



Bharati

Newsletter of the ISA



July 2005

Summer Showcase at the Buddy Holly Centre

Norka Malpartida (norkiss@yahoo.com)

The Buddy Holly Centre in Lubbock hosts an innovative musical event every Thursday from May 26 to August 2005 called the Summer Showcase. Music aficionados can enjoy original compositions of local, regional and statewide musicians and songwriters from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. On June 16th I had the great opportunity to attend one of these events. I went with some other international students, it was an enjoyable experience. Even though we were not brave enough to dance, we had a great time listening to country music and taking pictures. Concerts are free to the public and a cash bar and food are always available. Vendors were selling burritos, wine and beer.

We also visited the interiors of the Buddy Holly Centre and Gallery. The Buddy Holly Center features a spacious gallery space dedicated to the presentation of changing contemporary visual arts. The Buddy Holly Museum features a permanent exhibition on the life and music of Buddy Holly.

They have a good collection of the belongings of the legendary singer including his famous big rimmed glasses, his Fender Stratocaster; a songbook used by Holly and the Crickets, clothing, photographs, recording contracts, tour itineraries, homework assignments, report cards, etc.

Buddy Holly is one of Lubbock's "claim to fame". I think international students would enrich their cultural and social experience by being a part of such events. A taste of our host country is not bad idea, specially this time of the year. So, if you like outdoors concerts and you want to relax listening to music you may want to get more information and be there next Thursday. Try to be early, so you can get a seat. You can find the Summer Showcase schedule and additional information in the following website: http://www.buddyhollycenter.org/html/Press%20releases/pr_Summer_Showcase_2005.htm.

July 4th at Lubbock— A Day and Night to Remember

Karthik Ranganathan (rangasjc@gmail.com)

Not often does one see Lubbock come alive in an extravaganza of color, gaiety and musical entertainment. July 4th is an exception in which every person in Broadway is transported to another time and place. The annual Broadway Celebration, with its unique mix of music and mirth provides an opportunity for everybody to enjoy themselves to the fullest. The highlight of the morning events is the Parade, a must-see event. If music is anybody's food for thought, then this is the time to help oneself to a sumptuous feast. With plenty of stages being up, concerts of all possible music genres are conducted – rock, jazz, pop, country, rap – name it and it's there. Heralded as the "Largest Free Festival in Texas" by the International Festival and Events Association and with a plethora of food stalls to choose from, this is one place where you would definitely want to be on Monday, July 4th 2005. The Street fair starts at 8:00 a.m. and goes on till 4:00 p.m. and the Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. Music stages up and down Broadway begin at 11:00 a.m and go on till 3:30 p.m.

But the fun doesn't end at sun- down. Come dusk and the destination ought to be Mackenzie Park, East Broadway Entrance. A mind-blowing open-air concert is probably just what you need to break into the mood, but that is very soon overshadowed by a dazzling display of fireworks, right at the fag end of the day. Hyperbolic as it may sound, I can assure you from personal experience that it is every bit as good as it is made out to be here.

From the Editors Desk

I am delighted to present to you the July edition of Bharati. The summer months tend to be times of relative leisure. They are also festive times with two major celebrations around the corner : the American Independence Day and the Indian Independence Day. This edition of Bharati has tried to reflect that spirit.

For the ISA, it has been a musical month.. We conducted an Antakshari event and volunteered in an Indian Association of West Texas (IAWT) organized light music event. *Filmi* music never fails to evoke the enthusiasm of a desi, no matter where he is. Atul Dixit also added to the enjoyment of the light music event by a beautiful rendition of "Ek chatur naar" and "Main hoon na".

Direct your bouquets and brickbats to vrishali_subramanian@yahoo.co.in.

Until next month,
Vrishali Subramanian
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SABR Internship – Stepping Towards Scientific Research.

Tanuja Ram (majetiram@yahoo.com)

A diamond is valuable only when it is cut, shaped and polished; else it is an ordinary stone; such are the students particularly in the life-health sciences field. 'Bio' means life - anything related to life can only be valued when it can be brought out of books and worked hands on. Students pursuing career in fields like biomedical engineering, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences, cell biology and biochemistry, micro-molecular biology need to have a real time experience in the laboratory than just credit hours and coursework.

