IdentITy

IT DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Winning the CTS CIO's challenge 2012
N. Devarajan, IT Alumni (2009-2013 Batch)

From left, clockwise: SSN winners with trophy, Devarajan and Vignesh, IT dept. winners.

It all started with a simple online test conducted by Cognizant to measure the programming skills of the students. The programme known as 'Cognizant Certified Student' was conducted in 28 colleges all over India including SSN in which students from CS and IT department participated to validate and sharpen their skills. The toppers from each college were selected and screened through an interview process that was based totally on gamification and social design. Gamification is the concept of incorporating the elements of traditional games (score points, badges etc.) into business applications to improve the user experience and engagement. Social design insists the application to include social features (comments, likes, chat etc.).

Four from each college were selected and grouped

Winning the CTS …(contd. From page 1)

to form a team. Totally 28 teams were assembled to compete for The CIO's Challenge. Each team is given a problem statement that they must work on and solve within a period of three months. Cognizant has their own platform and tool-set which the students were expected to learn. They arranged a boot camp for students to train them on various technologies and "one cognizant" platform. Each team is as-signed with a mentor from both college and organiza-tion to guide the students. The entire development process is carried out through internet remotely from the college.

The project assigned to SSN was "State Refresh Application" which is a web application that moni-tors the state changes in a database. The technologies used were HTML5, CSS 3 and Jquery for front end programming, dotnet for server side programming and Microsoft SQL Server for backend. Top 8 teams were selected for the final presentation. The teams had to present the demo of their application to the Chief Information Officer and other top management people of Cognizant. SSN won the contest for the second time in a row. Cer-tificates, trophies and ipads were awarded for the win-ners.

IT Student Becomes The Google Student Ambassador 2013-2014

Our student, Sanjana Ekbote of the 2010-14 batch of the B. Tech program has recently been chosen as the Google Student Ambassa-dor 2013. She has bested contest-ants from all over the country.

As a part of this, Google offers a training program for students every year and provides opportu-nities to act as liaisons between them and the university the stu-dent belongs to. It requires stu-dents to organize exciting events and activities on behalf of the Google team.

Sanjana shares her experience with us: "Google as we all know, is a world-famous enterprise. So when I got to know about the GSA programme, I thought of it as a great opportunity knocking

"the exposure and independence at SSN, specially at the IT department, took me places. And that feels, terrific, and I am very grateful"

on my door. The requirements were simple. They needed young, enterprising and proac-tive people with leadership qualities. I felt I could fit the fill".

The process involved filing an application. People who were shortlisted had to go through a 45-minute telephonic interview where we had to confront ques-tions on tricky situations which would give an estimate of our confidence levels, knowledge about Google products, pres-ence of mind and communica-tion skills.

On knowing that I made it to the final cut, I was thrilled as it would open a whole new bunch of avenues for me and would also provide great networking opportunities for me. Though being a GSA is super- exciting,

it bring upon great responsibili-ties. I hope I deliver my best. The exposure and independ-ence at SSN, specially at the IT department, took me places. And that feels terrific and I am very grateful."

There are 270 GSAs all over India and they would be meet-ing at the Google summit in 2014 at Goa. The people at-tending the summit will com-prise of GSAs , Google Busi-ness Groups (GBGs) and Google Developers (GDs). Their commitment as GSAs spans from July 2013 to June 2014.

The IT department congratu-lates her and wishes her the best for her future.

AWARD WINNING B.TECH PROJECTS IN IT

ROBOT RENDEZVOUS FOR TRACKING A DYNAMICALLY MOVING TARGET
Team Members: A.K. Shivaram, R. Sunil Vignesh, E. Sathish
Project Guide: Dr. R. Srinivasan and Dr. K. Premkumar

Rendezvous means 'to assemble' or 'to meet'. We consider the problem of robot rendezvous for tracking an object (henceforth, called target) that moves in a given two dimensional region of interest (ROI). In the classical rendezvous problem, N agents collaborate among themselves to reach the location of the target, which is assumed to be stationary. In our problem, the target of interest also moves in the ROI. Thus, the agents are also required to make a decision of how to reach and/or to track the target in the minimum possible time. Initially, we assume that there is at least one agent that detects the target. The agent that has detected the target broadcasts the location and the motion information of the target to its neighbors, which in turn communicate the information to their neighbors, and so on, until the information has reached all the agents. Upon receiving the information, each of the agents has to decide its own path to reach or to track the target.
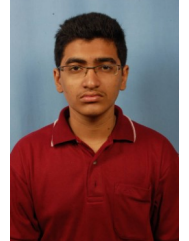
From top, Sunil Vignesh, Shivram, and Sathish

HGPU ACCELERATED RELATIONAL HASH JOIN OPERATION
Team Members: Navneet, Devarajan
Project Guide: Ms. S. Mohanavalli

The Graphics Processing Unit (GPU), popularly known to the general public as "graphics cards" have been used primarily for gaming and video rendering purposes. In recent times, they have also been identified as capable processors of general programming (database operations, clustering, etc). This has opened-up numerous avenues to utilize them as a proxy for the CPU, taking advantage of their fundamental design which promotes parallelization. Database managements systems on the other hand had become inevitable these days because of the need for efficient organization, storage and retrieval of data. These computation intensive operations take unacceptable time to complete even with modern multicore CPUs. GPU's provide a cheaper alternative to multi-core CPUs to carryout highly parallel tasks. Structured Query Language (SQL) is the query language used in almost all the modern database systems. From a simple task such as retrieving a record from a table to very complex joins and aggregations of data sets can be carried out using SQL. The database join operation is used to combine records from two different tables based on some common information. It is one of the most time consuming and data-intensive operations in relational query processing. Many different algorithms exist to carry out the join operation that have a high degree of inherent parallelism. This was the primary motivation for the project "GPU Accelerated Relational Hash Join" which seeks to parallelize an algorithm utilized for performing join operations in the database. By implementing a hash join algorithm which has been specifically tweaked for exploiting the GPU's parallel capabilities, the results shown by the GPU is promising. The new algorithm, showed upto 45x speed-up over its sequential CPU counterparts. Furthermore, the algorithm is independent of the graphics processor's version, making its performance scalable depending on the GPU being used. All the afore-mentioned aspects of the project make it a fore-runner for research on a larger scale to make it an industry-ready product owing to its proven improvements in performance and affordability.

From top: Devarajan, Navneet

AWARD WINNING... (CONTD. FROM PAGE 3)

LIVE LYRICS MUSIC PLAYER
Team Members: A.Powraj, K. V. Vivek Durai
Project Guide: Mr. K. Kabilan

Introducing a first live lyrics music player application for Android Platform. This music player fetches the lyrics of the currently playing song from internet and plays along with the music. The main functionality of the music player is when playing a song, it analyses and use the basic information of the song such as "title of the song, album name and artist name" and fetches the lyrics from web. It was designed with simple and clear user interface for easy usage. If the basic information is incorrect (usually in pirated or non-copyrighted music) the music player will display the error message "lyrics cannot be fetched". Since it is online music player it definitely needs internet connectivity for using it. This music player helps many people to understand the lyrics of the various languages.

