

What's Inside

- 2 The XX Survey
App Cell: The New Kid on the Block
- 3 New Academic Registration System
Past Registration Issues
- 4 The Khadke Glassi Story
The Path Less Taken continued
- 5 The Off Campus Placement Policy
The Placement Reformation Contd.
- 6 The SAC Constitution Reforms
- 7 The GS Report Card
The Polt Algorithm
- 8 Tech @ Insti over the years
Lookback - Energy GC
- 9 The ABC of Applying Off Campus
Scholarships - What and How?
- 10 Valediction Ceremonies World Over
Awards 2010: Procedure and Issues
- 11 The Leisure Page:
FB Quiz - How PAF Enthru Are You?
The PAF Algorithm
- 12 Day in the Life of an Election Officer
Day in the life of a Blacklisted
Person

One question that continuously nags most of us is - What do I need to get a job of my choice? Inevitably, for most of us, our actions are influenced by an image we want to create or a resume we want to be able to write at the end of our IIT life. The road for most is the oft-beaten path that countless students before us have taken up - one that we assume we're supposed to follow too. The wisdom of our alumni has told us that clarity of thought is very important before you jump into any profession - and each one of us must do some preliminary soul searching before making such a life decision. Everyone said the same

SHOUTBACK

We NEED Feedback.
Help us improve, the way you
want us to. InsIghT also invites
freelance articles

Email
insight@iitb.ac.in

Newsgroup
iitb.insight

Web
<http://gymkhana.iitb.ac.in/~insight>,
<http://insightiitb.org>

THE PLACEMENT REFORMATION : THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Placements for the year 2010-2011 are going to be handled in a restructured way. InsIghT finds out how, and why

The Placement System for the year 2010-2011 is undergoing major overhauls, enhancements and modifications to supposedly enable it to cater to the needs and desires of the two major stakeholders in the process - the students and the recruiting organizations. A part of these enhancements include a restructure of the entire placement team, currently consisting of six Institute Placement Nominees (B.Tech, Dual Degree, M.Tech, PhD, MSc and Inter-Disciplinary Programmes) and 41 Department Placement Nominees, representing each programme and department in the institute. The present model proposes a restructure of the team into the following three categories:

1. Placement Managers
2. Company Coordinators
3. Department Placement and Training Coordinators

The new structure of the placement team shows a decentralization of responsibility as compared to the previous year. Here's looking at the newly defined roles of the placement team members.

Department Placement Coordinator:

They are responsible for only the in-campus training activities for their batch. They no longer have the responsibility of contacting companies but their role in training the batch for placements is a vital one. They shall remain responsible for conducting workshops and technical training sessions, resume verification, inter department GDs, organising UG-PG interaction sessions. They can also conduct "buddy talks" by alumni who have been working with a particular company for 2-3 yrs, so that placement candidates get an in-depth picture of the working of the company.

Company Coordinator: They are responsible for undertaking all interactions with recruiters. They will be representing the placement office and IIT students to companies of

their respective cluster. Coordination with the Department Placement Coordinators to get feedback from the batch in deciding which companies are to be contacted is an essential part of their role this year. They are responsible for adding to the list of companies that visit the campus and building and maintaining relations with their set of companies.

Placement Manager: The role of the Placement Manager shall differ from the role of the Institute Placement Nominee in the sense that their individual interaction with companies will be highly reduced this year. Their primary task would be to ensure complete coordination between the Company Coordinators and Department Placement Coordinators in the interest of achieving best placements for the batch and to oversee the work of the DPCs in development of the right skill set among their batch mates. Other responsibilities like representing their programme (B.Tech/DD/MSc.) in policy decisions and final scheduling during placements remain the same as last year.

RATIONALE

The two principle factors that led to the current restructure of the placement team are the following:

1. **Inadequacy of student preparation:** This year, there were as many as 20 firms (until April 1 2010) that did not recruit a single student on campus. Considering each company on an average was to hire 3 students, these were 60 jobs lost straightaway. Post recession, most companies have raised their bar for recruiting students and unfortunately the institute students were found to be grossly inadequate in their preparation towards placements. This ranged from poor communication skills and subject matter knowledge to a general lackadaisical attitude towards placements, unclear vision for themselves and low awareness about the company whose placement they were sitting

Twenty companies returning empty handed from the institute because of a lack of quality students is a more profound problem than it appears - in the long run, companies may choose to discontinue coming to campus.

Student awareness about company profiles was low last year. Hence, students ended up signing all possible JAF's that they were eligible for, only to turn down companies that shortlisted them in the interview round. It is essential that sufficient details about company profiles be provided to students in coming years so that they are able to make an informed choice while filling out forms. Besides, students placed this year could be contacted in the less busy May-July period by the Placement Team to collect details of the interview process, types of questions asked and qualities these companies want in potential recruits.

for. The present system thus entrusts the role of preparing the students sitting for placements solely to the Department Placement Managers.

2. **The attitude of Department Placement Nominees:** The attitude of the DPNs this year was also under question, especially after December, when most of the placement nominees themselves were placed. This apparent lack of motivation on part of some of the placement nominees resulted in far fewer companies coming towards the end of Phase 1 and in the most part of Phase 2. Simple analysis will show that there were 126 companies that visited campus in Phase 1 (Dec 1 - Dec 26) and only 82 companies in Phase 2 (Dec 29 - present). While it can be argued that most of the companies visiting campus in Phase 1 are regular recruiters, that however does not justify such a subdued response from companies in Phase 2, and obviously the DPNs have to share a major chunk of the blame.

Continued on page 5

THE PATH LESS TAKEN

IIT opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Are we really doing all we can with them?

InsIghT went round and spoke to those who've explored unconventional avenues

thing - try out many things while you're in IIT, it's the best platform and the best time to experiment. We went around and spoke to some people who've done the very same - to have found their calling and are working towards achieving their goals.

Nithya Subramanian, a fifth year Engineering Physics student will be going to University of Columbia this fall to begin her MS in Journalism. Nithya says that she's almost been obsessed with finding something that she was truly passionate about, to turn into a career from the time she was sixteen. She gave dance and music a try before she came to IIT and explored careers in research, consulting and product development by way of internships. After all these options had been exhausted she finally hit upon writing. She discovered that people liked her blog, encouraging her to enter creative writing competitions. Wins boosted her confidence and that's when she began thinking of journalism as a career option. Come third year, she began to blog more regularly, did freelance work for a few magazines and interned at the Indian Express one winter. Her stint as InsIghT editor helped in terms of experimentation with forms of media and improving her grammar.

Nithya feels that as IITians, our degree gives us something to fall back upon in case the venture fails. While several insecurities, including

whether she's good enough to pursue writing, monetary issues, and the fact that most people who will be with her in journalism would have a formal training do nag her, she hopes the IITian way of being able to stretch a little knowledge a very long way will help her out.

Eeshan Malhotra, a fourth year civil engineering student, has decided to pursue a career in Visual Communication. He calls it the field where "Technology meets Art", ideal for an art cum design cum technology enthusiast like him. Eeshan knew from the beginning that Civil Engineering was not his cup of tea. In his quest to figure out whether art and design as a profession interested him, he decided to intern with Ogilvy and Mathers, a leading international advertising, marketing and PR agency (the company behind the successful Zoo-Zoo, Fevicol, and Cadbury ad campaigns). Fortunately, Eeshan felt that he had found his calling after this internship. Eeshan is capitalising on his free time in IIT passionately exploring this field by spending 5-6 hours a day learning more about the various aspects and techniques of art. While he admits that the financial risks involved made this a difficult decision to take, he says he is determined to take it up and plans to do his Masters in Fine Arts.

Snehl Gautam, a fifth year chemical engineering student, is a passionate actor and intends

to pursue theatre no matter which job he lands in. For Snehl, the institute has been his launch pad; his win (Best Actor) at Mood Indigo 2008 landed him the prestigious internship at Actor Prepares, Anupam Kher's Acting Academy. This is where he got a taste of professional theatre. He says that his encounters with struggling upcoming actors have made this internship the most memorable experience of his life. This internship instilled a lot of confidence in Snehl, and elated, he tells us, "After that internship, I figured out where we stand in the professional world and believe me when I say, we are not that bad." Snehl discovered his talent only through the opportunities in the institute. He has experimented with different genres like musical, dance drama, monologues, storytelling etc which helped him understand the basics of acting and script writing. He intends to pursue acting side by side by joining a theatre company.

Vivek Khandelwal, a fourth year MSc Chemistry Student, always believed in "doing things passionately and being passionate about the things he did". He was sure that he wanted to work for himself so being an entrepreneur was an obvious choice for him. As the first step towards his goal, he started with a small idea of an elite online portal for Company CEOs. Unfortunately this start-up did not take off, but for Vivek this failure was his first lesson on entrepreneurship. In his third year Vivek undertook the 'Tata Jagriti Yatra' (an annual train journey across India to meet with and learn from bottom-up innovators and entrepreneurs).

Continued on page 4

Introduction

After the everlasting LAN Ban rule debate, next in line would be that on whether the XX rule ought to stay or not. While some think that it is a rather juvenile method, hardly fit for students who are legally “adults”, others find a rule that gives you a fail grade for low attendance as very harsh. The student body raised the XX issue in the Senate and moved for a change in the rule, whether it be relaxing it a bit or implementing alternatives to ensure attendance or penalize the lack of it. While the Senate accepted that the XX Rule needs to be changed, it did not agree to any of the alternatives suggested. As of now, therefore, the XX rule stays, prompting us to gather opinions from both faculty and students about it.

Faculty

While the XX rule might stay, there are not many professors who give the XX grade, nor do they take attendance. On the other hand of the spectrum are professors who are very strict about attendance and enforce the XX rule stringently.

Prof Puranik of Mechanical Engg, who does not insist on attendance, was very clear about his stance. Universities in the US, he said, do not enforce any such rule and students have all the freedom they want. Having been through such a system, he finds it pointless to force students, who are adults, to attend classes. He feels that attending classes does not inherently imply good grades (a good textbook will suffice for any course), but the discussion that goes on in class might give a better insight into the subject. He finds it reasonable that a student attend all lectures of a course for the first month of the semester and then choose whether to go for the lectures after that. As regards to the suggestion about conducting extra classes/handing out assignments to those who are slacking on attendance, he said that the idea, though decent, will only lead to unnecessary work load on professors and TAs.

On the other hand, Prof P Date (ME) was of the opinion that the XX grade should be awarded to those students with low attendance. He said that the XX rule is like an instrument to keep students under check, to keep them attending lectures and hopefully, end up learning a few things. He went on to add that in foreign universities they do not have the XX rule. As long as a student secures 60% in a course irrespective of anything he is awarded a pass grade. But unlike them, professors at IIT consider themselves responsible for the student's well-being and academic performance.

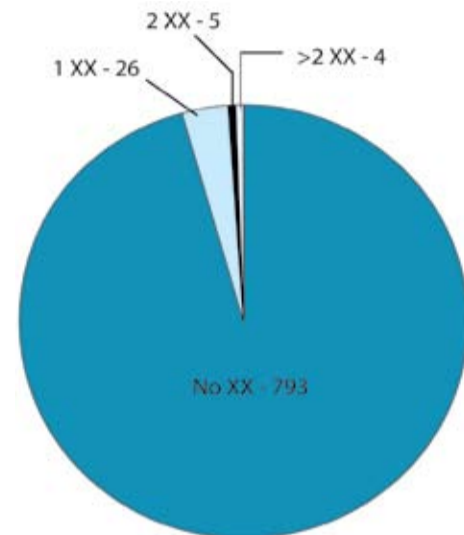
THE XX SURVEY: TO BE OR NOT TO BE

InsIghT discovers what the student community has to say on the XX rule and its proposed alternatives...

When we pointed out that those who forcibly attend lectures tend to occupy the last bench and sleep/create nuisance, he quickly replied, “You can take the horse to the water but you can't make him drink”. For him, the XX rule is simply something that makes students attend

More than 80% of all respondents estimated that their average attendance across courses was over 60%. The survey results, hence, may be somewhat skewed, and standard disclaimers apply.

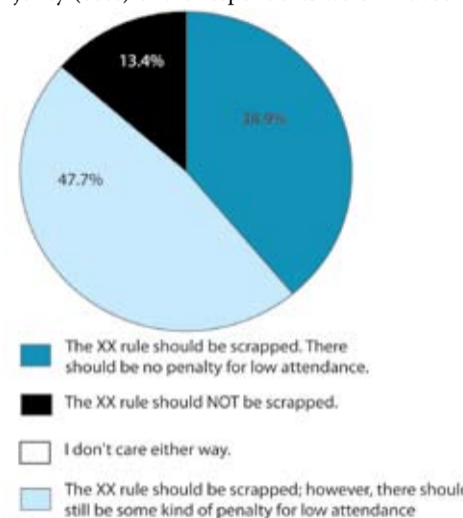
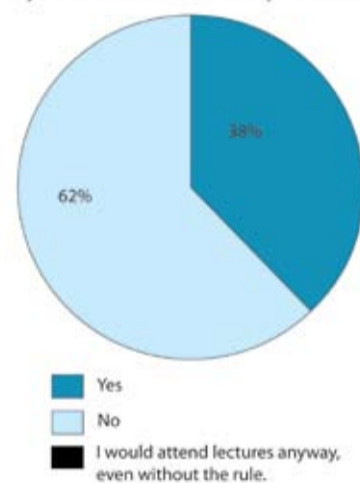
Regarding the XX rule, an overwhelming majority (80%) of the respondents were in favour



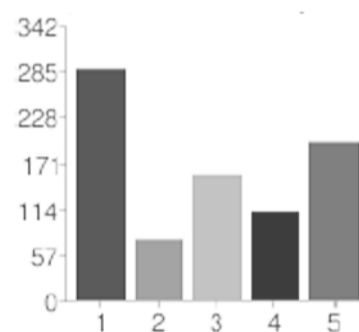
classes. He isn't entirely strict with the borderline cases, but does recognize the merits of the rule.

Survey Results

To set on record the opinions of the student community on the XX rule, InsIghT conducted an online survey. A total of 833 responses were received; however, of these, only 35 respondents (about 4%) had actually ever got an XX grade. Have you ever been thankful to the XX rule for having forced you to attend lectures of some particular course?



