Inspiration can arise from places least expected. I happened to watch an award ceremony on television which recognized distinguished personalities in all fields. It fascinated me. What better way to define success than to be applauded for your work among such an august gathering! I dream of a day when I would be on such a portal, which made me think. Winning is huge – no doubt. But is it taken in the right spirit? Recognition and fame are seen as the parameters of success but are they the only standards? If I am going to measure success by the appreciation I get, I am never going to be fully satisfied. It is a never ending loop. If, at every step I take, I expect someone to say I'm doing great, who am I working for? That pride in one's work should originate from within us. Awards can add to it, but they should not enslave us. As Steve Jobs rightly put it, “Being the richest man in the cemetery does not matter to me... Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful... that's what matters.”

When I look around, I find people doing amazing work on a daily basis - there are success stories all around us - from the professor who does plenty of extra reading in order to ensure a good lecture to the child who saves up his pocket money to give it to the pauper on the street. Yes, these are ALSO success stories. Success is the capacity to effect or bring change. We all have the capacity to do that. The method we choose to implement it and our magnitude varies. The child makes a vast difference to that pauper through his thoughtful act. The change we generate has to be meaningful in quality, like the mother who strives to bring up her children with love and protection. Mothers are the success stories in every household. A mother does not claim to change the world but she makes life beautiful for her children. All of us have been made with a purpose to do the things we love and to do it with great love.

Quoting Rashmi Bansal: “The journey of a million miles starts with a single step. A casual conversation, a stray thought. You may start barefoot, without a map, but somewhere along the way you find your rhythm. And fellow travelers join in step.”

I hope you find your journey of success and pursue it with the right spirit. To the ones who have found their calling, I wish you the very best. On this note, on behalf of Team Imprint I wish you all a very happy new year. May this year bring you all that you wish and may the Almighty shower his infinite mercy on us. Have a great year.

-Asma Afreen S.A.
III ECE

What’s New In Canopy?

We’ve got special dis counts for final year students!

Or, if you are in dire need of books, be it for educational or recreational purposes, you might want to direct yourself to our –

Online Bookstore: No, we aren’t going after Flipkart. Be it Flipkart or Higginbothams, we search and find the site with the best offers and discounts, and then direct you to the same. In a way, you are promised the highest economical rate. Set to begin in the first week of January, online transactions can be made directly using credit/debit cards. And of course, there is the promise of maximum convenience of the place of delivery.

CONTINUED ON Pg 3
So, exactly what is going to happen on December 21st 2012, apart from the fact that all of us will be freaking out about the odd semester results the next day? For the uninitiated, this particular date is the sole focus of a variety of eschatological beliefs. It started quite a few years ago when archaeologists discovered that the Mayans were supercool people who had an awesome method to document their calendar years. But instead of focusing on the highly civilized Mayan people, a set of doomsday prophets started proclaiming the end of the Mayan long count as the end of the world as we know it. Adding fuel to the fire was the marketing campaign by the makers of the movie 2012 on YouTube which went viral. Some people even went to the extent of asking astronomers if all the hype around the date was true.

When I saw the movie 2012, I freaked out that I was going to die either because of the ground beneath me ripping apart so as to drown me in hot molten lava or due to the subzero temperatures. But then I thought it wouldn’t be such a bad thing after all. So I made a list of the “pros” in the event of the world being annihilated on December 21st 2012

• Nobody is going to ask you the annoying “what is your SGPA?” question when the results come on 22nd December 2012. Ever again. (SGPA is the last thing on anyone’s mind when there is a hurricane ripping the roof off of your heads)
• Justin Beiber will never be able to record another album! That deserves a huge hurrah. And we never have to hear about his gender test, though most of us already have a vague idea. He’s still doubtful though. And it’s only fair. I mean, er, well... you know, that thing.
• We never have to see the master blaster take his final bow. He would have played cricket till the end of time.
• We can quit worrying about the oscillating markets, the dwindling number of job, inflation and spend money on all those worthless things we wanted to do.
• We can all start a record breaking TV sitcom marathon to finish watching every single episode of every TV series ever released. Starting with the one about the world about to end. But then, halfway through making this list I realized there were so many things I was going to miss.
• I will be dead on the day of my convocation and will not be able to wear a yellow graduation gown after years of slogging. Nor will I be able to throw my mortar board high in the air and watch it get stuck in the pandal that has been erected.

It is really hard to feel good about not submitting assignments when you and pile of rubble are hurting towards a lava pool.

We will never be able to see the Lokpal bill being passed. At the end of time INDIA would still be shamefully ranked 70th in the list of corrupt countries. 70th from bottom, that is. I think. Oh how does it even matter, we’re all going down anyway. Literally this time though.
• Grandparents will never get to know what happened to the protagonist of every single lame mega serial on TV, though Kolangal, with its declining TRPs might give the Paat$i something to cheer about.
• I can never watch the Bachchan baby make her debut movie with a 60 year old SRK or a far older Rajnikant. Then again, Rajni can stop the apocalypse by just telling it once. And his trademark “Chumma Adhurudhila” phrase would actually make sense then. You know the rest.

So, going with the original premise that the world is going to end, let’s live every moment to the fullest.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

-Shruti Srinivasan
III BioE

What’s in a Resolution?

