SASTRA’s entry for BAJA, a national level ATV fabrication and racing event.

‘We are the champions!’
SASTRA wins overall championship at VIT.

‘We will be back next year, watch out!’
SASTRA performing at IITM (the music team placed second).
**SASTRA UNPLUGGED**

**Protocol**

Protocol, the fest of the Computer Science department of SASTRA, was conducted from the 21st-22nd of January 2012. The fest consisted of an array of events ranging from paper presentations to gaming to hardcore programming. All this was accompanied by foot tapping music playing all day long giving it a carnival-like feeling.

Among the technical events, the paper presentation event – Magna Carta – drew participants from nearly all branches; they presented innovative ideas to solve modern world challenges. CodeX, the coding event, drew the largest ever number of participants with over 300 budding programmers eager to show off their skills and fight till the finish.

The Internet has changed the way we live and is practically as important to our survival as Oxygen. The Web Development event went a long way in proving the importance of user friendly web site design. Pixel, the poster design event, had the participants showcase their skills with Photoshop.

What sets Protocol apart from the other fests is the innovation in its events. For instance, Sound Forge was an event where participants got to work their magic with audio tracks using Adobe Audition. Road to El-Dorado, an online treasure hunt, once again showed how Google and Wikipedia have always been our best friends. G-talk, a debate, was the ideal platform for those with a witty way for words.

Other popular events were Pandora’s Box – the just-for-girls treasure hunt and the adrenaline filled gaming event - Quad Damage – which offered NFS, FIFA, DoTa and Counter Strike.

All in all, Breaching The Protocol this year, was a fun exercise for both the participants as well as the organizers, and we can all hope for a bigger and even better Protocol in its next edition.

Tejas Kinger
I EIE

**Get TAGGED**

TAG, Technology and Gag, a seminar organized by the Department of Electronics and Instrumentation was held on February 12th 2012. It had speakers from SASTRA speaking about what they do best and how they pursued their passion. The event started with Shankar Ganesh who gave a very informative speech about his tryst with blogging, monetization and examples of people who quit their day jobs and now make a living out of blogging. Next on stage was Mowshimika Renganathan of Bhogan Ateews Foundation who stirred many hearts after sharing her experience working for children in the orphanages. We could see people reaching out for tissues at the end of her speech. Such was the impact she made. Kaushik Swamina-

have then won over the audience with his soulful rendering of popular songs.

Nithya Sharma, a third year law student spoke on topics that would interest engineers, namely, Amicus Curiae. Nithya explained as to how law and technology work hand in hand and how good engineers are the need of the hour to help the government out with cases that require such technical assistance. The last speaker was Varun Venkataaraman, the sound mixer for the Mozart of Madras, A.R.Rahman. Varun, having worked on movies such as Endhiran, VTV, Ek Deewana Tha and Rockstar played clips from certain movies, egging the audience to guess the instruments used and the answers were indeed baffling! The event came to an end at 4.00pm and the audience seemed to be very excited after receiving their certificates and canopy tokens. The students who attended genuinely felt it was time well spent. They were a few raised eyebrows and mixed reactions from other batches on the choice of speakers as a few felt the eyebrows and mixed reactions from other batches on the choice of speakers as a few felt the organizers focused on limited radar. But considering must also be given to the fact that many final years are not available on campus due to their project work. At the end of the day, let us not forget that this was a maiden attempt which received a fair amount of applause.

Harshini M
III EIE

**Anubhava-2**

Just when people were assuming that ‘Sankalp’ was now just fodder for the vultures, Anubhava(means Experience) decided to take a stab at becoming the next big thing. Unusu-

S.Namitha
II ECE

**Image**

- Anubhava thrives is that “Nothing teaches better than ‘Experience’”, a notion that nobody would beg to differ from. Hope everyone had a blast!