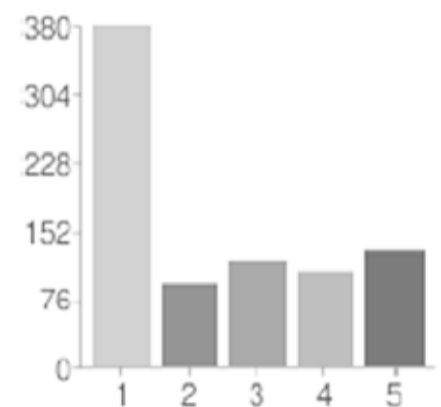
of scrapping it, with 12% in favour of retaining it and 8% “did not care either way”. However, contrary to our expectations, there is no clear consensus on whether IIT should be enforcing attendance in any manner: 44% said that the XX rule should be scrapped but attendance be ensured by some other means. The figures quoted are given as a percentage of total number of responses recieved in the survey and not as a percentage of a total number of responses to the particular question.



Along with marksheets, sending a copy of a student's attendance records to his parents

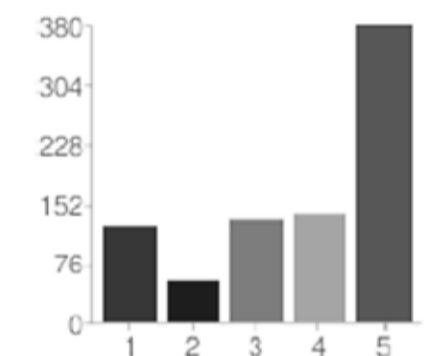
When asked whether they were ever thankful to the XX rule for having made them attend a particular course, 28% said “yes” and 45% “no”; the remaining said they would attend most lectures irrespective of whether the XX rule existed. The fact that 1/4th of the student population is actually thankful to the XX rule - and the fact that possibly many more have benefited from it - is definitely worth considering.

In the survey, we had listed a few of the proposed alternatives of the XX rule and asked respondents to rate them on a scale of 1 to 5: the idea of sending a copy of a student's attendance records to his parents had an average score of 2.82 / 5, that of introducing grade penalties /



Introducing grade penalties / marks for attendance.

keeping marks for attendance had an average of 2.42 / 5. As expected, the idea of lowering the attendance requirement from 80% to 60% was extremely popular, with an average score of 3.75 / 5.



Lowering the requirement from 80% to 60%

Antariksh Bothale, Harishchandra Ramdas and Urmil Shah may be contacted at antariksh.bothale@iitb.ac.in, harishchandra@iitb.ac.in and urmilshah@iitb.ac.in respectively

1. Aim

The App Cell, IIT Bombay, is meant to ease and facilitate the process of apping for final year students. It also aims at spreading information about apping to junior students who may be interested in this.

The App Cell will have two major functions – information dissemination and coordination. Under information dissemination, it will conduct sessions with previous app junta in every department, it will collect textual information about apping in different departments, and will also provide information about common steps in the application steps like preparation for the GRE. It will also use the knowledge base of professors to help in both networking and choosing the area in which to apply.

It is to be noted that the coordination function of the App Cell is not a forcing or a compulsory one. We recognize that, unlike in placements, it is not possible to enforce a list of universities where a person will apply. Thus, the App Cell will only coordinate insofar as providing a common forum for discussion of University Choices is concerned. It will also seek to provide amenities like sending applications to a given university together (for people across departments) and getting cheaper deals on packet sending.

THE APP CELL: NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

InsIghT finds out about this new initiative by the outgoing GSAA

2. Structure

The App Cell will, every year, be under an Institute Secretary, Academic Affairs. He/she shall work in coordination with the Department General Secretaries to identify a Professor in each department who can help with the App Cell.

3. Functions:

The following will be the functions of the App Cell:

A. App Forum Structure

- This is an invitation-only forum for people who are interested in apping in a given department and alumni who had apped in the past.
- Only registered users can even see topics
- Alumni will be invited to join

Functions

- Interaction between app junta and alumni of a department
- Doubt clearing of app enthu junior junta
- Common queries and help on GRE/TOEFL, etc

- Coordination between people sending applications packets to different universities
- Discussion with seniors on how PhD life is/ what career options are there post PhD
- Juniors getting fundae on PTs/Seminars/ etc, which are important components of the application

B. App Site

The App Cell will maintain and update the internal-only app site, which will have the following information:

- A PPT on the basics of apping in each Department along with a timeline
- GRE resources – tips and tricks by seniors
- TOEFL resources
- Videos of app junta from each departments
- Articles on each part of the application process, ordered by department

C. Support

- GRE preparation classes (about 15-20 sessions) to practice wordlists, do practice tests and share techniques
- TOEFL training sessions with the help of CDEEP
- Exploration of a deal with courier companies to send packets through a single courier

- Exploration of a policy to refund part of the app fees on a successful accept (through alumni)

D. Documentation and statistics

Given that apping is a profitable career choice for many IITians, and that there are many junior students interested in it at least initially, one task of the App Cell will be to publish statistics of people apping every year and to document their activities, so that information about this is made available to juniors, enabling them to make an informed choice of career.

E. Professor involvement

The App Cell shall, at the beginning of every GSAA tenure, ensure that there is one Professor in every Department who shall act as app advisor in that department. The advantages of such an arrangement are:

- Gives a chance to juniors to explore and know about different areas in which to app
- Helps in networking with professors elsewhere
- Helps in knowing more concrete figures about the relative strengths of departments in different universities

The Biswas committee envisaged a curriculum where people would have the freedom to choose their academic path with only minimum constraints being imposed by the system. Hence, it introduced reduced load and more flexibility in terms of course choices. That combined with minors and honours programs does give a student the chance to pursue his interests apart from the compulsory courses. While the Biswas committee took a mature train of thought whilst deciding its objectives, have the proposed changes been implemented in their true spirit? InslghT finds out:

The Problem

Each student receives a list of courses per semester which are mandatory. A few institute and department elective slots exist which are meant to be filled by the student to his benefit. However, a common problem is that the elective slot is open in one semester, while the preferred course runs in another. Also, many times, there are slot clashes between compulsory courses and courses of interest. In such a case, what if the student wishes to do the elective and take up the compulsory course at a later stage?

In the ideal scenario, students should be able to do any course in any semester they want as long as they have cleared all the prerequisites for the course. They should also be able to adjust their courses so that they can take up 6 month internship programs or accommodate student exchange programs with ease. While the current scenario does offer the above features to a limited extent, much of the flexibility that the Biswas committee intended to offer has disappeared in the implementation stage.

The Solution

General Secretary, Academic Affairs tells us of a plan to start provisional registration for the coming autumn semester from the start of April with a new interface on ASC. On the registration page, a student would see a list of courses he needs to complete eventually to get his/her final degree. The page would also list the following –

- prerequisites for each course
- the list of courses the student has already done
- the courses a student cannot do because he/she has not completed all the prerequisites
- the usual semester (spring or autumn) in which the course is run.

The student then has to choose the “bucket” of courses he wishes to take for the next semester. For example, he/she could choose to do 3 particular core courses, a minor course, a department elective and 2 lab courses.

This system proposes to conduct the registration process in three iterations:

First Iteration - The provisional registrations shall carry on till the 1st week of May, after which departments would be asked to float as many courses as possible from the list. In the worst case scenario the department

ments will end up running the same courses that they planned to in the absence of this new system.

Second Iteration - This list of finalized running courses would then be made available to all the students and all those who had selected courses which are not running will be asked to update their registration. The updated registrations would be sent to the departments around the last week of May to minimize slot clashes. Slot clashes involving students with backlogs would be given priority in this system.

Third Iteration - The final slots would then be made available to all the students by the second week of June and students who still have clashing slots would get to change their registrations.

This new system apart from introducing flexibility also takes care of the registration chaos that happens in the beginning of this semester. The academic office no longer has to enter the prescribed courses for every student, reducing errors from their side. However, concentrated efforts would be required before the start of April to get a finalized list of

courses that are part of the core curriculum from all departments. The last date for registration would be pre-poned as compared to earlier and would be 5 days from the start of the semester. There would be absolutely no course adjustment after this date (except dropping of a course). These radical changes would solve a majority of the problems as the academic office would be almost entirely out of the registration process. However, it does make the process a tad bit tedious and complicated for the students to handle. However, this problem should be solve once the process is streamlined in a few semesters and the students get used to it.

The Student Advisory Board

To help students plan their stay in IIT and collect academic information effectively, the soon-to-be-constituted Student Advisory Body would play a major role. It would consist of one student from each department who is well versed with various issues such as: options available to students, method for adjustment of courses in case of student exchange programs, problems concerning students with backlogs, et cetera. This Dean-authorized body will also assist faculty advisors with their work and ensure transparency by way of a centralized faculty advising body. The body will also send in a report of all ambiguous cases to faculty advisors highlighting relevant rules. It will point out cases wherein the student is correct in taking up the set of courses and where they would have to take a call as to whether to allow him for the current registration or not.

With these new revolutionary schemes, the GSAA is aiming to solve many ideological and implementation issues that the students have with the current system. Hopefully, we will see their positive effects soon.

Manas Rachh (GSAA - UG) may be contacted at manasrachh@iitb.ac.in

The course registration process, though intended to be a matter of few clicks, turned into a rather tedious process this semester. The miscommunication and lack of coordination between the various parties involved caused a few exceptional issues to surface. Here we take a look categorically at the various problems that arose this semester and the causes associated with them -

1. Ambiguity in Rulebook

There is an ambiguity in the rule book where at one place it states that a category 4 student [A student who has failed in more than one course in the two preceding regular registered semesters, but has earned at least 18 credits in each of the semesters] can take up a course in addition to prescribed courses. The next page mentions that a category 4 student can take up the prescribed courses only. The additional course should necessarily be a backlog course.

Due to the large variation in the number of prescribed credits across departments, the rule does not hold fairly for all students. For example, the prescribed credits for an Aerospace Btech student in his 6th semester are 28 (3 theory courses), whereas for EP students they are 33 (5 theory courses). If we consider the more relaxed criteria for maximum allowable credits for a category 4 student, the Aerospace B.Tech. would be allowed to do only 34 credits (4 theory courses) even though the EP category 4 student can do 5 theory courses. This makes the system unfair.

2. Course Overloading Issues

This semester, many students with backlogs were suddenly deregistered from a number of courses. The ASC had misinterpreted the overloading criteria and sent a mail to the faculty-noticees to implement the mistaken overloading rules. Soon after this, faculty advisors started deregistering backlog students from courses based on the criteria specified by the ASC.

The students were asked to fill in a modified course adjustment form and students were then allowed to take up courses following the maximum relaxed criteria across all departments. In some cases, where students had shown exceptional performance in the previous semester, they were allowed to go above the maximum allowable limit. For category 4 students, however, the registration is only provisional subject to their in semester performance. The new overloading rules are:

Category	B.Tech	Dual Degree
I	$X_j + 2C$	$Y_j + C$
II	$X_j + C$	Y_j
III	$X_j + C$	Y_j
IV	$X_j + C$	Y_j
V	$X_j - C$	$Y_j - 2C$

Where X_j/Y_j is the prescribed credits for the semester for B.Techs/Dual Degree and has different implications for different categories.

ASC misinterpreted these rules as follows,

where the number indicates the maximum number of theory courses allowed for that category:

Category	B.Tech	Dual Degree
I	6	6
II	5	5
III	5	5
IV	4	4
V	3	3

3. Mech. 3rd Year Honors Issues

Mechanical department third year students were highly inconvenienced due to lack of information on the courses required for Honors. The ASC was given a fixed list of courses and students couldn't opt for courses of their choice. The students then opted for random courses just to complete their registration. Finally, the registration dates were extended to allow the students to complete their registration process which involved taking permissions from Department HOD,

Dean AP and Academics office [in that order].

4. Minor Registration

Aditya (name changed), who is responsible for updating CPI of students after every semester, was on leave, and hence CPI of 2nd year students was not updated on time. Due to this, minor allocation could not be carried out on time.

5. Institute/HSS Elective Issues

The HSS had floated some courses as institute electives and also called for preregistrations for the same. Some students with lower CPI who registered for the course as institute elective got that course, but the students with higher CPIs who registered for the same under preregistration but not as an institute elective did not. So all the students had to be de-registered and fresh allocation was carried out on basis of CPI.

There were other issues related to Aero Fourth Year DDs, Honor courses, deregistration of students from HS 457 which lead to delays in the registration process, leading to chaos.

In hindsight, one has to look for a probable reason for this sudden introduction of chaos in a system which is well in place since past many years. A big reason for this may be the fact that our Academic office, which is already short staffed, has had to outsource key members to IIT Gandhinagar and IIT Indore, to put their systems in place. Registration problems surface every semester but of late, they have gone beyond being just technical to fundamental. Had that not been the case, a lot of issues could have been settled much earlier. We hope the new system brings some cheer to the hassled students and staff.

Mayur Srinivasan and Mukul Gupta may be contacted srinivasan.mayur@iitb.ac.in and mukul.gupta@iitb.ac.in

All is well. As long as one accepts one's position in life there isn't much reason to complain. To maintain homeostasis one has to accept one's fate and live it eventually.

We're an odd closed community here at IIT Bombay. You have all sorts of people in here- your students and faculty, administrative and managerial staff, the mess workers and cleaners, and also the odd motley crew of labourers and workers. We live and work in close proximity with several of these people, and yet know so little about them. It is this inquisitiveness which led us to find out how the other half lives.

The Establishment

We went with our own stereotypes: the tough day-to-day existence, the suffocating thick dust in the air and the unrelenting heat of a typical

AAL IZZ WELL!

InslghT gives a glimpse into the lives of daily-wage construction workers



Indian summer. However, a free-flowing conversation at a chai-tapri got us thinking differently. First off, here's how it works- the job itself is contracted from different

companies, and these companies take care of the very basic necessities. They have a place to stay, bathrooms have been built separately for men and women, and they go for work huddled close together in a dusty truck early each morning. For nine straight hours they earn anywhere between a hundred and hundred-

and-fifty rupees a day. On-site injuries are also taken care of by the contractor or Seth, and there's even some extra money for food that comes on the 25th of every month.

There are glaring issues that would meet any keen sociology student. Differential wage structures, abandoned children, unhygienic living conditions and the severity of the job itself are among some of the things we're trying to find reactions to.

