. But at the same time some events suffered from organisational problems which affected their overall quality.

Treasure Hunt suffered from a lot of glitches pertaining to participant handling as well as the clues which didn’t match up to the standards set previously. The elimination round of Corporate was appreciated but the finals were highly mismanaged. Also, a lot of events suffered because their venues were rather obscure. Crime Scene Investigation was, however, a decent effort; as were the game shows.

All this notwithstanding, a few events deserve a special mention. Check Mate - the strategy Game was organized beautifully and was widely appreciated. The Lounges were better organised and the Board-games Lounge in particular was enjoyed by a lot of people.

Horizons

Mood Indigo 2010 was another great year for Horizons. They were given the OAT for the first time and with Sumo Wrestling, they pulled off a winner. Crowd management issues aside, the event drew hordes of crowd and the event was a unique experience for everyone who came to attend. ‘It was amazing to be thrown out of the ring by a 300 pounds plus Sumo’ - one of the students who tried to tackle the wrestlers said.

One of the most celebrated events of MI’09; IMF entered its second edition this year. With the ideology to bring down a wide array of world class artists to MI, it was once again a crowd success.

Even though some intermittent sound problems threatened to ruin the show, Minino Garay and his band with their unique blend of jazzy, street-friendly music and audience interaction made them a huge success. The Glass Duo from Poland, The Flamenco musicians from Spain and Indo-German band Fire on Dawson kept the crowd riveted with their performances.

However in ‘Levis Convo’, Vogue went on rather chaotically as the professional groups refused to adjust to the constraints of a college fashion show. Apart from starting seventy minutes late, the show was muddled with service errors making it an altogether forgettable experience.

Pronites

The selection of artists for this year’s Mood Indigo was disappointing, to say the least. The team failed to match up to the high standards set by the Mood Indigo 2009.

Katatonia were the international band act at pronites this year and the reaction to their concert changed from ‘Katatonia - who?’ to ‘Katatonia - why?’ as the minutes passed. We believe that any comparison with the Porcupine Tree concert would be unfair as both the bands belong to entirely different genres. But since a lot of concert passes were given away as event winnings, one can easily gauge that Katatonia failed to attract a lot of metal fans as well.

The Asha Bhonsle concert this year was held in place of the classical concert. The concert received mixed reviews. While the faculty members and old hindi music fanatics found her mere presence ‘mesmerizing’, the younger audiences found her ‘out of tune’ and ‘too old to be headlining a college cultural festival’.

The last pronite featured Amit Trivedi and his troupe of singers/dancers belting out popular Bollywood songs that were lapped up by the audience. The show would have been a bigger hit had it not been for the ‘No One Killed Jessica’ cast (including Rani Mukherjee and Vidya Balan) which came for the film publicity; Trivedi ended up singing songs from NOKJ up to three times each, much to the audience’s frustration.

Service Pains

Every year, the service glitches play an important part in lowering the overall experience of Mood Indigo. This year, however, the service assistance of Mood Indigo seemed to have reached an all time low. A lot of events suffered from sound related problems. MI stage, for example, was constantly nagged by recurring sound failures. The sound at NCC was pathetic at times during the IMF. A lot of events started late because the projector or the screen could not be made available.

Mood Indigo, being Asia’s largest college festival, really needs to look into these incidents more carefully. Such incidents bother participants and the organisers alike, and a bit more professionalism on the part of MI is required. ■

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TechFest 2011 – A Review

Held from 7th to 9th January, 2011, the 14th edition of Techfest was well received. Unlike last year, where the main emphasis was on high end science and technology, this year Techfest focused on portraying ‘technology’ in a way that even the layman could appreciate it. The organization and management was especially commendable. Other than the traditional crowd-pulling events like TechX and Robowars, Techfest’11 boasted of many new initiatives and interactive events.

PreFest

Techfest kick-started the pre-fest publicity through ‘India Unmute’, which essentially tried to mimic the Olympic torch travel, moving across 60 colleges to get new ideas, opinions and solutions on various issues that confront India.

