As the academic year draws to a close, we interviewed some of the outgoing batch of TYs, asking them about the things they wish they’d done differently in college and what Xavier’s has taught them, so that they may provide words of wisdom to their juniors. Here’s what they had to say:

**Tarana Rao, TYBA**

“Is this an interview? Do it nicely. You can’t misquote, remove the fun parts or laugh at me”, says the vivacious erstwhile OC Marketing, stating her terms and conditions. Tarana says she loved doing college fests and learning from numerous social experiences. When asked what other things she wishes she’d done, she says, “I wish I’d issued at least one book from the library, I’ve never used it except to photocopy notes before the CIAs and there is so much amazing material there. I also wish I’d visited the Heras Institute once, I’m going to tomorrow. Oh and eaten a sandwich from the moustachioed outside sandwich man’s stall, the one that’s gone. I used to feel bad that he wasn’t as popular as the other one. But what I’m really glad about is that I never had compulsory PT in my JC days, like the kids do now, I’d have failed for sure”. She wraps up with a brisk “Are we done? Because The Vampire Diaries is starting in two minutes, I’ve got to run.”

**Simiran Lalvani, TYBA**

The confident, outspoken soon to be Eco-Socio graduate is all smiles when she recollects her favourite college memories. “Sociology classes in the first quad for sure,” she says. “And I’m really going to miss the lending library”. When asked what she wishes she’d done differently, she says, “I wish I’d attended more Eco Circle discussion group sessions, the ones I went to were fun. I also wish I had worn more sarees and had done something meaningful, like start a Gender Club in college”. Her advice to her juniors? “Three years is a short time, wear more ridiculous clothes.”

**Elizabeth Philip, TYBMS**

A student who’s been here since JC, Elizabeth shares her thoughts. “I regret not doing Malhar in my final year of college, and not participating in Ithaka, the thought of the auditions scared me”, she confesses. “I wish I’d made more of an effort to befriend my classmates, whom I didn’t get to know till our industrial visit. I now realize that I couldn’t ask for a more amazing class. I wish I’d had the courage to make conversation with interesting people I’ve admired from a distance”. Any advice for the future TYs? “I’ve learnt that nothing goes according to plan”, she says. “I thought I had my future all laid out, but this wasn’t true. And in the face of failure, there’s always a glimmer of hope. I’ve also become more self-aware and developed a useful skill set in college, I hope that’s something everyone acquires from Xavier’s.”

**Shashwat Mairal, TYBMS**

This calm, kind BMS boy is everybody’s favourite and was only too glad to help us out. “Something I regret not doing is missing Ithaka auditions and not participating in the fest till my TY. But I have no other regrets as such, everything I did was a learning experience.” What has Xavier’s taught him over the last three years? “Duniya gol hai”, he smiles. “People are of all hues and types but you need to work with them and accept them for who they are. And be yourself, stay true to who you really are”.

(Continued on page 3)
A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN XPRESS EDITOR

As the last issue of The XPress for the academic year is published, we take a look at the work that goes into creating it by examining a day in the life of its Editor in Chief.

8:03 am: You wake up late for college because you've been up all night making spreadsheets and assigning articles to your fellow writers and editors, hoping they'll come in on time this time (please guys).

8:45 am: You arrive in college to see the foyer XPress news rack, the apple of your eye, is filled with charts, notices and assorted, non XPress debris. You curse the litterers as you clean it, emerging dusty, dirty and five minutes late for your next lecture.

10:45 am: A Xavierite you've never spoken to in your life comes up to you in the foyer and says, "Iss mahine, humko bhi XPress mein dalna. Photo ke saath." You smile weakly and run away to get coffee.

11:20 am: You have a meeting with the staff where you assure Ashma ma'am that the 'work' (whatever that is) is going splendidly and the new issue will be out 'soon' (whenever that is).

1:30 pm: You rush home post college to start on the tons of editing work that you have... only to find that your internet connection has failed you in your hour of need. Again.

4:00 pm: Five angry calls to MTNL and six bitten nails later, you head to Starbucks to use their wifi. Because you can't expect your colleagues to follow deadlines if you don't yourself, can you?

9:45 pm: Three overpriced, overlarge coffees later, you arrive home. Your parents scold you for coming home late, for drinking too much coffee, for taking on too much extra-curricular work and for not studying enough. You pick moodily at your daal chaawal, your mind on fonts and proofreading.

10:20 pm: Your writer calls you. She won't be able to do her articles this month as she'll be out of town. No, she won't have internet access there. No, she can't write it before she leaves, she has to pack. When will she be back? Silence. Beep. She hangs up. You wearily begin writing her article as well.

11:40 pm: Every chief editor's worst nightmare. A call from a fellow editor saying, "My InDesign trial expired, Raadhika." You begin layouts.