The Happy Ending

Every love story has a happy ending, they say. Well, I assure you, this is certainly not the case with me. You see, mine was a story of a different kind. An affair, a fling, or even a live in relationship, you may call it. But there were hormones involved, and lots of it too. Oh come on, there’s always a first for everything. Yes, so, every cheesy, aww-worthy, out of this world romantic story has four elements to it. Temptation, Initiation, Doubt/Regret and finally, the (not so) sappy ending.

When Eve ate the forbidden fruit from the Garden of Eden, it opened Pandora’s Jar (not Box) of evil. For eons now, haven’t we wondered what really prompted Eve into committing such a reprehensible folly? Hunger was it, for the worm filled (as narrated by Adam, of course) apple? The stolen glances, coiffes at the canteen, the long walks that followed, always to be treasured. Amidst much secrecy, so as not to be seen by teachers, but definitely by fellow students, I entered the world that everyone wanted to step into. Okay, not everyone. There are always a few ones that are err…different, to say the least. Rather, they’re weird for not wanting to. Okay, wrong usage. A thousand apologies, Tam Brahm style.

Within a few weeks of my initiation, whispers began going round my back. I was “addicted”, they called it. Every time someone spotted me, they looked like they’d seen the Lord perform a miracle. Apparently, I was quite the talk of the town, and even the teachers were now gleefully discussing my activities rather than the previous night’s Primetime telecast. Obviously, I was not prepared for such a reaction. What would I do? Do I set it right, or do I continue and tell everyone that everything was alright. The doubts were now coming hard at me, and I was at the edge. Never went overboard though. I simply had to. But this time, I have a firm resolve to not cross the thin red line and return. I wondered if my actions were justified after all. All the signs were there. The craving was returning. I simply had to. But this time, I have a firm resolve to not cross the thin red line and pay for it. So, I took the deep plunge once again, and the warm waters weren’t so murky any more. Rather, they were encouraging me to hold on, and not give up ever again. My conscience found it hard to refuse, and I chose the easiest way out – I treasured the line, occasionally dallying with its boundaries but stayed closed to the edge. Never went overboard though.

Well, there’s your happy ending. I found it within me to resist temptation eventually. YAY, BORING, right? I thought so too. Hence, let’s take a look at the emotions in the tale.

At one point, there was a lot of begging and a lot of crying, mostly from me. And there was the period of great anxiety, not knowing what to do next. Not to mention the scrambling around to ask the seniors how they took care of such an issue. Eventually, rays of hope emerged around to ask the seniors how they took care of such an issue. Eventually, rays of hope emerged. After all, what is life without a little variety to spice it?
“Only one team played in the spirit of the game”, said Anil Kumble, post the acrimonious Sydney test in 2008, which India lost by a whopping 122 runs. This test match had haunted India for quite some time, thanks to the umpiring decisions that went against them.

Oh yes, India WAS touring Australia. So it was fair on India’s part that they anticipated such things. Australia, with due respect are undoubtedly World Champions, but whether they are playing the gentleman’s game in the true spirit, is an unanswered question. Later that series, India displayed some character and resilience to the opposition, by winning the next test match in Perth and drawing the last one in Adelaide and clinched the CB Series as well. But this was a team that wanted to rewrite history, and gave the mighty Aussies a run for their money. Such was the scenario then (2008). Reality check. It is the year 2012 now. India is now the reigning World Champion after having clinched the piece of silverware after 28 long years of an endless wait. They have also been the No.1 ranked test team for a brief period of time. The team’s most prized possession, Sachin Tendulkar is just shy of completing a century of centuries.

No fact mentioned above justifies the bitter truth that India has lost eight test matches on the trot while playing overseas in the recent past. It has been a summer to forget after what happened in England. The opposition have played out of their skins to expose the chinks in India’s armour. India has been routed by the Aussie juggernaut. This is a sign of a very ominous phase of Indian cricket. The heads are rolling. The blame game has just begun. MSD has offered to step down as captain and also hints at an early test retirement. The selectors have tried their level best to explain but their measures have been nothing but an exercise in futility. Where does this lead us to now? For the Indian fan, the selector, the player and the future of Indian Cricket?