Initiatives

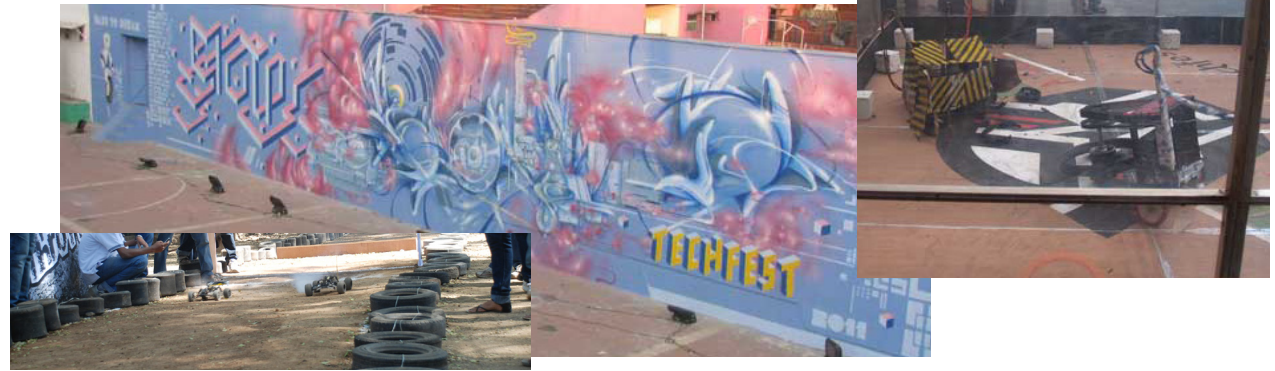
Prayaas has been a very strong initiative since the past two years. The team lived up to the tradition by providing great opportunities for innovators and visionaries to work on fields ranging from rural technology development (Utkarsh) to healthcare technology (Elixir). Verizon, a social entrepreneurship event, was added this year while Energize had a new problem statement, related to geothermal and ocean energy.

Crossroads

Crossroads was introduced for the first time with a view to make the streets livelier during the fest. It had street shows: BMX stunts, Zlwin Magic, Parkour performances and short workshop sessions ranging from Solving Rubik’s cube, Boomerang Throwing to Parkour basics and Kenjutsu (an ancient Japanese sword art).

Exhibitions

Exhibitions, this year, saw some very interesting displays. Apart from the regular exhibits from the DRDO, there were exhibits from the very famous Ars Electronica from Europe as well as the Da Vinci machines, known for their elegant simplicity. The



PR-2 Robot was the show stealer. With its capability of self-recharging, it’s one of the first steps towards the future of artificial intelligence.

Competitions

The aim of Competitions at Techfest has been to cater to all genres of engineering and technology. This was ensured by having competitions like AutoBots, ArchiTech, Nexus and iNexus. Robowars, like always, saw a huge turnout both in terms of enthusiastic participants and an exuberant audience. There were some issues with its location (SOM Well) leading to complaints about space scarcity but the organizers claim that it was the most feasible venue for the event. It was also strategic in getting hold of a floating crowd and ensuring huge numbers for any announcements/news etc.

The new event named Technopreneurship was pulled off nicely. It was done in collaboration with TiE with an aim to provide a technical dimension to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Lecture Series

Almost everyone who attended TF’11 would agree that Lecture Series was indeed its highest point. Even though the highly anticipated David Griffith lecture got cancelled, it was more than compensated by other truly eminent personalities coming down to the Institute - a Nobel Laureate, Inventor of the Bluetooth, Father of String Theory, Founder of Google Earth, Director of Council of Antiquities,

Egypt. Also, the pre-fest lecture by Richard Stallman on Free and Open Source Software attracted a very enthusiastic crowd.

Ozone

Continuing with the success of Lazertag last year, Ozone kept the focus on gaming this time as well. They brought in ATV, Zorbing, WiFi Sports, etc which made sure no one stayed unoccupied during the fest. Virtusphere, a virtual reality gaming device was brought to India for the first time and received a great response. While the gaming zone was brilliant, the on-the-spot competitions didn’t live up to their previous standards. Sci-Tech, which garnered wonderful reviews last two years, was shabbily organized this year on all fronts, be it the publicity or the magnitude of the event.