Conversations

A malnourished young woman spoke to us as she filtered tar through a sieve. Her infant frolicked near her in the dust.

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1

It gave him a new perspective on entrepreneurship opportunities in India. He met Mrigank on this trip, an experienced professional, who shared a similar goal as Vivek's. Together, they built 'Voice-Tap', its core idea being- connecting people to experts. Voicetap is a platform that aims to solve your queries by connecting you to the best available expert on the topic of your query by way of phone or the internet. After devoting months on developing the concept, working out of "two cubicles in a relative's office", they went on to win the Red Herring, Asia award, given to the best start-ups from all over Asia!

Priyadarshan Sahastrabuddhe (PD), Alumnus IIT Bombay, Batch 2008, started working in the social sector right after graduating from college. In the past two years, he has travelled across the whole of Maharashtra, with a group of like-minded colleagues, visiting villages and towns and tribal areas alike. In his words, "It has been an awakening. Now I really understand what they mean when they say, it's altogether a different world out there. My motivation behind doing what I am doing was to find some work which gives me satisfaction." At

THE PATH LESS TAKEN

present, PD is involved with implementing the NREGA scheme in villages, where 100 days of employment are guaranteed to one adult from every household in India. PD's work involves teaching and encouraging villagers to turn to self-employment. He believes that the solution for the upliftment of rural India has to come from within rural India itself. Choosing the social sector over a traditional job was a dicey question for PD. He's glad he took this decision and he's sure the experience he gains will always stand in good stead in future ventures.

Haripriya, 4th year Mechanical Engg DD, says she's always wanted to work in design, a field that involves both creativity as well as a technical side. With this in mind, she chose Mechanical CADA, as it would give her the widest exposure across all streams. In IITB, she actively participated in student programs like the Student Satellite, and other tech activities, along with projects within her department, thereby acquiring good basics, and teaching her the difference between designing on paper and actually making things happen. She even bagged an internship in the prestigious National Insti-

tute of Design, with the help of Prof. Amarnath of her Dept. Haripriya spends her time developing small products of high utility, such as a static charge room cleaner. As for future plans, she says she wants her work to make life a little better for people who need it most but can afford it least.

There is no algorithm to zero in what you really

"It took me a little under 3 years in IITB", she says "But I was able to slowly discover that design was a blend that would satisfy my interest in engineering, compulsive need to be creative, inclination towards variety and the really exotic, and the satisfaction of drawing out uniqueness and individuality in my work. All in all, I genuinely love what I do on a daily basis, course related or otherwise. After all, how many people can play around with Origami and make it their DDP work?"

- Haripriya

ought to do, or what you want from your life. However, we should ensure that we are making an active effort to explore and discover. This could range from understanding how the finance sector works to reading up on the school education system in India to trying your hand at writing by exploring freelancing options. A SWOT analysis of your skill sets and fields of interests can go a long way in presenting a clearer picture.

Internships and proper networking with seniors and alumni are the best ways to gain a clear picture on the fields you're interested in. As some of them pointed out, time spent on figuring out what you want from your profession during your college days could save a lot of frustrating job hopping in the future. Lastly, as Nithya puts it, 'Do try to do things because you are curious about them or enjoy doing them and not for your resume. Honestly, that way, your resume will write itself. And college is the best time to experiment, so try everything once!'

Shreya Mishra and Neeraj Jain may be contacted at shreya.mishra@iitb.ac.in and neeraj_jain@iitb.ac.in respectively

InsIghT: When did the idea of having a startup first come to your mind?

PK: The whole idea about trying to have a startup came to me after attending one of those internship presentations. I really wondered if I will be able to land a decent job after I graduate, so the first motivation was there. Also, there has always been this whole feeling about trying to have 'something that is your own', and not working under anyone else. This sentiment was shared by my friend Himanshu Dhiman.

InsIghT: How did you arrive at this particular idea?

PK: We started thinking about different ideas we might be able to implement - reading, researching, discussing. Initially most of the ideas we had were primarily web-based, until finally we arrived at this one idea of trying to have lassi kiosks.

We started visiting places where lassi was being sold already. Almost all of these places used to sell packed lassis, which were obviously processed. We figured that if we sold fresh lassis, we would be offering people a much more healthy and lucrative option.

Soon enough, we developed our business plan and started seeking funds. We initially planned to have express kiosks and started estimating the funds that we would require. Our initial plan was to start out with this venture right after college.

InsIghT: Well, then why did you decide to start with this in college itself?

PK: All throughout our venture, we were being mentored by Mr. Devashish Chakravarty, founder of the Quetzal Group. We have been very lucky to have had his advice on various things. He told us that instead of trying to wait until your graduation, why don't we start out with this now itself, in college. This way, by the time we graduate, we would have enough experience and a fair knowledge about whether or

THE KHADKE GLASSI STORY

Khadke Glassi, and its proud owner Prabhkirandeep Singh, aka PK, have been making insti (and national) news for quite some time now. We bring you excerpts from an interview with PK, the third year civil engineering student who chose to follow his heart.

not this is a feasible idea.

InsIghT: What were the major challenges you faced?

PK: There were many challenges that we faced. For example, maintaining uniformity

mal cost - there was cost cutting everywhere. We're using a computer table for our counter, the refrigerator at Brownie Point, and we are on Brownie Point premises so that we do can serve the people on their Food License (and thus save the expense of getting our own).



in taste was a big issue. A little difference in the conditions in which the curd is being set can make the whole taste change. So we had to work on that. Also, we had to determine what price would be right for our product. There were detailed things to plan out - Where would we set up our kiosk, What infrastructure we would require, When we would operate. And of course, everything had to be done at a mini-

InsIghT: How much time are you devoting to Khadke Glassi now?

PK: Initially, I was involved with making the lassis also, so I would come to the kiosk as soon as my labs got over. Once opened at 5pm, I would stay till about 10:30 at night. Now I have a helper at the counter, so I don't need to come

here at 5 o'clock. And we're able to open the counter at about 12 noon.

InsIghT: How did you feel when you realised that Khadke Glassi was generating a definite buzz in the media?

PK: Well, there were quite a few funny incidents that occurred relating to media. The TOI reporter wrote how enterprising the students of our college were, with everyone wanting to work on some or the other website. What a narrow perspective on IITians! Also, there was this News 24 reporter, who wanted to have a small story which would show me studying at the counter itself, in between selling lassis. Apart from these light incidents, there were quite a few people who approached me saying they wanted me to partner with them and threatened to open lassi kiosks by the same name if I did not yield. I had to go and register the patent the next day to avoid any such troubles. I had been putting off a patent till then so as to save on the expense.

InsIghT: How did your parents feel when you told them about this?

PK: My parents didn't come to know about this until my father saw the News 24 show on TV. But he didn't seem to mind much, as he saw me studying side by side.

InsIghT: What major challenges do you see yourself dealing with in the future?

PK: Well, let's see. Our major challenge shall be once the monsoon starts. We'll have to see if people will still want our product during the rainy days. Also, fruits are seasonal, so we will have to continuously be inventing the product to keep up with the season. Besides, ever since we started keeping a helper, our profits have dimmed. We will need a way to make our venture more profitable.

Mukul Gupta and Sai Kulkarni may be contacted at mukul.gupta@iitb.ac.in and saikulkarni@iitb.ac.in respectively

Continued from page 3

She didn't find her lesser wage unreasonable. Her female body did not permit her to lift heavy weights that most men could. These are not complaints she can afford to have. She has come all the way from her village in Karnataka where the rains have failed the people. An undecided Indian climate, among others, makes any job a job worth cherishing.

She's not the only one who finds this life convenient. Two young adolescents welding a heavy rod under a tin roof are comfortable with their 7-day weeks. Holidays here are an unheard-of luxury. It's a simple deduction for them- how can one be paid on a day when one hasn't really

worked? Many of them even manage to save money and send it home. It's always easy to find a job, any job in the big city. And so, what we see as a severe migration issue is to them just a trend: follow your friend from the village and chase a humble dream.

Notions

Our conversations clearly proved that they were pragmatic about their unforgiving lifestyle. It made us realize that we were uncomfortable and found their predicament unsettling, and

AAL IZZ WELL!

Insight gives a glimpse into the lives of daily-wage construction workers

so we fuss about minimum wages, a weekly holiday and definite working hours- all to guarantee a certain quality of living. Young children play around all day and spend hours rolling in the mud, without even a vague idea of what school would be like. In the near vicinity, there is an apology of a toilet, and baths are generally open-air affairs. Medical facilities are an outrageous dream; immediate care from private doctors often proves expensive. The death of a laborer during the job is hushed up and the family is not paid its due unless enough of a fuss has been made.

But man adapts rather quickly to new ways of living. The odd trip home becomes all the more valuable for the man who works every day of the week. He cherishes each rupee he is able to earn and send home to his wife and children. There is also the dreamy-eyed adolescent who is enjoying the glamorous city of Bollywood and cricket. The view from our side of the fence may not be very pleasant, but it isn't nearly as tragic and pathetic as we sometimes imagine it to be. It's just another life in the city.

Arundhati Velamur, Dibesh Deb Barma, Rinzi Lama and Ajanta Akhuly may be contacted at arundhati_velamur@iitb.ac.in, dibesh@iitb.ac.in, rinzi.lama@iitb.ac.in and ajanta_akhuly@iitb.ac.in.

It's placement season on campus and while the good news is still trickling in, the placement curve has slowed down significantly. Some departments have been disappointed by the turnout of companies, and feelings of anxiety amongst students are reaching worrying heights. However, those who wish to start looking for jobs off-campus, have their hands tied by some stringent rules as set by the Placement Policy 2009-10:

- Students are strictly prohibited from applying Off-Campus to companies that have visited the campus for recruitment.
- Students who register with the Placement Cell are strictly forbidden to apply for off-campus recruitment till 30th April 2010. A student who wishes to apply to a certain company before 30th April, 2010 shall inform the placement representative of his department, who will make sure that the company is invited officially for campus recruitments. Despite this, if for some reason, the company is unable to come for recruitment, off-campus application to that company may be permitted on the discretion of the Placement Cell
- Any student found to have applied or secured a job through off campus application without the prior consent of the Placement Cell will be debarred from taking part in any further placement process. Further the company to which he/she has applied/secured job with would also be informed of the policy violation by the student.
- Any student, who procures an off-campus job, is required to report the same to the placement office within one working day. He/she shall be permitted to sign JAFs for other companies, as per the rules for signing JAFs.

The Questions:

A few pertinent questions that would possibly arise on reading the policy, nay, actually being part of the recruitment pool this year, include:

- Isn't the policy somewhat restrictive? If I've given an honest shot at the Phase I companies, and gained a first-hand experience of the process, shouldn't I be free to exercise my

OFF CAMPUS PLACEMENT POLICY : AIN'T NO SUNSHINE!

How justified is it to allow students to apply off campus only after 30th April? Insight Investigates

basic right to choose to apply on my own since for whatever reason, the placement team isn't able to get me placed?

- Why must I wait till April 30th? Companies outside also have fixed windows of recruitment, why should I wait till campus placements get over before I start? What if I miss my opportunity?
- Isn't the basic ideology of placements to emphasize on students opting for jobs they're genuinely interested in? If the companies that come are known to have other job profiles, but don't hire for these profiles on-campus, doesn't it make sense for me to send a tailor-made resume highlighting my specific interests and competencies in said profiles directly?

And the Answers:

On posing these questions to Prof. Ravi Sinha, Placement-in-Charge, a brief discussion ensued. To sum up, Prof. Sinha maintained that it wasn't the Placement Cell's duty to ensure a job or even an interview – it's to give students opportunities for the same by getting companies that match their aspiration levels to campus. Thus, the Placement Cell acts as a facilitator, not a guarantor.

“When students register for placements, they are actually signing up to be evaluated by the companies that come, and should prepare themselves accordingly” – Prof. Ravi Sinha

Further, he added that it isn't that placements officially get over on April 30th, in fact, the placement window extends till June and the placement team works till then, trying to explore all possible opportunities. Speaking of student interests, the DPNs contact companies with an aim to secure as many prospective job profiles as possible, some having nothing to do with core engineering – but if there isn't any requirement there, or if those requirements are by company practice met by students of other non-engineering majors, then there's little either

a DPN or a student himself can do to secure that profile.

Exercising your freedom is one thing, but knowing what lies out there is another. There is cut-throat competition off-campus, with a much larger recruitment pool containing people with work experience which is an obvious advantage. Additionally, a student would have to stick to a long wound company recruitment process that might often go against him. Instances of unfair treatment of new recruits by companies are not unheard of.

Rationale:

According to Prof. Sinha, there are two main reasons for the existence of the policy in its current form:

1. To actively minimize spamming of companies. The established channels of contact are usually not known to students, and spamming works against IITB's long standing corporate relations and image.
2. To ensure that the smaller companies that are unable to come to campus, or don't have a structured HR department, are still able to gage the current recruitment pool and hire based on the resumes sent across by interested students routed via the Placement Cell. This only helps increase the numbers placed.

Even though the off-campus policy is perceived to be restrictive, the policy is drafted thus because:

1. The Placement Cell can ensure that it plays an active role throughout - informing the companies of the placement policies beforehand, staying in the loop of all communication between a student and a company, and enforce the policies - essentially ensuring that a student isn't subject to any sort of unfair treatment by the companies.
2. From the company's standpoint, it adds a level of legitimacy as they would receive factually correct information about the student. Further, students would thus also be bound

by the same placement policies that the company has agreed to adhere to.

3. The Placement Cell can intervene in several other ways – for example, if an interview requires a student to travel outside the city, then his/her attendance can officially be waived.

Other Measures:

To aid the off-campus process, and in general help the students who haven't managed to land a job yet, a few new initiatives by the Placement Cell are already underway:

- The “dummy” JAF: In very simple terms, this JAF is meant to gage student interest in companies that hire via the off-campus route and approach/are approached by the Placement Cell for the same. The resumes of the interested students are sent and the students that fit the company's requirements are then directly imbibed into the selection process of the company, with the Placement Cell in the loop. The policies for off-campus recruitment continue to apply in this case.
- To help increase the numbers of students placed during Phase II this year, there were professionally conducted sessions by firms to hone one's soft-skills and improve one's presentation. Thus, key skills were identified as areas of improvement and worked upon.

