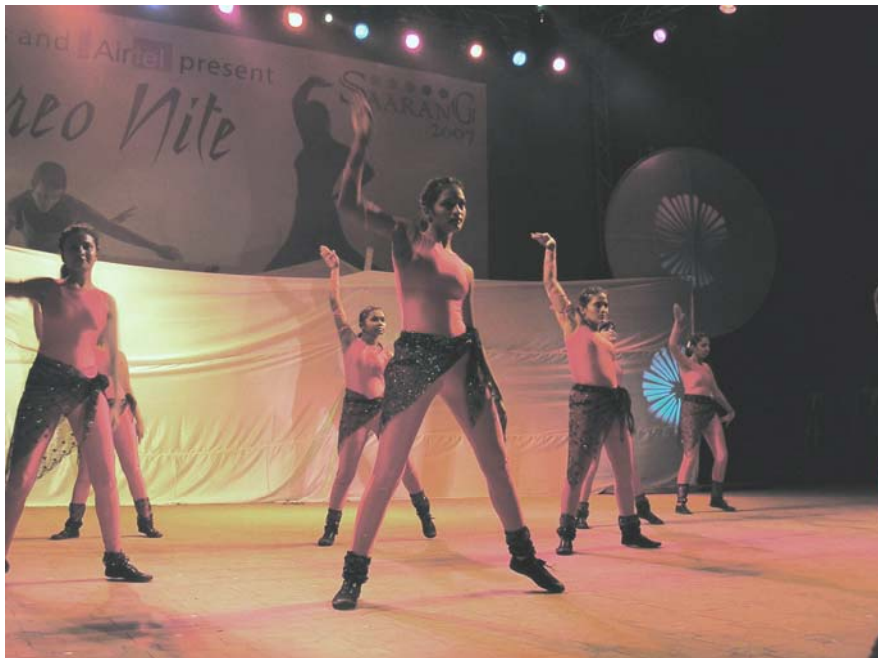


THE
5 POINT
EXPERIMENT

THE OFFICIAL SAARANG NEWSLETTER

Point 4, Day 3, January 28th

Choreo Nite, one of Saarang's heavily attended professional shows maintained its reputation yesterday as 25 teams from different colleges battled (danced, actually) it out for the best choreo team award. The first team to come up was NIT Trichy, and their introduction was very Choreo-like, a tough-to-understand theme 'Conscience, Intuition, Heart, Emotion'. The performance was just brilliant, with an enormous troupe working in perfect coordination. Once they finished, one could sense that they were headed for a podium finish (They came first, by the way). Next was RVRJC with a 'Siva dance' and bits from Kaakha Kaakha with a clear message at the end 'Save the Ganges, thus save nature'. RMK Engineering College came next, performing the Pussycat Dolls song with

more clothing than in the original one. Sastra Engineering College seemed to lack that special touch in dance, but compensated for it with their costumes which were a cross between Jailhouse Rock and Batman. Rajalakshmi College followed with a decent performance; their theme being a mix of 'Good, Evil, Dharma, Gita, Krishna, (fill in similar words)'. Ethiraj College was expected to get applauded irrespective of its dance, and expectations were fulfilled. Stella had pretty girls dancing on a theme which sounded like an Economic Times article: 'Decisions, consequences, and what we go through in between them'. Next was VNR VJIET College who started off as 'street dancers' with Gasolina, sporting hot pink cargos. Towards the end, they went on to 'Du Hast' and

music from Sting's 'Desert Rose'. Crescent College seemed to be a laugh: Hotel California on a trampoline? Honestly, a case of bananas going bananas, trying to ape IIT but getting rAPED when the Insti showed them how the same music was danced to, for real. SCT came up with a biblical theme, and lots of piano music, but come on now, even we can dance to piano music. Next was the biggie, IITM. They were brilliant too, with an innovative performance, which placed them second. Cheers to the Choreo team! Thangavelu College blessed us with Shlokas and generously took (ironic, isn't it) only three fourths of the time allotted.

Other performances included that of Sacred Heart's College, where they sacredly performed Mohini Aattam of Kerala. Jerusalem College danced to a love story between a boy and a girl. It was slow and nice, unlike movies where after a scene when the boy and girl meet at a Café in Chennai, the next scene is their dance in Mauritius. Anna University did Let's Get Loud to tremendous applause. They were good, and secured the third spot. SRM College did a good performance of a part of 'Robin Hood'. Easwari Engineering College started off with 'Brahma' making appearance on stage, but oddly, his face (towards us) was darker than the other three faces he had (masks!). There were other performances with 'Savitri and Yama', 'Body and soul' and such fine and agreeable topics. There were a few rap songs too, which sounded very similar to the Airtel DJ's voice, but no, the rap songs were understandable and had correct English. Some Bollywood tracks too were danced to. It was a fine show, and with many educative and informative themes, it set people in mood for the SpEnt finals (which we shall cover tomorrow).

