Canopy and Krishna canteen have been buzzing with treats and parties for over a week now. The credit goes to India’s leading software services company, Tata Consultancy Services, which recruited 1755 students this year, during their campus recruitment drive conducted on Sept 16 & 17, 2011. TCS had recruited 500+ and 1359 students in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

In spite of large numbers like 180 TCS officials and 2100 students being involved, the process went on very smoothly, kudos to T&P department for their planning and 83 placed student for their efforts. It all started with 2100 students assembling in Maruti indoor stadium on the morning of the 16th with their hopes and aspirations; every subtle detail of their presentation having been taken care of, be it their resume or haircut.

Students with a CGPA lesser than 7.5 had to undergo an online aptitude test whereas the others were given a direct ticket to the interview. Interview questions were a combination of technical and HR-related questions with a few students even facing a stress interview. 

On the evening of 17th, at 5pm in Maruti stadium, Mr. G. Srinivasa Raghuvan announced the much awaited and now celebrated number leading to a joyous eruption. Students were selected for EIS, IT and IT-IS categories. 4 students were selected for R&D with a package of 6.3 lakhs per annum after a rigorous selection process.

1755 became a reality only because of the passion that drives the T&P department of our college. A special mention of the ‘Anukul Shikshans’ classes organized by them for the students who needed help with C and C++ and Shri. Bathrinath, Dean, Training and Placement who actually made Diwali arrive early for SASTRA-ties.

**SASTRA’s Got Talent**

Some of you might be lucky enough to know him personally, but by now almost everybody knows who he is. Two years ago, S. Kaushik, from the small town of Neyveli, was an unassuming teenager when he stepped into SASTRA University. Within the first month, he had blitzed through the preliminary rounds of the music auditions and had everyone at college whispering about how brilliant he was. By September, he had cemented his place in SASTRA’s annals. But the best was yet to come.

Airtel Super Singer, a worldwide talent hunt for the next big singing sensation was to be Kaushik’s next stop on his journey to enthrall us. Oh, and enthral he did. So much so, that he was dubbed “Super Singer” all around college. Teachers, fans, friends and family alike supported him by voting him in week after week and this has culminated in Kaushik being a candidate for the Wildcard slots. Excerpts from an interview with Imprint...

Tell us a little about yourself...
I currently study Electrical and Electronics Engineering and am pursuing my third Year. As a person, I’m extremely simple, quite unassuming, but in every way consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The judges always feel that you’ve done justice to all the songs you have chosen. What do you have to say about that?
I always give my best in every song that I perform and I firmly believe that rewards will follow hard work. I am thankful to the judges for their kind words.

The judges always feel that you’ve done justice to all the songs you have chosen. What do you have to say about that?
I always give my best in every song that I perform and I firmly believe that rewards will follow hard work. I am thankful to the judges for their kind words.

The judges always feel that you’ve done justice to all the songs you have chosen. What do you have to say about that?
I always give my best in every song that I perform and I firmly believe that rewards will follow hard work. I am thankful to the judges for their kind words.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.

As the show progressed, your performances kept improving and you were able to silence your critics and turn it all around. Could you elaborate on that?

The real credit here goes to Super Singer, which gave me the platform to perform. Each round was more challenging and crucial than the previous one and people expected me to perform better in each of the rounds, so, I put in a lot of effort and it all worked out.

Have you received any offers from the industry yet? Movies, award ceremonies, etc.?
I’m contractually obligated to Vijay TV for the duration of the show, and hence, I’m not in a position to accept any offers. But in the near future, I would definitely consider them.

How do you manage your life as a celebrity and as a student?
On the face of it, they are quite different. However, a student is expected to be extremely humble and receptive which is also required as a celebrity. This is very helpful for me.

How does it feel to be a renowned star?
I always felt at home.
“Just look at the list... Bill Clinton, Junichiro Koizumi etc. have been alumni of this organization.”, thus said Sasank Dagubhati, IIIrd year ECE, as he hosted the seminar, launching the largest, global non-profit organization, AIESEC, in SASTRA. For starters, AIESEC (Association internationale des Etudiants en Science, Economics, Commerce) is the largest, student-owned, non-profit organisation that was established 60 years ago. It now boasts of a vast network, spanning over 110 countries, and totalling more than 60,000 members worldwide. It has collaborations with well-known companies, the likes of which include Google, Nokia, Facebook (media partner), Microsoft and Nissan, to name a few.

In a personal tête-a-tête, Sasank Dagubhati has given the purpose of establishing the organisation in SASTRA...

What is AIESEC all about?
The general message of AIESEC is creating change through opportunities. The main aim is to develop leadership qualities in individuals, and imbibe a sense of entrepreneurship and event management. The majority of the work is done through providing responsibility, mainly in the form of internships. Corporates and NGO’s in various fields take up AIESEC members as interns, and give them international exposure.

So it is just an organization that acts as a liaison to the corporate world, providing man-power?
Not really. With almost no money involved, the members get a very unique experience. Being a member of AIESEC offers one’s Curriculum Vitae. It easily opens doors to the corporate world. We are not just corporate friendly. We have tie-ups with a few NGOs, including the famous ‘The Banyn’. Cultural exchange programmes are also present in the organisation. And though the organisation is run only by students, AIESEC culture is an exact replica of a corporate world. All the work we do and the meetings that we attend are very professional which gives a corporate experience to the students.

What does AIESEC aim to do here at SASTRA?
We also intend to create strong teams for various activities. Everyone will have a role to play. I believe that talent can be cultivated, and with determination and passion, I don’t see why it can’t be achieved.

What has AIESEC achieved so far in SASTRA?
Over the last month or so, AIESEC has been steadily climbing the rungs of the ladder. The 300 odd students who had applied attended a rigorous round of group discussion (GD), followed by the personal interview (PI) that was held in Chennai. 53 were selected to be a part of the AIESEC family.

Tell us more about your main team and its members...
After much debating, ten students were chosen to be main members. They attended a local training seminar conducted by the President, Vice-President and the Executive Body of AIESEC Chennai.

What was the local training seminar all about?
Day 1 included interaction with other members and participation in an awareness program called Vande Mataram. Day 2 consisted of the members learning the various portfolios and the related responsibilities. In the words of team member Ashwin Bharathwaj, “It was a breath taking session which made us realize our roles and responsibilities against the evil that carbohydrates develop in our country.”

What are the current posts in AIESEC?
The posts in AIESEC Chennai include Development Sector, Corporate sector, Out-Going Exchange (OGX), Finance, Communications and Information Management, Talent management, Business Development and External Relations, and Stakeholder Management. AIESEC SASTRA would be working on OGX for the first few months and then plans to branch out into separate departments.

