Editorial

The 'Voices' team extends warm welcome to all the freshers and wishes a pleasant stay in the campus.

New institute, new place, new environment. Lot of expectations, dreams and future plans! Of course, why not, on joining the country's leading research institute, naturally these expectations, dreams and plans would even get doubled. It is indeed difficult to keep up the pressure and maintain these high standards. However, yes, it is possible to maintain the consistency and that depends on the standard and quality of the newcomers, apart from the present lot. Anyway, the people, who have joined, certainly would have gone through thorough selection measures and hence it is almost sure that the qualities would not have diluted.

Just like the previous year, this year also, the Students' Council has indeed shown an immense involvement and interest during the freshers' admission time, by bringing the freshers to the institute from Majestic railway station and bus stand through meticulous arrangements. Kudos to the Students' Council. By this time, the new comers would certainly have got some idea about the campus, which was actually made easier by the Students' Council's 'Orientation programme' conducted on 4th August, '06 at J.N.Tata auditorium. The 'Orientation programme' was in fact intended to make the freshers familiarize about the institute and the general events happening inside the campus, so that they could get accustomed to this new environment. In fact, the soothing 'classical music' at Sathish Dhawan auditorium followed by the Orientation programme would have certainly made them feel at home. It is almost certain that the freshers would have got a nice refreshment through the Salsa class and the Dance party at Gymkhana on 5th August, '06, before they begin with the hectic academic year.

This issue of 'Voices' is especially aimed at the 'newcomers' providing them almost a complete picture of the institute and its activities. The activities comprise of both academic and non-academic and this is very well reflected in the nature of the articles in this issue.

'Voices' wishes good luck to all the new students. Happy reading 'Voices' and have fun.

Truly yours,
Editors.

For the new comers, '**Voices**' is newsletter (or mini magazine) of the institute, which discusses all kind of issues related to the institute. Use 'Voices' as a platform to enhance your writing and artistic skills, and to exhibit your imagination powers. Enthusiastic people, particularly freshers are welcome to contribute articles, poems, short stories, cartoons and voice out their opinions and criticisms. Enthusiastic souls are also invited to join the 'Voices' team to make it further interesting and dynamic.

How to search in research?

In today's web world, the availability of plethora of information often leaves people stranded in dilemma. This can be attributed to rapid growth of information/data and inability to keep pace with this high rate of upsurge. In such cases, appropriate 'search' tools become necessary, which can serve as good guides to achieve the desirable goal, if at all a goal is there!!

Internet is one of the best search tools, apart from newspapers, magazines, books and journals. There are several 'search engines' available in the net (of course, 'Google' is the well known one), which make the search job easier. Although there is a steady rise in the development of different type of 'search engines' and 'databases', people still find 'searching' a Herculean task. While using the 'search engines', the key factor that could make the job simpler, is the **'Keyword'** of search. In other words, an inappropriate keyword would imply a bad search. Also, sometimes, despite using a relevant keyword, the user may not be benefited. This might be due to the inherent inability of the search engine or unavailability of that keyword in the net or probably the keyword is a novel one! Nevertheless, it is possible to get wealth of information with a good search engines and appropriate 'keywords'.

It goes without saying that in 'research', 'search' is an extremely vital component. The design of all research projects is accomplished by extensive literature search. Further, the strategies of implementation of any kind of research plan are heavily reliant on past information, for which once again good search is essential. Therefore, it would be always beneficial, if one knows some 'history' of a particular system, before starting to work with that system. The knowledge of past (History) would sometimes prove useful in laying a strong foundation for not only research projects, but also for any kind of developmental work, as one may avoid spending time in reinventing the wheel. Of course, one could argue that wheel could be reinvented in novel and entirely different protocols. But, in order to prove the reinvention as a novel methodology, one should know what has happened in the past. Only then, the claim of 'novelty' could be justified and established. Further, there are several examples, wherein more than one or two groups have 'independently' discovered the 'same' phenomena or results. To look out for such cases, careful 'search' is essential, for knowing whether any other party have stumbled upon similar or identical results. In addition, good searches are also essential for checking 'plagiarism', which nowadays has become an increasingly serious problem.