Finally:

While the entire placement system is supportive and open to students' concerns, there is still a perceived disconnect of sorts between the two. The off-campus policy was one such example. However, the evolution of the Placement Cell into a more holistic development cell should lead to a greater inclusiveness of the student community, and the new structure (a detailed report in the next issue of Insight) would work towards increasing student awareness towards the policies in place.

Aayesha Ghanekar, Harishwar Subramaniam and Aishwarya Sharma may be contacted at aayesha@iitb.ac.in, s.harishwar@iitb.ac.in, bonny.sharma@iitb.ac.in respectively.

able to the Placement Managers will be handling the entire contacting process. The Company Coordinators will have been selected (and not elected) by the Placement Team after looking at their suitability for the job. Hence, regularity and better efficiency in the contacting process will be seen.

Better student preparation

Since the task of contacting companies will be done by CCs, Department Placement Coordinators can focus on getting the students of their department better prepared for the placement process by organizing GD/PI workshops, inter department interactive sessions etc.

Better awareness about companies

DPNs will organize buddy talks which will give students an idea of what they are in for, while applying for a particular company. Besides, compulsory filling in of questionnaires about companies while signing JAFs and other initiatives of this sort that the Placement Team plans to undertake will help the students to be better informed about the company that they are applying for.

It is evident that a lot of deliberation has gone into the formulation of the new structure for the placement team. Whether the new system meets the heightened expectations of the institute is something time will tell. All the best to the new placement team for the road ahead!

Harishwar Subramaniam, Ritika Goyal, Sagar Sambrani and Siddharth Shah may be contacted at s.harishwar@iitb.ac.in, ritika_goyal@iitb.ac.in, ssagar@iitb.ac.in, and siddharthshah@iitb.ac.in respectively.

Continued from Page 1

To ensure that this does not repeat, it was suggested that the role of calling companies be entrusted to a handpicked team of Company Coordinators, to be selected by the newly appointed Placement Managers, as supposed to DPNs who were selected by their batch mates without any IPN intervention.

In the earlier structure, it was seen that the DPN's especially the B.Tech DPN, performed the task of company contacting, resume verification and student preparation. Combined with the BTP and his own placement preparation, the poor fellow was obviously overburdened. Says Tushar Kaul, outgoing DPN of Aerospace Engineering, “The CCs were made so as to only contact the companies and reduce the workload. However direct accountability to students, which was a major plus point with DPNs, is now lost.” Regulation of CCs is also difficult. A CC, not doing sufficient work, can worm his or her way through the year, just as many DPNs unfortunately have. It isn't pragmatic to keep tabs on the company contacting done by 25 odd CC's to over 2000 firms. Tushar adds, “A software called CCM, which was introduced late last year into the placement system, had details of the company contacting status and feedback from companies to be fed in by the DPNs. In the new system, if introduced right from the start, it could be a monitoring tool for CCs as well.”

Naturally, a few concerns have already been raised regarding the new placement structure. We approached present IPNs Sushil Shintre and Siddharth Rao for clarification on the following points.

THE PLACEMENT REFORMATION : THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Under-representation of departments

Department Nominees (41 in number as per old structure) used to be well aware of the profile of students in their department and their preferences in terms of what sort of companies they would like to get placed in. Thus, batch interests were adequately represented for all departments. Just 20 CCs may lead to under-representation of some departments.

Justification: It will be a part of the CC's groundwork to be well versed with the profiles of each department and they will be quizzed on this aspect in their interview. Besides, the cluster system will continue this year where each CC will be a part of a cluster and will have to work towards getting companies for all departments in that cluster. DPCs will be present in cluster update meetings along with CCs, hence batch demands can be easily conveyed to CCs. CCM will be used by PMs, DPCs, CCs to constantly update and comment on ongoing work with companies. That way, everyone is in the loop and can take help from each other.

Room for Slackness on part of DPCs

DPCs will still be elected by their batch mates and hence will not be answerable to PMs, thus the scope for inefficiency remains.

“No role has been trivialized. The new structure isn't hierarchical. All posts are equal in the new structure, it's just that roles have been defined in a better way. As far as contacting goes, organizing buddy talks will ensure that DPCs are in contact with companies too.”

Justification: DPCs need to be elected as they must have a good rapport with their batch mates when it comes to encouraging them to go for workshops, tell them to improve their resumes when they aren't up to the mark et al. This task cannot be done effectively by a person who has been forced upon the batch. The person has to be elected by the batch willingly.

As far as the procrastination is concerned, strict guidelines will be set by PMs this year regarding the amount of time a DPC has to spend on various tasks regarding placements. Performance will be judged accordingly. This should help in bringing in the desired efficiency.

“There is a strong feeling among students that the role of a DPC in the new structure has been relegated to merely verifying resumes, conducting PPT's and handling batch preparation i.e. GD/PI and other sessions. Given such a structure the job of DPNs is reduced to back-office organizers of an event providing very little responsibility or power to them. They hardly have a role to play in getting companies to the campus and thus positively affect the placement. In this scenario, this job description could become very unattractive for people.”

Shintre and Rao highlighted some other benefits of the new structure:

Better company contacting

A specialized team of 20 people directly answer-

General Secretary Hostel Affairs

REVIEW: ROHAN JHA

Manifesto Point	Outcome / Work Done
Introduce a centralized gas piping (PNG) system from Mahanagar Gas Limited for hostels and residential areas	Permission granted by Dean Planning. The plan is ready but being delayed by the estate office
Ensure implementation of the proposal for biogas plants to provide environment friendly means of mess waste disposal	Not Done. No known efforts in this direction.
Initiate Tum-Tum branding for generating additional revenue to increase the frequency of Tum-Tums and provide Tum-Tum service at night	Due to the compulsory thousand rupees paid by the present freshies, the branding wasn't required. Two new Tum-Tums were ordered but came with a smaller chassis than required and hence were rejected. No known proceedings regarding the Late night Tum-Tum service
Formalize the Student Welfare Society and utilize it for the betterment of Internal Transport Service	The SWS has been formulated and will be operational soon. Members: DOSA, GSHA, 3 nominated members - to oversee Tum-Tum and security
Ensure a smooth network renovation from 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps and try to implement 24 hour internet	Network renovation finished but the 24 hour internet proposal not yet completed because of the delay by CISCO in revamping the network
Ensure the implementation of proposed insurance policy resulting in an increase in the maximum coverage limit and new deals with additional private hospitals	The insurance increased to 50000 from 30000 earlier. Some new medical facilities extended to students also; which includes 100% reimbursement from some listed private hospitals.
Other Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ganesh Juice Centre - A new Juice centre contract has been implemented as there were many complaints with the previous vendor (regarding hygiene and quality). Fund Allocation - A fund of Rs.43.3 lakhs has been distributed among the 13 hostels. Each hostel received a grant of Rs. 3.3 lakhs for improving the infrastructure of the hostel. Grounds Renovation - Appropriate contacts have been provided to all the Hostel General Secretaries. 	

General Secretary Academic Affairs

REVIEW: VAIBHAV DEVANATHAN

Manifesto Point	Outcome / Work Done
Write-ups detailing the minors/electives will be present. A survey of the 2nd year batch will be conducted for the same	The write-ups, though delayed, were made available by May. Survey conducted successfully
Will reduce the minimum CPI for overloading of backlog courses below 6.5	Overloading relaxed. In the present system - evaluation is done on the basis of mid-semester performance
Setting up a PT Cell in each Department to streamline the PT process for second and third year students	Done justifiably. The PT cell consists of a team of 24 people including 2 in the finance field
Set up an Apping Cell and add an app helpline, forum, database	The website is ready but will be fully functioning from next semester onwards. It consists of invite-only forum for alumni - student interaction and fundae booklets/videos. A professor will be made in-charge in each department to guide students
Revamp the academic site as a wiki for rules, course FAQs, project openings, address of complaints, etc.	The site, though revamped, has a minimal set of rules. Course FAQ's available only for 20% of total courses including minors. No information regarding project openings / address of complaints.
Revamp the Study Room by having AC installed and Wi-Fi made available.	Wi-Fi and AC is not provided without a security officer but the security office refuses to do so.
Other Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English remedial Classes organized. Online mid-semester evaluation done for the first time. An initiative to change the XX rule was attempted but was rejected by the senate. The library timing will soon be extended till 11 PM. 	

The GS Report Card: InsIghT reviews the work of General

Mohit Sharma, Gautam Salhotra, Siddharth Shukla, Ayush Baheti and Nikunj Jha
siddharth_1234@iitb.ac.in, ayush.baheti@iitb.ac.in and nikunj.jha@iitb.ac.in

As has been observed over the last few years, the candidates elected for the various General / Institute Secretary posts fail to deliver even a reasonable fraction of the promises they make in their tall manifestos. In the system that we are a part of today, an elected candidate is at an almost wholesome liberty to go about overlooking his self-assumed responsibilities without facing any serious consequences. A disgraceful GBM is all the flak that he has to take, which, given the miniscule attendance and the lack of long-lasting effects, is not a large price to pay.

A measure in this regard was made by Rohan Jha, outgoing GSHA, who set up at his behest a body called the Constitution Reforms Committee (CRC). The members of this body were subjectively decided by the GSHA with the mandate to come up with a comprehensive constitution(s) that cater to all outdated and non-existent constitutions. However, it has yet to come up with any sort of a constitution whether it is the hostel or the updated SAC Constitution. A fresher approach to the same was carried out by the GSeS this past month or so and is still in the process of being ratified. The SAC Committee meeting on April 13th aims at targeting more accountability from the position holders under the Gymkhana, updated awards criteria and the committee which decides the same and updating clauses to cater to the present scenario and remove redundancies.

However, the SAC Constitution still leaves a lot to be desired given the plethora of activities the institute undertakes and the ambit in which it features under the Gymkhana. InsIghT has thus compiled a few substantives that could make the SAC Constitution more holistic:

1. Mandatory Duties

Though the SAC constitution broadly defines specific roles of every Secretary and Nominee only at the administrative level and how they must work as a council but lacks specifics in how they are expected to go about their duties. For example, there is no mention on the role and working of the respective clubs within the Cultural Council like how many meetings are expected etc. Also, no clear ground rules are

THE SAC CONSTITUTION UPDATE: A NEW HOPE?

After years of stagnation, an updated SAC Constitution is finally taking shape. To be far more thorough, there are some issues and substantives that can still be looked into, and incorporated in the constitution. InsIghT takes a look...

laid down on how accountable is the secretary to some prescribed minimum criteria (say one GC event or club meetings etc.) and how much can, should or must be covered in his manifesto.

2. Performing Arts Festival (PAF)

With all the drama and hype that PAF brings to the institute, given the fierce inter-hostel rivalry that ensues, no specifics with regards to PAF is mentioned in the constitution. Due to controversies that follow the PAF results, some clear cut guidelines need to be framed - from how judges are selected, to what items are allowed and disallowed for PAF Prod to a basis of how PAF teams are selected. Even though most issues can and are being discussed by the PAF Committee, such controversial issues can always be sorted out with basic guidelines within the constitution itself.

3. General Championship (GC) Events

With the inclusion of new hostels and bifurcations of PG and UG hostels, the GC structure over the years has welcomed considerable changes to cater to hostel interests. From having an equal point structure across all cult genres to having a genre-wise trophy based system a year ago, it also brings with it problems like weighing importance of high preparation-based events v/s low preparation-based events and how points must be allotted keeping effort, talent and enthusiasm in mind. However, the SAC Constitution presently defines a rigid structure to the Cult GC with prescribed point tallies presently not being obeyed for Cult GC events. Sports GC events though maintained differentially across different sports have faced no opposition as such.

4. External Events Participation

The constitution only mentions that the Contingent Leader is selected by the GS Cult. For most fests, it's selected at the behest of the GS without a formal nomination procedure in place. This leaves little option for someone who is desirous to become a CL given no mechanism is in place for him/her to be recognized.

Also, the constitution doesn't really mention on what basis selections are made for contingent spots for cultural festivals.

5. Impeachment

The SAC Constitution has spoken considerably about the impeachment, but to enforce it verbatim according to the clauses mentioned amounts to sudden impeachment of candidates on the basis of one GBM, hence no room for fair warning and thus not enforced ad lib. However, an impeachment (though hardly enforced over the years) is still a vital consideration given the strong deterrent it can act against neglect of duties on behalf of candidates. This is especially essential in these times given the importance that posts of responsibility have assumed in everyone's resumes and that candidates today are going to no end writing unreasonable manifestos to please the electorate.

As a constructive, we can enforce a timeline guideline every candidate MUST mention at the beginning of his tenure (or even at the campaigning stage) to give the institute a far more realistic picture of how he/she intends to execute his plans. A monthly review can be held by an independent authority which monitors the work done (or not done as the case may be) and put up on an open forum online. We could also experiment with a monthly 'Tenure Evaluation Form' given to members of each committee like HGSC or the Cultural Committee during their frequent meets (hopefully monthly) and these forms can again be evaluated by the independent committee suggested above, the results of which can be put up on an online forum. At the first GBM, supposedly around October, a candidate is given fair warning based on the feedback from the institute on these online forums and will then be suggested to come up with a timeline-specific agenda for a shorter duration (maybe a month, say early November), and could be evaluated on the same. If again, the secretary has disappointed beyond expectations, an impeachment should be considered.

Furthermore, if an online forum be set up,

where all work done by the respective Institute Councils stand documented and updated regularly; it adds to more accountability (or the lack thereof); fruitful for constructive discussion during GBMs. In addition to what the councils state, a forum for cribs and complaint redressing from the institute can always be made available in the open domain for the whole institute to see, discuss and perhaps suggest punitive action accordingly. This forum must also keep the manifesto perennially available for the institute's perusal as a check on the candidate's mandated responsibilities. It also goes without saying that given the institute's general lethargy to attend institute-level GBMs, a dynamic forum online can allow everyone to voice their opinions and grievances. Such measures can go a long way in expecting and ensuring more accountability for general and institute secretaries.

To counter the meagre attendance in the institute-level GBMs, there exists a clause in the constitution that says that every hostel is supposed to nominate six people to attend the GBMs, otherwise it stands to lose 10% of the maximum attainable points in the Cultural GC and 5% of those from the Sports GC. The nominees are to present their credentials along with a letter of introduction to the Chairman of the GBM. The implementation of this rule, which has been ignored in the last four years, will ensure the presence of at least 78 responsible people in a GBM, a number that's hardly conceivable going by the current record.