So what internships does AIESEC offer?

Set in the sylvan surroundings of the rice bowl of Tamilnadu, SASTRA University, since 2008, offers food for thought for those aspiring for a legal career, through its own School of Law.

When the School of Law came into existence, there were only 8 students who enrolled. What is it that drives the School of Law to better its achievements day by day? It is, of course, the splendid faculty. The dedication and determination of all the staff members, led wisely and well by the HOD, Dr. P. Ravisekhararaju, a professor of Law and a veteran of many legal battles, makes study at School of Law a rewarding and unique experience for all law students.

An aspect which deserves special mention is the importance given to student participation. Students of School of Law in a pioneering effort visit a village every semester and offer much needed help with development work. Students of the village school were supplied with uniforms and notebooks. Such practical learning experiences give the students of law an idea of the backwardness of rural India and the initiative to ponder over legal solutions for them.

Another memorable visit was to ‘People’s Watch’, an NGO which functions as a Human Rights monitor based in Madurai. The interactions with the staff of the NGO left a deep impression of the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that, all men and women are born equal and have equal rights.

Some of the laurels that our students won in various Competitions:
- Best Speaker Awards in three different Moot Court Competitions
- Our students made their mark in “SPIRITUS” the National Sports Fest conducted by National Law School, Bangalore clinching 5 silver and 2 bronze medals, a gold in chess and made it to the semi finals of Volleyball and Snooker!
- We swept away almost all the awards in “LEGALA” the Cultural fest conducted by National Law School, Bangalore which included first place in Rangoli, first place in face painting, second in Add Mad, Second in street play, second in MIME and so on!
- Not only in inter college competitions, but also in Fuerza, the law students grabbed medals in shot put, discus, 1500mts, and 5000m.

It is not that we students are always out on such enriching experiences. More often than not, we are in the well-stocked library reading up on the abundant supply of law books and journals. For research purposes, legal information and case details are also available online which makes the library a centre of quiet and studious student activity.

MOOTING, OUTING AND MORE...

One of the events is Empower, a business event, which involves a number of activities and seminars to give students an insight into the world of business and entrepreneurship. Other AIESEC events include Balakakalaar (an event for the cause of underprivileged children), Y2B (creates a platform between the youth of the city with some of the biggest corporate houses), and a lot of national and international conferences.

In conclusion, the students who missed a chance of getting into the organisation would be getting a second chance at it as they would be recruiting again in February. Also, students who might take up an international internship this winter through AIESEC, by default become a member.

Students interested in taking an internship this December can contact (Ph:9790722011) for more details. Check out www.aiesec.in for more information about AIESEC.

Sai Sharad Raj
II Mech
SASTRA UNPLUGGED

SYMPOSIA

HINGES ’11:
As the blazing trail left behind by Hinges ’10 fades away, the time has come to open up the stage for this year’s edition of SASTRA University’s one-of-a-kind civil engineering tech - fest which seeks to infuse a “green” theme into the power and material gazzling construction sector.

Events:
1) Paper Presentation
2) Progetto (Poster Presentation)
3) Quiz
4) Capo Mastro (Structural Modelling)
5) Driftcon (Floating concrete)
6) CAD Code (CAD Designing)

Dates: 29th and 30th of September
Contact: P’Sakshi Sundar - 9095256026; Ronald Rajaiah - 9790111504

PRAKRIYA’11:
Praakriya, derived from Sanskrit, meaning “process”, is a national level technical symposium from the Department of Chemical Engineering, SASTRA University.

Events:
1) De’solver
2) Enercon
3) Paper Presentation
4) Poster Presentation
5) Tech Quiz
6) Technicolor

Apart from this, there are also online events such as Photography and Sci-Fi writing.

Dates: 8th and 9th of October
Contact: Harinsankar K.S. - 9626725846

SAMHITHA XI:
Samhitha XI is the national conference on Recent Advancements In Life Sciences (RAILS), organized by BIOTIKOS (Students’ Biotechnology Association at SASTRA UNIVERSITY). The major themes of Samhitha XI are Bioremediation and Environmental Engineering, Herbal Systems of Medicine, Food Technology and Food Microbiology, Marine Biotechnology, Bio-Pharmaceuticals, Bio-Pesticides and Bio-fertilisers and Agricultural Biotechnology.

Events:
1) Paper Presentation
2) Poster Presentation
3) Bio-Business Presentation

Some of the best and most eminent scholars and industrialists from the biotech world have been invited to come and share their knowledge with us. The list nearly spans the width of the country, including the likes of Professor Savithri, the chairperson of the department of biotechnology, IISc Bangalore, Dr. K. Kathiresan, CAS, Annamalai University; Chidambaram and Dr. A. Biju Kumar, HOD, Fisheries, University of Kerala. Additionally, Ms. Jesinitha Mary Mani Raja, VP, Biobase India Pvt. Ltd. is to give a talk on Careers in Biotechnology for aspirants.

Dates: 15th and 16th of October
Contact: Deepak – 9840501771; Ananth - 9790847410.

BAHISPRANA’11:
Bahisprana, a Sanskrit term translating to “External Life”, captures the fundamental spirit and drive behind the BE@S association. This time Bahisprana ’11 is all geared up to amaze you with its informative workshops, interactive guest lectures, challenging events and much more.

Events:
1) Paper Presentation
2) Innovation is Invention
3) Forensics
4) Technical Quiz
5) B PLAN
6) Bahisprana will see eminent speakers introducing you to the latest innovations in the field of healthcare and the workshops they love, has not ceased to exist. It in fact has become more prominent instead!

Communities around the open source technologies are becoming more common-place than ever in academic setups. Communities, no doubt the power of the “Participation Age”, need a conscious effort to sustain and grow. We, at SASTRA University, Thanjavur understood this fact and realized that a sincere effort needs to be made if we wish to ride the waves of open source and harness the power of communities. And that realization marked the beginning of SOFTWARE FREEDOM WEEK by GLOSS - The Open Source Community at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, INDIA!

STUDENT WINS MOFILM AWARD!
The Videography and Photographt team of our college, the SASTRA FOTOHUB, otherwise shortly and commonly known as SFH had all 5 of their advertisement entries short listed for the prestigious MOFILM International film festival for this year in Agra. MOFILM is an international organisation that travels around the globe and works with the mobile industry and film makers to organize the biggest global video competitions every year. They inspire video makers around the world to create promos and advertisements for big brands and social causes.