It has led us to the same age old (pun intended) debate: Juniors vs. seniors. Indian cricket is now making the transition from a team that nurtured the great stalwarts of the game to a team that believes in infusing fresh energy through emerging young talents. In retrospect, the Indian youth brigade has been unbeatable at home, and has displayed virtues of courage to guide the team to memorable victories. It has been only overseas where they have taken the beating. Australia too has been involved in a similar situation, not so long ago, when the Pommies ripped them apart in the Ashes.

All that our team needs right now is a spark of inspiration to bounce back. They are still in pursuit of that one desperate morale boosting victory which can lift their spirits up. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Hopefully our team realises that and get back to where they actually belong.

Saianand.R
II Chemical

SCORE - SASTRA Community Outreach Program

The real India lies in the 7,00,000 villages. If Indian civilization is to make its full contribution to the building up of a stable world order, it is this vast mass of humanity that has to be made to live again.” Mahatma Gandhi on village development.

It is agonizing to see that villages today are still in a sedentary state, without basic necessities. India may have a few of the world’s richest men. Its cities may glow with prosperity and resources, but unless villages in the country show progress, the status of a “developed country” is unattainable. Keeping this in mind, the Village Development Program was launched. It is aimed at integrated village development through autonomy and independence; this helps in tackling rural poverty. SASTRA University has proposed the SASTRA Community Outreach Programme (SCORE). Spearheaded by the Department of Training and Placement, SCORE, currently, helps villages in proximity to the institution, and also a few schools in Vellam and Chengippetti. Various beneficiary programmes are conducted.

SCARE’s attention pertains to certain key areas, like -

Education and Employment: SCORE’s primary focus is to enhance the educational system. The cause of adult education is promoted by donating educational CDs, library books, computers, LCDs and other education aids to schools in the village. Spoken English and grammar classes, coaching for science, math & computer science subjects for Std IX, X, XI, XII students would be conducted under the responsibility of students of SASTRA.

Health and Sanitation: Pure drinking water and sanitation facilities are currently being provided to the pertinent areas. Plans of calling upon physicians and medics to create awareness among the people of the village on fatal diseases, general hygiene, first aid, child immunization, etc. are in the works.

Environment: Obtaining of 100% waste management, water waste recycling and safer disposal of non-biodegradable solid wastes are the current desired goals. Tree plantation is being encouraged.

Agriculture: With regards to agriculture, plans include furnishing of better irrigation system, setting of better prices for the agricultural outcome, implementation of organic farming, providing of exposure to external markets and business opportunities.

Governance: SCORE’s governance ideals are to educate villagers about the government and non-government schemes and initiatives. The jobs and career plans encompass delivery of qualitative, need-based and knowledge-linked vocational skills to generate contingent employers and entrepreneurs.

It wouldn’t be wrong to state that the students of the institution are fortunate to be given an opportunity to serve an entire village. In all honesty, SCORE can be considered a good chance to gain exposure, contentment and gratitude by extending efforts to deliver lifelong happiness and fulfilment to the penurious.

P.KANNAMANI
II CSE

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Vikram Raju
III Civil

CARTOONSCAPE

Sponsored by Canopy
The Webmaster speaks

Wondering why Facebook doesn’t work in the morning? Wondering if the Wi-Fi speed will get any better? Wondering if your every move is being monitored? Wondering how the college’s network works behind the scenes? Here’s a quick interview with Professor Shankar Sriram, who is the new network administrator in the campus who promises to take connectivity at SASTRA to the next level.

What are the new changes that have been made to the university’s network?

Network monitoring using Syslog server implemented and VLANs properly configured. Unusual open ports have been closed which will prevent from any unauthorized entry to our network. Those up links to switches, which had 10/100 Ethernet connectivity are replaced with Giga bit connectivity.

Will the speed of the Wi-Fi be increased?