What’s in a resolution? A mere thought in your head; A path you wish to follow; An idea you believe would enhance your well-being, An idea you believe would make a difference!
What’s in a resolution? That momentarily gives you the urge to prove, That envisions a temporary change, That brightens your path and lightens your face; An idea you believe would make a difference! What’s in a resolution? That gets us attracted; That gets us to behave like an enthusiast, A feeling that impersonates a budding artist, A feeling that an amateur has when his work gets recognized; A feeling though temporary could last an eon, A feeling so spontaneous, An idea you believe would make a difference! What’s in a resolution? That could last,that could help You look into a new horizon,a fresh beginning; That illuminates a bleak future spontaneously, Yet garlands your soul satisfying your inner self; A thought that crosses your mind as lightening, An idea you believe would make a difference!
What’s in a resolution? A question to ponder upon; A motive that instigates the inner fire, A thought that gives you the courage To step forward, to lead ahead A medium to answer all the questions A chance to rebel; An idea you believe would make a difference! What’s in a resolution? I think I know! It’s a gamble,a chance to play with But a game not bound by the rules of luck, A game so soully dependant on your urge To sustain,to grow for thy benefit A game that gives only one side to a coin; A game that makes you trust, An idea you know would make the difference!

-Shwetha Srinivasan
I ECE
Sanjeev Gopinath, currently employed in MICROSOFT, is one of our illustrious alumni from the 2007-2011 batch. Designer, Programmer and App developer Sanjeev Gopinath has quite a few skills to add to his repertoire. His mobile application Bunk Bazaar was a huge hit in our college. Bunk bazaar helps students bunk efficiently and yet keep their attendance hovering above the safe zone. It has received over 24,000 downloads on getjar.com and also received rave reviews from students across Sri Lanka, Canada, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Being an open source enthusiast and avid programmer, Sanjeev served as an executive member of GLOSS during his stay at SASTRA. His Facebook group “Placement Preparation” was very successful, providing sound advice to those who were going to face placements.

Your application BunkBazaar was a huge hit in college and has won laurels everywhere. Can you tell us how you about making mobile apps and a few tips for amateurs on where to start?

Mobile application development has been gaining a lot of popularity. It’s primarily because of the increase in the number of handheld devices in the market. With technologies like Symbian, Windows Phone 7, Android, iOS, mobile space is increasingly the preferred platform for many developers.

Mobile application development is not just about developing any other application. It’s got more to do with understanding technology, your users, target market, pricing etc. Hence, a good idea will definitely be a plus if you are planning to go big.

The number of devices supporting Java is infinite. J2ME + NetBeansIDE Visual MIDlet feature is a great development combo to explore. Touch interface is something worth experimenting with too. If you get an app right, who knows, you might become a millionaire real soon.

You were an intern at IBM and you also served as the IBM Campus Ambassador for our college, could you elaborate on that?

IBM is an amazing technology company. Its contributions to the world are huge. Some of IBM’s technologies like AIX, System-Z, PowerPC, and smarts in computing have always fascinated me. I wanted to go one step ahead in understanding the enterprise world from IBM’s standpoint. So, I applied for the IBM Campus Ambassador program and got selected. It gave me a lot of internal contacts to network with. Later on, I applied for an internship at IBM Software Labs. After clearing about five to seven tough interview rounds, I made it! I had to write Test-APIs for licensing of the Rational range of products. It was very challenging, as the potential impact it could create was huge.

More than anything, the company’s culture influenced me a lot. IBM was celebrating its 100th year. To be working with some of the brightest minds in the world (my 2nd line manager was from Apple Inc.), and to chat with my then colleagues, great IBMers like Grady Booch (Father of Object Oriented Methodology), etc. was a ‘top of the world’ experience.

Could you share a few of your placement experiences?

I still remember the question Mr. Dominic David, President of KLA Tencor asked me. It was the last round wherein I had to come up with an efficient algorithm. I was so focused and almost tried whatever I knew. I optimized almost 21 times, and Mr. David said, “Come up with the next one, and the job is yours!” I felt dry, exhausted, my mind refused to work, and I finally gave up! I lost the offer.

I got selected in TCS. And, when I heard the news that Microsoft might visit our campus, I worked vigorously. I used to spend sleepless nights preparing for Microsoft and managed to work at my office too. I tried to maintain my health with a lot of sprouted grams as supplements. For me, it was the last mile of a 10 year old dream of getting into Microsoft. So, I made sure that I was prepared enough to face the toughest interview. During my 6 months stay in Bangalore, I attended and cleared a lot of off-campus interviews too. Some particularly interesting ones were with Amazon and Verifone.

Recharge System: After becoming a registered user, you are expected to “charge” or “recharge” your account. The balance available would extend to, at present, two services (food and LAN). Makes life simpler doesn’t it? We had imposed a minimum recharge amount to 200 INR earlier. Not anymore. In the end, we hope you just reach out and close our extended hands. Your support and encouragement would only help us in setting up further ‘extensions’, for which our minds are brimming with ideas. In the end, we as a team are still mainly a student body, and it’s been a pleasure doing good business so far. We hope to make things better in the semesters to come.

What’s New In Canopy?

-CONTINUED FROM Pg 1

Travel Services: Also set to become operational by the first week of January, this would include cab services, bus services, to local places, and also destinations like Chennai and Bangalore at the time of open holidays.

Food: Ah, it again comes down to the food now? Well, Canopy promises to offer the food services with the same flavour - the services that have made us well-known since the very beginning. We are also happy that the recently begun parcel system has become quite a hit. With your support, we anticipate making two slots for deliveries per day, compared to only one we’re doing right now. We also plan on expanding the food court in the future.

Your Facebook group on Placement Preparation was very useful for the 4th years. What made you come up with something like that? SASTRA students are like unpolished diamonds. We have a great innate potential. But due to lack of proper guidance from immediate seniors, some of us tend to lose on bigger opportunities which IIITians and NITians grab! We are very good with our basics, communication skills, etc. The dots are all set, but we aren’t aware of connecting them. For example, we are very good with data structures, but when given a tricky problem, we take time to come up with the right solution.

I wanted to break this. I planned to share the little tricks, tips and potential traps that I had learnt during my past interview experiences, so that tough problems are no longer a surprise to SASTRAites.