Among the 5 short listed entries, ARUN BALAJI (IV year CSE), a part of the fotonhub along with his team mates VR VIGNESH and VINAY GOPALAKRISHNAN (IV ICT) bagged the 5th place in the 1 minute advertisement making contest for AKSHAYA PATRA, an NGO which helps the underprivileged with free morning and afternoon meals in various schools around the country. They won a stunning Rs.50,000 among other goodies.

Gloss has become a culture of its own at SASTRA. Well, come and know what open source is all about in the festival coming ahead!

For further updates on Software Freedom Week visit:
www.sastra.edu/gloss
www.facebook.com/groups/gloss.community

SASTRA CRICKET LEAGUE:
Started on the 7th of September, the SASTRA CRICKET LEAGUE has seen nearly 92 teams registering till date. With Rs. 250 as the registration fee and the whole tournament conducted on a knockout basis, the tournament is expected to end around mid of October. Matches are conducted everyday at 6:30 am, 3:30 pm and 5 pm. Day scholars are also given preference and Subramanian (IV B.Tech Civil) the overall-coordinator has organized it in such a way that it doesn’t affect mid-sems. He is also the captain of Arjunas which was last year’s tournament. The prize money is expected to be huge, so all cricket lovers, form a team and join in!

BAJA 2012 has seen 244 teams from a race to be held in Pitampur, MP, India.

The Freedom to use the Software for any purpose
The Freedom to change the software to suite your needs
The Freedom to share the software with your friends and neighbours
The Freedom to share the changes that you make

Open source is one of the most amazing things that happened to us in the last century! It has silently worked towards empowering mankind and has definitely emerged not only as something which “nerds” do for their past time, but into a serious and viable method of production. But even though lots of businesses and business models are being planned out keeping open source as the anvil, the old self of open source, in which the nerds in schools and colleges come together to create, modify and improve the technology they love, has not ceased to exist. It in fact has become more prominent instead!

The Freedom to share the open source technologies is becoming more common-place than ever in academic setups.

Gloss, no doubt the power of the “Participation Age”, need a conscious effort to sustain and grow. We, at SASTRA University, Thanjavur understood this fact and realized that a sincere effort needs to be made if we wish to ride the waves of open source and harness the power of communities. And that realization marked the beginning of SOFTWARE FREEDOM WEEK by GLOSS - The Open Source Community at SASTRA University, Thanjavur, INDIA!

Day 1 (10-10-2011) Introduction to Open Source & Cloud
Day 2 (11-10-2011) LINUX
Day 3 (12-10-2011) WEB
Day 4 (13-10-2011) MOBILE
Day 5 (14-10-2011) Introduction to PYTHON

Guess the FOTOHUB people have really got some stash to celebrate on!

The current team consists of Srikanth, Raghavendra, Dinesh, Karthik, Subu, Arun, Siddhu & Balakumar. Cheers to these boys who bagged the prestigious award!

Gloss which has become a culture of its own at SASTRA. Well, come and know what open source is all about in the festival coming ahead!

BAJA 2012 is seen has 244 teams registering across the country. Out of which 200 were selected through a virtual event. Teams have to build an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) of which the best will be selected from a race to be held in Pitampur, MP in February 2012.

SASTRA Team gets selected for BAJA 2012!

BAJA is one of the annual events conducted by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) India, an affiliate society of SAE International. It is registered in India as an Indian non-profit engineering and scientific society dedicated to the advancement of the mobility industry in India.

BAJA 2012 has seen 244 teams registering across the country. Out of which 200 were selected through a virtual event. Teams have to build an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) of which the best will be selected from a race to be held in Pitampur, MP in February 2012. Criteria such as time frame of completion, budget, facilities used, marketing, planning and execution are taken into consideration. The team from SASTRA is called ‘CRUCIBLE’ and they are all set to build the best vehicle! Here’s wishing them all the luck to succeed!
This year’s CARPE DIEM has been a huge success with all our favorite cartoons around! Here’s a quick review of all the clusters:

**ARTS:**
Carpiediem’11 witnessed Chith Vihar turn into a fountain of imagination, colours and ideas. With this edition’s theme being “Cartoons”, in no time at all, it was like a swarm of army ants was taking over! The Ad-designing posters made to fulfill bizarre requirements had humor a plenty. Sandhya, P and Lakshmi K.A carried away the top prize. The Cartooning event saw students sketching the incarnations of their toon-villains in black and white with Sandhya P coming first again. There was no dearth of vividness with respect to the Collage event where Vijayalaksmi, Swetha and Divya shone the most!

Junk art had people pulling out their training camps to create, twist and turn their own wicked scheme to catch the road runner! With everyone unleashing the coyote in them, judging couldn’t have been more fun. C. Ranjani, Aruna Nair.V.K and Revathi won first place. A face, poster paints and 4 brushes had the participants’ imagination soaring with the Face Painting competition. Divhya Simhons and Prasanna emerged as winners.

**DANCE:**
Confluence, as the name suggests, had the assemblage of different styles of dance in the same room. The styles included Bharatanatyam, Kathak, folk, contemporary dance, hip-hop, locking and popping. 13 teams participated, of which 5 teams were short listed for the finals and Karthik (FLYERS Dance academy) wound up having a tough time judging the competition. Awards were given out for the top 2 places. Ravij Teja won Best Male Dancer while Suman K. Chahria, Lakshmi and Mythili shared the Best Female Dancer award. First place was won by the team that had S. Sangeetha, Divya Lakshmi, Gouni Srija, Shwetha Achuthan, Lakshmi V.G, Mythili.P, K.P Anusha and S.Mangayarkarasi.

**DRAMATICs:**
Carpiediem’11 saw some unexpected and fun changes in the events under the Dramatics cluster.

There was no One Act Play, as always. All teams put up brilliant performances that left the audience mesmerized, thinking or rolling on the floor with laughter! The team consisting of Adithi Rajagopal, Deepa Rajagopal, Sree Smrithi Sasidharan, Poornima C.Iyer, Vineeth and Aara Vamundar.K won first place. Adithi Rajagopal won the award for Best Director and Best Playwright. Gokul won Best Actor(Male) while Poornima won Best Actor(Female).

An event introduced this year was Vaudeville Thrill which primarily tested the spontaneity of actors. Teams were given the topics a maximum of 5 minutes before they went on stage to perform. Unexpected twists and handicaps were provided to them which they worked into their acts seamlessly. The winners were Adithiti Rajagopal, Varun.V, Deepa Rajagopal and Vineeth. It was unanimous agreed upon that their stage presence, timing, and humour was the best among all the finalists. The third and final event was Aureus Lacuna or the golden word, which was a script writing event that saw some hilarious scripts.