From top: Pownraj, Vivek,

HEART RATE MONITORING AND ALERT SYSTEM
Team Members: Ajay Srrinivas K, Navin Karthik M
Project Guide: Dr. R. Srinivasan and Dr. K. Premkumar

A reliable heart rate monitoring and alert system is designed to work in an open environment. The system analyses the heart rate of the patient and ascertains the abnormal heart rate conditions, thereby determining the possibility of a heart attack. The voltage fluctuations arising due the changes in the blood flow is captured using a pulse sensor and processed using the Arduino microcontroller. The system then alerts the people in the surrounding via a buzzer and makes an automatic phone call to the number registered with the system. Noise in the system can reduce the accuracy of the system. Hence in order to improve the efficiency, the autocorrelation technique is used.

From top: Ajay Srinivas, Navin Karthik.

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad"

— Miles Kington

WORKSHOPS ATTENDED BY FACULTY

Ms. E. M. Malathy (AP/IT) attended a Workshop on "Network Simulation Tools" organized by CEG, Anna University, Chennai on 1st & 2nd March' 2013.

Ms.S.Vidhusha (AP/IT) and Ms.C.Sindhu (AP/IT) attended a Workshop on "Bio-Medical Image Processing" organized by the School of Computing Science and Engineering, VIT University, Chennai on 02.03.2013.

Mr. I. Joe Louis Paul (AP/IT) attended the One Day Workshop on "Zigbee Based Wireless Sensor Networks" conducted at VIT Chennai Campus on 13.4.2013.

Ms.N.Radha (AP/IT), Ms.R.Swathika(AP/IT), , Ms.T.Shanmugapriya(AP/IT) and Ms.C.Sindhu (AP/IT), attended a workshop on "Research Methodology and Latex " organized by Department of Mathematics, SSNCE between 19.04.2013 & 20.04.2013.

Mr.V.Arulkumar (AP/IT), attended the Two days International Workshop on "Cloud Computing and SOA Testing" organised by Department of CSE & IT at Athiparasakthi Engineering College, Melmaruvathur on 25th & 26th of April' 2013.

Mr. R. Vinob Chander (AP/IT) developed a small, open-source, social blogger. Site: http://tiblo.herokuapp.com/

Mr. C. Vinob Chander (AP/IT) attended the "Great Indian Developer Summit" – a Saltmarch Media production, IISC, Bangalore from May 07th to May 10th 2013.

Mr. V. Sivamurugan (ASP/IT) attended a workshop on "Linux Porting on OpenBoard-AM335x" organized by EasyARM Private Limited, Bangalore from 08-06-2013 to 09-06-2013.

Dr. T. Nagarajan (Prof & Head/IT) attended the TTS Consortium meeting (DeitY, MCIT) at IIT Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, delivered a talk on the Consortium effort on HMM-based speech synthesis and demonstrated the systems developed at SSNCE during 14th & 15th of June' 2013 .

Mr. V. Sivamurugan (ASP/IT), attended a workshop on "Embedded Linux Device Driver Programming", conducted by EasyARM Private Limited, Bangalore from 22-06-2013 to 23-06-2013.

Marriage is a workshop where husband works and wife shops (taken from internet)

PUBLICATIONS

Sree Sharmila T. (AP/IT), Ramar K, T. Sree Renga Raja, "Impact of applying preprocessing techniques for improving classification accuracy", Signal, Image and Video processing, Springer-Verlag London Limited, ISSN : 1863-1703, July 2013. (IF:0.56)

B. Lakshmi, R. Srinivasan (Prof./IT), "Performance analysis of dual metal gate work function in junctionless transistors", Journal of Computational and Theoretical Nanoscience, Vol.10, 1-5, 2013.

V. N. Ramakrishnan, R. Srinivasan (Prof./IT), "Effect of underlap and soft error performance in 30nm FinFET-based 6T-SRAM cells with simultaneous and independent driven gates", Journal of Computer Electronics", May 2013. DOI :10.1007/s10825-013-0460-0.

Chithra Selvaraj (AP/IT), and Sheila Anand "Outlier Detection in Reputation Management system for P2P networks using Rough Set Theory", Wiley Publications – Security and Communication Networks, 2013 DOI: 10.1002/sec.685. (IF: 0.4)

Fathima M.Nadheen, S. Poornima (AP/IT),, "Feature Level Fusion in Multimodal Biometric Authentication System", International Journal of Computer Applications (0975 – 8887), Volume 69–No.18, May 2013, ISBN: 973-93-80874-78-3. (IF 0.814).

Sree Sharmila Thangaswamy (AP/IT), Ramar Kadarkarai, Sree Renga Raja Thangaswamy, "Developing an efficient technique for satellite image denoising and resolution enhancement for improving classification accuracy", Journal of Electronic Imaging, Volume. 22, Issue.1, 2013, doi: 10.1117/1.JEI.22.1.013013. (Impact Factor: 0.694).

Prabakaran.A, Uthayan.K.R (AP/IT), "Design and Development of Ontology Based Meta Search Engine", 10th and 11th May, 2013, NCSCV 2013, Anna University, Coimbatore.

P.Balamurugan, T.Shanmugha Priya (AP/IT), "Privacy in federated identity management", 10th and 11th May 2013, NCSCV'13, Anna University Regional Centre, Coimbatore.

S. Johanan Joy Singh, G. Anushiya Rachel, P. Vijayalakshmi, T. Nagarajan (Prof. & Head / IT), "Incorporating Emotions into Neutral Speech by Modifying Glottal Closure Instants, 10th and 11th May, 2013, NCSCV 13, Anna University, Coimbatore.

M.Nanmalar, T. Nagarajan (Prof. & Head / IT), "Multilingual Speech Recognition System for Indian Languages", 10th and 11th May, 2013, NCSCV 13, Anna University, Coimbatore.

B. Anusha, T. Nagarajan (Prof. & Head / IT) ,"Prosody modeling for Tamil text-to-speech systems in FestVox framework", 10th and 11th May, 2013, NCSCV 13, Anna University, Coimbatore.

S. Magdalene Mahiba, S. Lilly Christina, P. Vijayalakshmi, T.Nagarajan (Prof. & Head / IT), "Speaker adaptation using MLLR and MAP techniques in a speech recognition system", 10th and 11th May, 2013, NCSCV 13, Anna University, Coimbatore.

B. Lakshmi, R. Srinivasan (Prof./IT), "Effect of process parameter variation on ft in n-type junctionless FETs", Journal of Computer Electronics", April 2013. DOI :10.1007/s10825-013-0455-x.

Anandha Lakshmi, V. Sivamurugan (ASP/IT),, "Software only Bus Encoding Techniques for Performance Optimization in Android Based Embedded System", 22nd April, 2013 in NCDC 2013, RMK Engineering College, Tamilnadu.

PUBLICATIONS (Contd...)

M.Fathima Nadheen,S.Poornima (AP/IT), " Fusion in Multimodal Biometric using Iris and Ear", 11th and 12th April, 2013, IEEE ICT 2013, Noorul Islam University.

Nisha.M.N, Mohanavalli.S (AP/IT), Swathika.R (AP/IT), "Development and Performance Analysis of Phoneme and CV-based Tamil Unit Selection Synthesis Systems", 11th and 12th April, 2013, IEEE ICT 2013, Noorul Islam University.

