INSPIRATIONS FROM THE NOBEL PEACE
PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT !!!!
SASTRA - An educational paradise on a nowhere place on the global map (Tirunelveli, Tamilnadu) truly synchronizes with the rhythm of 4 years of life here, making us an integral part of it.

Welcome to SASTRA! The next 4-5 years that you’re going to spend here will transform you from an high school maniac to a matured adult(one who washes his own clothes). As I write this, I am very tired after a hectic Sunday which consisted of studies, project surveys, Japanese hour, foot ball and gymnasium. When you’re in SASTRA, you run out of time. Sad but true!

First year of college life is always special. It’s the time when you meet many new people, some of whom will leave permanent imprints in your hearts. Whatever you do, be sure to be yourself and try to enjoy your college experience as much as possible. Expect to feel some stress and homesickness, but don’t let those issues wear you down. First semester at SASTRA is full of extracurricular activities like department tech fests, Carpe diem, Colosseum etc. Make every use of it and get to know all as many things as possible. “Crush the timeline” just like Robin Sharma says!

Go for all the orientations. The faster you learn your way around campus, the more at ease you’ll feel and the better prepared you’ll be when issues arise. Go on a socializing spree. Get to know your fellow mates. The people you live with, most of whom are going through similar experiences and emotions are your main safety net. Not only this year but for all 4 years. You may change roommates after the first semester or may stay with the same roommates for all 4 years. Just take the time to get to know your fellow first-year students. This is the best chance in one’s life to get organized. I am a much better person than what I was before. In high school, the teachers tend to lead you through all the homework and due dates. In SASTRA, the professors post the assignments beforehand. Buy an organizer, a big wall calendar or whatever. It takes for you to know when assignments are due. Find the ideal place for you to study. It may be your dorm room or a cozy corner of the library, but find a place that works best for you to get your work done, while avoiding as many distractions as possible. One biggest problem I faced in hostel was this! Whiff friends you always have the “I’ll study later attitude”. So please try and avoid it.

Attend all classes. Obvious, right? Maybe, but oversleeping and skipping that 8-4 am class will be tempting at times. Avoid the temptation. Besides attending the classes, you’ll also receive vital information from the professors about what to expect in tests, changes in due dates etc. I can hear my editor say “ANANTH! Stop lecturing the poor souls and come to the fun part!” So here goes the fun part in SASTRA! You may go to any corner of this world, but you will not get an amazing fizzle drink for just 6 bucks anywhere else! No wonder Gold cup is the official drink at SASTRA!

Life here is always filled with birthday treats at KC, late night talks in SPS terrace, early morning football matches and last minute assignments. One can go awn and awn (The Vikram Seth way)

Things you must know:

KC - Krishana canteen (the popular hangout).
Chota canteen - The most happening place on campus during the short intervals.
Megra - The nickname for Kamadhenu hostel, one of the biggest hostels in the state where we brothers live in perfect harmony.
SPS - First year castle.
Ditch opposite VKJ - Aplices soon to be infested by you first years.
Shan mail - The official Shanmugha e-mail service. You can get your id registered from TIFAC.

Final Words of advice: You’ve done all the prep work, you’ve gotten good grades in high school and been accepted into an amazing place like SASTRA. So enjoy all your hard work while laying the groundwork for a successful college career.

Take advantage of your network of new friends and professors, have fun while learning as much as you can, and get the most out of your college experience.

I just have 2 more years here, sad but true! Have fun freshmen!
ECO BRIGADE, the Ecoclub of SASTRA University was set in motion by students with nothing but pure determination to make a difference. The club aims at creating awareness about various environmental issues and also involves students for various awareness activities around the campus.

RCS, the Robotics Club @ SASTRA, aims at preparing Bots for industrial use. The club also helps students prepare bots for technical fests. There are around 75 active members. Three workshops have been conducted till date. The club has got International recognition due to 4 official visits by foreign delegates from Australia and Singapore and 1 from our very own DRDO. Currently work is on to create a hovercraft and image processing bot. The RCS lab in VKJ 221 hosts an array of bots.

THE STUDIO– Dramatics club @ SASTRA.
A weekly dosage of fun and action, THE STUDIO is the venue to sharpen and showcase your thespian gifts. Besides being a crazy bunch of talented folks, they also organise year round workshops and interactive sessions with renowned theatre artists. In order to be a part of all the fun and adventure, all you have to do is turn up in GNV 101 on sundays @3.30 pm.