**ENGLISH LITS:**
Day One was dedicated to the preliminaries of Cocktail, What’s The Good Word, Extempore and a majority of the quizzes (Sprint, AV and Lone Wolf). Keeping up with the theme, ELS presented a Cartoon Quiz just for the first and second years which was jointly won by two teams, Smrithi.S and Shruthi.S and Abhinav.S and Aditya Kousik. Debate Finals (Shruthi Suresh and Malavika.S) had Dr. Pugazhenthi, Dean SoME as a judge who provided the audience and participants with great insights on the topic.

The finals of Lone Wolf (Visaka Simhan Jayaraman) and Spent Quiz (Varun Vaiitheswaran, Venkatraman and Prashanth Srivastava) took place on the morning of Day Two. An enthusiastic crowd watched an entertaining and exciting Cocktail final (Aravind, Venkatraman and Abhinav) which preceded the most frenzied final – JAM. With a jam packed auditorium (for the fun) the participants and Sridhar, the moderator had the audience in splits. The person who came out on top in the end was Sooraj Kumar. AV quiz was won by M.Nirajan and G.Narasimman; Extempore by V.Varun and Shruthi; What’s the Good Word by M.Nirajan, Narasimman.G and Girish.S; Creative Writing by K.S Shriram.

This year, the cluster witnessed some great talent in the first years and the regulars from other batches. A special mention of the first year teams that made it to the Debate, Cocktail and Jam finals.

Deepa Rajagopal won the best speaker award in debate finals. (A special thank you to Prof.Mathavan and Dr. Pugazhenthi for consenting to judge the debate.)

**HINDI LITS:**
The Hindi Literary Club @ SAS-TRA had a total of 7 events spread over 2 days with new organizers and a brand new theme! The participation was average in some events while venues were jam-packed in others. Bombay Talkies again proved to be the event with the largest audience. Deepankar Pandey, Keshav Kumar, Shivam, Digant Jagtap, Atul Kumar, Sachin Kumar, Tabish Alvi, Shivani Singh and Akash Kumar won the event. Other events were Dumb Charles/Dayanish Misha, Avinash Kumar and Rohit), Anshulshahari(Avinash Kumar and Ravi Mishra), Mahan Bharta/Anshulshahari, Jani(Avinash Kumar), Debate/Deepankar Pandey and Tabish Alvi) and Khel-Khel Mein(Nitish Sadaya), a fun event.

**MUSIC:**
The Music Events were the ones with the auditorium bursting at the seams. In comparison with the last few years, participation in the Carnatic Vocal (S. Pavithra and Shrvan Kumar) event was three times more than previous years’ participation. Light music and western acoustics did it again! Sastra Super Singer – the trademark event of the music cluster turned out to be the best with extremely versatile singing on stage. Ashwarya won the coveted title. Charu Bala.G and S.N. Varun won Solo Instrumentals. Ramya, Venkata Raman, SriHari, Gurucharan.S, Poornima Sampath, Ashwarya Mohan, Dinesh and Baratwaj won Eastern Group Music event while Ramya, Pallavi, Keerthi, Shweta, Bhavadharini, Renee Marcia and Jaison Joswia won the Western Group Music event.

**SASTRA FOTOHUB:**
Sastra Fotofub’s events beheld jam packed auditoriums, enthusiastic participants and some of the finest filmmakers on campus. Over 60 teams battled it out for the coveted prize amidst a jubilant audience of over 350 at VKJ’s auditorium. Some of the best movies were ‘The Last Recital’, ‘Vidiyadha Irvagul’ and ‘Inspired from Inside’. The ones who made the best movie were Sriram, Manikan and Prasanna. The Photography and the Poster Designing event was a big success with over fifty entries pouring in. The winner of the Photography event was Divya Simhon while Goutham Krishnan won the Poster Designing event. Another successful event was the Trailer Making Competition, of which first prize was whisked away by M.Divyaa and Dhanya Bharathi.

**TAMIL LITS:**
Sasra’s Thamizh Sangam had one of THE best Carpe diem’s this year. Navararas(Drama – Vignesh, Vishal, Arun Sundarajan, Preethi Shreyena, Rajaman, Bharath Kumar Suresh, Chandrasekar, Dinesh Kumar and Gowri Shankar) was the first event up and it was truly amazing. A special mention to the 1st year teams who worked hard to put on some of the best performances ever.

Second up was MOUNA MO-ZHI (Dumb Charades – Vignesh, Arul Guhan and Vishal).The event had quality performances from all the teams. Next was NERUKKU NER (Debate). KAVITHAI (Abhinay.A) brought in good pieces of writing showing that there are budding writers walking amongst us. THERUKOOTU/Street play – Chandra Mouli, Barathi Krishna, Hariraha Subramaniam, Dinesh, Gurus Prasad, Guru Charan, Sasi Krishna, Prasanna Krishnan, Vinoth, Kailash, Venkatraman and Jeyanthinathan provided a magnificent end to Day One even though the venue had to be changed because of the weather. The Infra team had things up and running in no time and hence proved to be a godsend.

Day two began with the finals of THAMIZHATTAM (a game show-Naagarajan and Shwetha.S) that had the truly fluent proving themselves. Moving on it was DHAMAKA for people as it was KALAKKA POVADHI YAARU (Sidharth). Other events were KATHAI (Story writing – Vimalathithan), VICHITHTHIRA THEDAL (Creative Writing – P. Naveen Kumar) and SA-D U R A N G A M (Crossword – Arun, S.Arun), all of which were class-room events. SASTRA Tales (Mime – Yogalakshmi, Nallan, Flasari, Rosy, Amsa Priya, Ramyashree, Abhirami, Rekha and Kaviya) was a power packed event with sparkling performances from all the teams. Cine Quiz was won by Arul Guhan, Vignesh and Vishal. The events were all a roaring success thanks to the organizers, the INFRA team and the PR.

‘Vizhivadha vaaragigil vazhvdhulu thamizhvaagatam’! And first years, hats off!

**TELUGU LITS:**
There were a total of eight events in the Telugu Lits Cluster. Most of the events are The Lits Cluster’s own, the only one which was jam-packed all the time. The first day started on a serious note with “GHRASHANNA” a.k.a a debate (Hemanth Srideja and P. Nihanth Kumar) with 14 teams battling on stage. The next event was “MOUNA MO-ZHI” or Dumb Charades (Kapalavai E.P.L.G.V.Manoj Kumar and Athota Kumar). The participants showed us some really innovative ways of miming the words given to them. In contrast, the next event was...
COLOSSEUM’11

VICTORIOUS YET AGAIN!