The access points deployed, have a speed limit depending on the standard (like 802.11 a/b/g/n/v) they adopt. As per the capacity of the standard, they are operating to their maximum capacity..

What are the actions that are being taken against students who bypass the site filters?

Those who by pass/try to by pass the filters will be blocked from using the Wi-fi for atleast one month. Further repetitions will result in severe punishments.

Are there any new features that we should look forward to?

We are working towards increasing the bandwidth what we are using from BSNL. Presently we are using 300 Mbps down-link and 50 Mbps Up-link. Planning to increase it to 500 and 100 respectively. Soon there will be major upgrade in the network architecture that includes newer fibre cable laying to introduce redundant paths so as to achieve connectivity during fail over of existing paths. The process of upgrading the core switch and backups is on. Soon SASTRA- Tifac Core will be equipped with a Cluster machine of 2 Tera Flops of computational power, replacing the existing cluster.

Is there anything you would like to convey to the students regarding the campus network?

Please use the network for educational purposes and be constructive. And remember “you are monitored”. Feel free to contact me if you have any problem regarding the network.

As told to Mowshimkka Renganathan
III IT

RIVIERA 2012 – VENI, VIDI, VICI

Vellore Institute of Technology is a well known college in India. It is well marketed, and has qualified for several notable distinctions on the national level. However, the only distinct thing at their cultural fest, Riviera 2012 was the SASTRA cultural team, not even the various pro-shows that took place each night. Every competitive event was attended by keen, skilled and determined SASTRA students, who took no quarter and spared no opposition.

The Literary Arts teams of English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu domi- nated their events, which consisted of JAM, Dumb Charades, quizzes, debate, extempore, poetry and creative writing, earning admiration from the judges and even winning clean sweeps in some cases. The Performing arts also did a brilliant job. Music placed 1st in their event, walking away with best vocalist, instrumental, own composition, and team. Dance saw the Eastern Dance team placed 1st and Western Dance 2nd in their categories respectively. Dramatics placed 2nd, and the Visual arts represented by Artz won Artothon, T-shirt design, fusion art, and placed in word art, portrait sketching and body art. SASTRA FotoHub took people’s breath away with their creations.

Several students of VIT were heard speaking in awe of the seemingly unstoppable team. After four days of hectic events, the overall cultural winner of the festival was announced as SASTRA University, and the sports winner VIT. It was an exhilarating experience that will never be forgotten. To quote our OCC, if we were to dedicate a song to them, it would be “We Are the Champions”. Unquestionably.

Tara Narayanan
II Mechatronics

SAARANG

Saarang is the annual cultural extravaganza hosted in sylvan environs of Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai. This 5 night and 4 day extravaganza is ISO 9001:2008 certified and one of the largest in the world. It has motley of events for both college and non college participants to showcase their talent and improve their knowledge through competi- tions, lectures, demonstrations and workshops by eminent personalities and professional shows by the best in the industry. The biggest spotlight at Saarang was the music events, with over INR 2 lakh worth of cash prizes and winners also getting a direct entry to the ‘Channel V’ India fest. Quizz- es are competitive to say the least, including but not limited to, sports, entertainment and business. The highlight of this year’s fest was that ad- mission was granted for short term courses to the winners of events like music, dance, photography, and an opportunity to publish in online pub- lishing forums for the literary winners. Each night saw gems of the music industry perform on stage, some of them for the first time in India.

