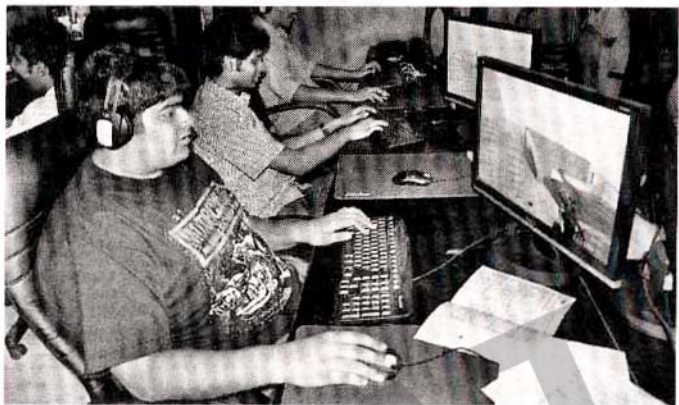


Bond over games

WORKSHOP The gaming seminar at The Den taught the players a few tips to deal with their parents. **SRUTI SRIRAM**



Video gaming is becoming increasingly popular. Sixty-eight per cent of adults have spent some time playing video games this year, but young gamers have a hurdle to cross before entering the gaming frenzy: their parents.

Expert inputs

At a recent seminar hosted by gaming lounge The Den, Jai Naresh, head of Game Design and Development Department, Image College of Art, Animation and Technology (ICAT), discussed confronting parents and other gaming-related topics. During the course of this seminar, teens and young adults learned the values of video gaming and talked about the prevalence of the gaming industry in India.

"Gamers are problem-solvers," said Naresh. Naresh's goal was to help young gamers confront their problems with their parents. Naresh also spoke about

his experience with his father, when he had just begun to discover video games. "Our relationship has changed so much (because of video games)," he said.

Naresh said that parents are more willing to play video games with their children after work than playing cricket outside. "Video games can help bond with parents," he said. He also added that gaming helps relieve stress and can promote leadership qualities with games such as eRepublik and Hotel Habbo, in which players are able to run for office or manage hotels, respectively. Prashanth, proprietor of The Den, said that the seminar was "everything I had planned", and is planning to make this a regular feature in an effort to increase awareness of gaming and its prospects.

Sruti is a Std XII student at Holton-Arms School, Washington D.C.

PHOTO: M. KARUNAKARAN