MECASSO- Mechanical and Mechatronics Association. More than two decades after its inception, MECASSO still bubbles with activity. Interactive quizzes are conducted frequently to stimulate the grey cells of participants and audiences alike. The association magazine “Mechtrix” is something worth laying your hands over.

Vikram had a tough day at classes and the weight of the forthcoming exams are bearing him down. His walk slow and mind lost in thought, he takes a turn by the hostel. Suddenly there is life in his pace and a glow in his face for he saw his friends chilling out on the almost broken down cement bench which has been their retreat for many years. After a quick stop there, he is back in his room, now a strange energy running through his veins.

The feeling as associated with these ‘hang out spots’ is highly magical. They have a soothing and nostalgic effect upon us. Our campus has a lot of these hang out spots which blend so easily into the hum of life that they are easily overlooked.

We decided to shed some light onto those places usually covered in shadows.

Starting near the hostels, the first place that comes out are the benches opposite pv hostel. A cup of coffee in your hand and friends to talk around, you could spend all your evenings there. With the cool breeze coming from all sides and the heavenly scent of wet earth, that old bench really comforts your mind, body and soul, better than any spa.

If you are looking for a different coffee experience go to the coffee shop near the ‘chota canteen’. On the week days after classes, grab a milk shake and settle down in the VV ditch. You can watch FIFA, IPL and NBA taking place at the same time. The atmosphere is so energetic that you will be surely tempted to have a go at the ball.

To all those groups of friends who think they have the ideas to change the world, they have no other place to discuss it better than the stairs near Krishna canteen. These stairs have taken lot of people to great heights, as they are frequently seen full with the organisers of various campus events.

If you want to blend nature with technology, grab your laptop and go to the bench in front of tifac. You can enjoy high speed internet along side raw mother nature. If you are a bird lover, then the 108 atm in the evenings has a musical concert to offer every day. The star performers being the birds with their music echoing all around.

So in this cyber world of facebook, twitter and all other social networking, take a few minutes out of your online hang out place and enjoy them over a coffee with your room mate at the real world counterpart. These small places will really play a huge part in your life, as they form beautiful memories which will keep the machine of life running smoothly.

Most Googled pictures...
It was a bright sunny morning and I was, a little extra early. Not that I am a habitual early riser, but the day decided what I would be for the rest of my life. The final school exams’ results were going to be out and I was to know what was on store for me. Well. There began the journey! It was a tough patch because decisions that would matter for a lifetime were to be taken and what do you think an eighteen year old would do? Sit aside and think about the options he had? Consult some career guidance expert? Nay! He does what his dad asks him to! And here he is today… B.Tech – Mechanical Engineering, SAstra University. Forget the woes and whys of how I got here, but it’s just the good that drove me in. I have seen many people crib about this place and what it has to offer, but hey, the grass is always greener on the other side. And nobody told you to this?!

I had been through different stages of this college life, different phases too! Each had been instances structures, to study, to love new! To grow and push the limits and keep pushing them!

Freshman year – I was a day scholar from a place that was a ten minute drive to the campus and the few months in that profile taught me life at some unkempt surroundings. The shift to the in-campus boarding facility was smoother than expected. Hall the passion and fever that we people towards cricket. I owe a lot to that game. If something can make you friends with many people, help you show them your talent, make them believe that you are a leader material and can still curry some respect while keeping you enganged, then you owe it a lot. So CRICKET, I owe you a lot! The classes were never big on my agenda. They sailed smooth most of the times except when the faculties come up with the mid-semester test’s answer papers. The fact was that the answer-paper days were much bettering that the ones when I took the tests! Suddenly came the final exams and dawned a day that was called no more a freshman! Dude, I was in the second year!

Sophomore, I was. This terminology is not so famous here though. The second year was when life saw a few turns. You start thinking about what you want to do. They are the doses in the right proportions that could make one a balanced human, who could lead a life of control. I have heard people say, ‘Power means responsibility’. Duh! I thought their dictionaries were wrongly authored. It’s a little too much of importance to say that to that statement. I really lived like when there was power and space, ‘to deliver’ was a signed condition. A few mocked, a few thought I was over doing. Pity them! None knew I was enjoying. As a sophomore, I would have never thought of teaching it, but I learnt.

As always, Manoj Rao!