The placement group also enjoys support from Tushar Verma, Ravi Teja, et al., who actively engaged themselves in solving problems with juniors. To be frank, I never dreamt that the group could become a great hub for collaborative learning with the participation of more than 1400 SASTRAites. I sincerely hope that this tradition continues.

How has your Microsoft experience been so far?

It’s one of the best I ever had in my life. My learning could have already exceeded the amount of learning I gathered in my past 2 1/2 years. Every day is new and challenging. Feels like home, a new beginning.

Nine of us who got placed from SASTRA are rocking at Microsoft. The kind of grip on technology that SASTRAites display at Microsoft is tremendous! All thanks to the ecosystem of learning that SASTRA provided us. Without that it’d have been a very tough time, believe me :) What are the important things that you have learnt from SASTRA University?

A lot! One of them that kept me going was this... “Being an engineering college is all about either spending time or investing time; your call will decide your fate, it’ll keep you from rest of the crowd”

Keep in touch! Facebook: Sanjeev Gopinath, Twitter: @Sanjeev_SMSF, Email: t-gopi14@micros...
Drumrolls please! We have, amongst us in this campus, a novelist. It’s official. Final year Mechatronics student, Sanjeev Ranjan’s novel “In course of true love”, has been selected for publication by Srichi Publishers and Distributors. With the official release date being the 2nd of January, we get down to interviewing this achiever in our midst, and finding out the ways of the writer. And this writer, in particular... tain memories and incidents that have not yet faded. I decided to capture all these memories in a novel but how this would be possible, I had not been sure back then. After coming to SASTRA, I resumed my writing in the second semester. Due to some personal problems, I suspended my writing. I resumed in September 2009.

I had always loved reading books and the writer’s mind always intrigued me. What is the state of mind of an author when he/she writes a book? This curiosity ultimately beckoned me to pen stuff down. Nature, and everything in it, inspires me. Personalities like Steve Jobs, Sachin Tendulkar, A. R. Rahman and their works also inspired me to do something productive in life.

Tell us your new book. Its main theme?

“In Course of True love!” is a school time love story that I have painted over a canvas of innocence and friendship. I have also raised certain bizarre questions pertinent to society in the novel. Does love happen at the age of 16 or is it a mere passing infatuation? I have kept the language very simple and hope readers would empathize with the characters.

Tell us about your writing. What, or who, are your inspirations?

It was not until the twelfth grade that I wanted to become a writer. I still remember the moment when I was returning from Bokaro and the idea of a writing a novel struck me. Life in Bokaro for two years left me with certain memories and incidents that have not yet faded. I decided to capture all these memories in a novel but how this would be possible, I had not been sure back then. After coming to SASTRA, I resumed my writing in the second semester. Due to some personal problems, I suspended my writing. I resumed in September 2009.

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What drove you to become a writer? What, or who, are your inspirations?

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Is the story based on real life incidents?

Well, I must state - Every fictional work in this world is an author’s biography in some way. The story is certainly inspired from my life and my memories, with a blend of fiction. How do your writing sessions work out?

I had no problems with my writing sessions. I also had loads of time doing everything that I wanted to do. Time management was never really a problem, but I can say for sure that behind this novel, there were numerous nights sacrificing movies, or sitcoms. I used to write soon after coming from classes, but most of the writing was done in the solitude of the night. Sometimes, I also wrote in the early mornings, when the entire college was asleep.

What did you do once your manuscript was ready? Did you have pre-publishing jitters?

Yes, of course, I had pre-publishing jitters. In India, publishing a novel is not cake-walk. You need a bit of luck, great amount of patience, perseverance and a good script. One has to be very careful when sending a script to publishers. Now that the novel is coming out, it seems that my patience and hard work has paid off. I’m really happy to see my name on a novel’s cover page.

What are your next steps?

At this moment, my novel is up for pre-order and I am awaiting the day it reaches the reader’s hand. I am eagerly waiting for their reviews. I’m experiencing some exciting yet nervous moments. Apart from this, I have to focus on my Engineering project work for my last semester. I am very sure that I will be writing more, but at the moment, it would be too early to comment on my 2nd Novel. (P)

Team Imprint congratulates Sanjeev Ranjan on his achievement and wishes him good luck for his novel and all future endeavours.

As told to Mowshimkka Renganathan

III IT

THE HOUSE OF SILK

When it became publicly known that The Doyle estate had authorized Anthony Horowitz to pen the next Holmes novel, I was rather apprehensive. Having never had the opportunity to peruse any of his prior work, I was afraid that his treatment of the character, due to which I had become an avid reader of novels. I’m also a keen observer of human behavior and usually like mentoring people in solving their problems.

The Game’s Afoot

The case begins with Holmes and Watson lounging in their old haunts, 221B Baker Street, in the winter of 1890. A Mr. Edmund Carstairs visits them and narrates as to how he is being hounded by a member of The Flat-Cap Gang of Boston and how he had encountered them previously. While investigating this, they stumble onto an unrelated phrase “The House of Silk” and also onto the inevitable corpse that usually marks the center point of all mystery stories. And it is only the first of many. Holmes himself gets pinned for one of the murders and the two cases “The Mystery of Flat-Cap Gang”; and “The House Of Silk” gets intertwined. It is precisely at that point that I found that passage of time became warped and distorted, since the book really picks up the pace. All of the well-known and much admired characters namely Mycroft, Mrs. Hudson, Moriarty, Wiggins and the Baker Street Irregulars make their appearance.

Doyle Vs. Horowitz

The story certainly is horrific and lives up to its marketing tagline. But, Anthony Horowitz, as a side effect of writing for televisions, I suppose, where corpses are introduced before commercial breaks to captivate the audience and capture TRP targets(his own words), certainly introduces quite a few. The marked difference from Doyle’s writing is clear where only one corpse and a fiery hound would be enough to pull readers by the lapels through the pages.

