

The adrenaline infests not just me: next door, Deepak is out and ready to go even faster.

Long and leisurely walk around campus later, several of us descend on the ANC, another not-in-my-time feature of BITS (a lot of those to note). This is the All Night Canteen, naturally acronym-ized to ANC, but now called just "ank". One word. It's past 11 at night, but the place is buzzing, crowds jostling for the attention of the servers. Everything from drinks to dosas.

Yet tonight, the interesting thing about the ank is not so much the number of students here, but the number of girls here. Even more, the things the girls are doing. Nothing out of the

ordinary, and yet that is in itself out of the ordinary -- but so refreshingly out of the ordinary! -- for us graduates from a quarter century past. There are such a lot of girls on campus now -- close to 40 per cent, someone said? -- that they are no different from the boys. Just other students, that's all. In our time, the sheer scarcity of girls made each one an object of constant and usually unwelcome attention, subject to stares and shouts and curiosity. Now they are just around. Like everyone else. As tonight, in the ank.

In one corner, there's a huge circle of students, most of them girls, playing a game that's even led by a girl. It looks organized and intellectual; the ringleader spends a long time explaining rules and

what seems like strategy. Deepak and I, parked just outside the circle and unable to hear her over the ank racket, lean in and ask what's going on. Two young ladies turn around to tell us that these are all CS students. Ah, I think, I really do, they are involved in some eclectic game that teases out some esoteric computer science funda. Wow, and late at night at the ank, what dedicated students...

... and the two young ladies say, we are playing Chinese whispers.

Gotta tell you: my respect for CS students at BITS goes through the roof.



CNN TIME

2 Indians in CNN/Time's 25 Global Business Influentials – Both BITS, Pilani Alumni

Time Magazine and CNN recently released its list of 2004 Global Business Influentials, 25 leaders in a broad range of industries recognized for setting standards in areas like innovation, globalization and effecting change. This year's list includes 2 Indians – Vivek Paul, CEO of Wipro Technologies and Balaji Krishnamurthy, CEO of Planar Systems, both alumni of the BITS, Pilani.

Vivek Paul worked at GE and Bain & Co. and has more recently led Wipro Technologies' growth from a \$150 million software developer into a \$1 billion force in IT services. He has an MBA from the University of Massachusetts and a Bachelor of Engineering from BITS.

Balaji Krishnamurthy received a BS and an MS in mathematics from BITS Pilani and an MS and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Massachusetts. At Planar Systems he crafted a system that rewards rank-and-file employees first, before moving up the management chain founded in the belief that it induces every employee to create greater shareholder value (see this issue's Quarterly BITSian for more on this).