1:00 am: You wrestle with illegal files from Sweden, Adobe and irregular margins, curse your work and your life, and fall asleep with your laptop on your tummy.

7:30 am: You are awoken by a screaming parent who lectures you on the risks of radiation and tells you to get up and get out of the house, or get late again. Hey, that seems familiar.

- Raadhika Vishvesh

But all our exaggerated troubles aside, we would be ingrates if we didn't thank Fr. Frazer, Ashma Ma'am, our writers (you're the best), our readers and all of the people we have nagged, cajoled and convinced to contribute to the paper over the course of the year- the staff, students, guest writers and everyone else. We hope you enjoyed reading The XPress, we've definitely loved creating it every month for you.

Signing off.
The XPress Editorial Team

THE XPRESS TEAM

Editor in Chief: Raadhika Vishvesh (TYBA)
Editors: Rashi Pant (TYBSc.), Ashwin Chandrasekhar (TYBA), Adityesh Mitra (SYBSc.), Stuti Trivedi (TYBA)
Writers: Sroojana Iyer (SYBMM), Jheel Gada (SYBA), Malvika Patil (SYBA), Aathira Konikkara (SYBA), Nikita Mujumdar (SYJC), Krupa Joseph (TYBA), Ishika Ramakrishna (TYBSc.)
Photographers: Gauri Nair (TYBA), Aishwarya Nair (TYBSc.IT)
Pranav Kuttaiah, TYBMM

“My favourite college memory is the first time I walked into the quad. It was for the entrance exam, and I’d just come to Bombay for a day. I had no idea what I was doing with my life, but experiencing the atmosphere made me feel like I only wanted to study here”. When asked what he’s going to miss, he says, “The chapel, the library, cups of chai in the foyer - and the people whom I spent those times with. To choose just one would be an injustice”. As for things he wishes he’d done differently, he promptly replies, “I wish I’d never tasted the chicken wings at the Chinese counter. I wish I’d done more things in FY and not been afraid to step outside my comfort zone.” He says “College has been an amazingly enriching experience. As for the juniors, I hope they make mistakes and learn from them. I wish that Xavier’s becomes a more political campus. We have a highly apolitical student body. We should be more active and aware of the implications of our politics (or lack thereof) in all our choices. I hope our juniors become more aware and vocal than we seniors were”.

Munawwar Ali, TYBSc.

The 3.8 GPA holding hostelite when asked about his regrets, said “I wish I’d done more workshops in college. Perhaps even participated in the Malhar contingent instead of workforce.” Having volunteered for Janfest for three years, he regrets not doing Paradigm, and not holding a position of responsibility in the IMG. “I also got too wrapped up in work and lost track of people whom I could have known much better.” He also wishes he had gotten a library card made. “If I had, I’d have been motivated to read more.” As an outstation student from Dubai, he says Xavier’s has taught him to be street smart, live on his own in the hostel and manage his finances. His advice to juniors: “Don’t assume you have to do a set list of things to succeed, do things you enjoy. You’ll ruin the beauty of the experiences if you just want it on your CV. Also, get to know the XEROX walas and foyer vendors, they are the sweetest people in college.”

Nivedita Raut, TYBSc.

A double graduate in Life Sciences and Chemistry, Nivedita extended her stay at Xavier’s to 6 years, including junior college. When asked what she regrets not doing, she states “Refer to my college bucket list.” (The list is a little too long and interesting, readers are welcome to approach Nivi). She is also yet to see a day when everybody keeps their plates back after eating and “the foyer is as clean as a whistle.” This is a humble request from all of us: make her dream come true. So, what did Xavier’s give Nivi? “Half the t-shirts I own.” She adds, “On a more serious note, it’s given me self-confidence, knowing that you belong here does good things for your self esteem.” She advises her juniors to make as many memories as they can. She follows up this beautifully open ended statement with, “It doesn’t matter if you occasionally do things you’re not supposed to do, but don’t get yourself suspended.”

Shubham Sanap, TYBMM

Having been actively involved in the SSL, Malhar and Every College Video Ever Made, Shubham still regrets not doing every fest and socializing more. He also wishes he’d done Malhar PR earlier. What did college give him? Point blank, he says “My personality.” So what does the popular boy have to say to his juniors? “Understand yourself. Learn the positives from others and understand your negatives, give up your ego.” Sincere and simple, much like himself.

-Interviewed by Raadhika Vishvesh, Rashi Pant and Jheel Gada
As an eventful teaching career draws to a close, Ms. Maureen Almeida, Head of the Psychology department, engaged in a delightful conversation with The Xavier’s Press.

After graduating from St. Xavier’s in 1975 with a BA, Maureen Ma’am returned to the college in 1977 as a lecturer for the senior college. In her early days of teaching, she recalls being mistaken for a student by Professor Pethe, the Vice Principal, and being pulled up, only to have an apology rendered upon realizing that she was a professor.