It may be a trick of my mind, but pages of this world is an author’s biography in some way. The story is certainly inspired from my life and my memories, with a blend of fiction. How do your writing sessions work out?

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III IT
And at the same time, encourage the spirit of warm glow of the entire college revelling in a take this expression literally, our college stress seur/craftsman/wordsmith in every single person. Most importantly, KS is that time of the year one's wit and knowledge; drama to bring out the belting out mellifluous tracks alongside their own forming with great finesse; the college music team witnessed the merriment that is KS. Dancers per And for all the KS veterans: you have already lar show resplendent with host performances For those who came in late, KS is where last cultural fests to be held before the end of the last day of the odd semester, a group of people met in Tifac auditorium. Their meeting was quiet, unobtrusive and brief. As the whole college collectively pulled up their socks and tried to make up for the entire semester overnight, these people realised one of the targets they had set for themselves according to a rigid timetable. Who were they? Well, that group was the Daksh Team, led by Vishal Patwari. And they were there to unveil the official website. Daksh, as we all know, is conducted in the even semester, in Febru. It is notable for having an event for everyone, right from the hopelessly academic to the Bunk ary. It is notable for having an event for everyone, more about it, even before the actual Daksh weekend. This enables everyone going through the website to have an idea about how to at- tempt problem statements. And that’s not all. The 2nd and 3rd years of the M&P have com- posed a Daksh song, which is due for market- ing any day now. There is even discussion of the Daksh-man, the event mascot, who will be seen everywhere this February. Nishant, from web design, hinted that there was even more to come with a confident ‘wait and see’, although with- holding details. In short, by the time February draws to a close, the entire college will be wait- ing with bated breath for 3 days of Daksh 2011. Despite all this, reader, if you think you can out- run or escape the mania, you are wrong. Many of us have seen the Daksh promo t-shirt. A competition was held to select the best design for the promo t-shirt, but in the end, the design was made by the Daksh team itself. That is be- sides the point, though. The t-shirt is a glaring red colour, and the general complaint is that the shirt isn’t sober enough. Deepak, head of M&P, begs to differ. “The aim of the shirt was to at- tract publicity. It has to be bright. It has to be no- ticed.” He has a point. Every time someone com- mented on, or cursed the colour, or even thought twice about it, they just reaffirmed the team’s work. After all, any publicity is good publicity. The veracity of this claim can be answered by the M&P team. Every Thursday, without fail, they meet to discuss the regimen of action for the coming week. Chalking out all the possi- bilities, they plan and execute everything on short notice, working around the clock to meet their draconian deadlines and still catch enough sleep to make it to class on time. There was a rumour about how the clashing dates of Pragyan (NIT Trichy) and Daksh might ad- versely affect us, in terms of crowd-pulling. To quote Akshey, of the Compensate cluster, “that is their loss”, as we have brewing here, ladies and gentlemen, an event that you will never forget.

Disclaimer: Daksh and all associated events are student organised. Any presence of teachers, real or otherwise, is purely coinci- dential and of a benign-sentiment nature. That’s not it. Team Daksh plans to bring you more Keep looking for posters and other announcements to know more. -Tara Narayanan II Mechatronics

Kuruksastra, more affectionately known as KS, is our inter-collegiate cultural fest which has evolved into one of the biggest cultural fests in South India and has created a niche for SAS-TRA as a major powerhouse on the cultural stage. Conducted in the month of March, KS is one of the last cultural fests to be held before the end of the academic year stressing on the fact that though a first impression might make the best impression, a last impression makes a lasting impression For those who came in late, KS is where the clusters of Arts, Music, Dance, Literary & Theatre Events in English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu come together to deliver a spectacu- lar show resplendent with host performances and Pro-Nites for the duration of three days. And for all the KS veterans: you have already witnessed the merriment that is KS. Dancers perf- forming with great finesse; the college music team belting out mellifluous tracks alongside their own compositions; literary events which put to test one’s wit and knowledge; drama to bring out the thespian in you have all manifested into a single theme of unparalleled fun to satisfy the connois- seur/craftsman/wordsmith in every single person. Most importantly, KS is that time of the year when you can let your hair down (please do not take this metaphor literally though) and enjoy college life to the fullest (at least till 9 PM which is our in-time). The theme for this year’s KS will be 12. Event preparations have been underway since the start of the college (well, if you count the time exams have started only the day before the exam) which are a firm indication for the huge success that KS 12 is going to be. All ideas are welcome and are to be submitted to the following people:

Overall Coordinator: Redditt Subramanian (+919626026707)
Dramatics- Sneha Ram (+9198540006706)
Eastern Dance- Gayathri Ravichandran – (+919884580588)
English Lits- Sridhar Ganapathy (+919786351807)
Fine Arts- Shipila Murali (+919840221683)
Hindi Lits- Nijesh Prakash (+917923949412)
Music- Vijay Krishnan (+919845059321)
Photography- Srikanth Iyer (+919791481292)
Tamil Lits- Vbaroon Ravi (+919528694966)
Telugu Lits- Vamsi Krishna (+91003572446)
Videography- Dinesh Sekar (+919840073148)
Western Dance- Vaishalli Mohan (+919962794733)

Despite KS being the time of maximum en- thrallment any student will have in the entire duration of college life, a few people do make the mistake of applying for permission and leaving for home. And end up missing the ex- perience that is Kuruksastra. So, be present to witness the entire duration of the fest to have the fondest memories of college recorded.

P.S. Despite the severe budget restric- tions and economic state of the students, it still is not an excuse to ‘borrow’ pens for do return the pens once the event is over :P

Sponsored by Canopy

Coming Soon..
Where Are We Heading?