JIPMER, Pondicherry, conducted their annual cultural fest, Span- dan from August 30th to September 4th. SASTRA University has been attending Spandan for a few years now, and consistently leaving an indelible mark on the proceedings. And this year was no different, as the cultural team participated and performed in the various clusters, and consistently placed in practically all the events.

We swept the Music cluster by winning the instrumental and placing third in the best band category. In the Western Dance category, we won the hearts of the crowd and placed second. Unfortunately, the Eastern dance team was unable to attend the fest. The historians of the MIME team portraying students choosing vocations earned them second place. The English Literary Cluster secured first three spots in JAM, while finishing first and third in Pictionary. They also managed to out-perform all the other teams to finish victorious in Dubh Charades. Varun Vaitheeswaran was declared the Best Speaker in the Debate. The 10 minute short-skit event was also won by SASTRA. However, the Arts team was the ones who took everyone’s breath away, with their exciting ideas and amazing creations. They placed second in Rangoli, third in Pencil Sketching, second and third in Face Painting, first in Mehendi and third in collage. We also placed second in Photography. As the overall trophy was awarded based on the performance in the Fashion Show as well, which our college did not partake in, we were unable to secure the prestigious honour.

Overall, this cultural fete was an enriching experience for each and every member of all the teams, especially the fourteen students who attended the cultural proceedings. And this year was no different for the first time. We will always look back at it with fondness and value the times we shared there.

Tara Narayanan
II Mechatronics

Be it Sachin Tendulkar, Viswa- nathan Anand or Baichung Bhutia, they lived in the true spirit of the game and success followed them. It does not matter if we have skinned knees and broken elbows as long as a spectacular goal is scored. Among the fiercest battles in India, SASTRA University, Thanjavur proudly presented COLOSSEUM 2011-The Na- tional Level Annual Sports fest which brought into limelight the hidden talent of 1500 participants from 60 colleges across the nation. The four day long sports meet was held from 25th-28th August 2011. The valedictory function was headed by Mr. V.B.Chandrasekhar(former Indian cricketer, former member of Indian cricket selection committee) and prizes were dis- tributed to the winners. Plethora of events like Cricket, Volleyball, Football, Basket- ball, Table Tennis, Chess, Badminton and Best Physique were featured in the pres- ent edition of this grandeur.

The inaugural function (26haag) kicked off grandly with the SASTRA Dance Team (SDT) performing a fusion of eastern and western dance. This was then followed by a musical performance by a few M.Tech students who gave a stunning performance with the sillambam which had a great response. This was fol- lowed by the most anticipated All-stars basketball match.

The cricket tournament was played with great intensity and was finally won by SRM University and SASTRA were the runner up. On the greener side of the ground, the football matches were played where our college did not manage to make it through to the top three; the tournament was won by KARUNYA University, Coimbatore.

Sports like badminton where both boys and girls participated had a mixed bag of winners and SASTRA managed to secure a runner up position for men and a third place in the women’s category. Bas- ketball was another sport where both men and women participated. Colleges from Chennai managed to win in both catego- ries.

When it came to playing a game of chess the girls of SASTRA outwitted all the others and secured the first place while the boys managed to get themselves in the top three. Coming to another indoor event, Table Tennis, SRM University took first place in the men’s division while SASTRA came second and in the wom- en’s division SSN College of engineering won while SASTRA again came as runner up.

Volleyball was a sport where our team managed to do well and won runner up in the men’s division and they placed third in the women’s division.

The best physique competition was divided into seven categories: 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 75-80 and above 80 kgs res- pectively. SASTRA’s name was present in almost all of the categories in the list of winners and the team championship was won by SASTRA University.

Many people work very hard be- hind the scenes for months for such events to take place. This is what the overall stu- dent coordinator, Aadhithya had to say, “From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank everyone who was a part of Colosseum ‘11. I had a great experience with the organisers, I would like to thank them whole heartedly.”

1.Cricket : Nagaraj and co. – Runners up.
2.Volleyball (Men): Girish Nambiar (V yr MNT) and team – Runners up.
4.Badminton (Men): Runners up
a. Manikandan. – IV B.Tech, Chemi- cal
b. Prem Ganesh – IV B.Tech, IT.
d. Raja Ram – III B.Tech ICT.
5.Badminton (Women): Third place
b. Divya R.P. – II B.Tech ICT
c. Vidiya S. - II B.Tech EEE
d. Sai Kiruthiha U. - III B.Tech EEE
6.Cheese (Women): First place
a. Aparna R – IV B.Tech ICT
c. Valliammai - I B.Tech IBT
d. Shridevi - I B.Tech Civil
e. Divya - II B.Tech ECE
7.Cheese (Men) : Third place
a. Mathivaanan S. – IV B.Tech ICT
b. Venketraman V.G. – IV B.Tech ICT
c. Radhakrishnan – II B.Tech ICT
d. Prayel Shetty – II B.Tech IT
e. Naveen – I B.Tech ICT
8.Table Tennis (Men) – Second place
a. Vharonon R. V. – IV B.Tech EEE
b. Tarun Kumar Goyal – IV B.Tech Mechatronics
c. Arun Selvan K.B. – III B.Tech EEE
d. Ravi Arjun – II B.Tech ECE
9.Table Tennis (Women) – Second place
a. Supradha R. – IV B.Tech ICT
b. Smita M. – II B.Tech ICT
c. Jayashree G. - I B.Tech ICT
d. Sowmya M. – III B.Tech BioE
10.Best Physique:
a. 55KG: 1stplace:C.Vimal.
b. 70KG: i. 2ndplace: T.Tamil Vanan.
ii.3rdplace: S.Venkatesh.
c. 75KG: 2ndplace:R.Vijayananand.
d. 75-85KG: 2ndplace:A.Praakash.
e.ABOVE 85 KG: 1stplace:V.Ashok
11.TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP:
Istplace:SASTRA UNIVERSITY
Arvind Viswanathan
III CSE
CARPE DIEM’11 (contd..)

CARPE!

Pranay Deep, Sandeep Kumar Gadepalli and Grandhi Srini Sulu – A quiz about Andhra Pradesh in the evening. WADO:

What’s the next big thing in SAS-TRA? In case you didn’t guess it, it’s 7CUBE THE WADIO. 7CUBE is SAS-TRA’s Wi-Fi radio which operates from VLC->media->open network stream hutting play.