An experience that is directly related to either your major, or career interest is termed as an 'internship'. An internship helps every level of student. For an undergraduate it helps decide what kind of courses to take keeping in mind a prospective job or specific area of graduate study. For a graduate student it provides a strong foundation for the future career and prepares for the 'real world' of science or again becomes a motivation for a higher educational degree.

Besides helping in the educational pursuit and development of career it provides an opportunity to develop interpersonal skills, seminar presentation skills, meet and work with professionals, establish contacts for references, experience new work environments or simply earn money.

The Texas Tech Health Sciences Centre (TTUHSC) has an internship program called SABR- Summer Accelerated Biomedical Research Internships. This internship may be completed with mentors in graduate programs of cell biology and biochemistry, immunology, microbiology, pharmacology, pharmaceutical sciences and physiology. This is an intensive internship program, conducted every summer and extends for ten weeks. Every year about eleven interns are hired including both undergraduate and graduate students from TTU and other universities.

This is a full time, paid internship. This internship strongly holds for students interested in pursuing career in biomedical research. Being a SABR intern is personally a valuable experience. I am getting hands-on experience on some techniques that I knew only conceptually. All the labs are well equipped and every measure of safety is adhered to. The first training sessions conducted were fire drills and safety training.

The director of this program Dr. Clinton McDonald takes personal care of all the interns and visits their labs regularly. The SABR program has been designed on the principle "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". We have had fun events like a tour to the Ranching Heritage Center, ice cream socials, etc. Most of the faculty mentors maintain a cordial and stress free environment for the interns.

Every Tuesday we have a "Brown Bag lunch". Here we have general seminars by the esteemed faculty and students who made a mark in their fields or on recent scientific developments, followed by a lip-smacking lunch.

Science in itself is termed as a "progress"- a goal and research a path to it. On a deeper level, the SABR internship has enabled me to appreciate good science and practice it better in my work

Personal Profile: I am pursuing my masters in Chemical Engineering under Dr. David K Mills in Louisiana Tech University. I applied for the SABR internship in early February and got the acceptance in April. My intern tenure is from June 6th until August 12th. I am working under Dr. Jannette Dufour, Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry on "Xenotransplantation related to Type I Diabetes research". I love working under my professor on my present project and I have learnt many cell/molecular biology techniques which I am sure will be beneficial in my prospective job search after completion of my Master's degree.

What Every Graduating International student Should Know

Leslie Gardener (l.gardener@ttu.edu)

Before officially graduating from Texas Tech University, there are a few things that every international student should keep in mind. First of all, do not forget the International Student Advisors! They have worked so hard for years to help you maintain your status – let them know what your future plans are!

The most popular choice is to do a year of Optional Practical Training (OPT). This is a legal work permit for the period of one year. However, to be eligible for OPT you must submit your application (along with proper documentation and fees) BEFORE your program completion date. A list of the proper forms and what is required to apply for OPT is located on the website at www.iaff.ttu.edu.

A second option to consider before graduation is a change of status. Students who may have secured jobs while on CPT (for example) may have an opportunity to request a change of status from F-1 to a H1-B. Information regarding a status change is also available on our website at www.iaff.ttu.edu.

Next, a student approaching their graduation date can consider a change of level. If you have completed your undergraduate or graduate degree and wish to continue your studies at the next educational level, this may be the choice for you. To do this, you will need an acceptance letter from the university, along with proof of financial funding.

Finally, there is always the option of simply graduating and then returning to your home country. If this is your choice, please come by the OIA office to inform us of your plans.

The International Student Advisors are here to answer your questions regarding this transition. Please make us aware of your decision, whatever it may be, regarding your graduation and your plans thereafter.

