



ELECTION SPECIAL

A CHIT-CHAT WITH OUR LEADERS

Last week was a hell of a week for the students as well as the candidates standing for student council elections. On Thursday, 14th September 2017 the student council elections were held from 11 am to 12 pm. And the results were out on the same day and we had our own elected student council for this academic year.

Here I have the foundation of the student council- Sandeep Jadhav (General Secretary), Vaishnavi Ulhas Prabhu (Chairperson), and Roma Prabhudessai (Cultural Secretary). Through a small interview let us know them better.

Q) What made you stand for this post? What was your inspiration?

Sandeep: As I'm very much interested in politics, I thought this would be my first platform to learn about leadership. I'm inspired by our ex GS Sankalp Mahale who at the moment is the Panch of Bogmalo and the youngest Panch.

Vaishnavi: My teachers, especially Ms. Nandini Vaz Fernandes saw potential in me and always supported me in everything and my friends backed me up with a great support. I was told that I have the potential to be a good leader and I felt like, when the college has given me so many good things why not try to give something to the college.

Roma: Ever since a young age, I have been involved in performing arts. Dancing and singing are the things I've learnt professionally. Music and art has always been my passion. So through this post, I wanted to make sure that I used my experience for the good of the institution, so that more students get the exposure they deserve. I drew inspiration from the excellent and efficient work done by my seniors in the council, namely Shreya Jain and Anjali Mascarenhas. I've always admired their go-get-it attitude and their ability to simply make the most of every opportunity, while at the same time maintaining the necessary balance between activities and academics.

Q) What were the pressures you faced during the campaign?

Sandeep: As I stood unopposed for

elections I didn't need campaigning but yes, I had to campaign for my candidates.

Vaishnavi: Campaigning was not that tough for me because my friends were also doing it for me. But there were times when I got to hear that I wasn't that capable for the post or people shouldn't vote for me. But the love I got from my friends was far better than that.

Roma: Pressures did not affect me much. However, one thing that stood out was the fact that I was contesting as an independent candidate and thus popular crowd support tactics were not in my favour. Despite that, I was determined to run independently and now I have no reason to regret it.

Q) What are your hobbies?

Sandeep: I like working out, swimming and playing cricket.

Vaishnavi: Reading books, helping others, making new friends and blabbering all day.

Roma: I consider painting, music and other such forms of arts as catharsis; an emotional unburdening of sorts. Also does a foodie count as a hobby?

Q) In your opinion, what is student councils most important job?

Sandeep: In my opinion, it is to keep a well-mannered behaviour and give equal opportunities to every student. Not to be bias.

Vaishnavi: According to me, the council is for the students itself and the most important work of the council is to fulfil all the duties given to them without any problems in it and try to solve all the problems which the students face. The council members have to set an example for the next people to come and the work done by the council should be appreciated and more people should join in and work harder.

Roma: First of all, I believe that the council is OF the students and FOR the students. Having said that, it is important that a balance is established between the teachers and students; and the student's council is the key in that aspect. There must be a bridge of communication between

BY MS. BRULYNN CASTELLO

the students and the teachers and as the student council, we must establish just that.

Q) Are you happy with the rules of our college? If not, what do you intend to do about it?

Sandeep: I want to go thoroughly with the Autonomous Chowgule College rules. And my main motto is to bring in the transparency between autonomous system and our college students. Precisely credit system.

Vaishnavi: I'm happy with some of my college rules but there are some like the daily timetable, which is very hectic and there is literally no time for the third years for the projects or may be the credit system which I will try my best to change by politely putting forth the idea to the principal one by one so that at the end there is no problem to anyone.

Roma: There is very little to complain about in a college that offers as many liberties as Chowgules does. I believe we should consider ourselves lucky that our institution gives its students the kind of freedom which is unseen in any other colleges.

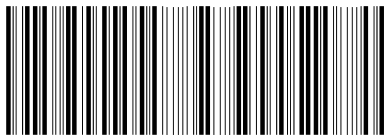
Q) If you had the chance to change/add/remove any rule at Chowgules what would you choose?

Sandeep: No comments on things which I'm not sure still. But will focus on the credit system. Rest all are perfectly designed.

Vaishnavi: I would definitely see that the events participated by the students in their 3 years should be considered as their credits and this way I would appreciate them to take part in more and more events. Also, I would reduce the attendance from 75% to 50% because it's really hectic when you have to do projects and take part in events.