The senior year – an icing on the cake! Change is inevitable – I know this. May be I should have learnt what inevitable meant! I always give importance to tiny things because detailing is an art. Beauty lies in the smallest of what you see. To reassure on this belief of mine, a hostel room number gave an impact on ten months of my last days in college. I am not going to discuss the hows and whys of this phenomenon. But it is true that hostel room numbers are a charm! The first one was four which was the small tank in the aquarium, it is yet another day and Paul swam lazily in his tank!

Manoj’s Diary

It’s a sunny day as Paul the octopus swims lazily in his tank, oblivious of the sensation he has created around the world.

For the final world cup, Paul the octopus was asked by the International Football Federation (FIFA) to predict the results of the World Cup 2010. The octopus is famous for predicting the results of the football world cup since 2006.

Paul the octopus is predicted 11 out of 12 football matches correctly. Now, Paul has been predicted to win Spain’s win against Germany, there were talks about Paul getting an express visa and shifting his base to Spain if the prediction proved to be right!

At Sealife Centre, Oberhausen, Germany

From Editor’s desk

It is another usual day as Paul’s octopus swims lazily in his tank, oblivious of the sensation he has created around the world.

Going back to June when it all started… Thousands of fans hold their breath, eagerly awaiting the outcome of the match. You must be wondering if it is the tense moment prior to the penalty shot out, but Germany’s first outing at the FIFA world cup is not until tomorrow?

The hoopla is all about Paul (the octopus)! He delivers the verdict, Germany is it! The match results are sealed. Thousands of hearts heave a sigh of relief!

On the other side – The blind side!

‘Life is peaceful and normal (except for people staring at me from the glass all the time) until my meals started coming in boxes! I was really puzzled because decisions that would matter for a lifetime were to be taken and what do you think an eighteen year old would do? Sit aside and think about the options he had? Consult some career guidance expert? Nay! He does what his dad asks him to! And here he is today… B.Tech – Mechanical Engineering, SAstra University. Forget the woes and whys of how I got here, but it’s just the good that drove me in. I have seen many people crib about this place and what it has to offer, but hey, the grass is always greener on the other side. And nobody told you to this?!

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“Central perk” of SASTRA

"Anna, one plate paneer and two naans please". As the aroma of paneer wafts into the room, one temporarily forgets that this is South India. Welcome to PUNJABI DHABA. A restaurant located in college house lang opposite SASTRA’s main gate, it has been a runaway hit among the students ever since its opening in Feb ’08. Known for its low cost and good quality Punjabi cuisine, the restaurant has carved for itself a niche in the minds of hordes of students. A serene and tranquil atmosphere combined with the hospitality dished out by the employees adds to its charm.

Wondering what keeps this eatery successfully chugging on? Kudos to the foresight and business acumen of its owner - Mr. Rakesh Sharma. Meet Rakesh, an engineer from SASTRA University, who at 24, is wise and well beyond his years. Born in Thanjavur, he is the elder of the two sons. As his father was in defence, he had to change schools frequently in accordance with his transfers. On completion of his class XII from DAV college in Dasusa(Punjab), he joined a diploma course in Mechanical Engineering in Adiyaman Polytechnic College, Hosur. His academic proficiency saw him bag the state 2nd rank in his course. An extremely talented kabaddi player, he competed at the national level twice. His well-toned body not only won him body building competitions in the district, but also fetched him modelling assignments which further won him plaudits and acclaim.

Rakesh was always fanatical about being self reliant. Working odd jobs in the evenings and weekends helped him bear his personal expenses while studying at Hosur. During this period, he developed an ambition to start his own restaurant. But he knew achieving it was always going to be an onerous task.

Post his diploma, Rakesh had a two year stint at Velmuranag Heavy Engineering Private Ltd in Sengipetti as a quality engineering. Armed with this experience, he joined the BTech Mechatronics course in SASTRA in 2007 through the lateral entry mode. His most famous contro "Picture Abhi BaaKi Hai Meri Dost". Rakesh meanwhile, continues to explore new avenues to expand his business. The recently opened array of myriad food stalls under the name "Sharma's Punjabi dhabha" is a testimony. Add to it a plan to open a restaurant in Singapore in two months time!!!

A suave and uncanny ability to perceive changes and respond accordingly, is what makes this gizmo lover a successful person. His exploits will surely be a beacon of inspiration to future generations of budding entrepreneurs.

