What A Participant Has To Say
Sanjana Bhave, SYBMM, Sophia College

Having participated in a lot of the fest’s events, Sanjana believes that what sets Malhar apart is its ability to bring tremendous amounts of talent together. Why does she do it every year? “Meeting people with different perspectives, having the opportunity to display your talent, getting assessed by eminent judges and knowing where you stand.” is her reason for participation. But what keeps her coming back is that Malhar gets more interesting, bigger and innovative every year. “Malhar sets the bar a little bit higher every single time,” she smiles.

Well, that’s not quite it. At Xavier’s, August means - you guessed it - Malhar. Love it or hate it, you can’t ignore it, and with the entire college having successfully hosted one of the most popular fests in the city, The XPRESS explored this multi-faceted event from the perspectives of a relatable few, who have been involved with Malhar, either directly or indirectly, through the years.

What The Workforce Has To Say
Sharvari Joshi, OG Raga

Malhar has been an integral part of Sharvari’s college experience, having done it during all three years she was at Xavier’s. When asked why she does Malhar, Sharvari tells us of her learning experience as OG for two years, that was not limited to practical skills, but extended to time management and organization. “I learnt to believe in myself and my capabilities. I also gained a lot of self-confidence.” she adds. Crediting Malhar with making her college experience unforgettable, she says she wouldn’t know what else to do in June, July and August.

What The (Non-Workforce Member) Xavierite Has To Say
Joyna Michyari, TYBMM

Malhar has always been a surreal, wholesome experience for Joyna. Though she has never participated in it, Joyna has returned all three years to attend Malhar, saying, “It always lives up to the hype it creates, with something on the table for everyone. I’ve observed remarkable changes, like the brilliant Conclave line up that has steadily improved over the last three years, new Western dances and increasingly high competitive levels. She does feel that some aspects such as crowd management, however, need improvement.

(Continued on page 3)
DELHI TO GLASGOW

Delhi, October-2010 - Australia led the medal tally with host nation India in at second place for the first time in history. Fast forward to 2014 - Glasgow, Scotland - where the XX Commonwealth Games saw England displace Australia to lead the medal tally with 165, with India falling to 5th place. The Games saw a grand total of 261 events contested within 18 sporting categories, with the likes of Para-track cycling held for the very first time. Tennis and archery were usurped by the triathlon, and mountain biking was included after missing out in Delhi. Like their previous editions, these Games also had their fair share of controversy, with Usain Bolt allegedly passing derogatory remarks on his Glaswegian experience, saying further that he was ‘not really’ having fun in Scotland. Like the FIFA World Cup, arguments were raised regarding the purpose of these Games, with some claiming that they might be on the verge of losing their relevance. In national news, Dipika Pallikal and Joshana Chinappa created history for India by winning our first ever gold medal in squash, but on the other hand gold eluded the Indian boxers who had to be content with silver. Can India come back to the higher end of the table in Australia? We’ll find out in 2018!

-Stuti Trivedi

WHAT NOT TO DO AT YOUR PLACEMENT INTERVIEW

With McKinsey, Bain and other prospective employers arriving on campus, TYs are spotted feverishly typing out CVs, buying formal clothes and eating Dabur Chyawanprash. Here’s what you shouldn’t do at your job interview.

1) **Don’t use a fake accent**: No, you don’t sound British or American, merely artificial. Be yourself.

2) **Don’t lie**: Saying you topped FY when they can view your original transcripts and see that 2.58 GPA is not clever. Nor is saying you volunteer at a centre for thalassemic patients, especially if you don’t know what thalassemia is. Tell the truth, it shall set you free get you employed.

3) **Don’t name-drop**: They don’t care if your mother is the CEO of a multinational company. You’re applying for the job, not her.

4) **Don’t move excessively**: Waving, wriggling and fidgeting uncomfortably are frowned upon. You’re applying to be a consultant, not a contortionist.

5) **Don’t quote a salary**: You aren’t in a position to call the shots. Demanding 5 lakhs per annum, plus health insurance and three days off a week to bond with your dog won’t turn out well.

6) **Don’t go unprepared**: Telling a bank you’ll be a great asset to their fashion designing department is a rookie mistake. Look up the company’s profile beforehand.

7) **Don’t forget to take a copy of The XPress**: They’ll be impressed you’re in touch with current affairs. Or at any rate, happy that you can read.