Thus, it is extremely important for all students in the institute,

inclusive of the regular course students to remember that search processes are inevitable, in order to prove, justify and convince one's own hypotheses, theories, claims as novel ones. Thus, in addition to acquiring textbook knowledge, the 'journal' reading habit must gradually be cultivated. Periodic update of technical knowledge through regular touch with the 'journals' is an extremely essential thing for pursuing a successful research career. Furthermore, it could be realized that collection of data and information/facts through extensive search reduces almost half of the burden, while the rest half depends on the individuals' own data.

Apart from the Google search engine, the following links will certainly prove helpful for journal searches, at some point of time during research, if not always!!
(1) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/
(2) http://www.sciencedirect.com/
(3) http://www.interscience.wiley.com/
(4) http://www.pubs.acs.org/
(5) http://www.pnas.org/
(6) http://jcp.aip.org/
(7) http://prl.aps.org/
(8) http://www.jbc.org/
(9) http://www.ieeexplore.ieee.org/
(10) http://www.engineeringvillage2.org/
Among the links given above, link (1) would prove extremely useful for most of the students pursuing science. Links (2) and (3) could be of great use for both science and engineering students. Some connoisseurs might wonder, how come the popular journals like 'Nature', 'Science', 'Cell', 'Scientific American', etc. are missing in the above list? Well, assuming that several of you would already be familiar with these popular journals, they have not been listed. Well, if this assumption is wrong, its okay, Google is there to help……!!

The Master Link
In addition to the above given list, here is another link, by which one could get all the details about the availability of the journals in our institute, both online and hardcopies.
http://www.library.iisc.ernet.in/
The library website has been very meticulously created, in particular, there is a link called 'Electronic Journals', which gives exhaustive information of all the journals that are available in the library. Further, there is another useful website of NCSI (National Centre for Science Information), which could be accessed through the library web page. The students, particularly the 'Freshers' are urged to make the maximum use of the available library facilities, which can certainly make the Herculean searches into rapid, efficient and efficacious.

Well, it should also be remembered that these entire internet based 'searches' should not stop the regular book reading habits and also must not cease the students from going to library!

After all, we are in the institute for doing 'Research', which is literally nothing but, 'Re-Search'. So, happy reading and keep searching, oh no, "**researching**"!!

Sabareesh (MBU)

Rhythmica: The Music Group of IISc

Introduction
For those who have just joined IISc, Rhythmica is the IISc Music Team.

Rhythmica's musical repertoire spans quite wide, ranging from Indian classical to Western, from Folk to Pop, and of course, a lot of ever-appealing Film Music right from the early fifties down to the present. Usually, their programmes are in the form of an orchestra of 12-15 songs performed over something like two hours, covering all of the above, seasoned with witty and informative compering. Their upcoming performance on August 15 is their twenty second, and celebrates their four years of unparalleled popularity in IISc campus.

Let's try and use this space to throw light on certain facts about this team which are less well-known: the facts about their organization and functioning; about what goes behind their performances; about what makes them one of the most successful team efforts in IISc.

The Organization
Rhythmica was founded as a team of 6-7 people in July 2002 under the auspices of IISc Gymkhana. It rapidly grew into a formidable size of over 35. Then, Rhythmica was the only music team under Gymkhana. Hence, its founder convener also was the Gymkhana Music Club convener. However, the increasing load of handling Rhythmica's internal matters subsequently necessitated splitting these responsibilities among two people. Currently, there are three people at the helm: One Music Club convener and two Rhythmica conveners.

The team enjoys a more or less flat hierarchy otherwise. At any point, you would find a number of singers and a host of instrumentalists specialising in a multitude of musical instruments. Additionally, people specialising in fine-arts, creative writing, public speaking, and administrative affairs have always found an equally important place. Demographically, Rhythmica is again quite colourful. Students from various departments, project assistants, and even faculty members, and their wards have been parts of Rhythmica.