Compliment Rakesh on his achievements and it will entail a reply so characteristic of this man – "Picture Abhi BaaKi Hai Meri Dost"

THE LEGENDS WHO RULED THE ‘BEAUTIFUL GAME’

“He’s onside, one on one with the keeper and that’s a goal!!!! Oh yes! Football!!! The beautiful game, aptly called, for its creativity and ingenuity it demands from its player. As a tribute, we bring you some of the legends who have ruled the football world as undisputed kings during their times.

1. SIR BOBBY MOORE (Captain Fantastic)
   “Immaculate footballer. Imperial defender. First Englishman to raise the World Cup aloft. Lord of the game. Captain extraordinary. Gentleman of all time.”
   Both Pele and Franz Beckenbauer rated him as “a gentleman, friend and the greatest defender they ever played against”. He is England’s golden boy who lead them to their first and the only world cup triumph in 1966. For many, he was the complete defender. He was strong in the air, clinical in the tackle and boasted impeccable distribution. He was no sprinter, but his ability to read the game meant that he was rarely caught out for pace. Indeed, the legendary Celtic manager Jock Stein joked, “There should be a law against him. He knows what’s happening 20 minutes before everyone else!” An inspirational captain with an extremely calculating brain, he is undoubtedly the best defender ever.

2. FRANZ BECKENBAUER (Der Kaiser)
   Called fondly as brains behind Germany, he redefined the role of libero. He led West Germany to FIFA world Cup triumph in 1974, before repeating the feat as amanager in 1990. He is the only second person to win world cup both as captain and a coach.
   Franz went on to play three world cups before he was able to lift it in 1974. He organized the team from behind and joined whenever they attacked. He is famously remembered for his perseverance, when he chose to play against Italy in the 1970 world cup semifinal even after injuring his collar bone, though he went down fighting. He was a man with great vision and fondly called Kaiser (Hawk)

3. Diego Armando Maradona (El Grande)
   "The things I could do with a football, he could do with an orange", eulogized French star Michel Platini.
   Considered by many as the greatest footballer (along with Pele) ever to walk the earth, this man is well known for both his brilliance in pitch as well as his controversies. His most famous contro
The million dollar question which occupies a great part of my mind these days; must be the case with most of you too!

What should one do after B.Tech?

The global recession has surely ensured one thing. The B.Tech students passing out these days are not assured a permanent job. Pseudo jobs seem to be in vogue. It will actually take quite a lot of skill and luck to hang on to your job.

So I started looking around for the answer. Spoke to family, friends, professors, seniors, their seniors; few successful, few not so. Found a lot of opinions. Many people at this point ask a question:“If you are going to do an MBA after B.Tech why did you do B.Tech in the first place? Why work so hard for 4 years when you are going to get away from the technical field?” This question is a typical example of people being ignorant.

Earn money and live a fast paced life- MBA

Eam respect and live a peaceful life- M.Tech

The definition I got off the internet. A difficult choice I must say. Many people have told me that M.Tech has lost its value today and is a far better option. I don’t know about that. I think M.Tech at IITs or IISc is certainly a good option. The contrarism is that the IITs are the best in the world when it comes to graduate disciplines only (ie B.Tech) and not numero uno in postgraduate disciplines. Still I have heard that each IIT is famous for some streams, and it would be better if you opt for those, with IISs being the first priority obviously. On top it all my aunt told me “You couldn’t have been in B.Tech and there are five levels of difficulty in the exam; five being the toughest and that which fetches you most, if you get it right. The exam starts with level one and it goes on increasing for correct answers and decreases for wrong ones. The duration for analytical section is 75 minutes, Verbal Reasoning is 30 minutes and Quantitative reasoning is 45 minutes. To give you a basic idea about what to prepare, here are the contents of the sections mentioned above.

Analytical Writing — Measures critical thinking and analytical writing skills, specifically the test taker’s ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively.

Verbal Reasoning — Measures reading comprehension skills, verbal and analogical reasoning skills, focusing on the test taker’s ability to analyze and evaluate written material.

Quantitative Reasoning — Measures problem-solving ability, focusing on basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis.

From any students’ perspective, GRE exam is the easiest among all the competitive exams that clouds you when you are on the verge of completion of your under-graduation. This is because, it tests your daily language and never asks for any complex formula or molecular weights. Even the quantitative section does not test the long forgotten mathematics of our undergraduate study, instead reminds you how simple mathematics can be, says Venkitachalam P, IV year Mech.