An article in ‘The Hindu’ threw light on one of the most prevalent issues – Education in India. The article said kids in the fourth grade always wish to learn about Mahatma Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi because that is ALARMING! We live in a society that is exam oriented rather than knowledge oriented. Nobody cares if you are the best in Physics lab, but if you get an 85 in physics, you are GONE. You tell your parents that you have scored the highest in viva, it doesn’t matter, but you tell them that you got 40/50 in a theory subject, the entire household becomes grave and your parents start talking about how you are going to get an ‘A’ in the subject and at the back of their heads, complex calculations will take place as to how if you lose this one grade, you will end up with an 8.45 instead of an 8.6. Oh, the HORROR of getting an 8.45!

When it comes to schools, every single parent wants their kid to get a centum in maths! Maths has to be the one subject every household wants their kid to excel in. Subjects like English and languages are subjects that have been given least preference. Rote learning is present everywhere in India; the degree of rote learning varies from place to place. I think more time should be spent in a lab than in classrooms. Twelfth graders in India are expected to join a professional course: engineering or medicine or law etc. Where are the vocational courses? Why force someone who LOATHES maths to do engineering and why force someone who cannot stand the sight of computers (other than for leisure purposes) to take computer science in twelfth? CBSE offers innumerable course but I don’t think many schools in India offers any of these subjects. We must not be afraid to break free of run-of-the-mill courses. The survey also showed that kids are not sensitive to socially relevant issues. This is something I think all of us see every day, be it the “which city is cooler” or the “north versus south” or even the “look at that girl, is this how a girl should behave” stereotypes. Children pick up on things that happen at home, and this does not exclude the prejudices. Independent thought has to be encouraged. Moral instruction classes at school taught us what amazing women Seetha and Ahalya were. Yes, they were pious women but these classes must tell us how to conduct ourselves in public, how to not be prejudiced or hold a bias against anyone/thing. History classes taught us what happened rather than what we can learn from the past. We all remember the lesson called India’s fight for Independence where we had to sit and learn by heart about the Swadeshi movement and The Quit India Movement. Quite recently, we forgot to learn why the British were able to conquer us and how they had us at their mercy for such a long time. We learnt that it was the ‘Divide and Rule’ policy that brought us to our ruin and sadly, it is still that policy that prevails here, for example, the North versus South divide. History must not teach us what we can get from the internet; it must be taught in such a way that we do not make the mistakes our forefathers did.

Finally, my vision 2020 for India is simple. I dream of an India without prejudices. I dream of an India where every field is respected and no profession is considered better than the other. I dream of an India where there is reservation at the school level and not at the college level. I dream of an India where its citizens can convert information to knowledge and hopefully, wisdom. Economic growth and getting rid of poverty will follow automatically. It is not impossible; it just requires everybody to do their bit. My resolution for 2012 is to do my part for our country. What’s yours?

- Harshini Mohan
III EIE

―The only catch about education in the US is a Catch-22!―

Let’s take this from the top, shall we, in the typical Indian education style.

Teacher: What is a Catch-22? And where did this phrase arise out of? (2 marks)

A typical first bencher will go ahead and say, “A Catch-22, coined by Joseph Heller in his novel Catch-22, is a logical paradox arising from a situation in which an individual needs something that can only be acquired by not being in that very situation; therefore, the acquisition of this thing becomes logically impossible.”

Simultaneously, a few of the moderates (not first bench) would like to read about. Enough of a break now, let’s take this from the top, shall we, in the typical Indian education style.

Teacher: What is a Catch-22? And where did this phrase arise out of? (2 marks)

A typical first bencher will go ahead and say, “A Catch-22, coined by Joseph Heller in his novel Catch-22, is a logical paradox arising from a situation in which an individual needs something that can only be acquired by not being in that very situation; therefore, the acquisition of this thing becomes logically impossible.”

A few years ago, the United States of America was the land of Hersheys, marshmallows, $1 pizzerias and $30 Dosas at Saravana Bhavan. And then, *drumroll please* … we grew up and...
EULOGY : FROM printf(“\nHello World”); TO printf(“\nGoodbye world”);

Not since Nikola Tesla (the real patent rights holder for the invention of the radio) has an innovator come, made a mark and whose passing away went so unrecognized. Have all of us seemed to have forgotten the ‘R’(Ritchie) in K&R’s “The C Programming Language”? In an engineering student’s life, we call this book the de facto standard for programming… we may even refer to ANSI C as “life”. We recently lost that “life-giver” on October the 12th, 2011 at the age of 70. Dennis Mac Alistair Ritchie, born on September 9, 1941 at Bronxville, New York, US was the proud creator of the C programming Language and also the key developer of the UNIX operating system, one of the most powerful multi-user and multitasking computer operating systems.

He was born to Alistair Ritchie, a switching engineer for Bell Laboratories, and Jean McGee Ritchie, a homemaker. Ritchie grew up in New Jersey, and after a childhood in which he did very well academically, he went on to attend Harvard University. A graduate from Harvard with a PhD in Applied Mathematics and Physics, he is the recipient of the privileged Turing Award and the 1998 National Medal of Technology from the then US President, Bill Clinton for his path breaking work in founding UNIX and devising of the C Language. The C language, which Ritchie created, in fact, is central, to the way in which, A to Z of almost everything we use in the computer works. It has been the driving factor for the World Wide Web, the Apple systems, the iPhone (and the list just goes on...) to work. Every technology that we set our fingers upon works underneath the sweat spilt by Ritchie and his colleagues.

Without C, we would not have modern technology…at all. The humble creator of C which he called “quirky, flawed” was and still is an enormous success and also is the fundamental building block of every programming or script- ing tools such as Java, JavaScript, Perl and PHP etc…Apple’s Mac OS X series of operating systems are Unix Based and it forms the roots for the famous Apple’s iOS. Every bit of software that we would encounter on the internet today has a trace of dmr’s DNA in it. (dmr being Ritchie’s username or screen name).