Ethics and Biotechnology

Bharath Ramachandran (bharath_texas@yahoo.com)

Just a century ago, many countries were ravaged by smallpox epidemics, polio was prevalent, cancer was a sure killer, and you could forget it if you needed anything but the most rudimentary surgery. Today, with the help of some innovative biology, we have eradicated, or nearly so, many diseases. But, there is a debate with the advent of genetic enhancement of agricultural products, cloning, stem cell research, and the distinct possibility of artificially enhancing humans through genetics, computerized implants, or both.

The ethical debate often pits the dictates of faith against the pursuits of science. But, like all the new technologies, biotechnology is also an instrument that they can be either managed to benefit the neediest or skewed to the advantage of specific groups. Thus, education about the ethics of biotechnology must be part of a larger effort that covers such basic questions as what is biotechnology and how is it being used.

Biotechnology and genetic engineering could potentially reduce poverty, malnutrition and premature death. Genetically engineered crops such as Golden rice, Ugandan bananas, Kenyan sweet potatoes and dozens of other potential life-saving crops are gaining global approval. In addition to fortifying plants with vitamins, genetic engineering can produce crops that grow better in dry, saline, nutrient-poor soils that prevail in much of Africa.

It might soon enable plants to produce vaccines against killer diseases like diarrhea and hepatitis B. It can help crops to combat insect predators and also reduce cancer-causing toxins such as aflatoxin. Farmers can greatly reduce pesticide use, thereby protecting crops and people. Genetically modified crops also reduce soil erosion, by allowing farmers to use herbicide-resistant plants and no-till farming methods. Other crops enjoy longer shelf-life, even without refrigeration, a vital consideration for a huge section of people who still don't have electricity. By increasing crop yields, gene-spliced plants can help farmers earn a decent living and grow more nutritious crops.

Very soon biotechnology could even make it possible to pinpoint susceptibility genes for diseases like diabetes. Today's engagement of Biology (Genetics, Genomics, Biochemistry, and Molecular Biology) with technology and Computer Science is likely to lead to enormously significant improvements to the health and life quality of the mankind.

Biotechnology has resulted in a burst of industrial activities with a huge although ambiguous impact on the planet. Among the assets accrued are new food sources and new medicines. But there are also liabilities, such as environmental contamination and degradation of genomes. This is a wide, complex field. The decisions taken in this wide and complex field are of moral nature. While technical knowledge is indispensable to locate and evaluate the concrete alternatives, an appreciation of ethics and ethical issues is indispensable in making the choice between them. This choice may be difficult, considering the prevailing social, economic and political pressures.

. Thus, the need of the hour is to develop socially useful and environment-friendly biotechnologies. Some developments might not make a difference for a long time. Until then, in the interest of mankind, there must be plenty of ethical discussion

ISA Summer Sports

Trilok Shetti (trilokshetti@yahoo.com)

Summer is a time of relative leisure and one of the most popular ways to spend time is sports. The ISA has conducted some portion of its summer sports events. Here are the highlights

Racquet Ball

Winner : Kiran Masapari

Runner Up : Trilok Shetti

Table Tennis Singles

Winner: Siddharth Bajpai

Runner Up: Vijay Pasapulla

Table Tennis Doubles

Winners : Trilok Shetti and Mohsin

Runners Up: Vijay Pasapulla and Amit Thomson

Swimming

Winner : Sreeram Krishnamoorthy

Runner Up : Trilok Shetti

Badminton Singles

Winner: Rishu Ranjan

Runner Up: Chirag Mandaviya

Badminton Doubles

Winners : Siddharth Bajpai and Debkanta Mishra

Runners Up : Tabrez Khan and Kiran Masapari

Basketball

Winning team : Rishu Ranjan, Apoorva Dabral, Shatanand Desai, Ranjit and Rajat Goyal.

Runner Up team: Chirag Mandaviya, Gaurav Arora, Atul Dixit, Debkant Mishra and Apekshit Mulay.