This was SASTRA’s first entry into Saarang, but all our performance was exuberated confidence. Our college’s official music team placed sec- ond. They rocked the stage by singing “Isayal Thodanguthamma” which was their own composition, and won great applause from the audience. Ashwath Narayanan, III year student won the Best Vocalist award for clas- sical music. Kaushik, the Super Singer Performer, sung “Usure Poguthe” making it a hit and the talk of the IIT campus. The Chief Guest for the Music competitions, playback singer Prasanna lauded our performance and was quite floored by it. The Dance Team – Solo performance given by Divya 5 of the III year was selected for the finals among the best 5. The English Drama Team won First Prize. Our team also won best director bagged by Snea Ram, IV ECE and Chandhini CL of II CSE was hailed Best Actor. Eng- lish JAM saw three of our college students making it to finals and Varun from III Mechanical won 3rd prize. However for sheer quantity, the Artz team deserves a special mention, placing in the events of painting, soap carving, sketching (1st place, Shilpa Murali, 4th yr ECE), clay modelling, collage, and junk art, making the list of individual achievers quite long.

A staggeringly brilliant performance has been put up by the SAS-TRA cultural team. Saarang has left its imprint on everyone’s minds, and we hope to see more next year.

Kannammal P
II CSE

Sponsored by Canopy

P5 Insight
We've all heard the adage 'it's never too late'. However, the thought that haunts me every time I hear the phrase mentioned in the same sentence as 'admissions to colleges in the US' is: WHAT IF IT IS?

These were the thoughts echoing through my head as I started writing this article. Any student who is desirous of a applying to American Universities knows the words GRE, SOP, LOR, and TOEFL like the back of his hand. The question is, is this enough?

Students of SASTRA in the 3rd year, whichever branch they may belong to, spend the weekends frantically trying to memorize a million obscure words and attending classes all the while trying hard to fight the temptation of a nice afternoon nap.

It is completely clichéd to perennially talk about how CGPA is not an indicator of how good you are. Well, turns out you need a minimum of 3.4 for colleges to even consider. It sure is not an indicator of your smartness but it definitely indicates how good you are at aligning and adapting to a particular system. It also reflects your commitment to a particular task.

A very important thing that colleges want to know is what your exact area of interest is and what kind of efforts you have put in. It is imperative to recognize that one subject which does not put you to sleep, the one you would want to read up on even when all your friends are watching the HIMYM series finale. It is not important to just identify but to grab every single project that comes your way in your field of interest. “I cannot reiterate the importance of projects as they are key to demonstrating that you have taken a sustained interest in your field of interest” says Apoorva Dasari, member of Imprint (who also happens to have a cool score on GRE).

When IMPRINT contacted 4th year Vamsi Krishna with regard to this article “Colleges totally dig it if you have had international publications and the best time to do it might be during the second and third year” Vamsi who is applying to UPENN, one of the Ivy league colleges further stressed the importance of publications, citations and projects.

Sandhya, B, 3rd year BIEOE who has been working on a project since the 3rd semester and is about to publish her work says "initially publishing seemed like an uphill task, but once I started working there was an automatic flow of thought and excellent guidance from the staff. I have consistently put in about 3 hours every day towards research, which in retrospect doesn’t seem like a big sacrifice compared to the result”

Similarly many of us have the misconception that a jack of all trades has a very good shot at the admissions, but it is quite clear that you need to be good at what you have chosen as an extra-curricular. Social service and extracurricular activities do play an important role but the most important thing is to showcase your leadership skills

While many third years have already registered their GRE dates, the paradoxical question arises yet again! The answer to all these questions would be to play to your strengths, try and match yourself to the student profile the college expects (TAKE A LOOK AT THE PROFILES OF PREVIOUS STUDENTS) and in the meantime try to remember that TIMIDOUS and TEMPLAR are antonyms!

While it might be a little too early for second years to start identifying colleges, but it’s never too early to get to know what you like and familiarizing yourself with NORMAN LEWIS!

Shruthi Srinivasan
III BIEOE

Done with your GRE? The real process begins now!

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Shruthi Srinivasan
III BIEOE

Crazy Acceptance Test aka CAT

Congratulations to all those who have received calls from the Indian Institute of Management. You could end up studying/living in NIT Trichy in the next four months. I kid you not. Here are the statistics related to number of seats in the new IIMs.