Rajeshwari.S, Sreesharmila.T (AP/IT), "Efficient qualty analysis of MRI image using Preprocessing Techniques", 11th and 12th April, 2013, IEEE ICT 2013, Noorul Islam University.

K. Menaga, T. Nagarajan (Prof. & Head / IT), "Development and Performance Analysis of Phoneme and CV-based Tamil Unit Selection Synthesis Systems", 11th - 13th April, 2013, ICCCC'13, Christian College of Engineering and Technology, Oddanchatram.

Anandha Lakshmi, V. Sivamurugan (ASP/IT),, "Software only Bus Encoding Techniques for Performance Optimization in Android Based Embedded System", 22nd April, 2013 in NCDC 2013, RMK Engineering College, Tamilnadu.

Kaushik Ra, Nijin.V., Mohanavalli.S (AP/IT), Swathika.R (AP/IT), "Automatic Short Mail Construction to Enhance Mail Storage", in the Third International conference on computer science, Engineering and Applications (ICCSEA - 2013), IEEE X'plore, Delhi.

Nisha.M.N, Mohanavalli.S (AP/IT), Swathika.R (AP/IT), "Development and Performance Analysis of Phoneme and CV-based Tamil Unit Selection Synthesis Systems", 11th and 12th April, 2013, IEEE ICT 2013, Noorul Islam University.

Rajeshwari.S, Sreesharmila.T (AP/IT), "Efficient qualty analysis of MRI image using Preprocessing Techniques", 11th and 12th April, 2013, IEEE ICT 2013, Noorul Islam University.
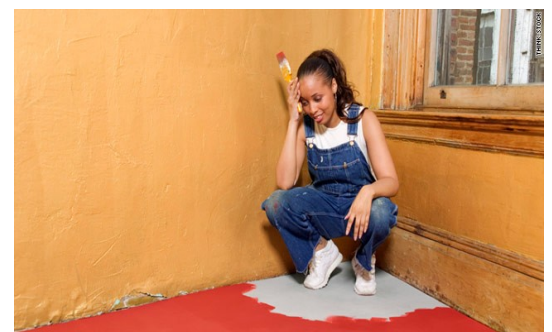
Thomas Valerrian Pasca S, Srividhya V, Premkumar K, "Energy Efficient Sleep/Wake Scheduling of Stations in Wireless Networks", 4th April, 2013, International Conference on Communication and signal processing'13, Adhiparasakthi college of Engineering.

S.Ramya, V.Thanikachalam (AP/IT), "Human Action Recognition using DWT and LBP in a Video", 4th March, 2013, NCRAIT'13, KSR College of Technology.

S.Shinly Swarna Sugi, K.K.Nagarajan, Dr.R.Srinivasan (Prof./IT), "Impact of Encroaching Length and Taper on Double Gate Tunnel FET Performance Using TCAD Simulations", IEEE - International Conference on Circuit, Power and Computing Technologies 21-22nd March 2013, . Noorul Islam Centre for Higher Education.

We never make misteaks (a self referential joke from internet)

TALKS DELIVERED BY FACULTY AT SSN

Dr. K. Premkumar, (ASP/IT) delivered a talk on "Maximum Throughput Scheduling in Multihop Radio Networks " in the Department Research Seminar on 06.07.2013.

Ms.S.Vidhusha (AP/IT) delivered a talk on "Stepping into Research on Bio-Medical Image Processing" in the Department Research Seminar on 16.03.2013.

Ms.K.Girthana (AP/IT) delivered a talk on "Personalized Concept Based Clustering of Search Engine Queries" in the Department Research Seminar on 02.03.2013.

GUEST LECTURES DELIVERED BY FACULTY AT VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Dr. T. Nagarajan, (Prof. & HOD/IT) delivered a guest lecture on "Speech signal processing" at Easwari Engineering College, Chennai on 08.03.2013.

Dr. R. Srinivasan, Prof/IT gave a talk on "Micro to Nano to TCAD" at Dept of ECE, SRM University, Chennai on 08.03.2013.

Dr. R. Srinivasan, (Prof/IT) delivered a guest lecture on "MOSFETs, FinFETs and Beyond" at Ganadipathy Tulsi's Jain Engineering College, Vellore on 14.03.2013.

Dr. A. Shahina, (Prof/IT) delivered a guest lecture titled "Neural Networks for Advanced Computing", at the National Workshop on Advanced Computing at Velammal Engineering College on 2nd May' 2013.

Ms. T. Sree Sharmila (AP/IT), was a guest speaker for the on May 20th & 21st for the following sessions in the Two weeks AICTE sponsored FDP on "Applications of Evolutionary Computing Techniques for Satellite Image Processing" during May 20 – June 02, 2013, Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi.
1. "Quality Issues in Satellite Image Processing".
2. "Hands on Sessions on Satellite Image Denoising and Enhancement".

Ms. T. Shanmugapriya (AP/IT), was an invited speaker for FDTP on Service Oriented Architecture sponsored by Centre of Faculty Development, Anna University, Chennai held at Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology on 03rd June' 2013.

Dr. T. Nagarajan (Prof. & Head) delivered a talk on the Consortium effort on HMM-based speech synthesis and demonstrated the systems developed at SSNCE during 14th & 15th of June' 2013 in IIT-Mandi.

Dr. A. Shahina, (Prof/IT) was invited as a chief guest for the inauguration of the Physical Sciences Association of JBAS college of Arts and Science on 9th July, 2013. She delivered the inaugural address titled "Musings of an Engineer: A perspective on Science and Research" to an audience of about 700 students and faculty members.

Brains stormed

R. srinivasan, Professor IT

The time: 7:55 AM
The people: Prof. Nagarajan, HOD (Nag) and Prof. Srinivasan (Srini)
The place: IT dept corridor.

Nag: Hi Srini! Shall we meet for some time in my room?
Srini: Sure! I'll come to your room shortly after giving biometric.

HOD's room – HOD is seriously thinking about something – Prof. Srinivasan enters the room

Nag: Please sit down.
Srini: Thank you.
Nag: Some thing is disturbing my mind.
Srini: What is that?
Nag: What do you think of our students?
Srini: They block the entrance when I enter the dept, especially when I am running to give my morning attendance biometric. Some student crowd will be blocking the entrance, and your existence itself is ignored. Otherwise they are very good students.
(Understanding that the HOD does not like the joke, after a pause)

Srini: What is the context?
Nag: Today morning, I had been to the canteen. Some IT dept students were having their break fast and conversation. From their conversation, I understood that the students are not happy about our dept.
Srini: That's understandable. No student is happy about his/her dept and vice versa.
Nag: No! No! It is not what I am talking. What I mean is ....You go and ask any IT student. He'll tell you that he had opted for computer science/ECE, and he could not get and finally landed up in IT. This is really disturbing me. This is the essence of canteen conversation. This disturbs me from my day one but today it is triggered again in the canteen.
Srini: Yes! It is very much true. We should change our dept name to Department of Refugees.
Nag: I am talking seriously. Do the IT dept students have identity crisis?
Srini: (to himself… So what? Can't you enjoy the joke? Shall I suggest Dept of Identity Crisis?) Oh... Yes! Shall we accept only those students who give IT as their first choice?
Nag: Why? Do you want to run the dept with ten students?
Srini: (to himself …Will the dept run? I should