Given how expansively the SAC constitution covers issues that pertain to almost everyone in the institute, and that changes to the constitution must be made more dynamically to incorporate different trends and rules of the institute, there must be an open institute-wide forum to suggest addendums to the constitution, though eventually decided by the GSeS and the SAC heads.

Rajat Chakravarty and Achin Jindal may be contacted at rajatc@iitb.ac.in and 08011013@iitb.ac.in respectively

General Secretary Sports Affairs

REVIEW: PRATEEK MITTAL

Manifesto Point	Outcome / Work Done
Conduct two open tournaments for T.T., Badminton, Squash, Tennis, Carrom, Chess, one in each semester for both UG & PG.	Only one open event (per sport) conducted
Ensure that the Gymkhana Sports website is properly updated with the sports schedule, results of the events and is well publicized.	The website could have been put to better use if publicized properly. No updates have been made on the site for a long time, with important sections like people, PG sports missing.
Schedule for the Main GC, Sophie GC, Open events and PG Sports will be released well advanced in time along with the match schedules so as to facilitate early rescheduling, if required. Will also try to reframe the points tally for the GC.	Terrible scheduling throughout the year. Events in the spring semester (ideal for outdoor sports) were crammed up. In fact, the PG sports was held in such a compressed manner that people ended up going directly from one sport to the other without a break
Conduct an Open Sports Championship for the Freshers (UG & PG).	Nothing held. Since the DoSA is so strict about seniors interacting with freshers, having this as a manifesto point is itself questionable
Conduct guidance sessions for women followed by friendly matches, between Hostel 10 and Hostel 11 for sports like Cricket, Football and Hockey.	Guidance sessions, coaching camps as well as matches were held in numerous sports.
Organise an Advanced level camp in each sport in the month of October to identify and develop any new talent.	Pre inter IIT advanced camp was held successfully for most sports
Other Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Went to IIT Indore and conducted orientations for the students there.	

General Secretary Cultural Affairs

REVIEW: RAHUL GAUR

Manifesto Point	Outcome / Work Done
Organize IIT Bombay Film Festival	Conducted successfully on 3rd and 4th March. Highlights: Movie Screenings and Interactive Sessions
IIT Bombay Inter Collegiate Debate Organize a weekend long Inter Collegiate debate involving several formats like Parliamentary, Policy Debates etc. Also, conduct workshops, open debates and adjudication fundae sessions	Happened in conjunction with Mood Indigo (only parliamentary format debates). Workshops, open debates and adjudication fundae sessions were conducted.
PG Cultural Festival Continue with the concept and improve upon the areas like publicity and event quality. Appoint department representatives well in advance to ensure good preparation.	PG Cult fest was organized over a weekend. Representatives were appointed in December by the "nominations + discussion" procedure. Publicity was done through mails.
Campus Radio A LAN-based radio which will serve as the voice of the institute and shall host a variety of programs including interviews, news, campus update, music and more.	Started pretty late in January. The quality of content was disappointing to say the least. The reason being too much pressure on Film and Media secretary. Lack of a proper structure in the previous edition added to the cause.
The Institute Cultural Council shall also focus on organizing Informal events like Antakshari, Treasure Hunt, Dumb Charades nights etc.	Some events were held but lacked publicity. Execution was also unsatisfactory.
Will ensure better publicity of the website and make it more interactive with presence of opinion polls, club blogs, discussion forums and daily segments.	No publicity as such. Opinion polls randomly done. Very inconsistent daily segments if at all
Other Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none">Organized the Japanese classes by contacting the Japan Embassy in coordination with Dean IR and GSAA.Promoted and organized IIT Bombay's entry to popular TV show - 'Entertainment Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega'	

Secretaries over the past one year and summarizes it

may be contacted at mohitsharma07@iitb.ac.in, gautam.salhotra@iitb.ac.in, respectively.

When it comes to excitement on campus and nail biting results, March has been an uncontested candidate. Institute Elections, which happened on 10th March this year, are one of the most pervasive aspects of student life at IITB.

Exhaustive preliminary groundwork, manifesting to making, campaigning, black listing, mobilizing and frantic last minute calling ensure that election fever reaches everyone on campus. The most discussed aspect of elections however, can be summed up in one word, commonly used to describe a landslide victory, an improbable upset, and pretty much everything which cannot be otherwise explained: Polt. Everyone has heard of it, but few really understand it. Insight presents 'The Polt Algo', our attempt to deconstruct the way politics works in our institute.

Pre Campaigning

Even before filing a nomination, a candidate needs to gauge his chances of winning the election. This is usually done by talking to wing-mates, 'trusted' friends, people having similar interests, IB members, etc. This is the earliest and most rudimentary form of polt. Groundwork is a disguised attempt at gathering support from influential people across the institute. Candidates ensure that their groundwork flatters those egos which if not flattered, could make their run ahead nasty.

Manifesto

Preparation of a good manifesto is an art – difficult to master but almost essential to win. While putting one's noble ideas into bullets, a conscious effort is made to please every group and faction - a well prepared manifesto has eye candies for groups such as PGs and freshies. This could imply making lofty promises that one never intends to meet. Indeed, a close scrutiny of last few years' GS manifestos shows only 15-20% of manifesto points being implemented.

Nomination

Tact plays a big role in deciding who to take nominations from. Nominators are meant to pull votes for candidates just by allowing their name to appear alongside theirs. When selecting them, a candidate aims for two people who

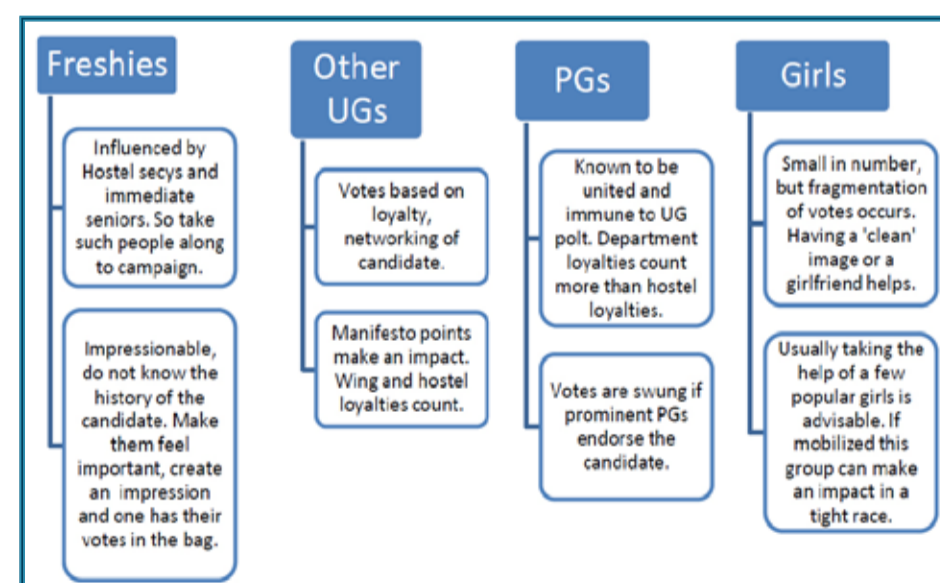
THE POLT ALGO

InsIghT exposes the polt machinations which grip the institute during elections

can draw a lot of votes by their influence. Also, he tries to ensure that they have weight in multiple circles or groups and no group is common to the two of them.

Campaigning

Widely regarded as the most integral stage of polt, a lot of effort and strategizing goes into the campaigning stage. In order to reach and convince the entire institute of his eligibility one chalks a systematic plan - a polt machine, which can keep the votes coming.



Presence

Campaign polt begins with putting up posters in locations with utmost visibility in hostels. It helps if the poster stands out – it will stay in a passer-by's mind. Another popular tactic is to wear similar clothes during all the days of campaigning. This helps people who have seen the candidate for the first time during campaigning to identify him when they next run into him.

Senior Networking

It helps to be accompanied by influential seniors while campaigning in hostels. A powerful way to save on campaigning time is to muster

up a senior per wing for as many wings as possible, who would drop in a good word for the candidate. Figuring out who these key seniors are in each hostel and procuring their contacts is left largely to the two or three campaign managers a candidate has.

Stay Out of Trouble

A candidate tries to avoid wings which openly support the opposition because they will inevitably cross question him for hours to waste his time. Most of the UG senior wings expect candidates to carry cigarettes. Failing to do so displeases them and compliance means an easy time with them. Bonding over cigarettes is the prime time to figure out which hostel inmates are trustworthy and manipulative enough to get hostel votes.

The notoriously fickle and lazy nature of the students demands that the aforementioned polt machine work flawlessly even during voting hours. A large number of people remain peacefully oblivious to the whole campaigning process and last minute cajoling is employed to tap their votes.

Most of the blacklisted people, taking cover in CCDs and Galleria, carry out a telephonic blitzkrieg soliciting votes. It isn't unusual to see students change clothes in hostel messes to escape the attention of election officers after being warned; to throw them off their scent. An increasing trend seen in the last few years is employing freshies for Election Day Polt. They are gullible, uninhibited, unsuspected and not averse to running around.

However, polt shocks the most when one sees election officers turn a blind eye to supporters rooting for a candidate who they personally favour. Since there is no stopping the supporters of such candidates, this unchecked polt can often turn tides and seal a candidate's victory.

Candidates often form pre-election alliances with contestants for other posts, allowing them to combine vote banks and channel manpower efficiently on Election Day. Other forms of alliances emerge between prospective candidates for subordinate posts like ISHA and the contestant for the superior post, which in this example is GSHA. A popular stunt is to spread a rumor that a particular candidate (usually the fancied one) is trailing by a huge margin. This generates a voting frenzy by bringing the lazy well-wishers into action which almost always is to the candidate's benefit.

The Verdict

At the end of this exhaustive process, if one has done most things right and his opponent hasn't, he would end up with the post he wants and a very, very large bill after treating, thanking and pampering every component of his polt machine.

Ninad Kulkarni and Nikunj Jha may be contacted at ninadm1990@iitb.ac.in and nikunj.jha@iitb.ac.in respectively.

Election Day

TECH @ INSTI: THEN AND NOW

THE TECHNICAL SCENE AT THE INSTITUTE - HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?

The decrease in participation and enthusiasm for tech-related activities in the recent past is a concern. *InsighT* explored the journey of Tech over the years and its presence in the student community today, and found that despite the questionable scenario, we are still performing well in national competitions.

Background

Tech activities arrived on the institute scene somewhere in the late nineties, well after sports and cult. The Tech GC gained momentum with the sustained efforts of enthused seniors, and like other GCs, grew to such a size that Prof. Amarnath, the Dean of Student Affairs was forced to impose a ban on GCs altogether. That was in 2004. Gradually, Cult and Sports GCs managed to make their way back in but the Tech GC was not re-instated until 2007. The pressing efforts of the then Technic OC, Ashish Goel, revived the Tech GC.

Freshies and Tech

Tech has always been an activity that most freshies enthusiastically attempt and inevitably give up on. While the standard F1 car competition, freshie-targeted events of Techfest, and Electrified sessions see enough participation, dedication towards Tech decreases owing to the huge effort and time demanded by such an activity. The exceptional investments required for Tech make sure that as students progress to their second year, interest levels dwindle.

Tech GC

Although viewed as a good way of roping in people at the hostel level to contribute to Tech, currently, the condition of the Tech GC is deplorable. The reasons could be many – low interest of hostelites, unaccountability of hostel Tech secretaries, compulsion on Tech secretaries to contribute to hostel events such as PAF, Gyrations, et al. The low enthusiasm forces the organisers of the GC to come up with problem statements which may not exploit our full potential as engineers. Old GC statements have included designing a prosthetic arm, an entirely new musical instrument, etc. This years' GC statements have been a war of robots and designing sand filtering and transporting machines amongst other things. However even these toned-down GC's saw forced participation with many bots being made by Tech secretaries solely. Also, hasty and last minute work on bots results in very few bots actually running on the day of the event. All these are symptoms that Tech GC may just be becoming a mere formality for hostels to participate in and points towards

the almost non-existent levels of enthusiasm for Tech at hostel level.

Why the Lull?

The reasons for this apathy towards Tech in many IITians can be attributed to multiple factors. Tech receives secondary treatment in many hostels – in many hostels, Tech rooms are dilapidated or used for cult activities. At a personal level, Tech requires high investment in terms of money and perseverance. Then, there is the nagging feeling that 'Tech is not for me' that many IITians share. The bias of Tech towards electronics related activities just adds to the sentiment of feeling disconnected from Tech.

Techfest

As Techfest grew larger year after year, institute participation fell, as more students ended up organising rather than participating. The good news is that, performance-wise, we have not suffered, with a good show in many competitions this year, such as Utkarsh, MBedded Logic and Vorticity. However, whether the institute student community really gets the best it can out of Techfest is a question to ponder over.

Technic, Science Club and UMIC

UMIC is IITB's Innovation Cell, which was established 'to foster an atmosphere of creativity, innovation, discovery and exploration in the Campus.' Technic and Science Club also essentially uphold the same principles. A natural question that strikes is, "Why are there three different clubs for similar purposes?" A wide sentiment is that all these clubs brought together under one umbrella would channelize efforts of all concerned people in a more fruitful manner and foster a better and more interactive Tech environment in the institute. After all, there is no visible reason why Tech GC and Elec and Astro sessions should necessarily be organised by different groups of people.

FSAE and Pratham

The IITB Racing Team was set up in the summer of 2007 by Rishabh Bhandari, currently a 5th

year student who learnt about the Formula SAE during his internship at Maruti. Since then, the team has come a long way, making 3 cars named Vayu, Agni and Prithvi. India was in fact first represented at the Formula SAE competition in 2008 in Michigan by the IITB team. In our debut, we bagged the SAE perseverance award. Back home, the team participated in SAE Baja India, an all terrain vehicle competition, winning 5 awards, the maximum by any team, including Best engineering design & Top Speed.

Similarly, the idea of building a student satellite was conceived in August 2007 by two students of the Aerospace department, Saptarshi Bhandopadhyay and Shashank Tamaskar. Pratham, as it was christened, was supposed to be ready by December 2009 but the delay in signing of MoU with ISRO has pushed the scheduled completion date to the third quarter of this year.