5 Point Someone

Madras Players' latest play 5 Point Someone based on the bestselling book of the same name, was a big hit with the audience. At about 7 PM there was an overwhelming crowd at the ICSR auditorium and some even tried to force their way through resulting in a broken glass pane. The play started at

7:15 PM sharp with half of the people who came for the play being forced to sit out.

Chronicling the lives of 3 students at IITD, the play saw some commendable performances and elicited several laughs from the audience though about half of these laughs were at inappropriate points of the play when serious scenes were going on. As we all know, the three main characters of the play are Hari (Monty), Alok (V Sarvesh Sridhar) and Ryan (Praveen Bharatwaj), a group of underachievers who go through several experiences in their four years at IIT, only to come out stronger in the end. Sarvesh Sridhar turned in a very strong performance with his emotional outbursts and panic attacks as Alok, the desperate-to-achieve student. Praveen as Ryan was also very good with his comic timing and dialogue delivery. Monty as Hari put up a good show as well and was at his best when he was acting like a bumbling idiot, be it in front of his love interest Neha (Uttara Krishnadas) or Prof Cherian (PC Ramkrishna). The latter was clearly the veteran of the pack, with his commanding presence, deep voice and near perfect dialogue delivery which held the audience in awe for the few scenes in which he appeared. The director, Nikhila Kesavan did an excellent job of adapting the potboiler of a book into a taut and enjoyable screenplay. One good device was the use of a narrator (Vidyuth Srinivasan) who would speak as the action in the play paused. Other characters in the play were the friendly and pragmatic Prof Veera (Anshumani Ruddra, IITM alumnus), Dean Shastri (TT Srinath) and Prof Dubey (Shankar Sundaram). One of the highlights of the play was the audience going completely nuts for a smooch scene between Hari and Neha. Apart from this there was quite a bit of applause for lines like – "We are the underperformers. We bring the average down. Let's celebrate because we make other people happy" and "This is how men talk about relationships. Each guy has no clue of what the other guy is talking about." Though it is debatable if the book (and by extension the play) is a realistic representation of the situation at any IIT, almost everyone in the audience could connect at some level to the characters making the play a great

success at Saarang 2007. Oh, and to clear a misconception – the 5 Point Experiment IS the

newsletter of Saarang and really has NOTHING to do with the play or the book 5 Point Someone.

Dear JAM Moderator,

It is established without any element of doubt that you got to be the moderator of JAM at Saarang only by being in Monty's good books. Otherwise it is hard to imagine how a man who cannot speak two successive sentences without a 'Chee' or 'Thu' gets to moderate JAM at Saarang. What sort of a disgusting moderator says "Chute fu**er, pass on the mic"? It was the first time, sadly, Saarang JAM had to witness a moderator who had no sense of public behavior. Asking audience to say 'f**k you' to participants, showing the middle finger etc, are only a few examples to show your kuntryness. JAM couldn't have got worse than you just made it yesterday. You tried to be a cross between 'Scarface' Al Pacino and Samuel Jackson, but let me tell you something, "You ain't worth s**t!" You should be moderating JAM probably at some place like Kandavettychamiloudekabaal College, not IITM.

We shall seriously spread the word around, especially to the future (promising) cores to debar you from moderating/judging any event even remotely related to IITM. You can come in as part of audience, but as you frequently said yesterday, you're expected to "Shut the f**k up and sit, bitch!" If you want fundaes, attend the JAM finals today, where Jimmy Xavier will show to how to moderate a JAM, and how to be polished.

Yours sincerely,

5 Pt Experiment

Whose Line Is It Anyway?

The newsletter team had predicted this event to be the most JAM-packed event this Saarang and we weren't let down. The event practically robbed both the Airtel and Motorola stalls of their respective audiences with witty repartee between the host (IITM Alumnus, Anshumani Ruddra) and the participants. While everyone appreciated the humorous situations he so spontaneously set to the participants, his obvious efforts at glorifying the Informals Stall didn't go down too well.