Another important piece of information was regarding the fall and spring courses. Every university has a particular sum of money stashed away for scholarships. She said that our chances of being funded are high in the fall semester (January-May) as most of the cash gets depleted by the time the spring semester starts.

She then spoke on the one issue that usually eats away at our brains - the VISA!

According to Mrs. Vijji, getting a student visa is easy contrary to popular belief! She said as long as the applicant is clear about the purpose of the visit and reason for choosing that particular college, he/she is free to go! So, having read all of this, you guys might think the US is the place to be! Widen your horizons, the other four countries provide delightful study atmospheres and are definitely cheaper:

Mrs. Sudha, the personnel from Netherlands floored us with the dazzling opportunities that she dangled right in front of us!

Some of the notable points of her talk were that of the top 200 universities in the world, 12 are Dutch and that we

cannot be denied a visa if a university has accepted our application.

The entire cost of a 2 year period of study along with other expenses would approximate to 24 lakhs. After the two years, students are allowed to stay on for a year to look for jobs in any of these countries. All the Dutch universities are research oriented and offer plenty of opportunities for internships. (Some prominent Dutch companies are Shell, Philips, and Unilever etc.)

Next, Mrs. Padmavathy representing Germany spoke to us about the universities there which are of two types – public and private.

The public universities charge tuition fees anywhere between 0-500 Euros, whereas the private universities charge fees as high as many thousands Euros. She stressed on the importance of knowing German. Even though most courses are offered in English, she recommended that students prefer students who have learnt German. Mrs. Padmavathy harped on the fact that knowing German would help especially for getting around in Germany.

Next, Ms. Kshama spoke about the opportunities in France. France, being home to some of the greatest scientists like Becquerel, Curie and Fourier, has good research facilities and a suitable study atmosphere.

In France as well, a student with knowledge of French would have an edge over the others with respect to funding. The student, on completion of his/her Masters, will be allowed to stay on for a year or two to search for jobs as the concept of “Campus Recruitment” is not present there.

However, all of them stressed on one aspect which is hardly present in Indian universities - the industry-institute relationship. Internships are compulsory and all the problems that are solved during the course period are all industry-based so that no special training is required when the student enters the industry, making them more employable.

They all stressed on the importance of a SoP and recommendation letters. Even if the SoP is written using simple words, it must convey your passion for the subject and give them an idea about your personality, your cultural and technical activities.

So, if you thought before that the USA was the only option, I hope this article gave you a whole new perspective!

In case you want more details, do visit the following websites:

www.cheas.org
http://www.nuffic.nl/international-students
www.daad.org
www.campusfrance.org/en
http://www.britishcouncil.org/new/

M. Harshini
III EIE
SYH is composed of like-minded individuals, who believe in doing their bit for society. Over the years, we’ve come to realize, that helping the needy is not a burden, but a pleasure that gives immense satisfaction to all the hearts involved. There is a section of society that remains unprivileged and it is our duty to contribute (as per our means) to make their lives better.

In our first year, this thought rooted itself in our hearts and we decided to do something about it. From then on our get-together spots were orphanages, schools for the differently abled and homes of the unprivileged. Thus, ‘Share Your Hands’ (SYH) was started.

Some call him a “misanthrope”, an “egotist” or a “curmudgeon”, the fact remains that the intuitive medical genius of Dr. Gregory House remains unmatched. I’m sure fans of The Big Bang Theory will disagree though. Much unlike regular protagonists, House’s display as an anti-social hero is the main reason for the both the character’s and show’s astounding success. This October, the world will witness the end of an epoch, as House M.D ends its final season, due to begin on October 3.

To classify House as an introvert is rather diminishing to the character, considering the revolution he has brought to all protagonist. Apart from the incessant pain in his right leg that makes him an insufferable git; House also suffers from the Rubik’s complex - his constant hunger for an interesting case is the only other alternative to Vicodin, the drug he shamelessly uses to drown his连线for an escape from pain. House perceives symptoms as “interesting” unlike normal humans who would see a symptom as an obstacle.

However, it is this dimension of perception that delineates House from everybody else, not just doctors. His analytical mind reasons beyond the superficial, digging for the cause, and is a much needed cross between Sherlock Holmes, the maverick who seems to deduce everything, and to those who’ll claim they’ve always been better than him professionally and to those who’ll claim they’ve always been better than him professionally and personally in all circles of their lives, I’ll just say “Everybody Lies”.

SHARE YOUR HANDS - you are no longer alone

When asked “what are your plans for the weekends?”, the most common reply is “chilling out and have fun”. Malls, multiplexes, recreation centers, pubs, expensive restaurants are seldom found under subscribed. Everyone spends a huge amount of time and money in such places. While most people are privileged enough with all the ‘good things’ in life, we must remember that not everyone is as lucky. There is a section of society that remains underprivileged and it is our duty to contribute (as per our means) to make their life better.

In our first year, this thought rooted itself in our hearts and we decided to do something about it. From then on our get-together spots were orphanages, schools for the differently abled and homes of the unprivileged. Thus, ‘Share Your Hands’ (SYH) was started.

SYH is composed of like-minded individuals, who believe in doing their bit for society. Over the years, we’ve come to realize, that helping the needy is not a burden, but a pleasure that gives immense satisfaction to all the hearts involved with it. ‘If today’s children are tomorrow’s citizens, let’s give them their today’.

Being technocrats, our primary aim was to provide education to the poor. But seeing the abject poverty everywhere, where people are unable to meet even their most basic needs, education became our LAST priority. We decided on first catering to the basic needs of orphans, the destitute and the differently abled and then creating awareness about the importance of education, health and hygiene to them. To start with, Rs 20 was collected (every month) and was used to provide a few orphanages, schools and old-age homes with stationary, clothes, medicine, groceries etc. Later, we organized camps in those orphanages to increase awareness among the children. The surest way of breaking the cycle of poverty and improving the quality of life is education. This fact was stressed upon on all our camps.

Some of the more significant things done by SYH include providing blankets to old-age homes, books and stationary to schools and orphanages, water purifiers to orphanages, old-age homes, annadhanam etc. We also conduct games, drawing events and screen movies for the benefit of children in the orphanages.

SYH has always tried to reach out in as many ways as possible. Apart from monetary contributions, we welcome new and innovative ideas. One such idea was the collection of material from graduates. SYH was able to contribute 160 mattresses, 120 pillows, roughly 600 pairs of clothes, 80 buckets, 50 bags to different orphanages and old-age homes.