> Nag: They (students) should be attracted to our dept…
> Srini: We'll hire some cheer leaders on the day of admission and they'll woo the students.

give back!) We should do something to change this scenario.
Nag: Yes! What should we do?
Srini: Shall we write about identity crisis in identity?
Nag: What? Oh…What is the use?
Srini: (to himself… This is enough!) Students should realize the importance of IT.
Nag: They should be attracted to our dept.
Srini: Do we have some dept fund?
Nag: What for...?
Srini: We'll hire some cheer leaders on the day of admission and they'll woo the students.
Nag: (sarcastically) We have two entrance. Where?
Srini: ... (after a pause) Sir, we can give advertisement in TV channels. We'll show your DSP class for some time (to himself ... he is flattered). Then it is followed by one of our final year students talking about the dept, faculty etc…
Nag: Are you OK?
Srini: Yes! I am. (very enthusiastically) If you don't like the DSP class then we can show the POC class of mine.
Nag: Are ... you OK?
Srini: Oh... you don't like the ad idea.
Nag: Hmm...
Srini: What about giving ad in identity?
Nag: Hmm...Could you please leave the identity?
Srini: (to himself… too ambiguous statement… Is he asking me to stop Identity or to leave my Identity) What shall we do?
Nag: But I do see a point in yours. We have to make this dept famous.
Srini: Sir, another brilliant idea.
Nag: Tell me.
Srini: In our college, for Instincts people call Cinema actor/actress. Shall we implement it at the dept student symposium Converita? Or every IT dept subject will have a guest lecture from a top bolly/holly/golli/tolli wood star.
Nag: ...
Srini: (to himself ... Is this also a bad idea?)
Nag: I want the IT to be students' first choice.
Srini: (to himself... If you are the HOD of History dept then you'll say History should be the first choice). Yes Sir, We have to attract students.
Srini: Shall we fix a TV in the class rooms?
Nag: What for?
Srini: Some entertainment....
Nag: They have your classes.
Srini: .....
Nag: Can you talk sensibly?
Srini: Then, how do we attract the students?
Nag: Technically we have to attract the students.

BRAINS STORMED (CONTD. FROM PAGE 8)

Srini: (to himself: All the students should wear steel cloths. Let us have a big magnet in the dept. All will be attracted towards the dept. Is it a good idea or bad idea?)Mmmm...

Nag: Let us start from the subjects they are studying.

Srini: Ok...

Nag: Let us divide the subject study into two categories (i) Teaching-learning (ii) Testing

Srini: Ok...

Nag: We have to attract students using the teaching-learning process. How do we do?

Srini: What about giving full attendance with a condition?

Nag: There could be only one condition i.e. he must attend all the hours.

Srini: Towards the semester starting we'll pass an unofficial circular. Students can get 100% attendance by paying Rs. 5 K to your bank account. We'll attract students as well as earn some money. One stone two mangoes. Going by 50% probablitiy at least 200 students will show interest in this scheme. So we earn 10 Lakhs. 50% for you, 50% for me.

Nag: Please stop it.

Srini: What about 25% to you and 25% to me; the remaining we split it into half-half.

Nag: Can you stop blabbering?

Srini: (to himself.... Am I?) Sir! We can do one more thing with respect to attendance. Full attendance can be given to all students irrespective of their attendance. There are two positive points if we implement this. One is paper saving and another is student attraction. One stone two mangoes.

Nag: One stone three mangoes.

Srini: How?

Nag: You need not go to class.

Srini: ....

Nag: Go and see the classes. As though, they are longing for full attendance. What about testing?

Srini: We have to be liberal in correction.

Nag: What are you going to say – if they attend the test give full marks.

Srini: Kind of. Logical extension of your idea. If you attend one UT then one more UT is free. What about this idea? The advantage is student attraction and reduced load to faculty. In the free time, the faculty can think about the betterment of the dept.

Nag: (to himself... He proves that he is PhD from IISc).....

Srini: Sir! You are not saying anything…

Nag: What to say...

Srini: Shall we allow mobiles in the class room?

Nag: Should we have to do that? Already they are using, taking snaps of the instructors, etc....

Srini: (to himself... I did not know that. That's why you face wash before going to class) Which class?

Nag: Why? You want to be photographed.

Srini: No...just like that.

Nag: Shall we come to the point?

Srini: Yes!

Nag: Let us concentrate on teaching. Our teaching should be unique. That itself should attract the students.

Srini: One survey tells that students cannot concentrate more than 20minutes.

Nag: Ok…

Srini: Instead of 50 minutes periods we can have twenty minutes period.

Nag: ???

Srini: What Sir!

Nag: And... the remaining 30 minutes... is free hour. Am I right?

Srini: (to himself… Is he angry? I should relax the situation) I thought you were left.

Nag: What...

Srini: (with smile) Sir! I know you like and support Karl Marx. That's why I said that you were left. But you are right.

Nag: What...

Srini: No, No...What I mean is Marx was right and you are also right.

Nag: Marx was right?

Srini: If he is not right why do you accept his principles?

Nag: No, what I mean is "he was left, not right. But he was right".

Srini: Are you right or left?

Nag: Why the hell you are confusing me.

Srini: I thought you were confusing me. Oops. No, No...Let us leave this politics. Let us come to the point.

Nag: 50 minutes period can be made to 20 minutes – This is your idea.

Srini: There are two strategies (i) Decrease the 50 minutes to 20 minutes and do not change the total number of periods per day. This will turn out to be a more successful model. (ii) Decrease the 50 minutes to 20 minutes and increase the number of hours also. In the second model we have 20 hours per day. (to himself....God should save Ms ShanmugaPriya for fraimg the time table) Is that Ok?

Nag: Let us consider the second model. Will it attract the students?

Srini: Definitely. The second model combined with the slogan "Attend one hour and get two hours attendance free" will be a big hit. Towards the end of the semester every student would have 100% attendance.

Nag: (thinking to himself....Is this guy trying to put me in soup or telling good ideas) Now you are telling good ideas.

Srini: (to himself ... Is he sarcastic?)Thank you sir! Shall we involve students to attract students?

Nag: How is that?

Srini: We'll ask management to implement biometric system for student attendance.

Nag: OK.

Srini: Then we'll give a student project on "Ethical Hacking".

Nag: OK. I'll complete the remaining story. Students'll crack the biometric attendance system. Exactly at 8 O' clock all their attendance information will be transmitted to the main server. Irrespectvive of their presence or absence all'll be marked present. Am I right?

Srini: Sir! That's what I asked some time back. You told that I was confusing.

Nag: You are getting on my nerves.

BRAINS STORMED (CONTD. FROM PAGE 8)

Srini: Yes Sir! You are right but with some appendix.

Nag: I already had appendix operated.

Srini:... We'll write a student project proposal to the management. And I am sure we'll get the funding. If you want we can implement it in the faculty attendance system also. I am sure that the other departments will also be interested in this. We can bargain a nice amount. 50%-50%.