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The word “foreign” is abhorred only in the case of biological studies elsewhere abroad has been the fantasy word and is certainly out of the question. Nothing is given away for free and the toll for the studies abroad is called by the name GRE. It’s the abbreviation of Graduate Record Examination. It’s undoubtedly your gateway for graduate programs and an essential early step along your career path. The GRE scores are used to evaluate your readiness for the graduate-level work. The GRE General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills that are not related to any specific field of study.

To give you a feel of the high standards of the test let me seek the aid of few numbers. Students from more than 230 countries take up the exam. About 60,000 students take up their GRE exam every year; I am sure that these two numbers would suffice to leave you gaping. No exaggeration is required to make you feel good about the test. The test and its structure itself are very charming. It provides a common measure for comparing students’ qualifications from different parts of the globe. What’s more, a single test makes you eligible to get into over 3200 graduate and business schools. There are two types of this exam: The General GRE and the Subject GRE. The former is the most preferred and is widely written while the latter is also chosen by some people who are dutiful to a particular field. Let me tell first in detail about the GRE General test.

The GRE General Test is offered at test centers in the United States and many other countries. It is offered at paper-based test centers in areas of the world, where computer-based testing is not available. The computer-based GRE General Test is composed of Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections. The Analytical Writing section is always first. In addition, one unidentified non-scoring section may be included and can appear at any position in the test after the Analytical Writing section. Questions in the non-scoring section are being tested for possible use in future tests and answers will not count toward your scores. An identified section that is not scored may also be included, and if so, it is always at the end of the test. The Verbal and Quantitative sections, including the unidentified non-scoring section, may appear in any order. Treat each section presented during your test as if it counts. The test is an adaptive test which means the difficulty of the questions goes on increasing for every correct answer!!

There are five levels of difficulty in the exam; five being the toughest and that which fetches you most, if you get it right. The exam starts with level one and it goes on increasing for correct answers and decreases for wrong ones. The duration for Analytical section is 75 minutes, Verbal Reasoning is 30 minutes and Quantitative reasoning is 45 minutes. To give you a basic idea about what to prepare, here are the contents of the sections mentioned above.

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Amidst stereotyped headlines about how Spain had finally managed to win the World Cup, a small nation was celebrating and ridiculing the world champions. The reason? Their football team had managed what even Spain couldn't—survive the world cup undefeated.

YES! New Zealand emerged the only undefeated side after 64 matches in South Africa. (They drew all their group stage matches :P). On a more serious note, the Rainbow nation managed to defy all odds and the tournament was a resounding success (no, not the vuvuzelas!).

Back in India, the Rupee was officially given an identity, with a distinctive symbol on the lines of prominent currencies like the US Dollar, Euro, etc. The symbol, said to be a blend of the Devanagari “Ra” and the Roman “R”, was chosen from 3000 entries and has been designed by a post-graduate student. (Looking closer at it, the symbol seems to resemble an inverted Euro, with a handle.)

2gb of storage, Wifi, ethernet and 2 watts power consumption. LCD Screen. And there you have it—“Sakshat”. Arguably the world’s cheapest computing device, it was unveiled by the Government recently. It is still puzzling how it will survive the market, given that the cost of LCDs alone will exceed the supposed price of the device.

Zephyr, a pilotless, fully solar powered plane designed for military purposes, broke the previous record by staying for 14 days in air. Designed by Britain-based Quinetiq, Zephyr is not only game-changing technology; it is also significantly cost effective to manufacture and deploy than traditional aircraft. Should work, unless the next major war is fought in some region with a lot of rainclouds!

On an ending note, Imprint joins the world in saluting the ever-smiling tweaker from Kandy, for surviving the emersons, Hairs and a million other critics, and reaching 800 wickets. Congratulations Muttiah Muralitharan, you gave a strife-torn nation a reason to smile for over a decade.

The MAN WHO SAW TOMORROW

Nostradamus was an unusual man of his time. He was a practicing physician, who turned to prophecy later in life. Nostradamus wrote in the form of short poems consisting of four lines each, called Quatrains. In his lifetime, Nostradamus completed a total of 942 quatrains, which he organized into groups of 100 quatrains called Centuries. He intentionally obscured the quatrains through the use of symbolism and metaphor, as well as by making changes to proper names by swapping, adding or removing letters. The obscurity is claimed to have been done to avoid his being tried as a magician.