A week earlier to losing this great technologist, the world witnessed the demise of another Tech Giant: to brief up about him, well… There were four ‘apples’ that changed the world—the first one was that which seduced Eve and from then onwards mankind was deemed imperfect, the second was that which fell on Newton’s head and brought forth the idea of GRAVITY to the world, the third was the half-bitten cyanide apple which killed the computing legend Alan Turing and the final one was “THE BY(ITE) INTO THE APPLE” that made the world think different. The creator and co-founder of this “Apple” was STEVE JOBS whom we lost on October 5, 2011.

Born in San Francisco and adopted by Paul and Clara Jobs, Steve Jobs learnt rudimentary electronics from his father who worked as a machinist in a computer company. He later grew up attending Homestead High School in Cupertino, California and enrolled at Reed College in Oregon, USA where he merely “audited” (just experienced the academic course but not elected to be awarded a grade!) courses and went on to develop the first “Mac(in tosh)” computers with his colleague Steve Wozniak in his parents’ garage which laid the base for stacks and stacks of innovations to follow. His ever-brimming confidence was validated when he was sent “out” of his own company but started a company of his own called “NEXT” and took over Pixar which changed the way the element of Animation in Multimedia works. It was no sooner than this happened that Apple bought NeXT and Steve Jobs was back again to head his company. After this was the creation of THE DIGITAL RENAISSANCE (dmr being Ritchie’s username or screen name) which brought to us the innovative iPhone Pad and the rest of the “i”’s. What was initially as a “garage-startup” has turned into one of the most valued companies in the world. These and many more to come have changed and will literally change the way we live our lives every day. This was the man who brought the virtual world under our fingertips. Numerous are the innovations and Apple products have become almost ubiquitous.

Having said all these, it brings us down to asking the question, “Was the death of Dennis left too unrecognized but that of Steve Jobs was all ceremonised and publicized?” Well, as a matter of fact, yes it was. But as budding engineers and as part of the technical community it is up to us to render a collective eulogy and pay tribute to both these geniuses who have contributed to a massive extent to the way we live our lives today and also understand the fact that that as much as Steve’s works were accoladed so should Dennis’ works. Dennis Ritchie thus being "the king of what was largely invisible" received very little media attention unlike Steve Jobs who is nevertheless, “the king of what was visible” or probably “the efficient translator” of the language that Ritchie laid down, a clever “distributor” of the change in technology through the language built by Dennis Ritchie, and an intelligent “packager” of the technology, in ways that reached the broader world and thus made his mark in the technological world. In a way, if Steve Jobs was Walt Disney then it was Ritchie who gave him (and many others) the paint brush. Ritchie laid the foundation and Steve built the skyscraper. Thus both their achievements need equal mention.

Dear Dennis Ritchie,

#include<stdio.h>

Void main()
{
    printf("\n Fair Winds Dennis Sir… You’ll be missed");
}

and

Dear Steve Jobs, R.L.P. Deeply, iMourn.

-Vidya G
II CSE,

Indianness of India’s Youth

Do you really think that we, the youth, are doing justice to the present day developments?

If you think of brand names from India, the first names that may come to a normal engineer’s mind are software giants Infosys and Wipro. However, we fail to acknowledge the fact that the pioneers of engineering and aviation industry in India were the Tatas. Back then under the British rule, the Tatas created a platform helping today’s youth to lead a comfortable life and provide cheap labour chiefly to foreign clients. This is in Infosys and Wipro where they are made to provide cheap labour chiefly to foreign clients.

India produces almost 5 lakh engineers every year as compared to Europe’s 1 lakh and a similar small number in America. And the best jobs we can offer these fresh and probably brilliant minds is in Infosys and Wipro where they are made to provide cheap labour chiefly to foreign clients.

Our focus has to move from services to product development. We can of course provide services, but that shouldn’t be our main stay, the so called “core competency”. And it is up to us to give direction to our generation.

Sponsored by Canopy
Very few of us are lucky enough to be able to do what we love and Vignesh V of third year, Mechanical, is one of them. Cars have been his passion for quite some time and he has managed to capitalize that to come up with an exclusive e-magazine, CARMA which is India’s first free auto e-magazine. Here’s an interview with him regarding CARMA and his passion for cars.

1. First, tell us about Pitstop. How did you think of it? What drove you to think of something like Pitstop?

The Pitstop is an auto-related blog that focuses on evaluating used and existing on-road vehicles so that it can help out second-hand buyers and a section of first-hand buyers as well. It was started by my best friend Praveen and me in June 2011.

It was more like a flash idea which hit me when I was driving. I immediately contacted him and told him that we should do something about it and we actually ended up doing it. A big portion of credit goes to him for this as he was equally interested in the idea as I was and that gave me the drive to go further.

2. What made you think of an e-auto magazine? How long has this been in the pipeline and what is your expected response from its readers?

For all practical purposes (inclusive of the budget), an e-magazine is the best solution. Also, since it is electronic, the reach is way higher than print. You just can’t measure the reach of an electronic magazine because you can’t keep track of how and where all it is circulated – which is a good thing.

CARMA was in the pipeline for over 2 months. We realized we needed to expand and make something bigger and that was when we came up with the CARMA branding. We carefully hand-nicked our team which was complete somewhere mid-November. If you are talking about the response to the first issue release, it was pretty good. Very glad about it! About the general response, I’m expecting an increase in reader participation – which would include more people writing in about their cars, sending us some cool automobile related pictures that they clicked, asking us for suggestions on what car to buy, etc – but it would take a few issues for that to increase.

3. What is your target audience with respect to CARMA? How is CARMA not going to be a run-of-the-mill magazine?

Our target audience would include anyone who can read and has an Adobe Reader in his computer. Since it is electronic, the reach cannot be measured. We try to maintain a sort of balance with the choice of words so that we connect to the youth and also the professional world. I’m very confident that CARMA wouldn’t end up being one because of our highly dedicated team. Having some of your closest friends in the team does help you out a lot. We worked hard for the first issue, not just with the content part, but also with publicity. We had to create a sense of suspense and get people excited about it.