The Process
Each programme requires a rigorous practice of nearly two months. Which means that to maintain an average of 4-5 programmes a year, Rhythmica's wheels must never stop rolling. The making of a programme starts with a careful selection of songs. Criteria are: availability of appropriate artists *vis-à-vis* difficulty level. The theme of the programme is chosen pretty early. The lilt and tempo of the pieces are evaluated with regard to their relevance to the theme, as well as the overall feel of the programme. Once song selection is out of the way, starts perhaps technically the most involved part of the preparation: *decoding*. It's a long, gruelling application of sharp musical senses and knowledge to dissect a song into its constituents so its effect can be reproduced.

Where facilities are absent to mimic the exact sound, it's quite a creative task to figure out how best the same effect can be approached with other instruments and patterns. Decoding is followed by the actual practices where the singer comes into picture. Nitty-gritties are added and coordination is developed through further decoding and practice. This stage goes on till the day of performance. Sometime during this, a small group gets started with auxiliary preparations. The music convener takes the onus of finalising the venue, arranging funds, fixing the sound system providers and many other administrative issues. The poster that announces the coming programme is given great importance. It must be interesting enough to attract notice, and informative enough to set the expectation at the right place for the upcoming programme. Around a week preceding the programme, a small group of people get going with preparing the compering material; a trivial task by no means, since, it's important to be witty and cheerful, and yet informative and tasteful. Not to mention the tough task of keeping engaged an increasingly gay audience while the next song is being set-up.

The day of performance is all hustle bustle. Instruments are shifted to the venue (and back after the performance), and things are set up ready for the performance. Meanwhile, the backdrop is prepared. Finally, a quick stage rehearsal is squeezed in to make sure that things will indeed go fine. While the performance is going on, one or two team members with sharp musical ear are dedicatedly employed to take care of sound mixing, so that the overall effect of the performance on stage is optimised. Auditions are held twice a year to get new talents into the team. All conveners are (s)elected roughly annually. Being the main user of the musical facilities of IISc Gymkhana, Rhythmica not only takes lead in maintaining the Music Room in good shape, but has contributed significantly in making good a tremendous improvement in the infrastructure of the same.

Epilogue
Rhythmica, like any popular effort, has got criticised many a time. One complaint has been regarding the choice of its music. A predominantly intellectual population on campus craves for tasteful a.k.a. classical music while Rhythmica's performances are mostly made up of popular music. Rhythmica's offer of original music has been found scant by some. However, there have been several classical performances by Rhythmica. And many original compositions have been presented time and again. It's also been remarked that Rhythmica deviates from the typical IIScian method of doing a good job and keeping modestly quiet about it. Nevertheless, it's not all pomp and show. Firstly, Rhythmica has been successful in consistently providing musical entertainment catering to the tastes of a large part of the IISc community, and works very hard for it. Secondly, it also has set a trend of being a successful team effort, and not merely a platform for showcasing individual talents. This trend of capitalising on team excellence, if adopted in our main occupation research, would perhaps lend us significant additional thrust in delivering quality research in our institute.

Sujit (CSA) (Feedback: rhythmica@gmail.com)

The IPLH tournament - 2006

The IISc Premier League Hockey (IPLH) tournament is the most important annual event in the IISc hockey club calendar. IPLH provides an important platform for IISc'ians to display their skill, coordination and love for their national game. IPLH is a 7-a-side tournament intended to act as a swan song for skilled outgoing players and provides a chance to unearth exciting new talents.

Four exotically named teams participated in this years' edition, IPLH-2006: **Black Mam(b)as**, **Seven Samurais**, **Hockey *Styx*** and **Hungry Hobbits**. The tournament started in spectacular fashion with the talented *Hobbits* taking on the gifted Styx in the opening game on 20th May. The evenly fought battle ended in a 1-1 draw. The next day, *Mam(b)as* took on the *Samurais* in one of the most keenly awaited matches of the tournament and the players from both teams obliged by playing aggressive and attacking hockey. *Mam(b)as* started off well with Sai making some exceptional moves which weren't converted, though. Hasta (CSA) scored in the 22nd minute for the *Samurais* and Ambi (CSA) brought in the equalizer just before half-time (25th minute). Soon after the breather, Rajesh converted a penalty corner for the *Samurais*. Minutes later, Hasta scored his second goal and Prithu consolidated with a goal in the 40th minute. The last 4 minutes of the match saw 3 more goals: Sundar (Instrumentation) scored twice for the *Mam(b)as* and Hasta signed off with his 3rd goal. The final score was 5-3.