Given below is one of his most famous examples.

**LOUIS PASTEUR:**

This is one of the few quatrains where he has mentioned the exact scientist’s name.

“The lost thing is found, hidden for so many centuries, Pasteur will be honoured as a demigod. This happens when the moon completes her great cycle, He will be dishonoured by other winds.”

This quatrain predicts the discovery of Pasteur. Louis Pasteur was the scientist who discovered the existence of microscopic germs. As a doctor, Nostradamus was himself very concerned with the mysterious nature of the plague and apparently made a link between running water and still water and the persistence of the plague. Critics accused Pasteur of faking his results, which is what Nostradamus may have meant by “dishonoured by other winds.”

HERE IS A QUATRAIN ABOUT A FAMOUS PERSONALITY.

“From the depths of the West of Europe, A young child will be born of poor people, He who by his tongue will seduce a great troop; His fame will increase towards the realm of the East.”

Guess what the prediction actually translates into. Catch the answer in the next edition.

**Words’ Worth:**

“Dream is not what you see when you sleep, dream is something that does not let you sleep”

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
BUSINESS ANALYSIS FOR NEWBIES

Kausik M IV Yr Mech

India's economic growth is not the mug to riches story as most predict. It is in fact a story of an empire that had fallen badly and now is striking back with a slow budding force.

Independent India slipped into economic growth because it chose the model of socialism over capitalism and communalism. But even after the liberalisation of the Indian market in the 1990s, it was mainly the Indian entrepreneurs and consumers, not foreigners, who dominated the domestic growth process. Thus India's rise is domestically driven by these forces and external drivers like exports being just another add on, unlike China or any other country for that matter, where the foreign trade or investments play a major role in contributing to the economic growth of the country.

Hence a lesson which we have learnt from Asia, Latin American and the Russian crisis is that the over dependence on the world economy in trade or investment particularly for a country like India with a huge population is a major risk.

Recently there was an article in The Hindu titled "How the Western recession is the real beginning of great news for India!" In that article Mr. Arindam Chaudhuri says that in order to understand the implications of the current recession in India, one needs to shift focus to study the Japanese recession which has been going on for over a decade now. But immediately a question pops up in almost everyone's mind; "If the Japanese management style is as wonderful as described, then why has Japan been in a recession for the last decade and more?"

And the answer is, if one wants to sell a new kitchen appliance to a Japanese housewife, they have to enter their small sized kitchen and then point out which of the working appliance there could be thrown out in order to make space for the new ones. The problem is that they are all excellent in quality, long lasting and thus tough to throw! That's the main reason why the Japanese economy has been in recession for a decade now.

These materialistic people, just like the Americans, arrive at a saturation point sooner or later. After that happened, the government tried everything. They gave shopping holidays, mass discount vouchers, but nothing could increase the demand of products. However, every time a new breakthrough product - say like an iPod was launched, it sold out in the first week! It was only then that companies like Toyota realized that they cannot keep selling cars endlessly to their home market. And thus they got aggressive in the western market, rest being a history. Thus Japanese companies became bigger by catering to the world market when their own home markets shrunk!

The total collapse of the system is fully attributed to the western culture of capitalistic, greed driven materialism that made their economies create artificial demand for most of the last decade or so. If someone was happy with his/her car and did not have the need or the money to buy more, they were lured through advertisements and marketing techniques. And finally once they become a ready customer, they were given loans and credits to facilitate buying.

But the credit systems do have a logical limit! This leads to a situation when all the possibilities of excess savings over the next fifteen years have already been booked by virtue of various products one has already bought! Then the particular person ceases to be a part of the market. This again led to a situation when the aggressive sellers lured all the creditworthy people into pledging their next fifteen years income! Soon there is hardly any scope of further selling in this market apart from the replacement demand of people who finish past loans every year. This at least should have been the time when the corporations started looking for newer markets and avenues, but again they took the short-cut and proceeded to the non creditworthy people and gave these people loans. But unfortunately these non creditworthy people are actually NON CREDIT WORTHY. As expected they all defaulted which led to the collapse of the whole system. Ans recession was born as we see it today.