Roma: Perhaps an issue to be raised here is the attendance bar of 75%. I believe it is up to the students to study in their own manner, which may or may not

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FROM KNOWLEDGE TO AWARENESS

The Department of Sociology conducted a workshop on the 12th of September 2017 on Justice, Difference and Inclusion. The workshop was presided over by Ms. Gayathri Konkar, Counselor at GIM Goa. The workshop was mandatory for the students of the Department, but was also open to the public and a good number of non-sociology students did show up! She began with a simple pronoun exercise, asking the participants to fill in blanks with a pronoun of their choice. It was a rather simple task to ask of undergrad students but through the course of the session we discovered that that exercise was only a mirror of our mentality. That only *She* cooked while *He* drove the new car. It was interesting and to an extent, shocking to realise that these ideas come off as second nature to us because we've been hardwired to think like this! Decisions about what we deem as different or even wrong play out so subtly in our lives that we don't even realise we were doing it. Through the course of the session, Ms. Konkar conducted a number of activities which brought to light how we make our choices and how well we were willing to defend them. Ms Gayathri told us that by the age of 7 or 8 an individual has almost fully formed their opinions and beliefs and from then on it is only a matter of validation.

Another interesting activity was the "Name story" where each student was told to write the story of how they were named, what it means or any other experiences they've had to face because of their name. It was a lot of fun. A number of students volunteered to read theirs out. Everyone had a story so different from the next, It was diversity of people and cultures at its best.

The session ended with a group activity where the students were given a situation and had to point out the discrimination/exclusionary action. Now, what made the activity so interesting was that the situations were taken from everyday life. They weren't extraordinarily biased or racist. They were simple things like being teased or bullied in school or being subject to discrimination at work because of religious differences. In conclusion we were told that besides conscious bias, unconscious bias was also very real. That being aware of it we ought to question our choices and ensure that they are more inclusive and respectful towards that who maybe different from us.

- **MS. CHARMINE PEREIRA**

STUDENT ELECTIONS

The main role of class representatives is to gather views from the students regarding various aspects of their course. This can be positive feedback, as well as concerns about issues which negatively affect the student experience. Chowgules Students Council Elections were held last week. Tigers had the opportunity of voting the Class Representative as well as the University Class Representative. The voting was conducted from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. While most candidates put all their efforts in campaigning, three candidates (CR category) were elected unopposed. These three candidates included Mr. Princy J. Mishra from F.Y.B.A, Mr. Atulkumar Kadam from S.Y.B.A and Mr. Sandeep Jadhav from T.Y.B.A. Also, Ms. Vardha Naik was elected unopposed as the University Class Representative of FYBA. Mr. Karan Singh Yadav and Mr. Sampat Raikar were declared as the University Class Representatives of T.Y.B.A and S.Y.B.A respectively. Ms. Roma Prabhudessai from T.Y.B.A was also elected as the Class Representative.

Shruti Shetgaonkar was elected as the CR for SYBA said, *"It feels great! It's a great feeling when you get something you wanted from a really long time. And to win with a margin of 30 votes is a great deal for me. It feels good that not only people from your own department but the people from other departments showed that they believed in me and voted for me. For that I am grateful."* When asked about her future plans as the CR she replied, *"As of now I am focusing on the promises I made. For instance, the parking space. It's not organised and I will try to make it more organised. Other than that I will always be there for any SYBA student. To help them in any way I can. If they have any difficulties they can approach me and I will help them"*. Sampat Raikar also expressed his gratitude towards the students for electing him as the University Class Representative.

We wish all the candidates the very best and hope that you will take initiatives to make changes to improve the students' experience.

BY MS. OAIZY GOMES

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'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH'

On September 5th, Gauri Lankesh, was brutally shot and murdered on the porch of her own house. Known for her robust and tough voice, Gauri Lankesh was more than just a journalist. She was a social activist who stood up for the oppressed and exploited of the society. Her murder, as agreed by everyone, was an act to silence her.

So let me ask you: what is freedom of speech? Is it the liberty to speak your mind or is it a grand façade created by a system that cares not what its people think or say. How shallow are they, to silence those few people who have the courage to say out loud, what we fear to even whisper? *Authority* is a crown. And most of the people who wear it on their heads, have no clue about the responsibility that comes with it. They only strut around in it, enjoying the attention thrown their way.

But when authority uses its power for the wrong reasons, they are crossing a line. And such injustice must be stopped. We cannot allow the people in power to treat us like hostages: whenever they feel like they either put a gun to our head or apologise for their ridiculous behaviour. And maybe their actions could silence or scare away a few, but there will come a day when the very throne they are occupying will tremble from the wrath of an army of youngsters who will decide one day that enough is enough.

BY MS. SONIA SABNIS

include attending each and every lecture. Besides, for a student involved in cultural activities, it becomes tough to maintain this attendance; even if he/she is great in studies, he/she will have to repeat the year.

Q) Any message for the students?

Sandeep: Yes, I would only say please don't be reserved or inactive. Or college students have a lot of potential some of them are also working at a professional level. I would say that everyone should individually come forward to revive the power of Chowgule tigers and not wait till someone approaches you personally.

Vaishnavi: First of all, thank you for voting and electing me as the Chairperson. I will never let anyone down. "Work hard in silence and let the success make the noise".

Roma: Guys, if you should ever have any difficulty, feel free to approach me or any other members so that we can help you to the best of our abilities. ***