-Raadhika Vishvesh
A DAY TO REMEMBER

With an unprecedented turnout, flawless management by the organisers and forums that left everyone inspired, Conclave 2014 was a resounding success. OG Meghana believes that the lack of stereotypical content is a reflection of having a different organising team every year. “It leaves less room to say, ‘Oh, that’s how we’ve always done it’”, she says. The captivating ‘Reverberations of Counter-Culture’ sessions were testimony to this: with Pramada Menon, a refreshingly honest stand-up comedian, Rahul Ram holding an enlightening musical interaction on protest songs, and the mesmerizing Parnab Mukherjee, with an experimental theatre performance inspired by Hamlet. A panel discussion on the ‘Invisibility of Caste’ saw a disruption where Sheetal Sathe, a singer and activist scheduled, was threatened by the Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad should she participate. She withdrew for fear of the disruption that St. Xavier’s College would face. Mr. Anand Patwardhan issued a statement on her behalf. There was tremendous support for the cause at the discussion. The much awaited keynote speakers, Dr. Raghuram Rajan and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, were outstanding. Dr. Rajan not only lucidly described the functioning of world economies, but remarked on the importance of new skills and choosing careers you enjoy. But the most heartwarming of all sessions was that of Justice Leila Seth in an intimate discussion with Anuradha Sengupta, who regaled us with her experiences, displayed inspiring courage and wisdom. She summed up the premise of Conclave when she said: “The most important post in the country is that of a good citizen.” All in all, Conclave 2014 was a phenomenal experience.

-Rashi Pant
SEEDS OF INNOVATION

Do you have really great ideas that could change a life or two? Do you aspire to be the next Steve Jobs? If your answer is yes, then you are, in fact, a budding entrepreneur. The Innovation Hub (iHub), set up by the Student Union Council, is just the place for you.

The iHub is a forum that hopes to help entrepreneurs find their feet. It looks to provide students with the resources they need to formulate ideas and provide them with the necessary mentorship and personnel to bring these ideas to fruition. The aim is to create a dynamic entrepreneurial culture on campus and fulfil their mantra of ‘Ideate. Innovate. Incubate.’

iHub plans to start with an inaugural competition post Malhar, followed by stimulating talks, panel discussions and workshops conducted by eminent entrepreneurs and pioneers. Themes for workshops will range from idea generation, business plan formulation, funding and finances, effective use of social media, creativity, problem solving and leadership. And for those with a competitive streak, there are many simulation competitions to look forward to under this banner. So if you think you're creative and innovative, you know where to go.

- Krupa Joseph

A BLOODY GOOD JOB

The 6th of August saw the most successful Blood Drive organized by the SSL, breaking all past records. Four hundred students poured into the Hall to donate a pint each (each helps save three lives!) and The Mahatma Gandhi Seva Mandir Blood Bank drove away happily with more blood to add to their inventory; which will collectively help improve the lives of several thalassemic children.

Volunteers at the drive, proud Secretaries Deepti Anand and Shubham Sanap, as well as the donors, deserve a pat on the back for their dedication and commitment to the cause.

The SSL put up a unique Exhibition along with the drive, depicting via photographs, the SSL and its social projects from 1989 through the ages. Assistant General Secretary, Malvika Char’s favourite photograph is one of two children chasing each other in BPT gardens, taken during Project Care. “They’re running like mad, but the photo is surprisingly not blurry…it’s beautiful.” she said. Look out for the SSL’s second blood drive early next year and their upcoming Green Campus Initiative project, GI JOE.

- Ishika Ramakrishna
ON MATTERS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE

While a summer abroad is just the right amount of time to get over a culture shock, a year abroad requires you to act as a denizen of your host nation. My year in Spain, with its classes in culture and literature and its conversations over tapas, gave me the deluded sense of being a Madrileño for a year.

From my interactions with exchange students across different schools, however, I am a little jealous of how far removed their experiences were from their expectations. Berkeley students were taken on a midnight homeless tour by Professor Agnelo Menezes, after which they left for Goa. On the other hand, one French exchange student seemed to be irritated by how he was expected to voice his opinions in Xavier’s, au contraire to Science Po, where large lecture halls are filled with students hoping to passively absorb nuggets from their professors.

Exchange programs are survival camps in many ways. India can be brutal in its lack of personal space and obsession with foreigners but simultaneously, it can be engaging in its contradictions, illustrated by how Hugo Prost from Science Po is called ‘Hugh-esh’ or ‘Hugh-vinder’.

-Ashwin Chandrasekhar

THE WOES OF AN OUTSTATION STUDENT

Being an outstation student implies a way of living and letting live, and its own set of troubles and pleasures. We come to Bombay with our expectations of what it’ll be like, how we’ll deal with it- thinking we’re Ranchoddas Chanchad. It’s inevitable to trip up, whether while connecting with people, or making utter fools of ourselves while navigating the local trains (I once switched train lines thrice while attempting to get to Dadar).