Once the current panic in India gets over and the hunts for shortcuts to getting over the economic crisis in the west gets over, everyone's focus will be on India. And India will have the only option of growing. Maybe just 7% this year but high double digits sooner than later! Hence the socio-economic lessons from the west are a warning to India and not a lead to follow. But then again the lure of experiments with the western experiences like promoting uncontrolled individualism and toxic consumption will be a potential risk to India's growth vision for the future.

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GIZMODO
Shreyas Rajagopalan
III Yr ECE
THE CHRONICLES OF MISTRY-
THE CAMERA , THE CELLPHONE AND THE MINI-PROJECTOR

Forgive the Narnia connection, for this writer could not find a more fitting reference to this almost fantastic invention. Pranan Mistry's invention "The Sixth Sense" technology is not something that can be described entirely with words. With just a camera, a cell phone and a mini-projector, Mistry has created a device that gives us the fabled sixth sense. The device allows us to communicate with the outside world in a way that only movies (Minority Report, anyone?) have portrayed up till now. The Sixth Sense lets us connect the real world with the digital world, and overlaying the information onto the real world itself. In English that means it can recognise external objects and provide feedback over it using the projector. For example, it can scan your plane ticket, connect you to the internet and simultaneously display information about the specific plane onto your ticket using the projector. The best part is that the whole package is being promoted as an open source technology.

To get a complete picture of this innovation, check out the videos on YouTube. (The keywords 'Pranan Mistry +TED' should do.)

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BuZZ Words...

UNFRIEND
FREEMIUM
DO A SALAH
APORKALYPSE
RECESSIONISTA
INTEXTICATED

Remove a friend from face book
Business services provided for free
Gate-crashing a VIP party
Undue worry due to swine flu
A person who manages to look stylish and trendy on a strict budget
Distracted by text messages while driving
COLOURS OF LIFE

Deepika Vassudevan III Yr CSE, Devi Priya K III Yr BIT

We meet many kinds of people in life; some blue, some green, some downright black and very few smart ones in vibrant pinks. The list of shades is simply endless. And you tend to notice that their tints keep varying from time to time. All right, don’t think we’re getting serious here. This is just life at its simplest; the way we perceive things to be and are experiencing this very second. The basic idea of life, people say, is to live and let live. But then, everyone has his own opinion about what this little game is pinned upon. Say for instance, one of us is under the impression that life works around food and money. Every little thing that is done has something to do with either or both of them. It’s like they’re two primary points that form the foci of the ellipse of life, and it is every individual’s job to put something between these to give it a meaning, or rather, a color.

Here’s yet another insight on life through the eyes of the other one of us. Life is a set of scales that thrives to stay in equilibrium, plunging you in equal shares of happiness and sorrow, and everything that’s in between. You know, there are times when you look at a pauper and feel grateful for all that He has bestowed upon you, but the very same day you may look upon a celebrity and call life unfair. The fact remains that it’s all in your head. Yeah, you might have heard this and better stuff from Robin Sharma, Spencer Johnson, Edward de Bon... but get this straight... nothing is going to change till the U in YOU is ready to take up the the new “U”. Well, the bottomline, as they say, is that life is like riding on a bicycle; you’ve got to move ahead if you don’t want to fall over and make a fool of yourself.

Now that we’ve dwelt upon random thoughts, it is time to put forth the very point of this column. The existence of mankind is, in itself, random. Here we make a teeny little attempt to illustrate this illusion called life and the effort of every individual to maneuver it. And it’s precisely those maneuvering skills that sets every individual apart. Well, it’s time to hit upon the brakes now. We’ll rev up your engines in the next issue. Until then, adieu amigos.

ANANTHANARAYANAN II Yr Biot

AAL IS WELL!!!

Going from school to university is scary. But what’s even scarier? Moving from a university to the real life, from a hostel room to an apartment, from a college canteen to an officer’s mess, from a 9:00 a.m. wake-up call to a 6:00 a.m. one, from student loans to a mortgage and everything else in between.

I’m a college pass out. I too graduated one fine summer just like you will some day. Since I went to university right after school, the idea of leaving college behind was a little frightening for me. I sometimes wondered if I’m cut out for the real world. Can I afford to support myself without the help of my parents or student loans? Will I ever have enough money to make a big purchase like a house? Car?? Should I travel before beginning work full-time? Should I be saving for retirement already when I’m only 26?

Looking no further than your own wallet, and off we rush to save a few bucks. But step back and see the bigger picture. You realise that you are paying those extra few bucks tenfold at some point or the other during your existence. Be it in the form of tolls or increased taxes; the government gets the money out of us anyway. Like a vampire, the monster comes in uninvited and sucks the host dry.

