

COMPILED BY ANURADHA GUPTA (86A6)

BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind the Scenes is a serious look at how the dedicated, solemn *Sandpaper* team operates. The team that toils around the clock to put together the BITS Pilani alumni magazine...

AND this is the first of many exchanges that you will be privy to, issue after issue...that will bolster your confidence in the team and its functioning...

It was a dark and stormy night. This is what transpired in an exchange on a proposal to start a new series on successful BITSian women. If it is any consolation, the entire Editorial Team, Anupendra, Anuradha, Dilip D'Souza, the Chief editor, Sandeep, and one of the most creative writers, Sagarika were involved (in the discussion, that is. Please do not read b'tween the lines). And it all happened between the wee hours of April 20th and 25th...

***Anupendra:** I think it is time for a series called I am a BITSian Woman that talks about (successful/inspiring) women from different spheres.

(somewhere in the discussion, the word 'coping' crept in and here's the very serious discussion that ensued on repositioning the article to eliminate it...)

***Anuradha:** How do we position the article (away from coping) - the topic is simmering on the surface and does generate a lot of interest, it is controversial and has a number of issues associated with it, from the Summers controversy to role-expectations and definitions to gender-bias, to

positive affirmation to reverse discrimination to fair treatment to, well, the mind boggles. It can be thought-provoking, emotional, can even stimulate readership...and that makes it tempting but is it a Pandora's Box and can we make sure we keep it dignified and not sensationalize it in any manner, I don't know and would like to have more views, Let's brainstorm that...

(Sandeep, of course took the most relevant extract from Anupendra's message, the beginning of the end, the fall of an empire, while Rome was burning, Nero was playing chess...)

***Sandeep :** Hi Anupendra, This is splendid news. Why didn't you tell us? Did you have surgery or was this some other more exotic medical procedure. In any case, I really am very happy for you.

What does your wife have to say about this? And, might I add, you would look simply stunning in a halter top!

Anupendra Sharma wrote:
I AM A BITSIAN WOMAN

***Anupendra:** Hey Anu - you are rubbing off! Our usually serious chief editor is killing me with her (sic) funnies....

***Anuradha:** If I am inspiring this serious biz of humor in anyway (and of course we the-

women are definitely making womanhood inspirational, hahaha), I am delighted and honored... And you have the right to unsubscribe from the Sandpaper group. Click here... www.what-a-mad-bunch.com

***Anupendra:** And I actually clicked on it.

***Dilip:** Might look better out of it. I don't know. Or the halter top might look better off Anupendra. I don't know.

***Dilip:** Reword the series to not make it sound like women coping...that's how I would prefer it if I were a BITSian woman and maybe I am...

***Anuradha:** Precisely, we could reword/reposition it...right now I am coping with all these new BITSian women, sigh...Dilip, et tu?

***Sagarika:** You guys are funny, funny!! I can't help but respond. Sandeep, you certainly opened a can of juicy worms here ;)

Personally, I too (like Anu) feel the same way Dilip says he'd feel if he were a Bitsian woman and someone posed that question to him (coping). I think its way more challenging coping with being a guy...Now that warrants a series! First, guys have to understand their own selves (they spend a good chunk of their teens and 20s doing exactly that; and soon after, they have this brobdingnagian task of understanding the women in

their lives (not that they don't have this issue pop up earlier in their lives, but they're supremely focused on the first-things-first mantra (read "it's all about me" - a school of thought that shockingly backfires later on in life)! So they go about spending their 30s and 40s soulfully engaged in this Catch-22 type endeavor (it's bad if you understand women and worse if you don't). My, my, now that's coping hell to me...Thoughts??
 PS: Just my attempt at perpetuating this humor string, guys. Thanks chief!! ;)

***Sandeep:** Hey! Don't blame me. All I want to see is Anupendra in a halter top. And Dilip I gather wants to see him out of it. :-)). Anupendra's going to call HR for harassment... wait a minute! We don't have any HR! Yippee!

***Dilip:** Sagarika said:
 > So they go about spending their 30s and 40s
 > soulfully engaged in this Catch-22 type underwear ...

Hey, what's Catch-22 type underwear? And where can I get some, it sounds very intriguing, especially if guys are getting engaged wearing it. Question though, what about the guys who get engaged in their 20s?

***Anuradha:** People (I shall not say ladies or laddies lest there are those who wish to prove themselves in any manner)...the plot thickens... We all can barely wait ... with bated breath to see - what next...
 There may be those of you (Sandpaper team) who might be hunting for an unsubscribe option or HR and it has been proved that there are none...:-). Blocking emails continues to be an option that Microsoft

currently provides but we are working on that. And Dilip, I am dying to quote just one sentence (half a sentence actually - Where can I get some) from your email, forward it to your wife, create some discord and pose this question, why do you ask this of the Sandp team...