Nag:Sriniiii...

Srini: Oh...Do you want to give the student's share to them?

Nag: Please...

Srini: I am sorry sir!

Nag: All these are Ok. But these things can always be copied by other depts. Something very unique to IT dept....

Srini: I have another idea. It may be bit nonsense.

Nag: (to himself....as though till now you were sensible) Tell me.

Srini: Sir! You know something – people go to ATM, take money and leave ATM counter. May be they take 2 minutes. This is true when no one is there in ATM. The same person if he/she finds out people in queue are waiting for him to leave then he/she takes 5 minutes.

Nag: I do agree with your point.

Srini: (to himself ... If I say 2 seconds then also you'll agree) Oh... you had also obsereved? Shall we implement it in our dept?

Nag: We have one in MBA block.

Srini: (to himself...He proves that he is PhD from IIT) Ha...Ha...Ha...Sir! You cracked a joke. Shall we take this idea?

Nag: How?

Srini: We'll write a project proposal to DST.

Nag: Wow...!

Srini: (to himself... Ha! Ha! Ha! I know your weak point) ...

Nag: Could you explain the idea of the project?

Srini: If no faculty shows up then the student will remain in the calss room for about 5-6 hours in a working day. If the faculty goes to class room then the student is reluctant to be in the class room and the time a student spends in the class room comes down to 5-6 minutes.

Nag: Especially when you go.

Srini: What?

Nag: Nothing. The other day you were complaining that the students were leaving through the other door when you entered the class room.

Srini: Yes (to himself...You'll not face that problem because students would have already gone)

Nag: Is it going to be an externally funded project or internally funded project?

Srini: Let us go to DST. If we go for internal funding then the idea might be copied by some other dept.

Nag: Ok. What is the proposal title?

Srini: "Effect of Faculty Going to Classes of IT students".

Nag: The benefit is ...

Srini: The benefits are... attracting more students to IT, bringing money to college and no faculty would go to class.

Nag: (with frightened look) What?!

Srini: For one year.

Nag: How do they study?

Srini: Sir! Have you seen 3 Idiots-Hindi movie or Friends-Tamil movie?

Nag: Yes.

Srini: What is the moral of those stories? If you want to become a good scientist then the faculty must be an idiot or he should not attend the classes. It is a very big hit. What does that tell us?

Nag: You are an idiot?

Srini: Where are the remaining two?

Nag: What?

Srini: Nothing. So...the performance of the students increases if we do not go to classes.

Nag: (to himself.... in your case it must be true) Mmm...But how do you say it is unique to IT dept. Other depts can also write such proposals.

Srini: I bet they cannot.

Nag: Why not? They can write one "Effect of Faculty Going to Classes of XYZ students".

Srini: That's the point. They cannot write it as "Effect of Faculty Going to Classes of IT students".

Nag: Murugaa!

Srini: I thought you were an atheist. How can you support Marx and still believe in Murugaa? That means you are not right when you say left. You are right when you say right.

Nag: Ok....You are right.

Srini: I am always right (to himself....What ever I got; I gave back).

Nag: ....

(The phone rings and there is going to be a HODs meeting with principal to discuss the semester results)

Nag: Ok! We'll meet afterwards.

Srini: Thank you sir!

Nag: (to himself… Shall I take it to principal today or tomorrow to warn this guy?)

Srini: (to himself....Once the proposal idea is implemented then surely he will be fired. I am the senior most in the dept and of course the next HOD!)

Srini: Sir! Have you seen 3 Idiots-Hindi movie or Friends-Tamil movie?
Nag: Yes.
Srini: What is the moral of those stories? If you want to become a good scientist then the faculty must be an idiot. ... What does that tell us?
Nag: You are an idiot?
Srini: Where are the remaining two?
Nag: What?

காசு பணம் துட்டு மணி மணி!

GAYATHRI. A, 3RD YEAR STUDENT

காசு...பணம்...துட்டு...மணி...மணி...! இது அவ்வளவு பெரிய சக்தியா?

பணம் என்பது வெறும் காகிதமே. வெறும் உலோகமே! (உலோகத்தை வைத்து பணத்தை மதிப்பிட்ட காலம் என்றோ மாறிவிட்டது. இன்று உலோகத்தையே பணத்தால் தான் மதிப்பிடுகிறோம்). அதற்கு பணம் என்கின்ற மதிப்பை தந்தவர்கள் மனிதர்களாகிய நாம்! மிருகங்கள் எதுவும் பணத்திற்காக சண்டை போடுவதில்லை! பணத்திற்காக உறவுகளையும் சக ஜீவன்களையும் மதிப்பதும் இல்லை! மனிதன் என்பவன் அடிப்படையில் மனிதனாக இருத்தல் வேண்டும்!!!

ஆனால், இன்றைய நவீன உலகில்... உண்மையில்... சொர்க்கம் போன்று தோற்றமளிக்கும் இந்த நரகத்தில்... நாம் மேலோட்டமாக மனிதன் என்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு அடிப்படையில் மிருகமாக வாழ்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கின்றோம்! பொருட்களை மதிப்பிடுவதற்காக நம்மால் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட பணம் இன்று நம்மை மதிப்பிட்டு கொண்டிருக்கின்றது! பணம் இருந்தால் போதும் வாழ்க்கையில் எதுவும் சாத்தியம் என்று பிதற்றும் நண்பர்களும் இருக்கத்தான் செய்கிறார்கள்! ஆனால் அவர்களைப் போன்றவர்கள் மாறிவிட்டாலே இந்த கூற்று கேலி கூத்தாகி விடும்.

பணம் எனும் காகிதம் எதையும் சாதிக்க இயலாது. அந்த பணத்தை உரிமை கொண்டாடும் வஞ்சகமான கபட மனித மனமே அனைத்தையும் சாதிக்கின்றது. மன்னிக்கவும், சாகடிக்கின்றது!

பணம் ஒன்றிற்காக தான் இன்று பெரும்பாலான மனிதர்கள் ஓடிக்கொண்டு இருகிறார்கள்! ஆனால் கை விட்டு கை மாறும் பணத்தை அடைய துடிக்கின்ற மனதினால் கடைசி வரை ஓடிக்கொண்டே இருக்கிறார்கள். பணம் இருந்துவிட்டால் போதுமா? அதை அனுபவிப்பதற்கான வாழ்க்கையை எங்கே சம்பாதிக்க போகிறார்கள்??? அதை செலவழிக்கவும் பயன்படுத்தவும் தேவையான தெளிவான மனதை எங்கே தேடி ஓடுவார்கள்? பணத்தை சம்பாதிக்க வேண்டும். பின்பு அதை செலவழிக்க வேண்டும். இது வாழ்க்கை அல்ல. இது தான் வாழ்க்கை என்று நினைகின்றோம் எனினும், அப்பொழுதும் நிம்மதியை இழக்கின்றோம். நிம்மதிக்காக நாம் தேடும் பணம் நம் நிம்மதியை தைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றது! உண்மைதானே? வாழ்க்கையில் ஒரு இக்கட்டான சூழ்நிலையில் பணம் தேவை

தானே என்று நாம் கேள்வி எழுப்பலாம். ஆம். நிச்சயம் அவசியம்! இந்த நிலையில் நின்று யோசிக்கையில் பணம் நம் துன்பத்தை போக்கி இன்பத்தை தரும் அமுதை போன்று தோன்றும். ஒரு மாயையை தரும்.ஆனால் இந்த இக்கட்டான சூழ்நிலைகள் வாழ்க்கையில் அவ்வபோது வந்து போகும் ஒன்றே!