IIM - Shillong 60
IIM - Rohtak 60
IIM - Ranchi 60
IIM - Raipur 60
IIM - Trichy 60

While other IIMs have found alternative means on their campus to accommodate this year’s students, IIM T had no choice but to make students live in NIT Trichy, temporarily.

Coming back to CAT 2011, suspicions are high on whether the CAT is going the GMAT way. For almost eight years running, CAT has had a relatively easy Quantitative Aptitude and Data Interpretation paper while the Verbal Ability section has graduated from being tricky to being downright treacherous. The fact that the QA and DI have been merged into one and the additional section-wise time cut off have only added fuel to the fire. For those who are unaware of what CAT 2011 was like, here’s a quick walk-through:

Quantitative Aptitude was moderately easy. Many of the SASTRA students scored 70+ on 100. Data Interpretation was a cake walk. A little practice before CAT and a little quick thinking during the exam fetched good scores. The Verbal section was claimed to be “rather difficult” by most students. The trick was to choose the one that’d make the least laceration.

As far as the selection process is concerned, the IIMs take into account the percentages in your 10th, 12th and the CGPA during the candidates’ undergraduate vocation and work experience into account (although the work experience is being given a lower importance) along with the scores in CAT to decide on their entry into the most prestigious IIMs. IIM B gives a considerable weightage to the work experience apart from the above mentioned criteria. A section wise cut-off was adapted by the IIMs apart from the overall cut-off. The section wise cut-offs for IIM A were 99 percentile each. IIM Calcutta, Lucknow and Indore are also seen to have used a similar yardstick whereas IIM Ban- galore stuck to its traditional method of giving higher weightage to the candidates’ undergraduate vocation and work experience.

On the other hand, IIM Kozhikode adapted a completely new and encouraging (of course, only for the girls) scheme where seats were set aside for girls in order to improve the girl population in the IIMs. The new IIMs have raised the hopes of all those attempting to enter them. There has been a considerable raise in the number of engineers who have been selected for GD/Pi. Amongst the students of SASTRA, Sri-nath who has scored 98.99% and got a call from IIM K said, “Management is a very challenging career involving a lot of responsibility and opportunity to rub shoulders with the best minds in the country”, when asked why he has chosen management as a career. Another top scorer, Sudiv, who has scored 98.6% and got calls from IIM Indore, Trichy and Raipur, says that the best way to prepare for GD/Pi is to “Form a network. Get together on weekends or free time and discuss about current happenings, etc”. Avinash who has scored 96.53% and got a call from IIM K says that June is the ideal time to start preparing for CAT.

Most of the top scorers in SASTRA claim to have attended TIME classes and found the material as well as mock tests conducted by them very useful. They also add that the preparation has not affected their normal schedule or academics. When asked to suggest as to how the CAT aspirants should prepare, all of them unanimously voice that taking a lot of mock tests is the best way as it shows you where you stand.

The high cut-offs this year for all the IIMs including the new ones has washed out the question “Is MBA losing its charisma?” from everyone’s mind. All the CAT aspirants, it is time you gear up and start your preparation for CAT as 8 months is all that is in between you and the IIMs!

Swetha R
III ECE

Sponsored by Canopy
You've probably bought a new Android phone in the last six months and you've been pretty app crazy ever since you got it! Here are some incredibly useful Android apps that you should check out. Just search for their names in the market and load them up on your phone.

**Toshl**
College life and bad hostel food means a lot of eating out. That translates to a lot of expenditure, and that is why you should install Toshl on your phone. Tracking expenses is boring and we often tend to misplace loose sheets where we jot down details about the money we spend.

Toshl kicks ass, and all your expenses stay synced to the internet. You don't always carry a pen and paper wherever you go but your mobile is always with you and hence, you can instantly update your expenses by tagging them and adding a description on Toshl. You can go online to see charts on where a huge chunk of money was blown — if it was for laundry, food or something else.

The best part: You can create budgets for specific expenses (say, for stationary or food) and monitor your spending. You can also get a PDF report sent to your inbox at the end of every month.