For the prelims, any two members from each team were asked to come up on stage and exchange only questions to enact the situation set to them. The finals began within minutes of the prelims with all of 6 teams and two of them, all girls. In spite of the best efforts of the adjoining stalls, the Sound Effects were loud and clear in the first round when two team members provided the background score for the actions of the other two. The team from SVM college, who bagged first place eventually, was especially brilliant in this round with their depiction of 'The Wedding Night', right from the condom vending machine till the lights went out. The next round to follow was the Props Round

where again, the home team stole the show with a phenomenal depiction of The War of The DJ's – Motorola vs. Airtel. Despite it being the show where points don't matter, in second place were Boys and Boys, an all IITM team and in third place was the mixed team of IITM and RVCE, Bangalore. In a special appearance, a team of our very own – MGM, Porko, Pseuba and Trauma disrupted the proceedings of the finals, much to the delight of the audience. They gave everything – from a *pretend* conversation at a *pretend* scene of the four of them taking a leak to a hoedown. (*Unclean* humour you say? Never mind what occurred in between the from and to mentioned above) But all in all, for the success that was Whose Line Is It Anyway, 5 Pt Experiment wishes that we see this event at future Saarangs.

Power Chords

Power Chords at Saarang 2007 was an enthusiastically attended event, though the quality of participation at the event did leave much to be desired. People walking about with long hair, piercings and Iron Maiden T-shirts and the usual eye-candy cheering the bands on – it was all there at Bindaas Park. As is the norm with Power

Chords, the event started 2 hours late. Most of the bands stuck to playing heavy metal and didn't do a great job of it as they got their sound wrong right from the word go with several onlookers complaining of an earsore thanks to the jarring sound of the guitars. One of the bands with a female vocalist was well cheered till she sang completely out of pitch for the entire performance. However the day was saved by a few standout bands like Untitled, a jazz-based band from St Xavier's Mumbai (1st place) whose saxophonist was simply off the page, Illuminati (2nd place) whose own composition rather cheekily titled "Use Protection" had the audience singing along and Fahrenheit (3rd place) whose guitarist won the best guitarist award. Watch out for Untitled as they participate in the WM group finals along with the Decibels winners at the OAT today at 6:30 PM.

LM Solo Prelims

The LM Solo prelims took quite some time to begin with several initial hiccups such as changing the venue from PhLT to ChLT and then back again due to inadequate ventilation(!) and so on as the contestants scampered around in confusion. It took nearly an hour and a half before any singing saw the light of day. It was a slow start to the competition, until a Himesh Reshammiya wannabe walked up front. He tried his best, complete with cap and Himesh antics, but alas, without the nose, no one can match up to the master. The competition did pick up after that and there were some great performances as well. The end of the show had the judges singing and thoroughly entertaining the audience. Twelve made the cut amongst whom was IITM's own LM coord, Debanjan. Catch the finals on day 4 at PhLT, 11 AM.

Main Quiz Semifinals

Held in the IC&SR audi, the semifinals halved the number of contenders for the title of 'Champion quizzer, Saarang 2007'. The questions, a level above the prelims, were showered upon the quizzers, in the two semifinals held back to back. The quiz was co-hosted by a faculty member Dr. Ramnarayan who threw in some good questions to complement the BoFi, RG and Sappu ones. A nice end to the

quiz came in the form of a visual showing a ship of the Indian coast guard out at sea to recover the SRE-1 (space recovery experiment). The ship's name - INS Saarang! So, the stage is now set for the main quiz finale at 11:00 pm in the OAT.

Creative Writing

Here's our entry for Flash Fiction at Creative Writing:

"I walked into the Creative Writing contest at Saarang, picked up a scrap of paper and started scribbling on it. I looked into the friendly neighbourhood coord's eyes and ideas came tumbling out of my mind. Then Beethoven's Emperor Concerto (Allegro) played and I ran to the bathroom."

India Quiz

Overheard at the mess some days before Saaraang:

Coord 1: Hey I locked the India Quiz questions in a Word file and forgot the password!

Coord 2: !@#\$\$%^%! Why the hell did you have to lock the file on your own comp?

Well, after seeing today's paper it looked as if they never managed to find the password and came up with an ad-hoc prelims. Yesterday's edition moaned about the SpEnt quiz coords not having worked on their questions enough. Well in comparison to today's India Quiz, the SpEnt quiz appeared scholarly. The quiz was dull, insipid, boring and all the other synonyms you can think of. And of course, the first line in the prelims paper: '**33 questions = 22+13**' Enough said! We hope that the coords do a better job with the finals at 10:30 AM today.