Technoholix

Technoholix, the ‘Pronites’ equivalent of TF, was quite repetitive and similar to previous years. The Double Dutch Force, the world’s best Double Dutch Crew, came for the first time to India and was well received. Euphorie 1024 showcased a totally new genre of performances consisting of great synchronization of neon guitars and lights with electronic music. The Fest concluded well with a performance by Quick Change, The Magical Costume Change Trio. ■

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Work in Progress – Biswas Curriculum

■ Continued from Page 1

According to Prof. Mehra, the industry has always been complaining that IIT Bombay students are not trained enough. Reducing core department courses and removing the compulsory internship will definitely not help the situation. The major reason for removing core internships was the lack of infrastructure to provide it and the mentality of the student community to experiment in other fields. This also brings us to the issue of the laboratories. Most students feel the experiments do not coincide with theory and the ones that do, lack the novelty factor.

Though the students feel that the current curriculum does give them enough free time to spend on

extra-curricular activities, they do not understand its pros and cons. The software system needs to be improved and information (regarding the curriculum and courses) should be more readily available. Faculty-advisors need to play a more interactive role.

Minors give students a chance to pursue their interests out of their core department. Lack of proper information channels often results in confusion and students resort to the tried and tested CPI based allotment (similar to JEE). Having a better and uniform course description along with an orientation period are some of the possible solutions.

In essence, the ideology behind the curriculum still holds but the institute needs more time adjusting to the same. Special focus is required especially at the department level. With the newly built infrastructure, accommodating the increased intake can be handled smoothly. We have more resources at hand and the onus lies with the authorities and the students alike to make the best use of them. ■

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	1 st Year Curriculum	Internship	Theory v/s Practice	Attendance	Notes
University of Illinois	Typically Math, Physics, Chemistry, General Education (flexible)	Not compulsory; Career fairs	Most courses are typically accompanied by projects	Not compulsory	Branch changes extremely feasible – a matter of interest more than anything
Stanford University	Typically Math, Science, Programming, Introductory Engineering courses (extremely flexible)	Not compulsory; Career fairs; Campus summer research	All core courses have a lab	Not compulsory	‘Undeclared Majors’ at entry
University of California, Berkeley	Typically Math, Physics, Chemistry, General Education (flexible)	Not compulsory; often under faculty on-campus	Course projects encourage independent research and hands-on work	Not compulsory	Double majors can be obtained
VJTI, Mumbai	Typically Math, Science, Programming, Introductory Engineering courses, Workshops	Not compulsory	More focus on theory	85% compulsory	BTech dissertation expected
BITS, Pilani	Biology, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Programming	Two compulsory interns	Every course has an associated practical aspect	Not compulsory	Branch changes awarded on the basis of academic merit

DoSA Speaks – IB Heads’ Selections

The selection process for IB heads this year has undergone a drastic change with the introduction of Open Elections for IB OCs. Much has been discussed about the rationale behind this in the student community. We bring you the administration’s take on the issue:

The idea for Open Elections for IBs has been on the cards for quite some time now. The issue was officially raised in February’s SAC meeting in which the then Institute Alumni Secretary, Arpit Oswal suggested a nominated selection procedure for his post in coming years as opposed to Open Elections. The suggestion was met with resistance in the meeting with the Director stating that, eventually, all posts in the institute should be elected. The Deputy Director and DoSA subscribed to this school of thought and the idea which had been buzzing for some time now has finally been implemented.

One catalyst to this change has been the conventional selection procedure for OCs and CG/Managers of IBs. The administration for some time has been concerned about wing/friendship ‘dynasties’ being formed in IBs and favouritism occurring in the selection, based on old affiliation, dedication shown to the fest in previous years, etc. Another concern was the spirit of sophies/freshies working to impress seniors in order to pave their way within an IB as opposed to working out of interest while handling their academic curriculum simultaneously. There is also the worry that a student might dedicate most of his/her life from 1st or 2nd year in pursuit of the OC position, which the administration feels should not be the case. Each post should be equally accessible to all the students irrespective of their history within the IB. These factors coupled suggest that a selection procedure which involves more people than just the core team (i.e. the CG/Managers + OCs) needs to be implemented.