Joke Corner

The UN conducted a worldwide survey. The only question asked was: Would you please give your honest opinion about solutions to the food shortage in the rest of the world? The survey was a HUGE failure. In Africa, they didn't know what "food" meant. In Eastern Europe, they didn't know what "honest" meant. In Western Europe, they didn't know what "shortage" meant. In China, they didn't know what "opinion" meant. In the Middle East, they didn't know what "solution" meant. In South America, they didn't know what "please" meant. And in the USA, they didn't know what "the rest of the world" meant.

SNIPPETS: Car Trivia

K r i s h n a n P a z h a y a n o o r
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- The Ford motor company released its 2005 retro designed Mustang commemorating 40 years of the Mustang line. Another less known star of World War II, the P-51 Mustang is often attributed to be the inspiration for the design and name of this muscle car. It is hard to miss the striking resemblance between the two. The original 'shark fins' in the P-51 was intended to vent air to the engine cooling system. I doubt if there is any physics behind the ones on the four wheeler (Source – History Channel)
 - My dad's first car was a FIAT Premier Padmini. I remember very well asking my dad what 'FIAT' meant. Even if he'd answered me, there is no way on earth I would've understood. FIAT stands for Fabbrica Italiana Automobili di Torino. Sounds Italian? Tough to figure out wasn't it ? Well, its of a lot tougher to figure out the meaning: Italian Automobile Factory at Turin.
 - Drooling at the Beamer passing by you? The blue and white logo, has the beautiful and sigh worthy B-M-W inscribed around it. Some knowledge is best not learnt. Well, curiosity gets the best of everyone and this is what BMW turned out was an acronym for: Bayerischen Motoren Werke (Bavarian motor works).
 - Which car looks the same from either end? Of course, the Beetle. OK girls, I can hear you yell "flower power". This is not the 70s. The VW was not born in the 70s either. The original design, concept and motive for the Volkswagen was pioneered by none other than the one German we love to hate– Hitler. The rough sketch of this car was made on napkin paper by the dictator and passed on to Porsche. He called it 'Volkswagen', literally meaning 'people's car' and later renamed it the KdFWagen (probably Hitler found it hard to pronounce beetle). KdF stood for "Kraft durch Freude" which meant "*Strength through Joy.*" Sounded more like a fancy salad dressing to me. His dream was that every German would own and enjoy a VW. His dreams are being realized, not in Germany, but in Mexico (apparently, a lot of Mexicans love the beetle and fill their streets with them). And with the exponential increase in traffic and gas prices, I don't see the rest of the world following suit (Sources: the History channel, <http://www.hitler.org/artifacts/volkswagen/>, <http://people.westminstercollege.edu/staff/bknorr/html/history.htm>).
- It's a known fact that the Nissan cars were introduced into the American subcontinent under the old name Datsun. The little Datsun trucks competing with the huge American muscle cars and pick ups were extremely successful – not only because they were dependable, but also because of their simplicity. What is less known is how Nissan got its name: The word Nissan is allegedly from Nihon Sangyo an automobile manufacturing company from the 30s.

Well, then, how about Datsun?, invariably from the initials of the three surnames, Den, Aoyama and Takeuchi. Now that takes care of DAT, as for the SUN, believe it or not stands for 'son' like in their creation. They didn't want to spell it 'son' which apparently is not a positive word in Japanese. And hence the name, DATSUN. Yeah yeah... I know you think this is a lot of 70mm, but check the sources for yourself. Continuing the same line of research, Toyota got its name from its founder Sakichi Toyoda and Honda from Soichiro Honda. Duh! I bet Japanese kids are inculcated with the value of 'taking their name places' very well. Wonder when our Ashok and Mahindra will catch up. (Source: the History channel, <http://www.ratdat.com/history/history.html>, http://www.toyota.co.jp/en/about_toyota/history/1867.html, <http://homepage.nflworld.com/gary.parson/honda/misc/history.htm>)

Pitter Patter Chitter Chatter, Mobile's All That Really Matters

Karthik Ranganathan (rangasjc@gmail.com)