The next weekend, *Mam(b)as* came back into contention by beating *Hobbits* 3-2 with Sundar, Rajan (MBU) and Sai scoring a goal each for *Mam(b)as*. On 1st June, *Hockey Styx* boosted by the return of some key players from injury beat the leaders, *Samurais*, in an aggressive and vocal match. The final score was 3-1, despite some *Samurai* heroics from Hasta and Vijay (Physics). In the next match against *Hobbits*, the *Samurais* once again drew first blood with Claudy (MRC) scoring in the 18th minute. Shyam, however, equalised in the 21st minute. In the next 20 minutes, the *Hobbits* went well ahead scoring 3 more goals. After a brief rain break, the *Samurais* 1-4 trailing, got their act together and scored twice through Prakash and came within striking distance. However, *Hobbits* clung on to their advantage through clever defence and the score remained 4-3 at full time. The following day, on 4th June, *Hockey Styx* faced the formidable *Mam(b)as* in the last league match of the tournament. Hari (SSCU), Seshu and Murthy (Aero) scored in quick succession to make it 3-0 in favor of *Styx* by half-time. *Mam(b)as* pulled one back, when Rajan smartly converted a quick free-hit. But, that was their only goal and a full time score of 1-3 meant that Mam(b)as had to face the *Samurais* for the 3rd place playoff while the *Hobbits* and *Styx* fight it out for the IPLH trophy in the winner-takes-all final.

In the 3rd place playoff on 11th June, *Mam(b)as* exacted revenge for their loss against the same opponents earlier in the tournament by blanking *Samurais* by a margin of 3-0. While Rajan added one more to his tally of goals, Sundar, playing his first tournament, was again in the thick of action and his 2

goals in this match took his individual tally to 5, eventually earning him the top goal-scorer award of the tournament. The final played on 18th June was a virtual anti-climax as *Hockey Styx* hammered the hapless *Hobbits*, "**9-1**". The *Hobbits* clearly missed their captain Hemanth, as the relentless *Styx* scored as many as **5** goals in the '**first-half**'. The highlight of the first-half was a scintillating **hat-trick** by rookie Satish (SERC). Thereafter, the wheels came off for *Hobbits* as they were reduced to mere bystanders as *Styx* pounded **4** more goals in the '**second-half**'. Amidst the carnage, Shyam scored the solitary goal for Hobbits. *Hockey Styx*, who remained undefeated in the tournament, lifted the trophy while Santosh Kumar from *Samurais* won the Best Upcoming Player award for his impressive display in defence.

IISc Hockey club takes this opportunity to invite new players, especially freshers, to join the club in celebrating the spirit of our national game and in an endeavor make **IPLH-2007** a bigger success. The club provides hockey sticks, balls and shin-guards to all players. Senior players in the club will be glad to help newcomers to learn and pick up the game. For more information, contact, Vijay Narayan, Convener of Hockey club (e-mail: vj@physics.iisc.ernet.in).

Viswamurthy (Aerospace)

The Gymkhana….. Where the best of brains take a break sometimes!!!

"All research and no fun makes IIScians dull folks" so would have it been, hadn't it been for the Gymkhana.

About 26 clubs associated with it cater to the varied interests and pursuits of the institute junta, and cover an eclectic range from Outdoor and Indoor Sports, Swimming, Literary and Fine Arts, Trekking and Mountaineering to Kung fu and Karate.

If you find the offering at the main library too heady don't worry- the *Ranade Library* at the Gymkhana would give you relaxation with fiction available in English and in regional languages.