Another interesting anecdote was her wedding to Professor Felix Almeida, a professor of the Math department, in 1982. “My reception was in the lawns near the canteen and the woods behind, the canteen area being the dancing area.” It was a love marriage; the professors used to meet often for carom sessions in the staff room. “Love developed across the carom board,” she said.

She vividly remembers the year 1996 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. However, that period of time remains a positive memory rather than a traumatic one due to the exceptional support and love she received from fellow staff members and students.

Having spent more than two-thirds of her life in this college, Maureen ma’am considers Xavier’s to be a home away from home. “It has been an enjoyable journey teaching my students. I have gradually learnt on my feet to teach in more effective ways. I have a greater passion and love for my subject today.” Talking about her interactions with her students, she said, “I can be either relaxed with them or firm. It’s never the same. Every new batch is a new experience. There are new dynamics within the classroom and outside.”

Maureen ma’am prefers to enjoy life as it comes and has not made any post-retirement plans. She looks forward to the prospective marriage of her eldest daughter and spending time with her grandchildren in the future. The XPress wishes Ms. Maureen all the best for her future endeavors.

-Interviewed by Aathira Konikkara and Malvika Patil

BOARD EXAM ADVICE

What is there left to say to a group of 12th grade students on the eve of their HSC Board exam? Over the last two years, we JC students have given innumerable final exams, preparatory exams, mock exams; that the time has come to go to senior college already. SYJC students will probably be a third of the way through with their board exams by the time this issue is released, and no words of wisdom can make a difference. Nevertheless, here are some tips for all examinees, HSC or otherwise.

1) There is no alternative to hard work. There is only so much that you can fudge without completely infuriating your teacher.

2) Be an introvert every once in a while. It helps to not know how much your peers are doing. That way, you can walk into an examination hall with a supreme amount of self-confidence that no one has shattered by telling you how many pages of French verbs they conjugated last night.

3) Steer clear of anything that is even remotely addictive, even fiction. There is no telling when ‘one more chapter’ can turn into 'I finished the entire book and only have two hours left to finish the portion'.

4) Prioritize: Don’t take it upon yourself to do anything that isn’t vital to your study process.

5) Don’t leave anything until the last minute (my editors would say I should practise what I preach). Good luck!

-Nikita Mujumdar
It can be said without any exaggeration that every two out of three TYs are uncertain about their future. Cluelessness about a life outside Xavier’s—whether it is at a job, a master’s degree or how our minds would react to the overdose of nostalgia—is natural. The last few weeks of college have us TYs asking ourselves: What is going to happen once we cross the threshold of undergraduate academia?

But you don’t need to know what life has in store. Here’s why it’s good to not know what’s coming:

1. Not knowing where you’re headed ensures that you don’t think in a narrow, streamlined manner. You expose yourself to a greater variety of opportunities and experiences as opposed to just one plan.

2. You don’t treat work as the conventional ‘stepping stone to success’. Instead, it becomes an adventure.

3. You don’t worry about the failure of your plan—you don’t have any. Taking things as they come has an obvious advantage: you’ll never worry about what should not happen since you don’t know what will happen.

4. You live like a human being, not a programmed application, with dreams that are built, broken and rebuilt, as opposed to manufactured.

We can all live without diagnosing the future. Just love what you do and live in the moment, embracing opportunities that come your way. So cheer up! Not knowing can be a good thing too.

-Vatsal Khandelwal (Guest Writer)

FUTURE PROSPECTS
A soon to be graduate discusses the advantages of facing uncertainty regarding the future

The academic year is drawing to a close and once again, outstation students are faced with the rather harsh choice of either going home to enjoy mum’s cooking or staying back in Mumbai to search for new accommodation for the next year over the summer.

We at The XPress bring you a plethora of accommodations to fit your budget for your next year of college.

• The YMCA: The Students Branch is located at Lamington Road, a mere 10 minutes from college by cab. With a fully functioning mess, comfortable rooms and a vast array of meals, this is truly a home away from home.

• Flats and PG’s near Marine Lines and behind Metro: Very affordable flats and PG’s can be shared between 4 members in and around these areas. Broker details are available on request.

• Cotton Green: Flats in Cotton Green, 15 minutes away from college by the Harbour-Line, are inexpensive and draw a large outstation Xavier’s crowd. Alternatively, you can try some of the really cool websites that have recently gone online and created quite an uproar in the online real estate commerce space:

• Housing.com: Started by a bunch of IITians, this website gives you all the information you need about different kinds of rental spaces with accurate photographs and a lifestyle rating among other things.

• Flat and Flatmates pages on Facebook: These pages are turning out to be quite successful in matching buyer and supplier through real time conversation between leaser and lessee as well as giving a sense of competition through feelers via comments.