Both FSAE and Satellite projects have given many students a chance to try out their textbook-acquired skills in real life. The projects embrace students of all departments right from their freshie years, inculcating a good spirit of Tech with a substantial output to show as a result of their hard work.

Conclusion

While the level of enthusiasm in the Tech GC has dwindled, individual projects in the departments, BTPs, DDPs, Robocon, FSAE, Pratham channelize Tech in the institute to a large extent at a personal and team level. Projects of such huge magnitude would not have been possible in the absence of a prevalent Tech culture among the students. Our commendable performances at Techfest, Shaastra and Robocon speak in favour of continuation of the existing practices or possibly improving upon them. And while Tech culture has its own problems, its role in adding a new dimension to the extra-curricular activities in the institute is well appreciated and needed. Here's to a fruitful future!

Harshad Kunte and Vishu Mahajna may be contacted at harshad.kunte@iitb.ac.in and vishu_mahajan@iitb.ac.in respectively.

This year's edition of Robocon saw not one but two IITB teams taking part in it, bagging the third and the fourth positions from a pool of eighty teams and making us all proud. Robocon is an international level competition that we have been participating in every year, for quite a few years now. Everything related to the competition is handled by the Umesh Mashruwala Innovation Cell (UMIC) which fields one team from the institute every year. So two entries this year instead of one should be a step up, right? To answer that question, consider this:

UMIC, up until last year, had a budget of Rs. 6 Lakh which was cut to Rs. 4.5 Lakh this year owing to an across-the-board 25% cut imposed by the administration on all non-academic student activities. Of this, about Rs. 3 Lakh was allocated to the Robocon team. Clearly, there is just one team which can be financed with the money given by UMIC. Then how was it that we had two teams? Did we have sponsorship? No. Did the institute allocate extra money to this second team? No. Did they shell out money from their own pockets? Yes.

In the beginning of the year, it was decided that there would be the usual one team for Robocon. During the course of the year, quite a few people started dropping out of this team, citing incompatibility issues with the current student heads of the team. Some time later, the people who had dropped out of this team, decided to form a separate team of their own altogether.

Where would the money come from? Their own pockets. How much? A total of three lakh - from fifteen to twenty pockets.

The institute administration had a problem with this arrangement because someone lodged a complaint stating that freshies were being forced to share the financial burden as well, which this other team (say Team B) states to be untrue. The entire issue had threatened to blow up, because of this bit, into a major controversy. A short while later, they did get tacit acceptance as the

THE ROBOCON SCANDAL

Robocon, the international robotics competition sees one fully funded team from IIT Bombay every year. But, this year saw two teams in the same budget. *InsighT* investigates...

second official Robocon team from IIT Bombay, but no funding.

Why did the three lakh budget not get split between the two teams? Even before that, was it not contingent on the UMIC student leaders to ensure that such a split never took place and that the best people went in with the one and only official team? Extra funding from the institute's

side was never going to come, and for good reason too. While no one here is stating that the institute should allocate money to student activities in such a way that the per-capita share is equal, there is a balance to be maintained in the distribution. And the greater the sum of money you take, the greater your responsibility. The cultural budget is Rs. 7.5 Lakh and an entire council has to manage in it with a thousand other people to ensure that they spend every penny wisely. The Inter IIT budget is Rs. 9 Lakh. The huge number of people each of these genres serve justifies the larger amount allocated to them, as opposed to the fifteen of the Robocon team.

With such a large seed money requirement, there is only one Robocon team that may be accommodated. Yet, due to internal strife two teams went to participate separately.

The only reason for things not having blown out of proportions is the good performance of both the teams. This good result was not because of the organisation but in spite of it, which should probably be a testimony to our robust tech scene as well. Let's hope that this doesn't set a bad precedent for next year and that our organising team(s) and their senior members understand their responsibilities better.

Mohit Sharma may be contacted at mohitsharma07@iitb.ac.in

LOOKBACK THE ENERGY GC

From August to September in a typical year, the institute usually sees an increment of 7.22% in its total hostel electricity bill. But this figure dropped to 0.48% in 2009, with every hostel except H9 showing a decrement in their electricity consumption. Here is how -

The Energy GC, envisioned by Team Techfest 2010 was their initiative to contribute to the place they call home. At its core was a not so novel idea - to get students to stop wastage of precious electricity. The only thing new was the incentive: a large fraction of the Tech GC Points tally ensured maximum participation and high hostel enthusiasm.

One of the most obvious challenges faced by the team was to ensure fairness in judging. Everything from the number of doubly occupied rooms to number of desktops in a hostel would make a difference to the energy consumption. However, the actual usage patterns were deciphered once data from the HCU and EMO (Electrical Maintenance Office) was obtained. Variations due to weather were most dominant, but no matter how varied the distribution of students in single and double rooms, per capita consumption remained nearly the same across all hostels. Keeping these in mind, a formula was devised in consultation with Prof. B.G Fernandes, Prof. Chatterjee, Prof. Kulkarni and other professors specialising in Power from the EE dept. It was basically a weighted average of the hostels per capita consumption with itself in the same month of the previous year. The Mess, canteen and xerox shop usage was left out of the calculation to make this a truly student effort based competition. In addition, a meeting of all Hostel G.secs was convened, presided by the then GSAA to iron out any anomalies and deal with particular exceptions.

The organizers still had to consider a wide variety of exceptions. Everything from swine flu in August to no-longer-single-room for thirdies had to be taken into account. Specific problems such as new H10 building, welding work in H1, rooms in H7 being issued to guests during Nexus and the like had to be resolved. Being the first time such an event was carried out, it did face its share of hiccups. The results for the month of September could only be declared only by end of October, due to the time lag between the end of the month and receiving the bill. Due to some technical difficulties, results for the months of October and November were also highly delayed.

As time progressed, undeterred by the endsems and quizzes, the hostels revised plans, took new initiatives, made new rules and tried replicating the "earth hour" on a very small scale. Some hostels even tried implementing load shedding and fines on those who left their appliances on when not needed. In the end, H6 emerged the winner, with about 17% reduction in their total electricity consumption as compared to last year. In monetary terms, the Institute saved an expenditure of Rs. 3.74 lakh because of the initiative. The DoSA, pleased with the success of the event declared a last minute prize money of Rs 1,50,000 to be distributed between the winning hostels H6, H2 and H13.

While the GC did inculcate the right spirit in the hostels, there is definitely a lot of scope in improvement in terms of the format and execution. Some exceptions made in the formula, like accounting for extra guests in H7 are at best a theoretical approximation. Without meters in individual rooms or wings, one can never really know exactly how much difference these efforts have made. But, as important as it is to have a better and fairer Energy GC, the aim is to reach the stage where there is no need for a competition to make us save electricity. We hope that the students have realized how much they can save when they try and continue this spirit regardless of the GC.

Disclaimer: This article is written after taking feedback from people who managed to get off-campus jobs and are not endorsed by InSIghT or its members. Nor are we patronizing off-campus applications over campus placements. Let's go through a step-by-step guide through the entire process

1. Time-frame: Off-campus, by its very nature, is only exercised by companies having immediate vacancies that can be filled up by a week or two at most. Hence, a good time to be considering off-campus applications would be sometime nearing the end semester exam time (for BTechs) or sometime nearing the DDP Presentation dates (for DDs).

2. Resume: The biggest flexibility that applying off-campus offers vis-à-vis campus placements is the fact that you can tailor your resume to suit the company profile and position that you are interested in. It is important to note that companies are very particular about the candidate's 'fit' into the company's philosophy and its operations,

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO OFF CAMPUS PLACEMENTS

as off-campus hires are seldom put through lengthy training and orientation programs. Hence, it's very important to highlight only those aspects of your personality in your resume. Besides, one page resumes are more preferred. Furthermore, your resume must also be backed with a good letter.

3. Routing applications: More often than not, the key to a successful off-campus application is to route your application through a point of contact from within a company. Applying through the company's website seldom helps. Fellow IITians and immediate seniors working in companies often form the best point of contacts. When vacancies arise, they would be the first to know and their referrals also count for a lot in landing you an interview opportunity.

4. Interview Processes: The inherent advantage with this process is that you get the time to prepare for the interviews, which are generally held as per mutual convenience. The interview format and structure

are more or less similar to what happens during campus placements.

5. Following up: It is always important to follow-up after an interview to keep your application still alive. Most of the time, failure in following up results in your application being forgotten. Following up may also mean asking to give more interviews.

That said, there are also other points worth mentioning, that one must keep in mind while applying off-campus:

1. Off campus application must not be misconstrued as being an "easier" way of getting a job vis-à-vis campus placements. Openings are scarce and more so, you might also be competing with people with work experience in the relevant field.

2. It is very important to always stay motivated throughout the entire process. Off-campus selections, as explained above, can often be a long drawn process and one may be

required to give multiple interviews to various sets of people within the company. Companies also take their time in judging how well you "fit" with their philosophy and visions.

3. If a company also happens to visit campuses, the work profiles would be more or less similar even if one were to be selected through the off-campus route. Also there is no discrimination in the remuneration between students selected through campus placements and those selected by off-campus applicants.

4. Lastly, there is also the element of luck that also plays a huge role in the whole process. As is the case with most things in life, you must just be lucky enough that you were there at that right place at the right time, which can make all the difference.

InSIght wishes all those in search of a dream job the very best!

Harishwar Subramaniam and Aayesha Ghanekar can be contacted at s.harishwar@iitb.ac.in and aayesha@iitb.ac.in respectively.

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS Institute Scholarships:

Scholarship Name	Prize	Important Dates	Eligibility Criteria	Selection Procedure
Institute Merit-cum-Means (MCM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tuition Fee WaiverRs 1000 p.m.Valid for 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announcement made in middle AugustApplications deadline - 2nd Week of September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit: JEE RankMeans: Parental Income < 2 Lakh (being raised to 4.5 Lakh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Awarded to max 25% of the enrolled students.In addition, 10% get Tuition Fee Waiver.Decision taken by the Scholarship Committee
IIT Bombay Heritage Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rs.1000 or Rs.1500 p.m.Valid for 2 semesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Announcement made in middle AugustApplications deadline - 2nd Week of Sept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants with Parental Income < 5 Lakh (being raised to 10 Lakh)CPI > 6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">100-150 granted per yearAfter initial shortlisting, CPI is the only criteria (JEE Rank for freshers)Decision taken by Scholarship Committee.

External Awards / Opportunities:

Scholarship Name	Prize	Important Dates	Eligibility Criteria	Selection Procedure
Aditya Birla	65,000 per annum	August-October	Top 20 students (primarily on basis of JEE ranking) at the time of admission are eligible to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1st Round: Overall achievements - academic and co-curricular excellence2nd Round: Essay3rd Round: Interview10 Students are chosen
Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY)	Rs.5000 p.m. for 2nd and 3rd year, Rs.7000 for subsequent years, (till you do a summer project in India) apart from a lump sum of Rs. 20000 per year.	Announcement: 2nd week of September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Indian Nationals1st year student who have secured 60% aggregate in 10th and 12th board2nd year student who secured 60% in the 1st year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Around 80 shortlisted for interview based on project proposal7-8 people chosenProject plays vital role in selectionKVPY funds students' summer project in IndiaRenewal based on performance in summer project
Honda Yes Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">\$3000 lump-sum cashIf internship in Japan is accepted another \$7000 as StipendMasters in Japan (within 3 years) - with nearly \$10,000	Mid Aug to Sept end	Students in 5th semester in BTech or Dual Degree Programme (M.Sc. are not eligible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shortlisted based on academic excellence and co-curricular activities, and essayShortlisted candidates sit for a round of interview (mostly on geo - technology or general HR)
OP Jindal Engineering & Management	65000/- per each year of eligibility	August-September	Top 12 students from the institute and top 2 students from only 4 departments of the institute of each year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eligible students take an online testShortlisted students appear for a personal interview1 student from each year is chosen

THE SCHOLAR'S AVENUE : SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE STUDENT KIND

World Quant Foundation	Rs. 50000	February	8 Toppers from 3rd / 4th Year Maths, Elec. and Comp. Sc. Dept.	No Further Shortlisting
Narottam Sekhsaria	Two Categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Merit Cum Means AwardExcellence Award	September	CPI > 7.5 and First Come, First Served Basis: <ul style="list-style-type: none">For MCM Category: 25 forms each for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year (Parental Income <50,000 p.m.)Excellence award (50 forms for final year Btech students)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Based on the form - Academics, Extra curricularsFollowed by Interview1 student from each of the two categories is selected
KPMG Scholarship	Rs. 50000-60000	February	Means; the applicant must also have a respectable academic record	Institute suggests names to the KPMG Foundation from amongst students with low parental income who do not receive MCM

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Other than those mentioned on the Scholarship website, two scholarships that are being offered to postgraduates are:

Scholarship Name	Prize	Important Dates	Eligibility Criteria	Selection Procedure
Maharashtra Electricity Regulation Committee (MERC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Rs.8000 p.m. for FellowshipRs.5000 per sem as Tuition Fees waiver15000 per year (TA/DA)	At the time of admission	M. Tech. students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Interview ProcessGranted to 5 studentsValid for 2 years
Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">14000 p.m. Fellowship for 1st two years15000 p.m. for remaining 2 years30,000 p.m. Contingency	At the time of admission	PhDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Granted to 1 student.Valid for 4 years

The Fundae

As for most external scholarships and awards, application forms need to be filled, which ask tricky questions like "Why do you want this scholarship?" and "Why are you best suited for the award?" Some scholarships also require informative or opinionated essays. A common quality awarders are looking for is clarity in thought and the ability to convey ideas objectively. Faking or copying from the internet without adequate research is very likely to lead to trouble. However, the application form and its appendages are not always focal. Interviews also have a high weightage in making final decisions. Usually interviews are HR oriented, aimed at judging the applicant's interests, personality and future plans. Some awards like the KVPY take technical interviews as well. Commonly, interviewers zero in on ambitious, strong-willed people with a clear vision of their goals and future course of action. Hence, one must collect one's thoughts and ideas before the interview and be prepared to present clear ideas to the interviewer panel. PG Scholarship interviews are mostly technical but the personality test and future plans are also part of the interview process. While these pieces of advice shall stand in good stead, we also recommend aspirants to speak to past awardees for more pointers. All the scholarships are coordinated by the Academic Office and Dean AP Office and are notified via emails and notices. Visit <http://www.iitb.ac.in/academic/scholar.jsp> for further details.