The day to day activities of the clubs are maintained and run by Student conveners, and the clubs have the best of equipment and facilities. Tournaments in almost all sports - be it the Interdepartmental Cricket tournament, the Football Sevens Cup or the Volleyball and Throw ball Competition, make people set things aside and vie for the title - be it students, faculty or staff.

Vibrations (or Vibes as it is fondly called) - the cultural fest of IISc, is organized by the Gymkhana Management Committee and is perhaps the most awaited event in the campus. Spread over three days and four evenings, the fest has a host of literary, creative, cultural and offbeat events   that all guarantee the same thing more fun and excitement.

The Movie Club   perhaps the most active club (aren't we Indians?) screens movies on Friday evenings a fit finale to a week that never seemed to end.

And….what would any article on the Gymkhana be if it didn't talk about the Gym Café….? Well, the late night dinners at the Gym Café under the trees, very often helps one find the energy to head back to his lab and think about doing some work or understand the futility of the exercise and makes one go back to the hostel.

So then…see you at the movies!

Anto (MGMT)

Timepass puzzle

Unscramble the clues to one word

Clues

1. NO ACTORS : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

2. READ AS PIG : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

3. ROOM IN TOP : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

4. OPTIMA COUNT : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5. NEAT RIOTING : _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

(Answers in page.6)

Platform for women

The post of General Secretary (Women's Affairs) was created in the Students' Council last year to deal specifically with issues that concern women on our campus. A Committee dealing exclusively in women's affairs, run by women, under the women's secretary, was also formed.

The Women's Committee (WC) is your platform to bring forward and discuss issues that concern women on campus. These may be personal or general; they might be of immediate concern to you alone or to all women in IISc. We realize that many of the issues and concerns might be of sensitive nature. We take every precaution to guarantee anonymity of all the involved persons. Please come out in the open with your problems, speak up when you feel you are being mistreated, and feel free to voice your opinions on these and related subjects. Ignoring problems even trivial ones is often the cause of further trouble and unhappiness. There is no guarantee of immediate solutions to many of the prevalent problems. But let us make an effort to acknowledge that many problems exist, and to try and make others aware of them, and work towards eliminating them.
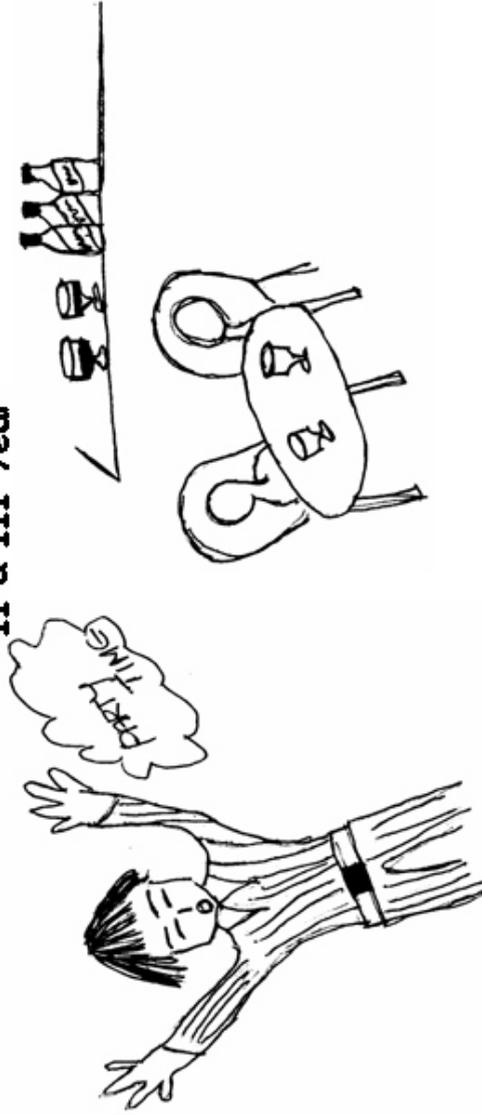
One Among Us

"I Year"