4. What are the main parameters you look for while rating a car and what is the math involved?

Yes, in The Pitstop, we do evaluate cars. We developed a document called the parameter sheet and we take a copy of it along whenever we review vehicles. Our parameters include everything from exteriors – design, headlamp and tail lamp styling, ground clearance, wiper motor and sprayer conditions; interiors – dash quality, inte-

5. If you were to buy a second-hand car, what are the 5 things that you will absolutely insist on?

1. A test drive for sure – this will help you get a whole feel of the vehicle. You can judge the transmission, steering, suspension, engine condition, etc.
2. Check all the electronics involved.
3. Check for exterior body rust. Rust is cancer for cars.
4. Wheels. They shouldn’t be bauld and over used. I’d definitely not want to spend another 20k on a good set of wheels.
5. A very fundamental issue – the background of the person selling that particular vehicle and the reason behind the sale. I’d definitely not want to buy a vehicle caught in some scam and have to police seize it from me later. There is no database in India that keeps a log of such transactions involving vehicles. Even if you’re purchasing through a used car sales company dealer, the problem is not solved. Those dealers are merely middle men.

6. What are the problems associated with buying second-hand cars and why is your focus on second-hand cars rather than the new ones?

Second-hand car purchasing is not an easy gig. It requires a lot more planning and is actually more crucial than purchasing a new car. In addition to picking a manufacturer, a model and a place to buy it, one also has to contend with decisions such as mileage, condition and age, none of which is a factor in new cars but are important considerations when buying a used car.

The Pitstop had its focus only on vehicle evaluation because we always felt that it was a segment that was completely ignored. You have auto-related TV shows, magazines and websites that review upcoming cars, but there is no medium to review the cars again a few years after their launch to see how they have been performing and what the users feel about them. Even though now we have expanded to covering new cars as well, the roots of The Pitstop won’t be disturbed and every issue of CARMA will have a used car review.

7. You also mentioned about job opportunities in CARMA. What kind of job opportunities are there at present?

Yes, from time to time we do have some openings. At present, we are looking out for publicity correspondents from different universities and cities that can help us out with publicity. This way, we can increase the reach as well. Most of the publicity work would be online on Facebook and Twitter.

8. I infer from the name that CARMA focuses on cars, can we expect something for bikes too?

Definitely. Very soon, in fact. On our last online meeting, we decided to expand to covering bikes as well, but not immediately. We are planning to wait till a few more issues release. Timely announcements for recruitment of content writers would be made on our website, facebook and twitter profiles.

We, from Imprint wish Vignesh and his team at The Pitstop and CARMA the best of luck for all their future endeavours.

You can read the magazine at http://autocarma.in/ or follow its blog at http://autopitstop.tumblr.com/


Write to them at pitstopauto91@yahoo.in

Connect with Vignesh V at https://www.facebook.com/theVVR or contact him at +919500768435

-Harshini Mohan
III EIE
Note: If you find this article to be a series of unrelated events, my apologies. One needs to learn to float with the clouds; I have not tried to preach the pathway to peace. This is just a remembrance of the resonance within.

When people join SASTRA, the first thing they do is crib about how they miss “city life”. Be it, Chennai, Bangalore or Bombay! Initially, I did too. Certain symptoms start to rise. At the core of every SHANmian’s heart, there were, and always will be, the sound of ecstatic drumbeats. I have experienced the laughter of those sounds. Made me mad! Made me eccentric! But not a rebel. And I wish to lend a scoop on the path towards that serpent’s beat. The ancient people say it’s a rare combination! Beauty and wit! In come-raderie with the path of that river, we get a new land (Tirumalaasamudiram) that holds us, and our lives, for four years! Please don’t get into any opinion that I am trying to flatter SASTRA so that my boss Asma accepts my article! And people, if the article is out of design, don’t blame the design team. Blame me, I am sending it very late. Way beyond the deadline. Every winter I make it a point to stay back in SASTRA at least for ten days of my vacation. For what joy? An improvisation.

Has anyone noticed the thin line that separates ‘aloneness’ from loneliness? An empty mirror is the perfect description of the hostels during the vacation. No early morning coffee and life becomes an ancient tree. No more stressing on metaphors. I hope my implication was figured by now. Solitude makes things clearer, and at times fun. Seriously. As Fateh Ali Khan’s alarm wakes me up in the morning, this feeling of ‘aloneness’ shapes self-discovery, accelerates my life and rhythm. I fit into the category of classical mechanics and I show some chaotic behavior for certain ranges of the systems parameters. Aah! A power cut! Might delay my submission time and shoot up the editors’ BP. The music, resonating stillness, echoes through my mind and reminds me of the odd semester that I had sailed across. I’m not talking about the subjects but the experiences I endured and cherished, the enemies I made, and my increasing FB friends list. It’s like I get some time to sit back and analyze my personal stats and find some patterns in it! That’s what we chemists are good at. Finding patterns in data, so that we might get a paper out of it. So what are the Lessons learnt from this December vacation? Life is statistical in nature. Knowing my current state I cannot predict the response to a situation with certainty. I could probably increase my wisdom-data of possible response. Bohr’s Theory of hydrogen atom is definitely not a good analogy!

