

■ SATIRE ■

Faculty member shocked to realise that a high CGPA doesn't make him a good teacher

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

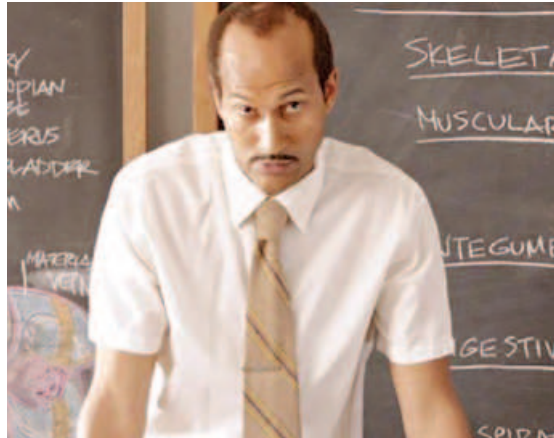
There are plenty of reasons for a student to aim for an outstanding CGPA. Academic validation, a general thirst for knowledge, a sense of accomplishment, gaining the respect of their peers, and so on. But there is one particular perk of having a high CGPA that trumps all the others, which is a shot at being recruited as a faculty member.

While good grades are a reasonable basis for the primary evaluation of a candidate's capabilities, it doesn't seem to automatically translate into adequate teaching skills. The common consensus among students is that to be a capable instructor, one needs the drive to teach on top of a decent grade, not to mention the ability to explain things clearly. This could prove to be a rather

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bafling concept for the recruiting committee if they ever decide to look at student feedback.

Fardin Ahmed, a newly recruited faculty member at Fictional Institute of Technology (FIT), professes his opinions against the notion.



“Passion for teaching is definitely not one of the prerequisites that makes a good teacher,” says Fardin. “I didn't even want to go into teaching until I scored full marks on a quiz and all my friends started teasingly calling me 'faculty'. I can still hear their obnoxious, derision-filled laughter in my head, but I'm the first one in my class to be employed, so who's laughing now?”

When asked if his students believe that he's a good teacher, Fardin claims that their opinion is unimportant.

“Look, you go into your 8 AM class to find a room full of disillusioned 20-year-olds in different stages of the REM cycle,” he says. “They just show up for the mandatory attendance marks, so you really think they

care about my teaching skills?”

Fardin firmly believes that technology has already revolutionised education, which is why his ability to stand in front of a projector and break down complex topics has become irrelevant.

“You forget that I was a student until very recently,” he adds. “I know that there is nothing in this world that I, or any other faculty here for that matter, can teach in four months better than some Indian guy on YouTube the night before students' exams.”

Fardin's uninvolved teaching method doesn't seem to resonate well with students. He says, “These kids get ghosted in their situationships every two business days. Their abandonment issues are so strong that they send their class representatives after me whenever I respond a little late. Like, chill out, the final exam doesn't start for another 24 hours. I'll let you know the syllabus soon.”

Some of Fardin's colleagues, however, seem to be faring much better in terms of popularity among students despite such difficult circumstances. Fardin explains that he's theorised on ways he can improve his image among students, including a standup comedy bit with just enough political incorrectness to make him relatable, but not get him cancelled.

Upon being inquired whether he has ever considered putting more effort into improving his lectures, Fardin refused to comment.

Zabin Tazrin Nashita is a student at Islamic University of Technology.

WHITE NOISE AND HOW IT WORKS

NAHIAN JAMAL JOYEETA

White noise is the type of noise that's painfully obvious when it's absent or when there's a sudden dip in focus. Often an essential auditory stimulus for attention-retention and environmental awareness, many of us are unaware of our reliance on it since it is a latent subconscious phenomenon.

Research shows that some forms of white noise can improve focus by blocking out distracting sounds and reducing the variability of the auditory environment. For those with ADHD, white noise may have a stabilising effect by lowering impulsivity and improving attention control. For the rest of us, it can create an environment perfect for deep work. For better study sessions, work hours, or creative endeavours, many young people, including myself, have embraced the use of white noise apps that help curate a calming soundtrack profile or personalised music playlists on YouTube and Spotify.

White noise is not noise pollution, which can cause sensory overload. It is a steady, peaceful background sound that aids in concentration. However, many confuse white noise with an overwhelming barrage of noises that induces stress and impairs focus. Consider the difference between a gentle rain shower and a torrential downpour; one is calming, while the other is chaotic.

For me, different types of white noise each serve different purposes. For example, whether it is classical melodies or lo-fi beats, music generally helps me get into a flow state and makes boring tasks more bearable. A familiar TV shows playing in the background can have the same effect as a warm blanket on a cold day. Even seemingly insignificant talk, like those overheard in



ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN

coffee shops and while working or studying in public spaces, can help you feel a sense of community and lessen the loneliness of working by yourself.

Sleep is often regarded as a solitary activity that thrives in silence and darkness. However, these very elements can make many prone to overthinking. I have found white noise to be therapeutic for me in terms of regulating sleep. Whether it is the calming sound of Netflix playing in the background or the cosiness of

drifting off to sleep while listening to music, I have found a cosy bubble that helps me sleep.

White noise is not a one-size-fits-all solution, however. Tastes vary, the same way that they do in music or food. Some people find comfort in the busy sounds of a café, while others prefer to be alone in a quiet library. You can also find your personal cocoon of comfort in white noise with some caution, moderation, and curation - all you have to do is listen.