Being part of a democratic country and already functioning within a democratic setup, elections for

the IB heads also made sense. We are aware that there are many concerns that students have with this system also. However with institute wide elections, we increased the entropy of the procedure and instead of giving the selection power to just 2 dozen people, the collective wisdom of 7000 will be at play, making it much harder for result-affecting gangs to form.

Besides, there have been complaints from within the student body on accountability of these team members. There have been allegations of them claiming prizes for themselves, being unreasonable in their selection interviews for CGs/Managers. These complaints have been taken to the Dean, SA office. With the openness brought about by institute elections, every OC will be accountable to the student body. Any wrongdoing on their part can be brought out into the open by any student and the IB will be answerable for it. The involvement of faculty in CG/Manager interviews is to ensure fair trials and prevent misuse of the power vested in the outgoing teams.

As for concerns that the quality of these fests may suffer, the voting students are the ones who shall lose out if the OCs they vote in are not the best candidates. The onus is quite obviously on the entire student community to make the best choice, and lest they falter, the institute shall collectively suffer.

There have been many efforts to resist this change. But in the end, democracy shall serve us in our best interests. It is a sustainable solution to our problems - the students elect their heads, the heads work for the students, and if they falter, the students can bring them down. No faculty intervention is required to hear complaints and mete out justice. Students should appreciate this system, the power it vests in them to demand what they want from the festivals and be glad that we are moving towards a complete democracy in the institute. ■

IIT Hospital Improves? ■ Inslght Follows Up

The IITB Hospital has endeavoured to provide the best treatment possible for various ailments that the student community might suffer at any time. But it has been pointed out by the people who have visited the hospital that it lags behind in terms of the infrastructure and staff. Some such problems have been enumerated here, as have been the steps to redress them.

The hospital is currently under the management of Dr. Y.S. Khobragade, who has been promoted to the post of SMO (Senior Medical Officer), while Dr. Nisha Shah is the CMO (Chief Medical Officer). They will overlook the construction of the new block of the hospital which is underway and should probably be over in a year, after which, a phased renovation of the old (existing) block will be undertaken as it is around 45-50 years old. The dental facilities have been refurbished and upgraded to ensure much better dental care.

The doctors and medical officers were not receiving the benefits of the Dynamic Assured Career Progression (DACP) scheme and were receiving lower salaries. The hospital administration pushed for the implementation of the scheme and it went through. The IIT administration is very supportive and sympathetic towards the hospital and fund allocation has never been an issue; availability of man power is the crux of the problem. There has been recruitment at the nurse level, but the hospital administration has pressed for more staff, technicians, nurses, attendants, medical officers basically at all levels. Both short term and long term requirements have been forwarded and Professor Natraj is hopeful in this regard.

In light of some laboratory accidents, the departments/

centres have requested the hospital to maintain an emergency response team. The HHA Committee is currently looking into it. Prof Natraj, who is on the committee, also wants a state-of-the-art ambulance, but again, there is apparently a lack of paramedics who can man the same. He also talked about plans for a wireless communication network in the ambulance and the departments to track the current location of an ambulance. Such a system has been tried and tested with Tum Tums and the committee is reviewing the feasibility of a similar system for the ambulance. Plans of First-Aid training camps, mandatory regular medical checkups are also in the offing.

Regarding review of doctors, Professor Natraj did mention that it was quite essential. The reason for the absence of such a provision was that he himself was not aware of the medical technicalities involved and will therefore have to sit with the CMO and decide upon how to go about an audit.