***Sagarika:** Thanks for the rescue line, Anu. I owe you one. ;) And Dilip...You!!! You almost made my heart skip a beat...I mean, I frantically went back to my original email scrambling through it, sweaty-browed and all, wondering how on earth my built-in spell checker (grammar checker or sense checker, call it what you will), which never usually lets me down, fared so badly at this one instance -- "underwear" when I was intending "endeavor"...what was I thinking??? And when I actually read my email and saw ".Catch-22 endeavor..." I almost grew deaf (yeah, I did have a deafening sigh of relief!). Yes, what were YOU thinking?!! In other words, you got me there for a second...**YOU!!** Wait till we get to meet someday...Some heavy strangulation is in order. :)
 Aren't we at SandP a zany bunch or what?! And yeah, Anu, do remember to satiate the naughty word twister's wife's curiosity...Although women normally could care less about male underwear (contrary to the other way around factoid), this instance may in fact be the world's only exception ;) Let's stir up the D'Souza household..
 The saga of mystique/intrigue/heavy plotting/warped thinking continues...Only at SandP Yahoogroups. (Hey, a great tagline to recruit new members, don't ya think???) ☺

***Dilip:** Anu, you said:
 > We all can barely wait ... with bad breath to see - what next...
 My sympathies to you all then. Use Pepsodent, works well for me.
 And Sagarika said:
 > Although women normally could care less about male underwear
 > ... Let's strip the D'Souza household.
 Please don't do that! The underwear might give us away.

***Sagarika:** Dilip, you're such a crack up!! It sure is fun to see your **lighter side** (yeah, that's what you see when someone strips down to their underwear) having been **exposed** to your more serious side all along. SandP bunch, hope the rest of y'all are hanging in there enjoying the (virtual) strip show.

***Anuradha:** Sagarika, we shall have to conclude, put everything together, wrap up...
 BITSian guys (we have a pretty extensive, representative sample) aspire to be BITSian women, wear Catch-22 Underwear and use Pepsodent. This is definite material to start off the series, "On being a BITSian guy."

***Anupendra:** The final word
 Here is the photo for the article (its me and Dilip). And that's all I have to say about that. The End.

***Sandeep:** Sign me up!!
 Any prudes lurking around this group are probably calling the Diro as we speak. By the time this thread is over, our team will be down to a few BITSian women and a few aspiring to this enlightened state. So what is



Dilip & Anupendra – Key members of the *Sandpaper* Editorial Board. *Sandpaper's* in great hands folks!

wrong. And how many times do I have to tell you not to clean out the wax in my ear in public, eh?

ONLY); 2. BITS now has a uniform (I need not elaborate on that, Sandeep, return to campus and thy questions shall be answered);3. The only guys allowed on campus are ex-BITSians (so if you are a guy and catch yourself on campus you have PASSED OUT, remember that) Now the tech team has the following challenge - a team photograph... Good luck. :-)

***Dilip:** Anu pointed out: > if you are a guy and catch yourself on campus you have PASSED OUT, remember that) I seem to recall being in that state for most of my years on campus, actually...

And luckily (for you), we passed on to the more mundane matters of the magazine.



Catch-22 underwear? (And the picture)... Excellent! This is the picture we'll use on next issue's cover. "Mein BITSian woman banna chahtee hoon!"

Dilip: Anupendra, you silly fellow:
> Here is the photo for the article (it's me and Dilip). Now everyone knows I have grey hair! However, I gotta say, you're wearing your halter top

***Anuradha:** This photograph shall go down in history and you all must save it for posterity as the BITSAA/Sandpaper logo (Mktg directive) and this shall be thy wallpaper - and Sandeep, if it is not on the cover/part of the cover story you shall face a coup... Diro incidentally has issued the following directive...1. BITS is now BITS-M (M - maiden/mahilayen ke liye

ANTARA BHATTACHARYA (96A6)

Of Preferences In Vain

in my getaway with you, i even dream of rain . . .
although i myself prefer a sunny day
but prefer you over the sun
even sunny california
or fornicating in a bath tub
tumbling down a snowy slope
or mud-slinging, bitching sessions,
over beer,
girls, mobikes, magazines,
and guns . . .
rain over sun
if only you came

I always prefer the rain
mingled with the sense of soil
trollish dark trees looming
on a road I speed by.
Coffee, smokes, poirot and snow
a world shrouded in white
late nights and later morns
while the rats they scuttle aside