மேலும் ஆழமாக யோசித்து பார்த்தால் இந்த இக்கட்டான சூழ்நிலைகளை உருவாக்குவதே நாம் தான் என்றும் இவற்றை கடக்க நாம் தேடும் அதே பணத்தின் மீதுள்ள மோகம் தான் வாழ்கையையே இக்கட்டாகிக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றது என்பது தெளிய தெரியவரும்..!நம் வாழ்வை மட்டுமின்றி சுற்றியுள்ளவர்களின் வாழ்விலும் பெரும் தாக்கத்தை உண்டாக்குகின்றது. ஏன் சுற்றத்தையும் சீரழிக்கின்றது!

உதாரணத்துக்கு இக்கட்டான சூழ்நிலை என்று நாம் நோயை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால். இந்த நோய் எங்கிருந்து வருகின்றது என்று யோசிப்போம்! மனதில் உண்டாகும் அழுத்தமே பெரும்பாலும் நோய்க்கான காரணியாக இருக்கின்றது. இந்த அழுத்தத்திற்கான அடிப்படை காரணமாக பணமே இருக்கின்றது. சுற்றுதழல் என்று எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அதுவும் பணத்தின் மீதுள்ள மோகத்தால் தான் சீரழிந்து நமையும் சீரழிக்கின்றது! அந்த மோகம் தான் நமக்கான வளங்களை சொந்தமாக்கிக்கொள்ள பாடு படுகின்றது. விளைவு - நம் வாழ்கையின் வளத்தை அழிக்கின்றது..!

பணம் என்பது மதுவைப் போன்றது! பருக பருக இன்பம் தருவது போன்று இருந்தாலும் முடிவில் நம் வாழ்வையே அழித்துவிடும்! உண்மையில் பணத்தின் மீதுள்ள போதை தான் - அதற்கு அடிமையாகும் மனம் தான் - வாழ்வை அழிக்கின்றது!

அது சரி. இந்த பணமே இல்லாமல் போனால எப்படி இருக்கும்? அழிக்கப்பட வேண்டியது பணமா? இல்லை ஒடுக்கபடவேண்டியது மனமா?

பணம்-மனம் இரண்டிற்கும் இடையில் இடைவிடாது நடக்கும் போரில் அதீத நேரங்களில் ஜெயிக்கும் பணத்தால் வாழ்வு வறண்டு கொண்டே வருகிறது. என்றைக்காவது வெற்றி பெரும் மனத்தால் வாழ்வு செழிக்கின்றது.!

முடிவு???!!!

"You are the master of your fate and captain of your soul"

No high school musical, this

ROSHNI MURALI, III YEAR IT-B

> "Do not let the society tell you who you are. You build your personality and identity, don't let others mould it. "

There are a lot of Hollywood movies based on high school life. And why high school ? Because a teenager's life has spice and everything nice. If you observe carefully , your class might resemble a stereotype high school movie.

Any classroom essentially consists of these basic characters. The bully or the *dada* of the class — his wish is everyone's command and he is the unquestioned herder of the flock of clueless, naïve sheep; the class jester — gets ridiculed for apparently no reason and he has no say in it; the nerd— spends sleepless countless hours on cracking math problems, (He has no materialistic desires in life. He lives and breathes the spirit of education. Probably, possessed by the spirit of Aryabhatta.); the dude of the class who is always surrounded by people.

And then you. You seem to fall in none of these categories. You seem to be the spectator.

No stereotyping

For all that you know, your class story might share the same story as that of a box office hit. But is it the same? In reality, each one of these characters has emotions.

The bully might have had marring experiences in his past. He would have once been picked upon, which might have developed an inferiority complex and thus dominating over a timid crowd might actually give him a confidence boost. The class jester, who is always the laughing stock and object of mockery, might actually mean nothing funny. For all that you know , he might actually want to communicate something serious.

The nerds bonded to the pen and calculator might have some long term goals that they are driven to achieve or for the love of the subject. The so called 'dude' of the class, who is supposed to have a very high 'cool' quotient, might actually not enjoy always being surrounded by people. He might actually want to enjoy some peace and solitude for once.

So never bar or limit people, by framing them within an identity of your opinion. Do not fence them and mark their territory, because when you do so, people get scared to try something new or something out of their league as it is not what others expect of them. Afraid of ridicule and gossip, they stick to the title given to them.

Do not let the society tell you who you are. You build your personality and identity, don't let others mould it. Take a brazen step to do what you desire. Live life for yourself , not the one tailored by others. As Shakespeare once said,' "A rose called by any other name , smells as sweet."

From the TeamEditorial@IT:

The general articles published in this edition represent only the views of the authors, and not that of the department.

Sincerely yours
TeamEditorial@IT

FLIGHT OF FANTASY

MAHIMA. S, 3rd YEAR STUDENT

How high it flies, the flight of fantasy!
Capturing people in the world of ecstasy!
Writers J.K.Rowling and Stephanie Meyer to mention a few,
Have flown on this, ringing in ideas exuberant and new.

Taking advantage of exciting experiences
Have created world's unimaginable sequences.
No corner of the world do the stories leave,
So fine, so perfect, the authors weave.

Slowly this flight, these ingenious filmmakers join,
Adapting fantasy novels, many tales they coin.
When the flight of fantasy reaches the clouds,
With every step, it goes out of its bounds.

Without realising, it inspires writers young,
To fetch their ticket to flight, they hung.
Making another bunch of teenagers tempted,
To taste a feeling 'out of the world', with their minds rested.

'How much better can it get?'-Ask many who weep
Only when a sequel releases, do their answers reap.
However others exist who without going on this flight,
Attempt to challenge its power and might.

Yes, I was, of those challenges, one;
Supporting unworthy bits of literature, until this flight had come.
It took soul first, then my whole self,
Making me realize I need to stock my bookshelf!

CONTEMPLATIONS

AARTHI. S, 3rd YEAR STUDENT

As the years keep passing by
My fluctuating thoughts, continue to die,
Own desires seem hard to be suppressed
But my parents have to be impressed
This or that where to go
A friend or a disguised foe?

Pitch-forks in pathways,
Sleepless nights, endless days
My parents' dreams- CAT, GATE, GRE
Yet I know if I do thee
Lot of people I would surely please
Or should I heartily let my feet glide,
And leave the desires aside?

Can I take a brave chance?
And follow my passionate dance?
This or that where to go?
Contemplations, deathly slow
Like a creeper growing day by day,
My thoughts all the more, continue to stray

My peers seem to know the way,
It's only I who is confused till today!
I go out looking for advice,
But they never seem to suffice
The question still rings in my mind
Holding my heart and feet behind

This or that where to go, till now
The answer never seems to show!!!