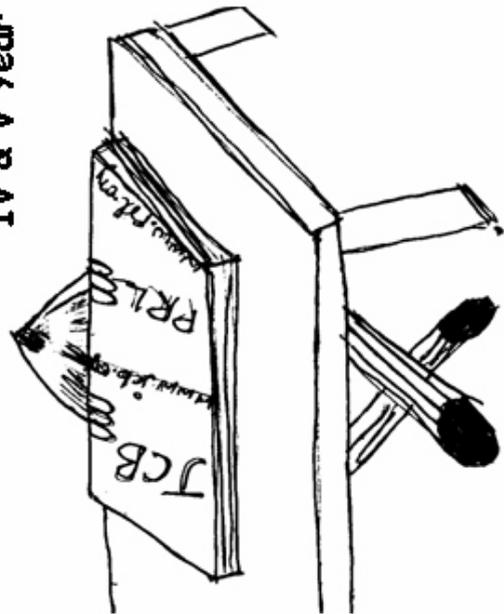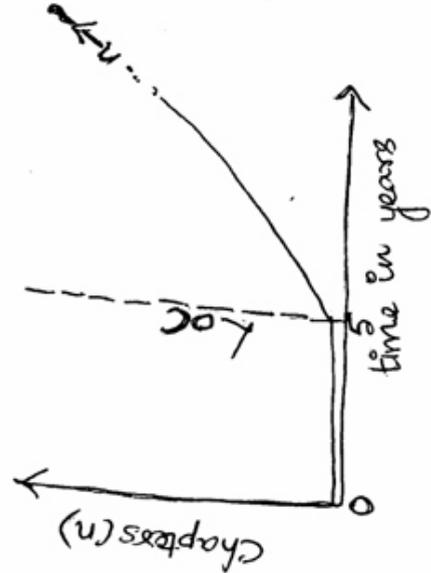"II & III Year"

"IV & V Year"

"Nth Year (N = ??)"

V.S.Gayathri

The Committee also works closely with the Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment (SHCC), which is headed by Prof.H.S.Savithri (Dept.of Biochemistry). Details of the WC and SHCC can be found at:

http://biochem.iisc.ernet.in/~bchss/shcc/policy.htm

And finally, we insist that the Women's Committee is not a closed group. We will be very happy to accept more members. Please cooperate with us to make this initiative a success and further the cause of women on our campus.

Garima Gupta (MBU)
Gen. Secy. Women's Affairs
Students' Council
e-mail: ggupta@mbu.iisc.ernet.in

Answers : Timepass puzzle

Clues	*Answers*
1. NO ACTORS - **CARTOONS**	
2. READ AS PIG - **DISPARAGE**	
3. ROOM IN TOP - **PROMOTION**	
4. OPTIMA COUNT - **COMPUTATION**	
5. NEAT RIOTING - **INTEGRATION**	

(see page 4)

THE PAPYRUS LIBRARY
(www.papyruslibrary.org)

Forget discussing your GPAs be it 6.7 or 7.2. We are making way for discussing 5.someone. And ironically, that's how it all began. A discussion. Leisure reading facilities with up-to-date non-technical books, we discovered, was virtually non-existent on the IISc campus. The idea for a new library was fuelled by two main reasons. One being that 2000 students live on campus. Two, on the basis of an approximation that not everyone picks up "Applied Cryptography by Bruce Schneier" for a bit of light reading!

We figured a dash of Tintin, or a dot of Asterix would be really good as a stress-buster for the hardworking IIScians. We started small, with a collection of just 150 books - bought, donated and added from our own personal libraries back home - and we are growing quick. Today we have 350 books (all original copies), 55 members, many of the latest novels and a nominal price tag.

Marketing strategies, I have to say were not ripped off from some major ad-guru. A desk outside the **'A-mess'** during mess timings has seen a phenomenal rise in membership. A unique concept we have developed is making the book catalogue available online considering all students have access to internet facilities on campus. Log on to *www.papyruslibrary.org* for full details. You can call on us anytime, but I guess our books will do all the talking!

This library, we hope will not close after we at Papyrus complete our course at IISc, which is in exactly one year's time. We call upon volunteers who will actively take up the responsibility of keeping Papyrus growing.

See you there!

Papyrus library team