So this 2015-16, focus more on a good GPA rather than how early you need to wake up to attend an 8`o clock lecture.

-Adityesh Mitra and Ashwin Chandrasekhar
Q. We live in a generation where we are heavily reliant on technology. How do we convince students to use hardcopies in such an age?

The teachers are aware of this and thus, design projects for which you don’t easily find online references. Most Indian sources are hardcopies, and the book industry is still thriving. It is a myth that books are being replaced by online sources for people who copy-paste and never intended to learn in the first place. But not all online resources are inferior to physical ones. An example is N-List that contain authentic e-journals and e-books made available to you by virtue of being a bona-fide student of the college which are very useful and should be used instead of web searches. (Approach the Knowledge Centre to acquire an N-List account and find access to over 8000 books through the course of your college years.)

Q. When a student first joins Xavier’s, what do you think is the best way to make them understand the difference between the two libraries?

First of all, there is no disparity between the reference and lending libraries. Both are components of the same big library. We have journals, popular magazines, DVD collections apart from the reference books. So there’s enough light-reading material available as well to supplement academic knowledge with. There should be library tours and orientations at the FY level every year to physically point out the resources available to the students. Library literacy will make life a lot easier for the students, especially in an age when everything is interdisciplinary and one may not find all that is necessary in the same section. We have an open access library which could be a drawback here as it allows students to lazily pick up the first book that falls into their hands instead of checking if there are other options available. We at The XPress advise you to request your professors to organize a guided tour to enhance your learning experience at Xavier’s.

Q. Are ex-students allowed access to the library?

Once a student passes out, they have the option of issuing a visitors’ card available at the nominal rate of Rs. 25 per month. They have access to all resources and services except borrowing books.

Q. Can students or others donate books?

Yes! Earlier, we used to accept all donations but over time, due to lack of space, we’ve started being a little choosy. Apart from ex-students, we also get donations from The Central Hindi Directory. Gifts are one of the main sources of us acquiring books.

Q. What do you think can be improved upon?

Library services needs to be advertised more. Usage of library services should be made mandatory by teachers, who are responsible for pushing students to use our resources. We add up to 700 books to the library every year. We have a Gujarati section and a Marathi section, apart from our Hindi section, and we display the new books that arrive in our library. We have a beautiful library, one of the biggest in the city, with a great collection of works. It is like we are constantly preparing for a party and waiting for guests to show up. So please, do come.

-Interviewed by Ishika Ramakrishna and Krupa Joseph
A FOYER ROMANCE

This Valentine’s Day, a vada pav and a cup of chai had a lovers’ tiff

She fumes quietly, next to him. He is silent, but she can practically smell his crisp displeasure.

‘You fat lump,’ she thinks.

He remains silent, but she knows – just like she knows the difference between cardamom, lemongrass and ginger – that he understands what she is thinking.

Next to her, he sits grumpily, unwilling to talk. She has a lingering feeling that he has been stealing glances at her, but she turns away. Her temperature is cooling now, and she knows that soon enough, the heat of her temper will not suffice to hold a proper grudge against him. She hopes that by then, he will be more yielding and a whole lot tender.

What had they been fighting about? She’s not entirely sure, but she feels a drop of anger still, like he’s left a part of the fight inside of her, mixing with the elements that form her very being.

“Ugh, I just realized – some of my green chutney has fallen into your cup.”

‘Oh, yes,’ Chai remembers bitterly, looking at her boyfriend, VadaPav, ‘now I remember why we’re fighting.’

‘Happy Valentine’s Day?’

She ignores Vada’s weak attempt to reconcile. ‘Not really,’ she thinks, feeling the chutney blend into her by degrees. ‘Not at all.’

-Sroojana Iyer

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE GARGOYLE

Nancy Norris (SYJC), the winner of our fictional writing contest, describes a day from the gargoyle’s perspective.

Congratulations on winning our contest, Nancy!

I am drenched again, just like I usually am during this time of the year. The rain pours heavily and flows around me, making it look like my mouth is spouting a fountain. However despite the rain, I love this time of the year- admission time. I watch as the excited students pour in through the prestigious doors. They step in for the first time into the amazing world that is college, their faces with expressions ranging from happiness to fright to awe. They come in with their parents or friends and whisper and point at the other students that flock around, proudly displaying their identity cards. I watch them check the board, the one where they put up names and watch as their faces light up upon being chosen or droop when not chosen. I see a girl look up to where I am and quickly averted my eyes to where they should be, straight ahead, expressionless. I felt my chest swell with pride when the look of awe crossed her face and she pulled out her phone to click a picture. I was also proud, like everyone else, proud to be a part of St. Xavier's College.

-Nancy Norris
Parents going to throw you out after College?

Now we can help you save up while you figure out life!

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