"If you never try, you will never know"

THE 'STRAY' AND THE HERD

A. SHAHINA, PROFESSOR IT

A response to 'Academic Herd' (by Roshni Murali, Identity, vol. 1, Issue 1, Jan-Mar.2013)

This is partly fiction. Any resemblance to any character in real life may not be purely coincidental.

Prof. Arputha Kuzhanthaisamy walked into the classroom. He nodded at the students, and started taking attendance (he'd call out '1', '2', '3' with a 'military' gruffness – of course, the students loved to respond in kind, they'll shoot up from their seats, say 'yes Sir' just like soldiers, minus thumping their boots-they humored him). Prof. Kuzhanthai began to teach. Karthick, sitting in the fourth row was looking at the professor and the board with all attention. And so were Pradeep, Rochit and Prakash. Some others in the class were attentive too, including Tanmay, a tall, lanky guy sitting in the last bench (we'll discuss him later). Now, Prof. Kuzhanthai was pleased. He thought "Ah! a bunch of good boys/girls they are. They love my class (!!!) ". He happily turned to the board to write. That's when these four 'attentive' students shifted focus by 90°. Their eyes shot down to their mobiles, which was so far lying immobile in their hands. Karthick texted "I thought this Kuzhanthai specimen was on leave today." And, immediately looked up the board in time to see Prof. Kuzhanthai turn and smile at his attentiveness. (He was multi-tasking. Which better place to practice the theory learnt in Operating System!) Pradeep responded "We'll manage, ra." Karthick: " Jokes?". Pradeep: "Send " And so it began.

Did you hear oxygen and magnesium got together? OMg!

Q:"What is common between JESUS, KRISHNA , RAM, GANDHI and BUDHA?"
A: "All are born on government holidays…!!!

Q: What part of a car causes the most accidents?
A: The nut behind the wheel!!

Rochit smiled. He'd seen Kuzhanthai behind the wheels that morning.

Q: Why is Facebook like Jail?
A: You have a profile picture, you sit around all day writing on walls, and you get poked by guys you don't really know!

Q: What happened to the plant in math class?
A: It grew square roots.

Hey Google, why don`t you sit next to me during my exam?

Pradeep:" Kadi, but preferable to Kuzhanthai's banal muttering. Can do better?" So, 'better' was exchanged. Classes passed by, semesters flew. Of course, there were exams in between. But, who cares. Neighborhood saviors (read 'authors') are always there to help you pole-vault over your exams.

Then, 7th semester happened. Big companies were coming to recruit prospective candidates. Popular universities abroad were beckoning students. Application forms needed to be filled, interviews to be attended. Karthick panicked. "Oh boy! Here, come the questions!"

How would you define your subject? (uh?)

What are the most important current developments in your subject? (now, when did that happen?)

What work experience do you have in applying theoretical concepts and what did you learn from it? (honestly, I didn't even work to move my coffee cup to the sink, but, hey, I learnt effective multi-tasking!)

Rochit ended up being picked up by a popular company, along with 300 others. Karthick was finally selected in an off-campus interview. Pradeep was desperately trying to avoid a follow-on in the final semester, with 2 more arrears to go. Later, he left for a little known university abroad to pursue a graduate course, leaving behind a huge hole in his father's pocket. Prakash was still wading knee-deep …

Tanmay's is a different story. A bespectacled guy, he smiled at his classmates, went out with his friends, and had fun. And amidst all this, his academic focus never wavered. He pursued his goal. Diligence was his mantra. Tanmay was to his professors, what Arjuna was to Dhronacharya. In the middle of the fourth semester, he baffled his computer architecture professor in class by saying "Sir, I have completed Hamacher (the prescribed textbook). Could you please suggest a good book for further reading?"
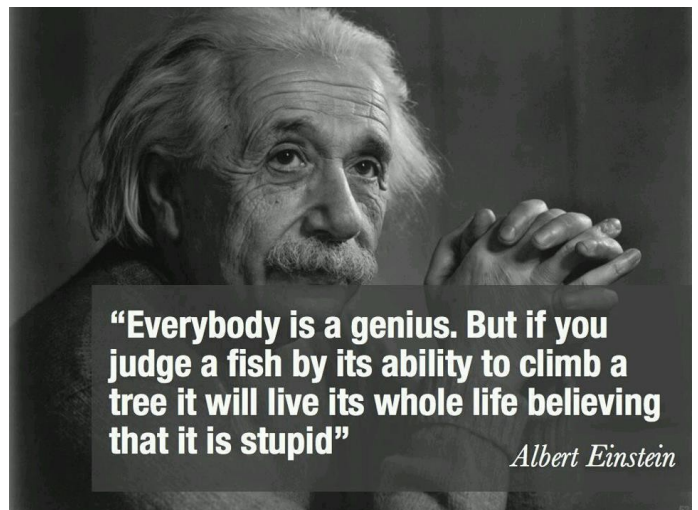
?" (In response, a few of his classmates said "Sir, can you please throw this guy out of the class. He's too much to handle"). At the end of that semester, Tanmay had got a two month summer internship in a small, start-up company focusing on computer architecture. His work won him accolades from the company. He returned back. Later in the next semester, a university in Seoul had offered to sponsor his stay for six months. He grabbed that opportunity to advance his knowledge. He kept reporting to his professor periodically from there. A few months later, the professor received a mail from Seoul. Tanmay had written, "Sir, this is a draft of my project proposal, which I would like to send to CMU for a sponsorship that they are offering. If you can please suggest improvements to my draft, I would be able to enter CMU …"

Today, Tanmay has got a sponsorship to pursue his chosen graduate program in one of the best universities in the world.

Are you a 'stray' or are you one among the herd in the academic world? - Either ways, it's the consequence of your choice/s.

> **"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution;**
> **it represents the wise choice of many alternatives –**
> **Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice."**
> **- Aristotle**

Hard work beats talent,
when talent doesn't work hard

-Kevin Durant

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid"

Albert Einstein

CHANGE YOUR DESTINY!

SANJANA.P, 3RD YEAR STUDENT

This is the story of a Japanese Samurai Warlord, who achieved great success through determination. Compared to the enemies, the number of his army was very less. He knew that his soldiers were also aware of it. However, he was not depressed and he decided to attack the enemy. He ordered the army to prepare for the battle.

The soldiers were ready even to die for their leader. Hence, they immediately began the preparation. But they were not so energetic and enthusiastic as they used to be. They had realised that they were very few in number and the enemy would mercilessly kill them.

It was the morning of the battle and the Warlord took his men to the temple for prayers. After spending a few minutes in quiet prayer, he took out a coin and said, "I shall now toss this coin, it is heads, we shall win. If it is tails we shall lose. We shall know what our fate is."