Who gets the political party’s most sincere attention; you and me? Or the corporations who donate the money needed for their campaign? The campaign will get them your vote, but for that they need the money.

At the end of the day, even us, the youngsters of India, end up endlessly crib about the corrupted politicians. Setting the system right is not even in our agenda because who would want to dirty their hands in the cleaning of their own country??

Coming to the world of television, the numerous reality shows on air are indeed turning the idiot box ‘idiotic’! Little do the producers realize that the entire country can see right through their pre-planned melodrama.

Everyone in India gets to know about small time zonal cricket matches which occupy a major portion of the sports page. In such a scenario, it becomes difficult to even believe that hockey is our national sport. How many of us actually know that its team members are on a strike as they were not paid their dues?? This is when we are forced to believe that true journalism has taken a backseat and thrives around the “rich and famous”, these days.

It doesn’t take one to have a hawk eye to realise that many things are going wrong. It’s time to set our foot down and start mending. Because tomorrow we want to honestly be able to tell our children that we did everything and anything we could to provide them with the best life possible.

Questions like these and many more are ones that I plan on addressing in this column as well as the dreaded, “but with the economic meltdown, how am I going to find a job?” There are many jobs out there, you just need to know the right people to talk to and the right place to look. So, write to aalismwali.max@gmail.com with all your queries, big or small. And trust me, if I, in spite of being so confused about EVERYTHING in life, could make it so big, then so can you.

Cheers,

MAXI

[The author is a IIM-A pass out and currently working with NOKIA. His book “AND MAXI SAYS – answers to every Indian’s questions” is to hit the shelf soon]
Hawx, an arcade style flight simulator game developed by Ubisoft, released on March 6th, 2009. The story is set in the time of Tom Clancy’s Ghost Recon: Advanced Warfighter. The player replaces David Crenshaw, an ex military pilot who was recruited by a private company as one of their pilots. Crenshaw later returns to the US Airforce with his team to prevent a terror attack on the US which was initiated by this company.

The fundamentals of gameplay are similar to those of other control based flight series. There are over 50 aircrafts available with real world environments as locations. The game features on enhanced reality system, which makes the gameplay easier for the players. It includes radars, damage control, missile detection, tactical map, information relay, trajectories and weapon trajectory control. It also allows us to command other aircrafts. It can also be switched off to make the game more difficult. Multiplayer option is also available where players can challenge each other. Winning players are rewarded with experience points to unlock weapons.

GAME REVIEW:

Tom Clancy’s Hawx
Ravi Shankar II Yr  ECE

This is the story of a German businessman, Oskar Schindler, which is captivating right till the end. He is transformed from a physically imposing, charismatic philanderer to the humbled man, wishing he had saved more lives.

We watch nervously as he tries to save over a thousand Jews from the almost certain death in Nazi concentration camps run by the Schutzstaffel (SS), by getting them to work in his factory. He bribes officials and befriends Nazis including evil camp Commandant, Goeth, played brilliantly by Ralph Fiennes. Shot in black and white, with the odd carefully chosen touches in colour, the horrors of the Holocaust in Nazi Germany is laid bare and speaks for itself. The Schwarzenegger has cleverly juxtaposed Goeth and Schindler as two sides of the same coin. They both love the finer things in life, easily swayed by money and women. Playing on this, Schindler tries to show his contemporaries that power can be better served by sparing people’s lives rather than taking them. It is an idea that Goeth acknowledges, but is destined not to adhere to it for long.

The film finishes on a powerful note in present day with the real ‘Schindler Survivors’ and their descendants visiting his grave. It is the final reminder that this is a true story of one man’s bravery and that by ‘saving one life, you save the entire world’.

The clever use of lights and shades, makes it visually stunning. When Oskar Schindler visits a night club, he looks like a 1930s movie star as his cigarette smoke spirals above his head, his eyes hidden from the light. Spielberg has cleverly juxtaposed Goeth and Schindler as two sides of the same coin. They both love the finer things in life, easily swayed by money and women. Playing on this, Schindler tries to show his contemporaries that power can be better served by sparing people’s lives rather than taking them. It is an idea that Goeth acknowledges, but is destined not to adhere to it for long.

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PASS THE POPCORN:

Schindler’ list
Prashant Srivastava III Yr MECH

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