Ankur Tulsian and Tarun Reddy may be contacted at ankurtulsian@iitb.ac.in and tarun.reddy@iitb.ac.in respectively

It's Valfi time in the institute, and needless to say, sentiments are running high. From emotional final year students to scandalised freshies, Valfis make sure that the institute sees it all. Depending on the year, Valfis mean different things - for some it's about profile readings with excessive, shocking exaggerations, fundoo videos and senti speeches, and for the rest, a chance to worm your way to some free and (hopefully!) good food. The senti season made us wonder whether all the fanfare is much ado about nothing - is it just us who put in such an effort to celebrate our passing-out batch? We went around and dug up information from universities all over the world.

Arguably, the term Valedictory [Latin vale dicere - to say farewell] was first used in the Harvard College as early as the 18th Century, and was a very formal affair back then. With time, the idea has evolved and today every college and university has a unique way of bidding adieu to the passing out batch.

The formal and cliched part of the farewell in most institutes includes batch photographs and cultural programmes like skits, dances, poem recitations, and group games by different clubs and societies, accompanied with speeches by dignitaries and a Prize Distribution ceremony. In some colleges these are held on a grand scale, like Cornell, where the President or the Vice President of the United States come down to bestow the degree. This is akin to the likes of Dr Kalam or Pratibha Patil visiting our very own campus on Convocation Day. Often, the best student is chosen as the Valedictorian to deliver the final farewell speech.

Besides the formal function, informal student

IIT Bombay has a rich cultural heritage, and it's taken years of innovation, perseverance and hard-work from a number of people over the years to get us where we stand today. The various clubs that engulf and invigorate freshmen the moment they set foot in the institute, the elaborate sports facilities, a more flexible academic curriculum, and grand cultural and technological fests are products that have gradually evolved under the craftsmanship of these visionaries. Every year, inevitably, a few of these part ways with the institute leaving behind a void which many of us vie to fill. The time of the year has come when we pay homage to these titans.

The institute bestows awards in four categories: cultural, sports, tech and organisational. For each category, a call for nominations is made for:

1. **Colour** (min 1, max 0.75% of the total student strength) : A recognition of the student's achievements and contribution in the last one year
2. **Special Mention** (max 0.15% of the total student strength): Students who didn't quite qualify for a Colour; meted out leniently to encourage enthusiastic students
3. **Person of the Year** [0 to 2 (2 in exceptional cases)] - A shade superior to 'Colour'
4. **Roll of Honour** [0 to 2 (2 in exceptional cases)]: A recognition of the involvement of the student throughout his stay in the institute. Requires the student to have participated successfully in intra and inter-college events, initiated a new/dormant activity, inspired others and helped draw out talent in the activity. The RoH is a coveted award, and so meted out fastidiously.
5. **Citation** [max 0.5% of the passing out batch (works out to 8)] - awarded to noteworthy students who couldn't quite make it to the roll of honour

In the organisational category, additional awards meted out are:

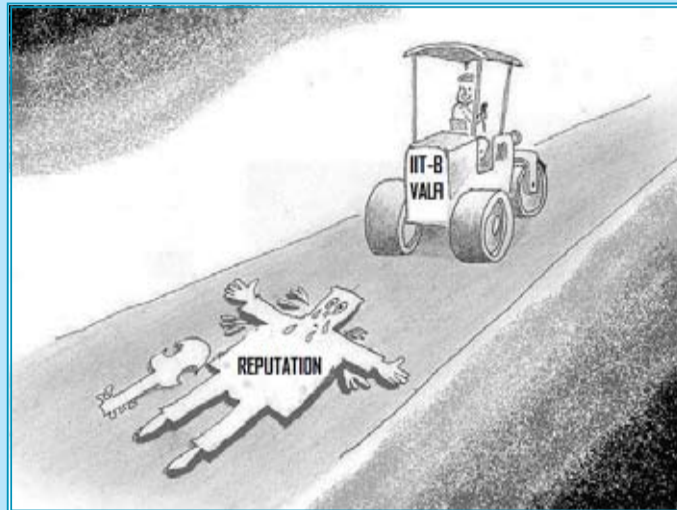
1. **Best Office Bearer** (max AA 1, HA 1, Cult 2, Sports 2)
2. **Torchbearer** (none or one of the GSs for outstanding work, new initiatives and for being a source of inspiration to others)

The institute has set strict limitations to the

V FOR VALEDICTION

Does Every Institute Have a Valfi Culture Like Ours?

get-togethers at hostel and institute level form an integral part of the whole farewell process. It is a way for the students to reminisce away from their teachers about their stay in college and to celebrate their graduation. The University of Manchester organizes a Graduation Ball for the students. However, the exorbitant entry fee of 60 pounds for dinner and wine ensures that



the real party happens at the local pub! Rutgers, USA, has the concept of a 'Senior Week', a week-long event planned for graduating seniors after the final exams are over and before their graduation ceremony. This includes various fun filled activities, visits to New York City, amusement parks and fun fairs on campus, making the last few days memorable for the students.

The tradition specific to Stanford is what they call 'The Whacky Walks' where people walk in for graduation onto the main field in their graduation cloaks decorated with anything specific to their major, dorm life, friends, parents, hometown et al showcased in a humorous manner. In the past, people have made quite a sight of themselves by dressing up as Rubik's cubes (having been a part of the Rubik's cube club), circuit boards, while sporting banners and cards with thank you messages addressed to their teachers, parents and friends!

Closer home, in IIT Guwahati, final year students are put on the stage in groups and are asked funny questions about each other's lifestyle habits to see how well they have known each other in the past four years. Many NITs have a region-wise farewell function. The states with better representation by default have a grander function. Students generally go to nearby places and hangout over dinner, senti speeches, and Smriti videos. TTLG (Through the Looking Glass) clips, bidding farewell to the final year batch are also a feature at St Stephens, New Delhi, where

following the Grad D (graduation dinner), students change out of their traditional wear and head straight to a nearby club!

IIT Madras, on the other hand has a valfi culture quite similar to ours. They have a tradition of Hostel Nights, for which student profiles called RGs (Royal Gangrape) are written and displayed in the hostel for public viewing. These along with mugshots and taglines complete the Valfi picture. A Roast and Toast session is an integral part of these valfis, where Roast is the rape session similar to our Q/A session and Toast the senti part, made simpler by the presence of alcohol!

Most universities like to gift their students a memento to remind them of all the good times they spent there. These range from strawberries and champagne in Berkeley to personalized graffiti T-shirts in FMS, New Delhi to engraved rings in NIT Surathkal to personalized pens in Jesus & Mary College, New Delhi. Another tradition common to many colleges is bestowing titles like Mr Lazy Bum, Mr Angryman, Ms Astonishing eyes, and the like.

All said and done, Valfis are a memorable part of any college student's life, no matter how they are conducted. In IITB, well, love them, hate them, be scared of them, but no matter what you do, you can't ignore them! It's the one time to relive all memories - good and bad, and cherish them. We hope the passing-out batch had a blast with their Valfis, and wish them all the very best!

Ankur Tulsian and Anasuya Mandal may be contacted at ankurtulsian@iitb.ac.in and anasuya@iitb.ac.in respectively

THE AWARDS COMMITTEE 2010

A look at the selection procedure for awards this time and associated issues

number of awards in order to uphold their integrity but given the extent of our involvement in extra-curricular activities today, sadly enough, this leads to a number of deserving people bereft of the honour.

The students who wish to avail of an award are required to file their nominations along with a descriptive profile mentioning their credentials. The respective committees then scrutinise these profiles, going strictly by the constitution. If a person applies for a high profile award, in case he doesn't get it, his case is then examined for the next award in the same category.

ORGANISATIONAL

Following several controversies regarding last year's procedure, a new structure was laid down by the outgoing GSAA Vaibhav Devanathan and then ratified by Dean SA. The revamped committee that looked to adequately represent all areas of organizational activity and comprised of the 5 General Secretaries, 5 Independent Body representatives - one Mood Indigo OC, Techfest OC, ECell OC, Insight and Aawaaz Editors; 1 Placement Team Representative, 1 Institute Tech Nom, 1 Mentor Coordinator and 2 PG Noms - Cult and Sports. The change in the committee also meant that the hostel General Secretaries were no longer a part of this.

Following the initial display of the profiles, there are two rounds of eliminations. The first involves voting in which the profiles with at least a 50% majority are forwarded to the next round. For citation/RoH, the second round involves close scrutiny and the committee seeks to make unanimous decisions in this regard. For colour/special mention, a 10-point system was incorporated (Execution: 4 Initiation: 4 Inspiration to others: 2) where the candidates with the highest points were duly awarded. The highest and the lowest marks of each candidate was neglected to minimize any biases.

The primary difficulties in handling organisational awards arise from the diversity of the applicants (making representation for all them difficult), nature of credentials (multiple people

claiming the credit for the same task, a candidate bloating a task to make it look grand, etc). Some measures suggested to counter these issues are making profiles public so as to keep a check on false/exaggerated claims made. Moreover, an initial filtering of applications down to a maximum cap done by the representatives of various bodies themselves would make the system more efficient as the heads are in the best position to judge their subordinates, though the final decision would be made by the committee collectively. For instance, the Mood Indigo OCs could be asked to select the three most worthy profiles from among those filed.

CULTURAL

Chaired by GS Cult, the committee comprised of Cultural nominees (UG and PG), the Institute Cultural Council and the hostel Cultural Councillors. All profiles were judged according to constitutional criteria keeping in mind last year's recipients as a rough benchmark so as not to let deteriorate the worth of the awards. The committee looks to make all final decisions by consensus.

SPORTS

In the world of sports, one's performance in the inter-IIT competitions seems to be of paramount importance. This implies that you need to be par excellent at one particular sport to get recognition; leading your hostel to triumph in multiple sports or relevantly enthusing and inspiring your hostel-mates will probably leave you deprived of the award. Given the fact that hostel sports councillors (though a part of the sports committee) are not invited in the sports awards committee, such candidates are deprived of a voice.

Constitutionally, the sports committee is supposed to follow, more or less, the same procedure as the cultural committee. However, an exception was made this year as the committee followed a layered procedure as a committee comprising of the Chairman (Sports), GS Sports, Sports Nominees (UG, PG and Girls), Institute Secretaries shortlisted worthy candidates by iterative voting with everyone voting

for the five most unworthy candidates. The corresponding Institute Secretaries were given a chance to defend the two candidates at the bottom, and the nominations were duly rejected if not found adequately impressive. The sub-committee that exercised the last word by selecting the final awardees was devoid of the institute sports secretaries. This was effected to let the senior members of the committee enjoy more privacy to express their personal opinions.

In the interests of the various teams representing different sports, it is a general practice that at least one award is meted out to all teams that performed well at the inter-IIT games. This often leads to injustice towards large teams (e.g. Athletics with 14 members), as small teams (e.g. Badminton with 4 members) end up with at least one member getting an award every year. In a welcome move, in the wake of IIT Bombay's winning streak in the inter-IIT games, the cap for Colour was raised from thirteen to seventeen awards.

TECHNICAL

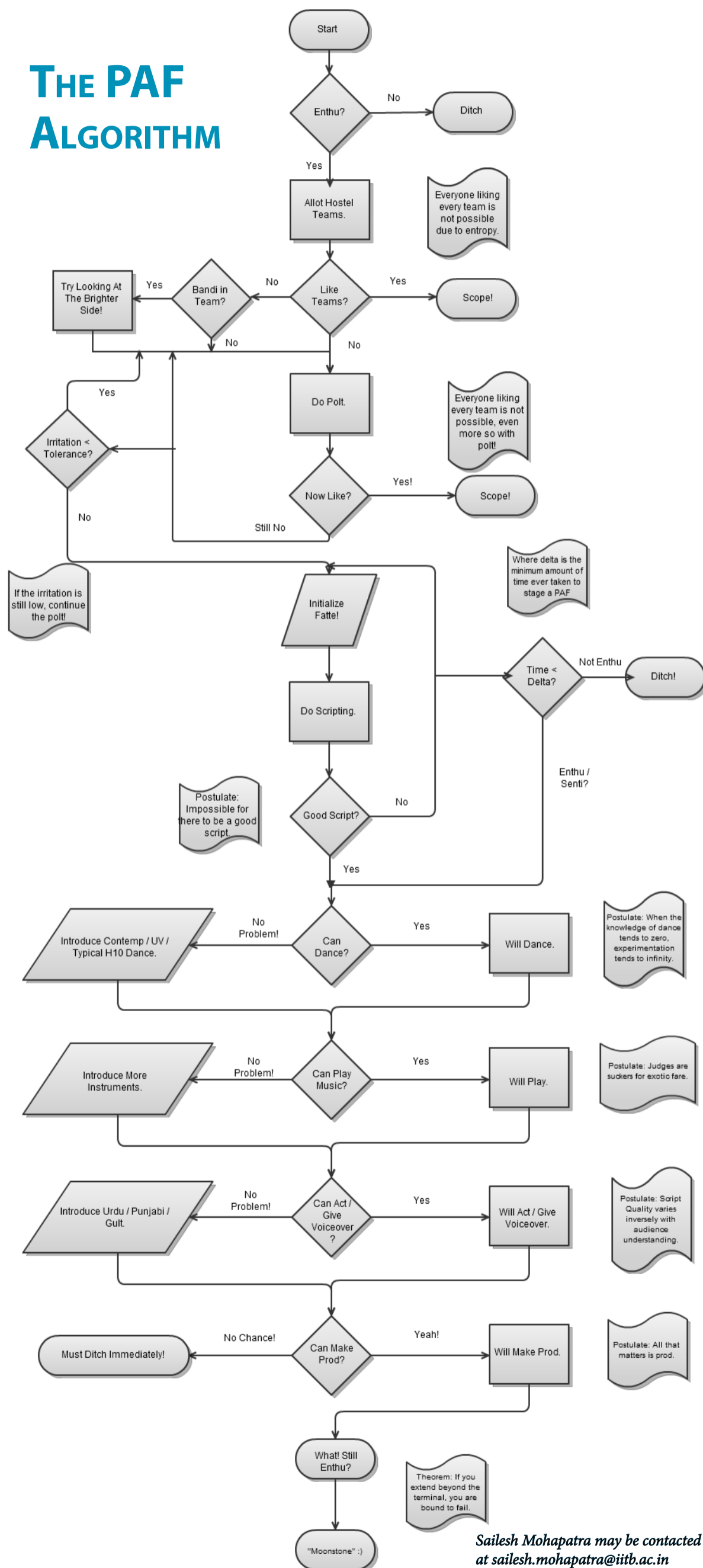
The committee comprised of the members and overall coordinators of Technic and was chaired by the Tech Nominee of the institute. The hostel tech secretaries were invited to the meetings but not many of them turned up. As tech, more or less, is a group of closely working people there were only a few ambiguities, however there definitely were some inevitable exceptions. Least subjected to controversies, though not devoid of hard decisions, the tech awards procedure, untouched from that followed last year, sailed smoothly to materialisation.