Apart from this, plans to set up an email feedback system with the help of the CC are also afoot. Most importantly, Prof Natraj is willing to have an Open House with the various communities on campus - Students, Faculty, NASA etc. The HHA Committee is the interface between the campus community and the hospital. The student representatives of the institute along with a limited no. of students from each hostel could be called together to give their feedback to the hospital authorities, the committee members and the Dy. Director. ■

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Student Jury

Earlier this year, a group of students in the institute approached the Dean SA to create a student jury for matters concerning security issues in the campus. The need for such a student jury arose from the stringent security rules being imposed on students; for example the restriction on untimely interactions between students of opposite genders. In addition to this, some students claim to have been troubled by security, for small issues such as walking in the institute late at night. These students believed that such rules were unwarranted in our institute. The increased security was meant to safeguard the institute from outside attacks, not to be a means for moral policing in the institute. For most of us, it is often difficult to approach the Dean personally and have such issues sorted out, hence there was a need felt for an independent body in place which could help in suitable redressals of student problems.

These students initially proposed an idea of having a student jury which would consist of 3 representatives from the students’ side, and 2 from the security side. They proposed that two students who were a part of the GS Council and one student, who has not held any elected position at the institute level (but someone who was impartial and recommended by the Dean of Student Affairs) would form the student representatives. In addition to this, they proposed two ways of implementing the student jury. As a ‘Jury for First Landing’, or as a ‘Jury for Appeals’.

In the first case, all incidents would go to the student jury initially. In case of a unanimous agreement about the nature of the case being worthy of a punishment, the student(s) involved would have a fine placed on them, or have DAC proceedings initiated on them, as is the case presently. However, if the jury feels that the case is worth a hearing, the case is deliberated on by the jury, with the student/s involved being given the right to present their side of the case before the jury. The jury would then decide the quantum of punishment, and would recommend such an action to the DoSA.

The second proposed implementation of the student jury is like that of an appeals court. In such cases, if the punished student feels, that the punishment/fine has been unjust, he could appeal to the student jury. The jury, in cases where they unanimously feel that the punishment was justified could dismiss the case and in cases where they find that the appeal was unnecessary, could even impose a stricter fine. However, in cases where at least one member feels that there is a need to review the punishment, the student will have the opportunity to present his case in front of the student jury, and if the jury finds the punishment harsh, they could recommend a reduced punishment to the DoSA.

While the concept of having a student jury sounds good, the idea is romantic and whether the institute is open to such a move remains unforeseen. However, since all the GS’s are our elected representatives, approaching them in most cases is far easier than approaching the Dean. Thus, if implemented well, a student jury could benefit many students, who are at times unjustly fined. It remains to be seen if the current GS’s would take this idea further, and implement such a student jury in the campus.

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A Mess(y) Affair

Here at IITB (and possibly at most hostels in the country), mess food often tends to be regarded with a certain degree of contempt. Most people end up eating mess food simply because there isn't enough time (or money) for anything else. With the same dishes being repeated week after week, year after year, even the initial novelty is soon lost. Unfortunately, the problem with the messes is not confined only to the taste of the food that is served, or to the fact that it is highly repetitive, but also that the food is generally very oily and lacks many of the key components that make up a balanced diet.

In order to assess the current situation of the hostel messes and to find ways to improve on them, Insight decided to call 2 dieticians to review the messes of Hostels 2 and 3, and to take their professional opinion on where the messes could use some improvement. The first dietician was Dr Aditi Dey, visiting dietician at the IIT Hospital and Powai Hospital, who came to review the H3 mess. The second, Dr. Richa Anand, from Hiranandani Hospital, came to review the H2 mess. Both of them looked at the following aspects—menu, how the menu was changed, the way the food was prepared, the way it was stored and the general cleanliness of the kitchen. Their combined recommendations have been summarised below:

Nutritional Recommendations

Mess food tends to lack many important components of a well balanced diet. It may also have some components in greater quantities than required. Some of the observations and recommendations made are:

- **Vitamins:** - The Vitamin content in the food can be increased by adding fruits and vegetables to the diet, as well as adding sprouts. Vegetables can be added by grinding them and adding them to rotis (palak ki roti), or serving them in rice (carrot rice).
- **Oil:** - The oil content in mess food is higher than needed. The amount of oil can be decreased by giving lesser oil to the mess workers. Fried food can be replaced by fruit chaat etc. In most cases, oil usage can be dramatically cut down without affecting the food quality/taste in any way. Vegetables should be cooked with as little oil as possible.
- **Fibre:** - The current fibre content in the mess food was considered very low, which is harmful in the long run. Sprouts, beans, vegetables are a good source of fibre. One fruit per day is an important requirement. Salads are a good source of vegetables. Using soya atta or a rice pan can also increase roughage content in the food.