It doesn’t end there. The language remains a problem. Forget ‘manageable Marathi’, the regressive lifestyle that results from a reluctance with Hindi can be profoundly morbid. A particular sample: A friend of mine neglected to ride in a series of taxi-cabs when he thought he was insulted by the drivers. As it turns out, the word he was offended by was 'Baitho'. He just didn’t know what it meant. The toughest of loves, bro, is Hindi.

Hostel life is where the outstation experience becomes an anthropological diaspora, acting like a melting-pot. Any momentary glimpse into the intricacies of a boy’s hostel would draw many a question: Why do hostel-boys seem to avoid mess-timings? What are they doing inside that one room? Why do all the law students touch that one dude’s feet? And call him bhaiyya?

We’re disappointed in many ways, but rewarded. Change is the great constant, and we are, eventually, eased or bullied into it.

-Rishi Thomas
The Gaza strip, at the centre of an age-old territorial conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians, has been making headlines in the political arena after a brief lull. The Hamas is an Islamic political organisation which was founded in 1987, in the wake of the first ‘intifada’ (uprising), that’s considered to be a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States of America and the European Union. Israel had a strong military presence in Gaza until 2005, when it unilaterally withdrew, paving the way for Hamas to gain control.

The fresh outbreak of violence and bloodshed was a consequence of the murder of three Israeli students in Palestinian territory. Blaming Hamas for the murders, Israel bombed Hamas targets in Gaza. Palestinian militants launched retaliatory attacks. Israel is adamant on destroying the complex tunnel network connecting it to Gaza, which it sees as a serious security threat.

The Hamas, on the other hand, see Israel’s economic blockade of the region as an act of ‘neo-imperialism’. Civilians have been caught in this crossfire with casualties rising at an alarming rate. Israel has blamed Hamas for using innocent children and women as human shields, an argument that was furthered through NDTV footage of Gazans launching Qassam rockets from heavily populated residential areas.

Israel's invasionist settlement policy and their sheer arrogance in terms of controlling the Gazans' right to resources is an irrational policy on their part that does not find support in the spectrum of the nations of the world and hence, the conflict goes on, as it always has, with both sides willing to concede too little to make considerable headway towards peace.

-Aathira Konikkara

TOWARDS A CLEANER TOMORROW

As per a recent UN survey in India, more Indians have access to a mobile phone than to a toilet, a pitiable condition indeed. Narendra Modi’s Swach Bharat campaign is a unique vision to free India from open defecation by setting up modern sewage systems and building over 800 million toilets by 2019.

As commuters of local trains and pedestrians of Mumbai’s streets, we daily observe the horrendous state of our infrastructure caused by open defecation, despite it being declared a punishable offence. Under such circumstances the Swach Bharat campaign offers a ray of hope.

But what about its economic viability? The initiative overlaps with several of its kind, causing doubts to arise about the allocation of funds to similar schemes. Investment has to be made attractive to the private sector. An appropriate participative business model that could deliver profitable solutions and meet the need must be devised. Public private partnerships and NGO involvement could be encouraged by providing simple incentives, like, a hoarding over each toilet block with an advertisement of the sponsoring company. If properly implemented, the scheme could ameliorate sanitation conditions and further provide employment to unemployed Indians as security and maintenance staff, thus giving them a subsistence wage.

Swach Bharat is a laudable and ambitious initiative. Its implementation, however, shall reveal if it will forever remain merely a utopian fantasy.

-Jheel Gada
Ever wanted to relax over a book, coffee and munchies, but rude waiters and restaurant managers make you vacate your table? If you need a quiet place for a book and bite, here’s what we recommend:

1) **The Teapot Café**: Get the feel of a friendly living room (complete with UNO cards) at this inexpensive little café in Fort. Nothing’s better than a book, some bruschetta, and a nice sofa to relax on.

2) **The Pantry**: This charming little hole in the wall place in Kala Ghoda is perfect for a rainy day, a hot meal (only seasonal and organic cuisine is served here) and a good book.

3) **Food for Thought**: This clever café sits within the Kitab Khana book store at Fort, and they make a great hot chocolate too. Food and literature juxtaposed beautifully. What more could one ask for?

4) **Bay View Café**: Head to the terrace of the Strand Hotel at Colaba and you’ll come across this café with a stunning view of the Arabian Sea, which you can always pause your deeds to gaze poetically at.

5) **Kala Ghoda Café**: The stylish essence of SoBo décor, accompanied by some of the best waffles, in the city makes for a combination that’s hard to beat.

-Malvika Patil
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Warren Buffett invested at the age of 11 and he says he was late! Where do we stand then? I believe that money in the cupboard does no good. Trying to save little everyday and INVEST that amount is the right way to go ahead.

-Manan Vora, TY BFM, Mithibai College

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