Crossie Prelims

How do you convert a relaxing activity like the crossword into a Saarang competition? Simple. Time it. The first eight participants to complete the cryptic crossword are chosen to take part in the finals. The team of Bas and BoFi cracked the puzzle in a mere 18 minutes or so and left the rest wondering whether they had access to the answers. On the whole the event was enjoyed by all who attended, except the hapless coords who were running about the desks for nearly an hour to confirm the answers of the participants.

Radio Play

The radio play was an exhibition of the art of enacting a character through voice modulation (and rustling of papers). 'The Affair of The Lone Banana' by MGM, Porko and Aafi raised many laughs as did the 'A Happily Ever After Story' by St.Xavier's which was a mini cluedo turning into a Hercule Poirot adventure with Prince Charming killing his Cinderella. The IITM boys were placed first followed by the Cinderella turned Sleeping Beauty coming second and St. Francis with their horror stories (and too many participants) winning the third place.

Ad-Zap Prelims

The Ad-Zap prelims were tailor-made for all those couch potatoes who love watching movies on Star Gold – 2 hrs of the movie and 4 hours of ads. Wacky topics like Salman Khan endorsing lipstick and Saddam Hussein endorsing a time machine were doled out in the enactment round. However, a crib in connection to the event was that there was too much stress on the real world relevance of the product which robbed the fun from it. Would someone tell the coords that if relevance to the real world was the criterion then none of the products would *ever* make sense?

MASALA MIX (Sponsored by Arr!Arr! Caterers)

The Airtel Stall – Part 2

M-I-T-I-N is still around. But yesterday there was a female emcee too, shattering those few glorious moments when M-I-T-I-N does keep quiet. When both these people chose to be quiet simultaneously, Airtel brought in a bunch of girls (with perfect hourglass figures), who, thankfully weren't speaking and even better kept jiving to music for a good three hours, with their backs to the audience. We are guessing this was to provide some sort of competition to the hugely successful Whose Line going on next door. The male population did appreciate it. What we appreciated was the priceless look on M-I-T-I-N's face on reading yesterday's issue of the 5 Pt Experiment. He was spotted with a copy of it just before the Pro Show. Good reading never hurt, right M-I-T-I-N?

Informals

Informals yesterday was what Informals has always been, a mockery of all the stalls at Saarang (theirs included). Much of the audience found relief in Whose Line extending well beyond its stipulated time at this stall but a few loyal enthusiasts lingered long enough to try the mindless games. They probably took their road safety, campaign too seriously, asking participants to wear helmets even while running. What were we worried about, dear coords? The sky falling on our heads? Or one of the participants crashing into a volunteer standing at the finish line? Which did happen in the previous event, when Informals messed up the participants' coordination. The Saarang disciplinary committee objected to a particular coord's indecisiveness, he was at first very keen on male participation ("More guys on stage please. It's more fun to watch guys skip than girls.") and then tried to woo a certain member of the fairer sex with a silver Fast Track watch to partner him for the dance workshop. Tsk...tsk...The dedicated newsletter team provided you with The 'Will You Dance With Me' Card for this specific purpose alone.

IVil

Among all the loud spons stalls and over-priced grub stalls, it is easy not to realize that there are also these two stalls quietly existing. One is run by and supports women Self Help Groups, providing quality snacks (and healthy, tasty food at that) at very reasonable prices, for a good cause. The other sports "It's Different" and "I Vil. Will you?" banners and sells various jute items made by villagers. Both these stalls have been set up, as is now becoming customary in Saarang, with the aim of spreading awareness about the group's activities as well as helping directly. They send out a very different kind of message. Unlike blaringly loud, in-your-face DJ's et al trying to sell their company label through boisterous announcements, this group aspires to grab the attention of others who share similar concerns, pool talent and ability together and really make a difference, in an unassuming way. Commendable.

Quotable Quotes

"I have always wondered why Chennai was so hot. Now I know. It's because of the IIT Madras girls." – Obviously ignorant singer from Bangalore at Power Chords.

"What is this Oscar statue doing here in front of CLT?" – F&R Coord #1

"It's watching us work" – F&R Coord #2

"Machan, switch off the flash da. Bhaand is nearby" – Overheard at the ChLT during the India Quiz.

"What the f**k da, I feel like going back to the room and mugging" – Frustrated chap at Saarang.

"Powercard is about to start at Bindaas park" – Hospi Desk.

"Listen very carefully to whatever I am saying. Whatever I say is no nonsense. Complete sense. Whatever I say has to do with the jock" – Airtel DJ.

5 Point Experiment Team

CB, Engine, Siddhika, Middle, Nai, Pranesh, Siddharth, Sriram, Sruthi, Vaishnavi, Vignesh

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