- **Sugar:** - The sugar content in most drinks is very high. Rasna can be replaced with nimbu paani, lassi etc. Desserts should also not be served more than twice a week.
- **Protein:** - The protein content in the food was deemed sufficient owing to the large quantities of daal and paneer that are served. Additionally, beans should be served in the meals.

Apart from nutritional recommendations, the dieticians remarked that even if the food quality was good, if it isn't stored properly, the overall quality would suffer. The basic cleanliness level in the messes could be better. The food should not be kept on the floor. Instead, steel racks should be placed to put the food on shelves; this will have the added advantage of increasing the space available for storage. Floor mats should be placed as well.

The dieticians also had specific suggestions for every meal:

- **Breakfast:** - Fruits should be offered at breakfast. Eggs are very good. Porridge and upma could also be added. Cornflakes should be served daily with milk.
- **Lunch/Dinner:** - The amount of fried foods and oil content should be reduced in the dishes. Quantity of paneer could also be reduced. Dishes such as Chole Bhature or chicken should instead be replaced with palak paneer and beans/sprouts.
- **Tiffin:** - Tiffin is the meal that needs to be changed the most. Most of the dishes served have a lot of oil in them, and do not contain anything of nutritional value, such as Maggi or vada pav. Dishes such as sprouts, cheese sandwiches and fruit salads should be served instead.

The review of the Hostel 2 mess was good. H2 has a decent menu for the week that seems to incorporate most of the nutrients that are needed for a balanced diet. Also, they have a large number of dishes in the menu which are circulated on a weekly basis and allow a sense of variety to come into the food being served. The condition of the food that was being brought was very good. We hope that other hostel messes also follow this example, so that messes all over the campus come to be regarded with respect and admiration. ■

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ISMP – The Silent Guardian ■ Continued from Page 3

Challenges

- English Remedial Classes were for the first time jointly run by the ISMP this year. As this runs as an additional class, slot clashes with institute courses prevented students from making the most of this programme. While this shall be addressed in the coming year, another aim is to separate students based on their comfort level with English so as to tutor at two levels of difficulty.
- The novel idea of 'Bridge Courses' was introduced this year to allow freshmen expecting a low grade or a fail grade in a course to drop the course and instead pursue a "Bridge Course" at a lower difficulty level, with the approval of faculty and parents. While approximately 20 freshmen actually availed of this facility, the lack of prescribed structure to the concept and no permanent faculty attached to these courses proved major hindrances.

Potential of the ISMP

As a recognised body in the institute, the ISMP has the power to bring in policy changes for the betterment of the student community. As far as the institute culture goes, if at all anybody in the institute has a

shot at changing the IITian attitude and mindset in the long term, it is the ISMP. Considering that every undergraduate freshman is influenced by a mentor for at least 1 year, it is fair to say that the example this person sets and the advice he/she metes out would mould the freshman's thinking.

Some students are of the opinion that the ISMP has the potential to help academically struggling students in a much greater capacity than it presently does. One of the core goals of the ISMP is to prevent FR grades, but rather than taking reactive measures such as dropping a course, more proactive redress routes need to be explored by the mentor and mentee.

Of course, there is an extent to which mentors can guide and help the students, beyond which any help would border on spoon feeding. ■

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Leisure Corner

GBM – General Body Meeting or Great Big Myth?

In what can only be termed as shocking news, it has recently come to our notice that the famed General Body Meeting in which the entire impeachment drama purportedly took place, never actually happened!

Sources tell us that on the day the GBM was supposed to have taken place, an MI vs Techfest cricket match was actually happening in the OAT. "What GBM?" was the response of Mr. Kumar Kislay of the old Mood Indigo Team. "No such thing was happening that day. I remember clearly, because I got hit for six sixes in an over. That is not something you forget easily." He added ruefully. The match, sponsored by E-Cell, was a charity event, held to raise money for underprivileged children in Nigeria.