We would like to thank the Uni-

HUGE EGO, SORRY

WHY?

Have you ever pondered over why people do certain things in a certain way? Or why people do those certain things at all? My thought train started back at the AIEEE counseling days where I saw people greedy for the hottest branches available in the market without having the slightest idea of their course content; students picking up random open elective courses which gets them an easy A or even better, the company of their friends; my own batch mates who feel unaligned with engineering, having taken it only because they had no idea what else to do with their lives.

When did it become so important to follow the herd blindly? To become a part of the cruel rat race without giving an iota of importance to one’s individuality? When we sit for placements or apply for internships, why aren’t we thinking about why we want to do it? Instead we just end up filling the forms and glorifying our resumes to the highest levels possible. Why don’t we ever try to understand why we need to know what we are taught? Why don’t we ever look back to see what we did right and what wrong rather than aimlessly racing with the herd? When a company like TCS asks us, “Why would you like to join TCS?” or when we write about our areas of interests in SOP’s? Instead of introspecting and giving honest replies, why do we lose ourselves in the blab blech bluh’s of getting the job or securing a future?

From the past to present to future, what we should be asking ourselves is why? Why this particular thing? What does it mean to me? Where will it take me? Its high time we start asking ourselves these questions, because at the end of the day, whom are we kidding?

As a fitting finish, I would like to quote Martin Luther King, “Our lives begin to end the day we stop thinking about the things that matter”. Watch it.

Apoorva Dasari
IV ECE

Rama Krishna
IV ECE

Pavan Teja
IV EIE

Total 52,380/-

PS: Decode the title, I dare you.

Apoorva Dasari
IV ECE
8 AWESOME, BUT UNDERRATED SOFTWARE FOR COLLEGE

So you’ve got a laptop in college and you are wondering what you can install on it? Check out the list below for some nifty software that could help improve your productivity. Each application serves one purpose really, really well and could be immensely useful during the course of your academic life.

1. Q10 For Distraction-Free Essay Writing

With Facebook and other distractions just a tab away, it’s pretty hard to focus on writing for long bouts of time but you have to do a lot of that in college - there’s always an essay or an assignment lying there in your todo list. Q10 is a nifty text editor that blocks all distractions by taking full screen control of your desktop.

Q10 has a dark interface that puts the focus on your writing. The editor canvas also shows dynamic word count, and there’s even a timer that you can race against to complete your essay or thesis work. If you download one thing today, download Q10.

Download here: http://www.baara.com/q10/

2. FocusBooster Helps You Focus On One Task

The Pomodoro Technique is one of the best ways to get things done. You set a timer for 25 minutes and start working without a break. You do nothing for five minutes after that, and you resume your work again as the countdown restarts.

FocusBooster puts a neat countdown timer on your desktop. It’s based on Adobe AIR, and there’s this ticking sound as the countdown runs. You can even set an alarm to ring when a session ends.

Download here: http://www.focusbooster-app.com/

3. RescueTime Tracks Your Time Wasting Habits

Do you switch on your computer to do some coursework but end up spending your time on Facebook? RescueTime is for you. The app will track where you’re spending your time when you’re using your computer - you can see your activities charted out in the RescueTime web dashboard.

Each of these activities is assigned a productivity score and your efficiency is calculated and emailed to you every week. Besides that, there’s a ‘Get Focused’ mode in the app that lets you block all distracting activities for a set number of minutes. Download here: http://www.rescuetime.com/

4. GeeTeeDee Is A No Nonsense Task Management App

If you need a beautiful, no-frills task manager for Windows, try GeeTeeDee. In GeeTeeDee, you can create a group for specific task types, and start adding tasks immediately. The bottom-line: it’s simple, and there’s a ‘Compact’ view option that makes it even more minimalist.

The best part: there’s a portable version of GeeTeeDee which you can put in your USB key or Dropbox and use across multiple computers. There isn’t a sync feature and there aren’t mobile apps yet. But, simple tasks management is guaranteed.

Download here: http://codea-dev.com/gtd/

5. FreeMind Lets You Map Your Ideas

FreeMind doesn’t get a lot of press, but it certainly deserves a mention. You can use FreeMind to create a free-form mind map on any topic that’s running inside your head. The mind map is non-linear – so you can add and remove elements at any time.

FreeMind is perfect for jotting down notes from your class and can also help you record essay ideas. Download: http://freemind.sourceforge.net/

6. SpeedRead Improves Your Comprehension Rate

Most of us have an average reading speed of 200 words per minute. However, with a bit of training and effort, you can drastically increase it without affecting comprehension. SpeedRead helps you do just that.

Throw SpeedRead a text file and it starts displaying the words in the text file one by one. You need to concentrate on just following the text. Pretty useful if you’re going to be writing competitive exams. Download: http://www.maxmax.com/aDownloadSpeedRead.htm

7. Chit Chat Puts Facebook Chat In Your Desktop

Enough said about distractions, but you might still find Facebook chat indispensable to keep in touch with your friends in college. It’s downright annoying to switch between browser tabs often while chatting. Chit Chat is a neat application for Windows that brings Facebook chat to your desktop.

Chit Chat’s interface supports tabs – you can chat with multiple friends under a single window. There’s also instant desktop notification support, much better than Facebook’s pop-sound, switch-tab, see-message workflow. Just make sure you decline the agreement to install RelevantKnowledge crapware when you install Chit Chat.

Download here: http://www.chitchat.org.uk/english/home/

8. Ubuntu As Your Primary Operating System

Every operating system has its own merits. You don’t need to spend a dime on Ubuntu - it’s free of cost and you can download it for your computer from ubuntu.com. Better security is a bonus.

Mac fanboys and Windows aficionados are screaming already, but you’ll learn more about your system internals when you’re on Linux than when you’re on any other OS. It might break, but it’s exciting to use and it will be a fun ride. Linux desktops in general have come a long way and everything works out-of-the-box these days.

(Republished from killertechtips.com)

Shankar Ganesh,S.
III IT
As his eyes continued to linger, 
A layman, for whom life knew no mean 
As his vision stayed fixed, 
A chance to lead a life, 
A chance to relish the worldly pleasures, 
chance, 
A layman, for whom life had no goal, 
As he looked into the misty sky, 
Opened a new dimension for him!

For someone whose life had no meaning. 
For someone whose eyes never faced the heat, 
For someone whose feet never felt the touch, 
For someone who needs no effort; 
For a person whose life has comfort, 
A day through the window!