I am still not a member of that "once-upon-a-time" elitist group of cell-phone users. And boy, am I proud or what! Somehow the cell-phone easily tops my list when it comes to things that irritate me the most. People jabbering away all the time over the cell-phone even when they have somebody with them is bugging , to say the least. I don't deny the fact that it is easily one of the most essential things to have. But the "mobile abuse" has to be seen to be believed. The minute a person gets out of his house or class, the mobile is flipped open and another seemingly endless conversation is commenced. Sometimes the urge is so strong to just rip it out of their hands and throw into some " never never land". I have always wondered as to how people can stand it when one of their friends receives a call right in the middle of a conversation, and starts something which is nothing but banter with a capital B. It would definitely not be an understatement to say at any given time of the day, every third person whom you come across walking across the campus, is rattling off into his/her mobile. Throw in the utterly comical sight of a person seemingly talking to him/herself with the hands-free technology and the picture is complete.

And this was the mother of all mobile-mania... A few months back, when I was coming back home from the University, there were the ten of us traveling in the bus, a motley group of students of different races, Hispanic, Caucasian , Mongoloid , Asian and of course me. Right throughout the entire ride of 15 minutes, there were at least eight people talking over the mobile at any given point of time, with me being the only constant factor in the non-cell-phone group. And the ratio only got better when I got down from the bus, with the cell-phone abuse continuing unabated. Despite my irritation at this "bad public behavior", I couldn't but help laugh at that scene.... eight different people talking out loud , in three different accents!

I only pray to God that I will not figure in somebody else's article in the same manner. Fingers Crossed!!!!

HARIHARAN: A protean genius

Atul Dixit (atul_tg@yahoo.co.in)

How versatile is the range of his versatility? He's rocked every genre of music, be it composing, film singing, non-film album, Indipop, fusion, ghazals, bhajans and for that matter Urdu Blues as well! Thoroughly trained in both Carnatic and Hindustani classical, Hariharan is an all-rounder in every sense of the word.

Ananthasubramani Hariharan, the son of renowned Carnatic vocalists Shrimati Alamelu and H A S Mani, was born in 1955 and grew up in Mumbai. His mother was his first guru from whom he learnt Carnatic classical music. His parents were of the opinion that music has no barrier encouraged him listen Hindustani classical as well. As a teenager, he grew up listening to ghazal maestros like Mehdi Hassan, Jagjit Singh and Ghulam Ali and this was where he discovered his passion for ghazals. So he decided to learn Hindustani Classical music under the tutelage of Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan. His *sangeet sadhana* (practice) used to last for nine hours a day.

While doing his graduation in science and law, Hariharan decided to take ghazal singing as his profession.. He attributes his great love for ghazals to the scope of innovation they provide a singer . A singer can showcase his finesse in *alaap*, *sargam*, *harkatein*, *murkhiyaan*, etc ; all techniques of *gayaki* can be beautifully blended by the singer at his will.

After deciding his goal in life, he put his heart and soul in learning Urdu, a must for every ghazal singer. He mastered the Urdu diction to such an extent that even the connoisseurs of this language salute him for his perfection.

In the year 1977, Hariharan secured the first prize at the "All India Sur Singaar competition", jointly with Suresh Wadkar, the judge for which was the famous music director Jaidev. This marked the beginning of a glorious career, since Jaidev who composed the score for the film "Gaman" gave Hariharan his first break to sing a ghazal "Ajeeb Saane He Mujh Par Qaraar" earning him the Uttar Pradesh State award.

Since then this talented singer has never seen back. His ghazal albums *Sukoon*, *Reflections*, *Aab Shaar-e-ghazal* (with Asha Bhosale), *My favorite hits*, *Dil Nasheen*, *Paigam* prove his impeccable singing skills and his remarkable savvy. His ghazal album "Gulfam" even earned him the "Diva" award for being the Best Album of the year in 1994. Another notable feather in his cap was his successful pairing with the tabla maestro Zakhir Hussain which resulted in the album "Hazir".

But ghazals are just one face of this multi-faceted genius. He has also sung in Hindi movies, his major breakthrough being the film "Roja" which was also his debut in Tamil singing

award in the Tamil Nadu State Government Filmfare awards in 1995.