The Warlord flipped the coin in air and when it landed it was heads. For a moment there was absolute silence. Then the men made loud noise in great excitement. They know it was their destiny to win. They were enriched with new vigour and enthusiasm. With the swords, they ran to the enemy camp and attacked them from all the sides. The enemy soldiers failed to put up a brave fight and surrendered soon.
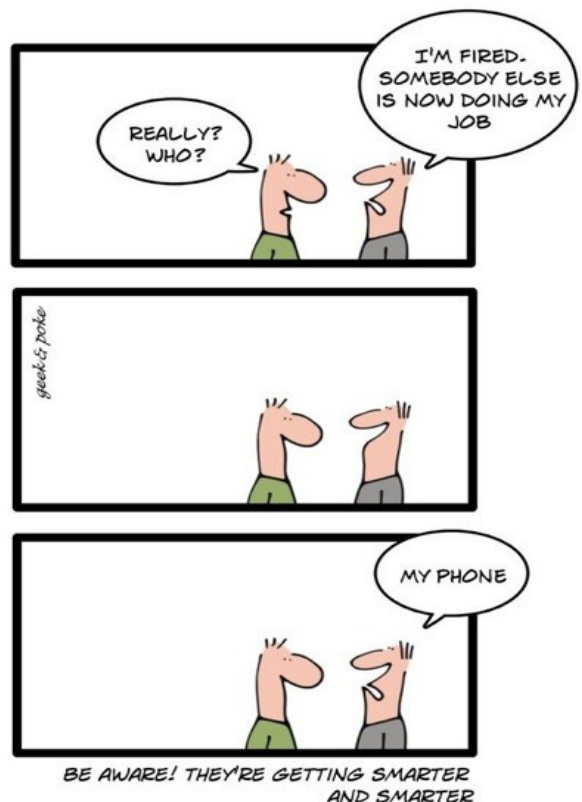
Immediately, the Warlord and his men began the victory celebration. As they were celebrating, one of them said, "Well no one can change our destiny."

The Warlord had a hearty laughter. Then he showed them the coin he had used there in the temple. It had heads on both the sides. All appreciated the intelligent approach of the master.

The way to change the world is not to work upon the world but to start working and introducing changes in you.

WHO'S SMARTER??

"If you want something in your life that you have never had, you will have to do something that you have never done"

ATTACK!!!

AARTHI.S, 3RD YEAR STUDENT

Arnold Schwarzenegger, George Bush, Bill Clinton.....

If you thought these were the names of people who made it big in their own fields, well think again-these are names of computer viruses too!

Adam and Eve: Takes a couple of bytes out of your Apple

Arnold Schwarzenegger: Terminates and stays resident. It'll be back

Bill Clinton: Promises to give equal time to all processes: 50% to poor, slow processes; 50% to middle-class processes, and 50% to rich ones. This virus protests your computer's involvement in other computer's affairs, even though it has been having one of its own for 12 years! This virus mutates from region to region and we are not exactly sure what it does.

Elvis: Your computer gets fat, slow and lazy and then self-destructs, only to resurface at shopping malls and service stations across rural America

George Bush: Doesn't do anything, but you can't get rid of it until November

Anita Hill: Lies dormant for 10 years.

Jerry Brown: Blanks your screen and begins flashing an 800 number

David Duke: Makes your screen go completely white

Dan Quayle: Simplye addse ane ee toe everye worde youe typee

Congressional: The computer locks up, screen splits erratically, with a message appearing on each half blaming the other side of the problem. [Well, the name says it all]

Airline: You are in Dallas, but your data is in Singapore

Freudian: Your computer becomes obsessed with marrying its own motherboard

Dear Receiver

You have just received an Irish virus.
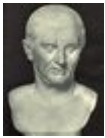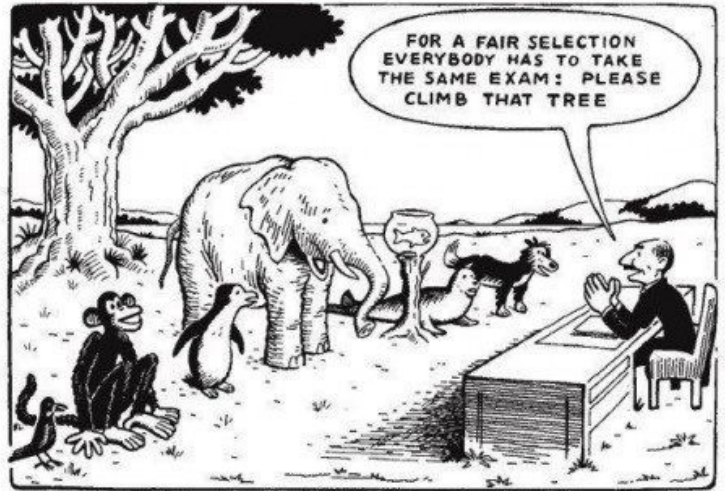Since we are not so technologically advanced in Ireland,
This is MANUAL virus.
Please delete all the files on your hard disk yourself
and send this mail to everyone you know.

That'd be grand.

Tanx
Paddy O'Hacker at **paddy@bejaisus.com**

"The best motivation comes from within"

PAUSE & PONDER

"Knowledge which is divorced from justice may be called cunning rather than wisdom."
— Marcus Tullius Cicero

"In case of dissension, never dare to judge till you've heard the other side."
— Euripides, *The Children of Herakles*

"It's not unpatriotic to denounce an injustice committed on our behalf, perhaps it's the most patriotic thing we can do."
— E.A. Bucchianeri

"Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:

- I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
- I shall fear only God.
- I shall not bear ill will toward anyone.
- I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
- I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering."
— Mahatma Gandhi

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."
— Benjamin Franklin

"If programmers deserve to be rewarded for creating innovative programs, by the same token they deserve to be punished if they restrict the use of these programs."

Richard Stallman

Team effort can move mountains

INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD STALLMAN, Founder, FSF

K. NIKIL BHARADWAJ, 3rd YEAR STUDENT

One of the founding fathers of 'free software' and an esteemed elder of the hacking community, Richard Stallman has made defending people's freedom his life's work. That usually means supplying hackers with software and attacking copyright law. But as he tells us, his advocacy of personal freedoms extends to the protection of true democracy and of the human rights increasingly being violated.

♦ Is it true you used to live in your office?
⇒ Yes it is. I lived there for half of the 1980s and most of the 1990s.

♦ What made you do that?
⇒ It was convenient and cheap. To walk home to another place when i was sleepy was a very bad thing: First of all, if I was sleepy, it might take a couple of hours before I could get it together to put on my coat and my shoes and so on. And after that, walking home would wake me up, so when I get home I wouldn't go to sleep either. It was so much better to just be able to go to sleep where I was.

♦ What does 'hacker' mean to you?

⇒ A hacker is someone who enjoys playful cleverness. I know many people think it means a security breaker but since "hacker" is what we call ourselves in my community, I won't accept a derogatory meaning. If you want to refer to security breakers you should call them "crackers". You can be a hacker in a lot of different media, id doesn't have to be with computers. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology there's an old tradition in which people "hack" buildings and public spaces. By putting up the famous "Nerd Crossing" road sign, for example. It didn't involve breaking any security and it was playful and clever.

♦ On playfulness, when did you start saying happy hacking as an alternative to goodbye?
⇒ At some point in the 1970s, I wanted some way to say goodbye and give good wishes to other hackers and "happy hacking" seemed like a good way to do it. It became a habit.

♦ When did you make the leap from hacker to activist?
⇒ It happened in 1983 when I started the free software movement. I came to the conclusion that free software was the only way a computer user could have freedom, so I launched a movement to bring this about.

"The secret of success lies in liking what you have to do and not in doing