While we have not yet found the right fit between keeping student interests in mind and maintaining good standards, we hope the SAC meeting on the 13th April will have lain to rest all anxieties. Though biases due to some degree of political influences, redundancies and ambiguities do exist, the system is in a process of constant change for the better, and the light at the end of the tunnel just seems to be growing brighter steadily.

Ankur Tulsian and Achin Jindal may be contacted at ankurtulsian@iitb.ac.in and 08011013@iitb.ac.in respectively

Well, you've seen them, you've judged them, and maybe you're even awed by them. However, how do hostels REALLY come up with their PAFs? We bring you the age old algorithm for making a passable PAF - handed down from PAF Noms to Hostel GSec's over the decade.

THE PAF ALGORITHM



Sailesh Mohapatra may be contacted at sailesh.mohapatra@iitb.ac.in

THE FACEBOOK QUIZ

How PAF 'Enthu' Are You?

- What does PAF really stand for?
 - Poisonous Art Fart
 - Poorly Attended Fiasco
 - Papa (of) All Festivals
 - Polt And Freshies
 - Pretty Awesome Feeling
- What are paper rolls used for?
 - Toilet Paper
 - Red carpet for hostels
 - The canvas for all art work in the Prod at PAFs
 - Wallpaper for seniors' rooms.
 - What paper rolls? Never saw any during any PAF!
- Who won PAF last year?
 - Who cares?
 - I don't know, I'm a freshie.
 - My hostel
 - The hostel next to mine.
 - The judging for PAF was very horrible last year. My hostel should've won. But the other hostels did poltu.
- It is 9 o'clock in the evening. You hear a knock on your door, and your hostel GSec's voice. What do you do?
 - Switch off the lights and hide under the bed.
 - Open the balcony door/ window and escape.
 - Open the door to your room with welcoming arms, and rush to make paper rolls.
 - Go with him/ her, but escape as soon as his/her back is turned.
 - Bargain for a chocolate milk shake/ Rasna, and then proceed to work
- What did you do for your hostel's PAF?
 - Saved it by not being involved.
 - Sold the idea to my wingmates and got them to work
 - Dance, Dram, FA, and a little bit of Prod
 - Prod, when they call me for FA, and FA when they call me for Prod ;).
 - Prod!

Answers:

a. Bechara Freshie

You are a non-enthu freshie. You have used every excuse in the book, from "Behen ki Shaadi" to "Maa bimar hai" to get out of Prod work. But as you must've learned by now, none of these worked. Night after night you were dragged to the Corridors to make endless paper rolls, and the term infinite corridor has now acquired a new meaning for you. Our sincere sympathies!

b. Poltu Freshie

You do your best to avoid any work that your seniors might impose on you. In fact, you have stopped going to your room at night for fear of being caught by the Prod Incharge of your PAF. You do not want to anger him by not working, but neither do you want to actually work. As somebody has rightly said, Prevention is better than Cure. Hence, your attitude. No Rasna for you!

c. Old Fourthie

You are the old man of your hostel, struggling to make all these young, hapless freshies see the glory and pride of a well executed PAF. Every day you wage a lone battle against freshies and sophies waiting to bolt the minute you're not looking. The memory of the golden age of PAF still lingers with you as you ceaselessly try to emulate your beloved seniors. Best of Luck with that!

d. Hostel Secy

You thought about your enthu for Lit/Dram/Debating/FA/Music/Dance/Sports/Tech/Food etc. when you filed in your nomination for Hostel Secy. Little did you think that it would mean working, and making ickle freshies work for PAF. Now you're stuck, and all you can do, is to try and get as much out of it as possible.

e. Poltu senior

You know that there is no better way of networking than PAF. And to fulfill your poltu ambitions, you are working your ass off for PAF. Yeah maybe you do like it a little bit, but deep down in your heart you know that you're only doing it so that your path to becoming the Hostel GSec/ Cult Co/ Maint Co etc. just becomes a little easier. Dekh Lena Yaar!

Mukund Madhav may be contacted at mukund.madhav@iitb.ac.in

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BLACKLISTED PERSON

A day before the elections, I got a call from Candidate A (let's call him Obama) saying B, his opponent (let's call him McCain) had blacklisted me. Considering I never intended to do polt for Obama, I was rather confused wondering why I was even on the blacklist. Finally, to vent my frustration, I decided to root for Obama in proper institute elections style.

At 11pm on the same night, all of Obama's supporters met outside MB, the last place we thought anyone would check, (Ha!) and started strategising. Elections are very speculative in nature and it was important to ensure that the right speculation is heard by everyone. "McCain got royally screwed in the Election Debate!", "McCain ke supporters infi anti maccha rahe hain" were standard dialogues to be exploited.

Battle plans were drawn up, hostels allocated, and target groups identified as interested, vulnerable and crucial. We drew up Excel sheets, replete with the coloured columns, bars and all that jazz. Our small gathering was then addressed by people a couple of whom, frankly, were just not expected there! Ex-election officers, ex-post holders, people who'd fought institute elections and won, people who were famous because they knew people and so on. We spent a couple of hours adapting our paper-plans to fit in what these gurus told us.

The day of the election finally dawned. I was picked up from my room by other Obama supporters in the morning so that we could set up camp outside campus in one of those obnoxiously expensive coffee shops. Of course, Obama's coffers were not just going to repay us back, irrespective of the result, a treat was inevitable! Flouting the official rule which demanded that we report at SAC once done with academic commitments, we moved out of insti armed with laptops, spike guards, cellphones and SIM cards.

One might wonder why we needed additional SIMs? Our insiders had reported that there was a good chance that people from the McCain camp would call Vodafone and report our SIMs as lost. In turn, our phones would get blocked for atleast twelve hours which would be more than enough to ruin the polt spree.

While we had our usual army of dedicated freshies and sophies doing the running jobs for us within the institute, back at the base camp, there was frantic calling going on – to MTechs, freshies, and others. My job was to make sure that all the people rooting for McCain were behind the SAC bars. How does one do that? That's where the unbiased Election Officers come into the picture. We made sure that the whereabouts of these people were passed on to the EOs, and requested them to pull them out of the game and into SAC Jail. There were others calling up MTech and SOM students pretending to be election officers or council members - whatever it took to impress authen-

ticity of the call, and telling them to vote for Obama. Phrases like "Council ne milke decide kiya hai ki Obama ko hi vote dena hai" were not uncommon.

At around 8 pm we left our base -camp and entered the institute to vote. An issue this time around was the restriction on entry into hostels. But then, gates aren't the only entrances to get into hostels now, are they? I proceeded to the computer room to cast my vote, where I saw that the election officer present was an Obama-supporter as well. I got the list of all those who hadn't yet voted and started sending our diminished runner force to their rooms. "Obama 20 vote se peeche hain; aapka vote important hain" got gullible people out to vote.

At about 9pm, another election officer spotted me in the hostel. Throwing caution to the winds, I ran towards the hostel gate, slowing



down only at the security desk where they were checking names. The election officer ran towards the security guards, and asked them to catch me. I was eventually caught and stuffed into a Maruti Van along with ten others. My devilish mind didn't give up even then. On getting off at SAC, I quietly walked away pretending to talk on my cellphone, but was caught again. My cell-phones, SIM cards were all confiscated and I was taken into the SAC where I was pleasantly greeted by plenty of familiar faces. I leisurely had my free dinner and was released as soon as it was ten.

The views expressed in this article are purely those taken from blacklisted students. Insight is in no way, endorsing the promotion of candidates during elections. A severe penalty can be imposed for such behaviour.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ELECTION OFFICER

As election officer of a politically charged institute, the task of ensuring a clean, fair and smooth election procedure seemed rather daunting. Elections 2010 proved to be as much of a challenge as we'd expected, but it left us with many interesting memories nonetheless. Here's an account of the forty hours of madness that we invested in conducting this institute's elections:

We received all the election blacklists the night before election day. Meanwhile, elections@iitb.ac.in was brimming with complaints from all and sundry- many genuine, many clearly results of vendetta, and most just pure entertainment. Midnight came and went and we were still busy sorting out these complaints. Then came the issue of choosing election officers. This was, by far, the trickiest issue we were faced with. The discussion on who'd finally become election officers went on till sunrise.

list count is still zero. Not anymore! The EO sees a guy frantically going from door to door trying to 'sell' his candidate. He enters a room for campaigning and the EO quietly stands outside. After he comes out, the EO asks him for his ID. He doesn't possess one. He's taken towards security where he remains till a jeep comes to escort him to the 'SAC-Jail'.

Meanwhile incessant calls are being made from supporters to voters to enlighten them about candidates. A voter woken up from his peaceful siesta abuses the caller in return and vows that he will definitely vote for the opposition.

1815 hrs: After the initial break, it has been a roll. Our patrolling EO has caught 15 people till now. The jeep does not have enough room, and the EO has to sent some of them by auto till SAC.

1845 hrs: At SAC, confiscated mobile phones have heaped up in a basket. Some of them, still not switched off, are ringing. We are rather tired of being cooped up in SAC ourselves, so we think we might as well have some fun. Someone calls in and starts complaining about how Hostels Y and Z are thanda and how we need to pull people out to vote. We use all of our detective skill to get him to blurt out his location and send an EO after him. Mission successful!

1900 hrs: Another Election Day Bakra is found! An unfortunate freshie has taken our patrolling EO to a corner to give him voting fundae. The freshie soon realizes his mistake, and horrified, takes to his heels. The EO takes off after him and a chase sequence ensues, up the stairs, from one balcony to the other. Seeing his catch getting away, our EO calls for reinforcements and finally the freshie is caught hiding in someone else's room, but not before an exciting twenty minute chase.

1920 hrs: The excuses people give to get out of SAC! Anyway, people've started playing Mafia here by now. Thankfully all the thinking is keeping ideas of escaping at bay.

2000 hrs: A blacklisted student is caught near a hostel. We bring him to SAC and ask him to turn in his mobile. He promptly does so, arousing suspicion. We frisk him to find that he possesses 3 more mobiles and a SIM, just in case!

2030 hrs: We've just heard reports that one of the EOs is not living up to the levels of neutrality we expect, and so made our way to the concerned hostel and gathered proof of the same. Once again, our resourcefulness is called into question as we convince this character to accompany us to SAC on some "important work for which we needed someone able". Any appeal to vanity works out beautifully.

2145 hrs: It's just fifteen minutes to the end of elections. We are way too tired to be happy and celebrate our proud catches. Never before had we been subjected to so much senti as by the people caught today. Hordes and hordes of blacklisted people come in directly to SAC from wherever they were to cast their votes. The malicious staring matches between rival camps are a new source of entertainment.

Before midnight, all the votes are counted and we hit the sack after forty hours of zero sleep.

Compiled by Ankur Mour, Pranav Jawale, Rahul Gaur, Mohit Sharma and Gautam Salhotra with help from anonymous. They may be contacted at 08001013@iitb.ac.in, pranavj@iitb.ac.in, rahul_gaur@iitb.ac.in, mohitsharma07@iitb.ac.in and gautam.salhotra@iitb.ac.in respectively.

Every single person's case would be discussed, deliberated, thrashed and, more often than not, trashed. We then called up people up and asked them if they would be interested, after taking into account all of our concerns. Finally, by breakfast, we had our thoroughly discussed team of 60 in place.

Now came in the logistics bit. How were we going to catch campaigners? What would we do with them, and how would we arrange for their food? The next two hours were spent finalizing these issues, after which all the election officers were called to SAC to decide the strategy and hostel allotments.

By now, it was already 12 noon on D-day. A couple of us put the finishing touches to the online voting system and the setting up of the servers, and then set up the voting systems in hostel computer rooms. The rest of us went into a huddle with the security officers, apprising them of the entire situation and discussing contingency situations which might arise in the next ten hours and how we should respond to them.

Catching people doing polt and bringing blacklisted candidates to SAC was important and thus discussed in depth. Unlike previous years, this year all the chief election officers stayed inside SAC, going out only to look into specific cases.

Finally, elections started, with a slight delay of twenty minutes owing to technical glitches with the setting up of the voting system in some hostels. Here's a timeline of how things went on from there on at a certain Hostel X.

1700 hrs: It has been half an hour since elections have started and the patrolling EO's black-

THE INSIGHT TEAM

Chief Executive Editor
Nikunj Jha

Chief Editor
Nupur Joshi

The Execution Panel

Aayesha Ghanekar
Achin Jindal
Ayush Baheti
Aishwarya Sharma
Ajanta Akhuly
Anasuya Mandal
Ankur Mour
Ankur Tulsian
Antariksh Bothale
Anupam Chatterjee
Anvesh Shah
Arundhati Velamur
Arvind Singh

Ashwath Kirthyvasan
Dibesh Debbarma
Gautam Salhotra
Harish Ramadas
S. Harishwar
Harshad Kunte
Manas Rachh
Mayur Srinivasan
Mohit Sharma
Mubeen Masudi
Mukul Gupta
Mukund Madhav
Neeraj Jain
Neha Rambhia
Ninad Kulkarni
Nithya Subramaniam
Pranav Jawale
Priyanka DeSouza
Rahul Gaur
Rajat Chakravarty

Ramnath Pai
Ritika Goyal
Sagar Sambrani
Sai Kulkarni
Sailesh Mohapatra
Shreya Mishra
Siddharth Shah
Siddharth Shanbhag
Siddharth Shukla
Srinath Murthy
Sushil Reddy
Tanuj Bhojwani
Tarun Reddy
Urmil Shah
V Vijay Venu
Vipul Hirani
Vishu Mahajan

Design & Layout
Saurabh Tewari (I.D.C.)