Hariharan reached the pinnacle of his career in the year 1996 when he came up with an album "Colonial Cousins" with Leslie Lewis. This album not only topped the music charts of India consistently, but also was the first Indian album to be featured in MTV Unplugged. It won him limitless *éclat* and also paved the way for the Indipop genre to be recognized internationally. Hari and Leslie (*Lezz*) won the US Billboards award and MTV Viewers' Choice award for the same.

The National award for the Best Male Playback singer for the song "Mere Dushman Mere Bhai" in *Border* in 1998 added one more feather to his cap.

Meanwhile he also came up with his other ghazal albums like *Qaraar*, *Jashn*, *Visaal*, *Swar Utsav* – each one distinctive in its own aspect with regards to *gayaki*, orchestration etc. But another fabulous album he released was "Kaash" consisting of ghazals beautifully rendered with a Western touch. Hari says he noticed some surprising similarities in these altogether different genres and so termed them as "Urdu Blues".

Recently he's come up with another album "Lahore ke rang Hari ke sang", scored by three composers from Lahore. It is a diverse genre album with *shahaana*, a Pakistani musical form, ghazal, *thumri*, *geet* and *dadra*. He has also played a leading role of a musician who is on a mission for women's emancipation in an unreleased Tamil film named "Power",

Versatility and experimentation with new things have always been qualities which mark him different from other singers. When asked his views on what constitutes great singing, the singer declares, "Good singing is a paradox. Because you have to master a technique in which you actually forget yourself and go into a trance and be aware of things only at a subconscious level!"

Hari has turned fifty recently and yet is one of the busiest persons in the film industry. Hats off to this virtuoso!!

POLL: Do you want to see Bharati in print?

Poll conducted in isa_ttu.33 votes were cast.

- Yes. I like seeing it in print :21%
- No. The e-version is enough and the print version is a waste of paper : 21%
- Only on special occasions :57%

Anybody out there?

Meetul Goyal (meetulgoyal@hotmail.com)

The present ISA committee is trying to be creative and organize new events. But I wonder why people don't turn up. Friday 17th June, there was an Antakshari event followed by pizzas and drinks . The event was good except that the participants missed cheering and booing from the audience, which comes with the spirit of a good game. Why? Because there were hardly any audience. Including the participants there were only thirty people in LH202 that day. Compare this number to the ISA membership of about two hundred and fifty.

There was one special guest that day among the audience, an American student from the department of Mathematics. Pardon me for not remembering his name. The event's concept really excited him and prompted him to attend .It was really a shame that the event could not be started on time, again because nobody was there to participate and watch.

What could be the reason for such a meager participation, I wonder? Was the event not interesting? Was the venue not accessible or was the event not advertised? Or wasn't anybody present in Lubbock or was everyone too busy to attend? The event was held in the same old BA LH202, where most of the ISA events are held. I remember getting at least two emails from ISA regarding the event well in advance. I personally know there were many ISA members present in Lubbock and I don't think it is too difficult to take out a couple of hours on a Friday evening, that too for an entertaining event. Have we stopped enjoying our *filmi* music? I wonder where all the people whom we saw last during the election have gone . Has everybody suddenly left Lubbock? Or has everybody suddenly lost all interest in ISA? Dear somebody, please let everybody know why anybody didn't turn up.

BHARATI JULY PUZZLE:MATH AND LOGIC PROBLEMS

Figure out the solution to these problems and send it to Atul Dixit (atul_tg@yahoo.co.in).The first correct entry wins \$10.

Congratulations to Kiran Masapari ,the winner of Junes's crossword puzzle.

1) If the same functions are applied to reach the results in each of the three sets of numbers, find what number should replace the ? in the last set:

21 5 28 13 16 2

24 30 ?

17 7 25 7 10 8

2) Is the answer of following finite or infinite?

$1+(1/2)+(1/3)+(1/4)+\dots$

3)Find the values of S,E,N,D,M,O,R,Y so that the following addition makes sense:

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  S E N D
+ M O R E
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M O N E Y
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