The rupee that would feed his family, 
Toiling away for a living; 
Toiling hard to earn a rupee, 
His shoulder that carried it, 
The world in front would not wait for him, 
For the labourer, life had no meaning!

The hardware will be free, the software will be free and yet you won’t be able to use any of it because the patent portfolios will not be free, and they will not be cheap. We’ll have to purchase separate patent license agreements from each of whatever handful of companies that survive this apocalypse.

For the labourer, life had no meaning! 
Whose craving seemed to hug has face, 
Whose eyes earned for more, 
For whom life had not been easy, 
It is through this window, 
It is for him that life had no meaning.

They swept upon a labourer. 
His eyes were brought to a momentary pause, 
As he cast a look on the him, 
Toiling hard to earn a rupee, 
Toiling away for a living; 
The rupee that would feed his family, 
The rupee that would help their survival; 
With sweat trickling down his muscular back.

His face that gave away his sorrow, 
His shoulder that carried it, 
The world in front would not wait for him, 
For the labourer, life had no meaning! 
His momentary stop had burdened him, 
His eyes forcing his glance away, 
From the pain and sorrow, 
Over to one that had it all,

For most students, May looms threateningly large on their calendar thanks to the end of the semester exams and the practical exams. Last May, a group of hostel students, with a passion for coding, had people knocking on their doors with queries about programs. They’d even go so far as to ask them to write some programs for them as well.

Sometimes our enthusiastic coders complained but when the problem was dark and murky, they were lost as well. When the number of people lining up outside their doors reached an all time high, they decided it was time for an initiative.

Students of Dr. John Bosco Balaguru, these happy coders (PSiva Prasad, Balu Maganti and Vishwa Teja) started a blog, sharing whatever they knew about questions and programs that were likely to pop up in our lab exams so that they could help students who couldn’t beat down their doors and increase their own technical know-how as well!

And so “Tech knows” the first technical forum of SASTRA was born. Initially it spread by word of mouth but the day it got its own Facebook page, the page got 2000 likes and the blog, 1200 hits. Once the exams were done, the forum started letting its visitors share material and participate in discussions and expanded into something much more than the blog it began as.

When asked as to why the name is “Tech knows”, they laugh it off with the retort that the people who post ask the techs who know and therefore become techs who know as well.

A rather befuddling reason indeed. Anyone who’s never been to this page, hit it now: www.tecknows2011.blogspot.com.

Vishnu Chaitanya

IV ECE

A Day Through The Window!

A day through the window! 
For a person whose life has comfort, 
For someone who needs no effort; 
For someone with feet never felt the touch, 
For someone whose life had no meaning!

As he looked into the misty sky, 
His eyes lingered around the scene. 
Until his glance rested upon a layman; 
A layman, for whom life had no goal, 
A man who had not been given a second chance, 
A chance to live a happy life, 
A chance to dream ahead, 
A chance to relish the worldly pleasures, 
A chance to lead a life, 
As his vision stayed fixed, 
The world in front would not halt for him.

A layman, for whom life knew no meaning! 
As his eyes continued to linger,
GAME REVIEW- LIMBO

Words cannot express my experience with this really special game called Limbo. But then again, I’m writing an article. So I must. Limbo, considered by the gaming community as the Best Independent Game of 2010, is finally out for the PC after its long standing exclusivity to the XBOX Live Arcade. This side-scrolling puzzle/adventure video game is a mixed-bag of emotions. It’s dark, intriguing, and beautiful, all at the same time. I have to say, I really didn’t regret downloading it.

I must warn you, this game is not everyone’s cup of tea. You don’t have monsters or people to kill, no experience points to gain, and the game is eclectic about the player’s identity itself. The story starts with you, a boy, waking up in a forest. The story is intentionally unclear, but it is strongly suggested that you are looking for your sister, and as the title suggests, you are in limbo. Purgatory might be a more appropriate state to describe your state. The first thing that strikes the player is the visual style. The world shown is in the form of black and white silhouettes, and this style does a lot in creating the atmosphere, showing circumstance, and giving an indication of the creepy world around the player. The player is intended to explore his environment, solving puzzles on his way, escaping the clutches of hideous beasts, and malevolent human beings, which pose obstacles for him. This may sound weird enough, but death of the player is requisite for progress. First timers have no option but to die in a very gruesome manner, walking into traps and then gaining knowledge of the danger. It is sort of what the critics call a, “trial-and-death” game. It might sound drab, but it plays out pretty well and adds to the dark and distorted setting of Limbo. The puzzles are clever, and the ambient background score constantly gives you a sense of solitude, which only grips the player when he encounters any other living creature. Extreme feelings for a video game? Well, it’s one of those perfect examples that affirm video games to be an art form.

It’s not a long game, and it’s got a promising climax that would leave the player with a feeling of sadness, wonder and most importantly, intrigue. (You might want to discuss the ending with me once you’re done). Well, the game will certainly leave you wanting more, so make sure to clear up all the puzzles to access the secret bonus level. Limbo is an original and brilliant game that is not to be missed by gamers and non-gamers alike. One could only pray that it’s not us who are in the limbo of life...

(Want the game? Contact me – 09790270607. To be reviewed next edition – Crysis2 !!)

Sai Sharad
II Mech

YOU THINK YOU KNOW SASTRA?

YOU THINK YOU KNOW SASTRA?

Across
1. “dosa”- Think really hard!(6,6)
3. journey to the beginning of life(3)
5. sticks & stones, will break your bones- please do come(11,10)
8. “conjoint siblings! not twins though”(4,8)
10. not visited very often, please do visit once in a while(6)
12. - on a rainy day, a Fedora will help(6)
13. Lightening up the ‘dark’ minds(7)
14. - “My son’s favourite pastime is to finish up his allowances”(3)
15. - first three letters, developed by the college board of the US, the (5,5)

Down
1. - play around with the synonym for futile (4.5)
2. - grease up your hands & VROOM(3)
4. - an establishment which carries people’s views & thoughts(4.6)
6. - something related to horses-not really(6)
7. - Not much of..._M_S_R_, little designing involved (7.5)
9. - invented by an Indian, push your limits, beyond sasra(3)
11. - entrepreneur from Sasra undoing-hunger(7.5)

K. Skandan, III EEE
N. Sidharth, III BIBT

Editor’s pick: TOP 5 WEBSITES
1. Stumbleupon.com
2. Evernote.com
3. Dropbox.com
4. Toshl.com
5. Slideshare.net

For queries/suggestions/feedback, write to us @ news.sastra@gmail.com

We would even love to publish some of your works!
So bring out the writer within you!