We tried to contact Harsh Jhaveri, the outgoing GS Cult and the star of the fictional GBM for comment, but all he had to say was, "That is just your opinion. I can't do anything about it. I don't think you understand the way things work in the institute."

We finally got a clear answer when we talked to Nikunj Jha, ex-chief editor of Insight. Our findings were mind-blowing to say the very least. Given below is the transcript from a conversation our reporter had with Nikunj.

Reporter: Nikunj, there have been reports saying that the GBM never happened. You wrote an entire article on it. What is the truth?

Nikunj: Of course it didn't happen. I thought any smart person could have figured that out. Such things don't happen in our institute.

R.: So why was the event reported in Insight?

N.: We were actually doing a social experiment. We wanted to see how people would react if we told them something like this had happened. I am very proud to say that our experiment succeeded brilliantly.

R.: But what was this social experiment?

N.: Er... Umm...

R.: There was no social experiment, was there? What was the real reason behind the article?

N.: (breaking down and sobbing) I just wanted to write an opinionated article. Most of the articles in Insight are so boring. No one ever reads them. And one can't really have opinionated articles about charity cricket matches. So, I got together with my 6 reporters and we decided to have some fun at the insti's expense.

R.: Is that it? Are you sure that is all?

N.: (breaking down further) You got me. It was actually all just a publicity stunt. My valfi was coming up, and I was afraid that someone else's valfi would turn out to be more awesome than mine. So I had to do something big, something that would gain me instant popularity.

R.: So nothing, I repeat NOTHING related to Harsh Jhaveri happened that day?

N.: There's no smoke without a fire. Harsh Jhaveri did get impeached but from the post of umpire of the charity match. But that is a story for another day. ■

All names in the above article have been changed to protect the identity of the concerned people. Any resemblance to any person dead, living, impeached or unimpeached is purely incidental. For more juicy gossip, contact Mukund Madhav at mmv1301@gmail.com

To Free or Not to Free: A Re-look at our Rules

How many of us have cursed our fates for being fined for being caught with that bottle of fine whiskey? What about when we've tried sneaking in that special someone into our rooms at night? Over the past year there have been quite a few new rules imposed on us that have raised quite a few eyebrows. This trend here almost led to a 'black t-shirt protest' in one case, when a rule was passed against "holding hands in dark places at unearthly hours". To get some perspective, we thought we would see how some of our counterparts in other colleges here and abroad were faring.

Us and Them

First, we took up some of the issues that most of us hold close to our hearts in college, and looked at the corresponding regulation in some of the other contemporary institutions.

Looking at the table below, we notice that we are actually much better off than most other colleges in India. In SRCC, students aren't allowed to complain about the hostel administration, and actually face the threat of being removed from the hostel if they do so. New students there would wonder if they had just stepped into China! On the other hand, an institute like IIM-Bangalore lies at the other end of the spectrum. It has absolutely no curfews, and when it comes to alcohol, they actually have official parties organized every 15 days!

These rules were also compared with some of the universities in the US. For example, in University of Texas, Austin, which is not a walled campus, ONLY

state laws have to be followed. In fact, the local bus service there has a special bus running from bars downtown to various locations where students live so they can come home safe – they even keep barf bags in them! Students there, work five days a week and take the other two days completely off. This ingrained culture, and the high cost of education, ensures that people act quite responsibly. According to Gautam Salhotra, an IITB alumnus at Univ. of Texas, Austin, their college system is better than ours, "in the sense that you get all the freedom and the responsibility, so you learn to balance things from early on". Whether this is achievable in India, given our current mindset and culture, is debatable.