**WhatsApp**
The TRAI limit on sending messages might have come as a shock to a lot of people. People, particularly those who organize clubs and manage events in college, find it really irritating to see your text message limit get exhausted at the end of a busy day.

Ask all your friends to install WhatsApp and you’re good to go. The messages you send via WhatsApp are delivered over your GPRS/3G/Wifi connection and hence don’t add up to your message counter. What is even more awesome is that you could use it to send photos from your phone instantly to anyone else. The messages get delivered when the other party comes online.

WhatsApp also tells you if your messages have been read or not — tick marks near your conversations indicate that your message was read. It costs nothing to get this installed, and it could save you frustration and money in the long run so there’s really no excuse as to why you shouldn’t try it now.

**Silent Time Lite**
That awkward moment when your phone rings in class and the Professor seizes it. You can save yourself some embarrassment now with this app for Android that automatically silences your Android phone based on a predefined schedule.

Once you install Silent Time Lite, you can add an event by naming it, and then choosing the days and time during which the event remains active. You can choose to enable vibration mode during this period.

You don’t have to worry about setting your phone to silent mode everyday once you install this app. It’s pretty indispensable once you start using it, but if you like to have an app that triggers several other phone functions on/off based on configurable events, look for PhoneWeaver in the Android market.

**Wunderlist**
We’ve covered this before in our top list of software that are unpopular but useful, and here we go again. There’s no better app that comes close to Wunderlist for managing tasks on Android (there’s Astrid, that comes a bit close but its syncing isn’t that great). Besides basic tasks/to do list management, you can also collaborate with other friends on specific projects by sharing your task list.

The Android app has pretty much everything that the desktop counterpart offers, and the app is definitely going to get better in the near future (look up Wunderkit on Google if you’d like to know more).

**InstaFetch**
This is one for the voracious readers. If you frequently read online between class hours, this app is precisely for you. Go to Instapaper.com, sign up for an account and drag and drop the bookmarklet they provide into your browser’s address bar. The next time you’re half-way through an article, just click on the bookmarklet and the text of the article gets saved to your Instapaper account.

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You’re probably wondering why Evernote or Dropbox didn’t make it to this list but they’re pretty popular already so we thought we’ll feature the slightly lesser-known ones. Go to our fan page to vote for your favourite app among these.

Shankar Ganesh
III IT

**Lights! Camera! Action!**

“Great dreams of great dreamers are always transcended”. One couldn’t agree more with Abdul Kalam’s iconic words. For most of us, the dreams that we nurture and build during those 50 minutes of a lecture, when our mind slowly slips and the teacher’s voice slowly fades away, are those that are easily forgotten as the day ends. But there a few amongst us who have tried and succeeded in converting these into realities.

Armed with a tripod and lenses, amateur filmmakers scour across the campus in search of scenic locations to complete a shot. Story, Script or Screenplay, when it comes to movie making, they are ready to go the whole nine yards. It generally takes a week or two of preparation and planning before they begin to shoot.

“We spend a lot of time perfecting the story, since the entire movie hinges on it, and we also try to follow a time line to complete our shooting and editing “says Siram Madhavan (III YR ECE), whose team Hi-Filers placed first in the Intra-College Fest “CarpeDiem”. Editing follows after filming is completed, and forms a very crucial portion of the film. It is what converts a sequence of shots into a neatly packaged movie replete with a background score and gives the movie a glossy sheen. A certain amount of technical competence is required but what is more important is perseverance and creativity.

When it comes to movies, publicity always helps. Before any short film release you can always find frenetic promotion and “shares” on social networking sites mimicking the post production work done during a full length film. How do they manage it? Surely, balancing course work and film making is a difficult task, but the lure of the Silver Screen is something that makes them think above assignment deadlines and test preparations. The end result of all the hard work is indeed breath taking and worth the effort. SASTRA is a melting pot of creative talent and it is clearly evident from the quality of the movies produced, some of which have received 1000+ views on YouTube and also very popular on Social Networking sites.