Flash-back time! The odd-sem academic days. Yes, I had got my thoughts on Schrödinger’s experiment clear. Bridge to the wheel of life lies in your inner home. People are idiots. I started seeing the world as a series of Verschränkung. Sometimes, no! Most of the time, It’s always good to be sad and depressed. And this place gives you a lot of chance to be so. Tough academic program, Competitive research environment (OMG! My batch mate is doing a cool project in some lab, obviously one feels the fire of the situation), a totally different life style, a life away from beloved ones etcetera. So make this opportunity to get into the core of your melancholy. It’s like the heart of a rose flower. A soothing feel. Makes us do something really worthwhile to undo the stimulus that set forth this condition. Pathway to obsession. Silences. I have always been fascinated with the famous head fake story by Dr. Randy Pausch. His last lecture redefined the way people live their lives. What is my head fake @ SASTRA? With reference to that, it’s true ordinary people have hobbles, families, commitments, responsibilities. Others have that one thing that hits them hard. Between and beyond, it runs. One is obsessed with that thing. That thing is what music is to Kurt Cobain, cricket is to Shoabi Auktur, DNA is to Watson. They are said to have discovered that one thing that defines them. Even though I have not that one thing as of yet, I realize that to stand out of the crowd, to be the best in the industry, I need to join every inch of loose hangs in my life to figure it out. The series of unfortunate events that wake us from our lives has caught me into its mystic pattern, here on the soil of SASTRA. And definitely not probability. My life at SASTRA addresses this directly to that intimate part of my self which does not obey the conventional logic. It has developed the capacity to initiate silence, to tickle my inner waveform that projects itself to the ‘shadows of mystery that have been engulfing the thought process in their pseudo wings’.

There was a guy who wanted to know how it is to be under flames. He took a heavy dose of pain killers and set himself ablaze. Third degree burns. He recorded the whole scene. He got a new life out of fire! This Poetry has descended into me, I can feel the music! Let the strange experiences of this land start sinking into your soul! India needs enlightened engineers, let your ego grab this music and not miss it! ” In the words of one of the most dangerous men of the 20th century, “Every great person has become great only in the moments when he has not been.” Experiences over the course of three years, repeated failures in my lab experiments, tangled organizational skills, broken mathematical equations, depressed Sunday nights in the hostel, early morning jogs in Vallam pudur, midsummer night stars in SPS terrace, Fuera Football, Departing seniors, a track of ants on my study table and many such small and big things that happened in my life have sprinkled reality onto my conditioned state of consciousness. People like Sankaracharya, Jiddu Krishnamurthy and Gurudjieff were not preaching nonsense. Their words have been engraved into my life though this unique experience I have obtained here. This is crazy! Hohenberg and Khan are amazing; I’m still not able to understand TDDFT.

-Anantha Narayanan
II BIOT

Let go! The iteration never ends!

UP!

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is ‘UP’. It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv], [prep], [adj], [n] or [v]. It’s easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake up? At a meeting, why does a topic come up? Why do we speak up, and why are the officers up for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed up is special. If you can kiss and make UP.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is blocked UP. We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed up about UP! To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don’t give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I’ll wrap it UP . . . for now . . . my time is UP!

Did that one crack you UP?

Don’t screw UP. Show this on to everyone you look UP in your address book . . . or not . . . it’s UP to you.

Now I’ll shut UP!
“Kolaveri (noun): Murderous rage (literal or figurative)”

An Internet phenomenon has swept across the globe and with it, has brought many alternate versions to the fore. We are speaking, of course with reference to ‘Why This Kolaveri Di’, and its numerous not so faithful adaptations, which are equally interesting and catchy. Why This Kolaveri Di has such a far reaching audience that the Oxford English Dictionary is planning to include the word in their 2012 edition. Also, a flash mob in Auckland, New Zealand danced to its tunes recently, which has also made it to BBC Radio. Now, we look at some of the best versions of Why This Kolaveri Di...

5. Chipmunk Version

Alvin and The Chipmunks don’t just sing in the movies, they now perform covers of viral Internet songs as well. Or so it seems, as the Chipmunk version, which is perhaps the best version without any amend in the lyrics of the classic original. The squeaky voiceover makes the appeal universal and is an immediate hit with the younger generation, something the original was unable to quite achieve.

4. Nevaan Nigam Version

When Sonu Nigam lends his voice to something, we know it’ll be a soulful and deep rendition. But when Sonu decides to do one better and lets his son Nevaan Nigam have a go at Why This Kolaveri Di, you might have doubts. But Nevaan assuages all fears with the cutest version till date. The video, which is similar to the original but more playful and natural, tells us that Nevaan is all of 4 feet tall, but is making waves in the field of Internet phenomenon. From the moment it surfaced on the Internet, this version has been catching the eye of one and all. And we have great expectations from the progeny of one of the best singers of our time.

3. IT Version

Yes, you read it right. There is an IT version, with modified lyrics to suit the workplace environment. And though this does not have an official video, the lyrics are more than sufficient to send everyone into guffaws of laughter. This version sums up workplace humour in exactly one stanza. A sample -

“Kaila Mouse-u (’illa illa only English huh’)
Hand-la mouse-u Mouse-la code-u
Code-u fulla error-u
Empty life-u project come-u
Life reverse-u gear-u

2. English R&B Remix

The English R&B version by a London based Indian named Arjun is garnering hits as you read. True, the Anglicized version completely veers away from the original story and boldly substitutes scotch for whisky, but it does so with gusto and comes away a winner. Arjun, the composer has stuck to the tune, and yet added a pinch of his own music to it. The quicker, peppier version is custom-made for a party environment and will find admirers in the tweens, if you can call it that. Clearly this is recognised as the international version of Why This Kolaveri Di and hence makes our list of the top versions.

1. “Why This Kolaveri Di”

And of course, last but not the least, the original. The song that has given millions of Soup Boys hope all over the world. The song that is now talked more about than Justin Bieber himself, if you can call him a guy that is. The song that has over 25 million views on Youtube and has won the Gold-en Youtube award for most viral video of the year. We bring you, the classic, “Why This Kolaveri Di”, to complete our five top versions of the song.

-Niranjan Murali
III EEE