Introspecting

We thought we would check out a couple of our own regulations in a bit more detail:

Internet ban – A few years ago, the institute blocked LAN from 12 am to 7 am, breaking the hearts of scores of nocturnal gamers and "social networkers". However, while a partial LAN ban to prevent gaming addiction might be justified, is it the same with internet? Today, the internet has become almost a necessity for any sort of work to be done well and computer rooms just don't cut it here, for various reasons. These range from the effort involved in going there and in transferring data, to the number and condition of the computers there. Chatting and time spent on social networks is the other reason provided. While this may increase if the ban is lifted, the number of people influenced, and the amount they are influenced to, just does not justify the ban on internet at night.

Alcohol policy – Yes, we all know alcohol may not be in our "best interests". But, it is a very important part of college life, and freedom to drink above the age limit is recognized as state law. Now, given the fact that we have a large population of students below the legal drinking age of 21, in addition to the fact that we are a government educational institute, it seems understandable that the institute forbids alcohol within the premises. However, of late, there have been many instances of people being fined, just for being drunk on campus. If these people are disturbing the peace, or causing damage to property, that has to be dealt with separately. Being drunk, in itself, should not be a criterion to be fined. Thus, this is also a rule that requires a re-look.

A last thought

Now, all rules that liberalize, seek to increase student freedom, which implicitly recognizes more maturity in students. On the other hand, institutes like IIT impose certain (somewhat reasonable) restrictions "in the interest of students", when they feel that students do not have the required sense to exercise that freedom (like the partial LAN ban). However, there is a need to continuously review our rules so that students are given as much freedom as possible, keeping in mind the mentality of this age group, ensuring that all of us are kept aware and satisfied. ■

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Rules	IIT-B	IIT-K	SRCC, Delhi	BITS, Goa	IIM-B
LAN Ban	12 AM – 7 AM	LAN Ban: 12 AM – 6 AM Internet Ban: None	They do not have LAN nor internet	None, 50MB/day download limit	None
Alcohol Allowed	No	No	No, but not strictly implemented	No	Yes
Curfew	No, sign in after 12 am	No	7 PM for girls 11 PM for guys	10:30 PM	None
Hostel entry for opposite sex	Till 10 PM	Till 12 AM	Even interaction frowned upon	Not Allowed	Anytime
Campus entry for guest	Till 11 PM	Till 12 AM	–	–	Anytime
Campus entry for alumni	Till 11 PM	Anytime, but no hostel entry	–	–	Anytime
Private Vehicle	No	No	–	No, not even cycles	Yes

April Fool – You or me? ■ Leisure Corner

Were you one of the 600 odd people who had filled in the World Cup Final Ticket form sent by the PRO? Have you been ridiculed by your friends for being so naive as to believe something like that? Here is news that will totally blow your mind! Ms. JJ from the PRO has recently revealed to Insight that the first mail was actually sent by her! Read the excerpt from a chat we had with her:

Me: So Ma'am... How do you feel about students misusing your account for April Fool's Day pranks?
PRO: It is very disturbing indeed. Students have no respect anymore. And then they complain about the authorities being strict.

Me: What do you think their motivation was for writing that mail?
PRO: Isn't it obvious? They were doing - what do you guys call it? RG...Yeah... they wanted the tickets for themselves, so they sent that mail about it being a hoax mail.

Me: What?! Do you mean to say that the first mail was actually yours?
PRO: Yeah. I did have those tickets. And I sent that mail. I don't know who sent the second mail about it being a hoax mail.

Me: Shit! I should have filled the form. So Ma'am what is being done about the whole issue?

PRO: Well, I sent a mail saying that the mail about my mail being a hoax mail was a hoax mail but no one believed me. People don't even believe my mails about symposiums now. This episode has been very bad for the PR of the PRO.

Me: Right. So I think the biggest question in front of us is, what happened to those 50 tickets?
PRO: Oh those? They disappeared mysteriously from my office the next day. I saw pictures of some students at Wankhede on Facebook after the match. Doubtless it must have been them.

Me: Can you tell us who they were?
PRO: No, they're all very important people in the institute and I shouldn't really be taking names. You of all people should know what happens to people who take names in print right? #opinionatedarticle

Me: Thank you Ma'am for all your great insights.
PRO: I can't thank you for the same though. ■

Blame your frustration on Mukund Madhav at mmv1301@gmail.com

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