Girish Koundinya
III ICT

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The other episodes, is a blend of thrills and mystery. The action sequences are jaw-dropping. This one, unlike the previous ones, is an urban legend in those areas. Holmes's deduction skills are put to the test when he comes across a GIGANTIC HOUND in DEWER'S HOLLOW. Sherlock, Watson, a gun and a bomb – it can’t get any better. The heated climax of Season 1 kept us waiting for over a year. Finally, Benedict Cumberbatch was back on screen on the 1st of Jan with a smirk on his face for the ORDINARY PERSONS who are bored with UNUSUAL brains around him. The season featured three episodes - 'A Scandal in Belgravia' (A Scandal in Bohemia), 'The Hounds of Baskerville' and 'The Abominable Bride (A Final Problem)'.

**Episode 1** is a modern adaptation of 'A Scandal in Bohemia'. Like most episodes, this borrows a substantial amount of material from the original work. This episode, which is considered as 'the best one so far', marks the presence of THE WOMAN, Irene Adler. Though there was not much of an indication of romance between the two in the original, this adaptation, conveniently altered those perceptions of Holmes' sexuality. They didn’t use Adler’s character to explore Holmes’ sexuality but to make fun of it. Lara Pulver (Irene Adler), according to the episode, ‘provides recreational scolding for people who enjoy such a thing’ as Mycroft puts it; but she prefers a nice way to show Sherlock’s fallibility.

**Episode 2** is considered as ‘the best one to come suspects in a kidnapping. They run and a series of incidents later, Holmes is pushed to a situation when he complains about his body betraying him. This entire episode plays out the ‘Sherlock is a sociopath’ angle but Holmes was never a sociopath (not even close). He would never have put John to test without his consent. It was quite jarring. Holmes’ final deduction of “Liberty in...” fills in the gaps. However, this MIND PALACE scene was embarrassing (frankly). Let’s not talk about it. The climax was a nice way to show Sherlock’s fallibility.

**Episode 3**. The underworld consultant detective becomes quite famous thanks to Watson’s blog. Everything stays smooth until Moriarty pulls off the crime of the century – breaks into Bank of England, frees the prisoners of a major jail, gains possession of the crown jewels. Once apprehended, Moriarty is not found guilty by the jury. He goes free and incites a thought among the ‘Sherlock believers’ that Sherlock invented him to boost his own reputation by planting doubts about cases where Sherlock takes just a minute or two to solve the case while the police are still searching for clues. Moriarty cleverly takes up an alias and counters every move of Sherlock in their game. Holmes and Watson become suspects in a kidnapping. They run and a series of incidents later, Holmes is pushed to a situation where he has jumped to his death to save his friends. It is needless to mention that the dialogue exchange between Moriarty and Holmes was exhilarating. I’m not able to decide whether the climax was excellent or awkward.

To conclude, the second season was better in a few aspects when compared to the first. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss, we await Season 3 with a mixed bag. It could be either a dress or money, if he refused a proposal on Leap Day. There is a Greek superstition that claims couples will have bad luck if they get married during a leap year. Apparently, one in five engaged couples in Greece avoid getting married in a leap year.

And let’s not forget those people born on the Leap Day: they have lesser number of birthday parties than us! A Piscean born on this unusual date might have unusual talents. They are usually good-natured, friendly and optimistic. Talking about unusual personalities, Superman celebrates his birthday on a leap day! Other famous leaplings include Pope Paul III (b.1468); Italian composer Gioachino Rossini (b.1792); Morarji Desai (b.1896); band leader Jimmy Dorsey (b.1904); French-Polish painter Bal- thus (b.1908); and songstress Dinah Shore (b.1916). The only notable person known to have his date of birth and death as February 29 was Sir James Wil- son (1812–1880), Premier of Tasmania.

To all those rare gems born on this day—hope you have a special birthday!