

Illinois Tech students take Ice Bucket Challenge

Kevin Zheng
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Students of Illinois Tech participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge on Sunday, August 24th. The Ice Bucket Challenge is a challenge that was started and is promoted by the ALS Association.

According to the ALS Association website, alsa.org, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a "progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurons reach from the brain to the spinal cord and from the spinal cord to the muscles throughout the body. The progressive

degeneration of the motor neurons in ALS eventually leads to their death. When the motor neurons die, the ability of the brain to initiate and control muscle movement is lost. With voluntary muscle action progressively affected, patients in the later stages of the disease may become totally paralyzed."

The most well-known person to have developed this disease is Lou Gehrig. Because of Gehrig's popularity, the disease was given the nickname "Lou Gehrig's disease." Stephen Hawking, a well-known scientist, also suffers from a similar motor neuron disease related to ALS.

Few people are aware of this disease and even not everyone who is aware of this

disease knows what the disease is about. This is why the Ice Bucket Challenge exists as a way to educate others about ALS; the challenge was hosted at Illinois Tech to spread awareness about the disease and to raise money for research for the ALS Association. To complete the Ice Bucket Challenge, participants pour buckets of icy water over themselves, donate money to the ALS Association, and challenge a few friends to do the same.

This event was hosted by the Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning, the Student Government Association, and the Better Together student organization. This event would not have happened without the

support from Lynne Meyer from the Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning, students in Better Together, Akindae Aderede, president of the Student Government Association, the Office of Campus Life, and most importantly, the students who participated and donated to this cause. The donation link will stay open until Sunday, August 31. Donations can be made at the following website: tinyurl.com/IllinoisTechALS. Thanks to all students who participated in the challenge last weekend.

After completing the challenge, Illinois Tech extended a challenge to the student body of other universities: MIT, Carnegie Mellon, Georgia Tech, and Cal Tech to complete Ice Bucket Challenge.



Photo by Kevin Zheng

Alternative Spring Break hosts info sessions this week

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Alternative Spring Break is an exciting student organization to get involved with on Illinois Tech's campus. Every year, our team looks forward to helping construct homes in coordination with Habitat for Humanity. As much as we love to hammer nails, paint walls, and shovel dirt, our passion is fueled by a fundamental belief that we are instituting real, meaningful change in our society. We believe that the ability to make a difference is not based in expertise or influence, but rather a continuing commitment to serve those around us. Service is the spark that kindles the growth and betterment of individuals' lives and communities.

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization. They are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscious and action. Habitat's ministry was founded on the conviction that every man, woman, and child should have a simple, decent place to live in dignity and

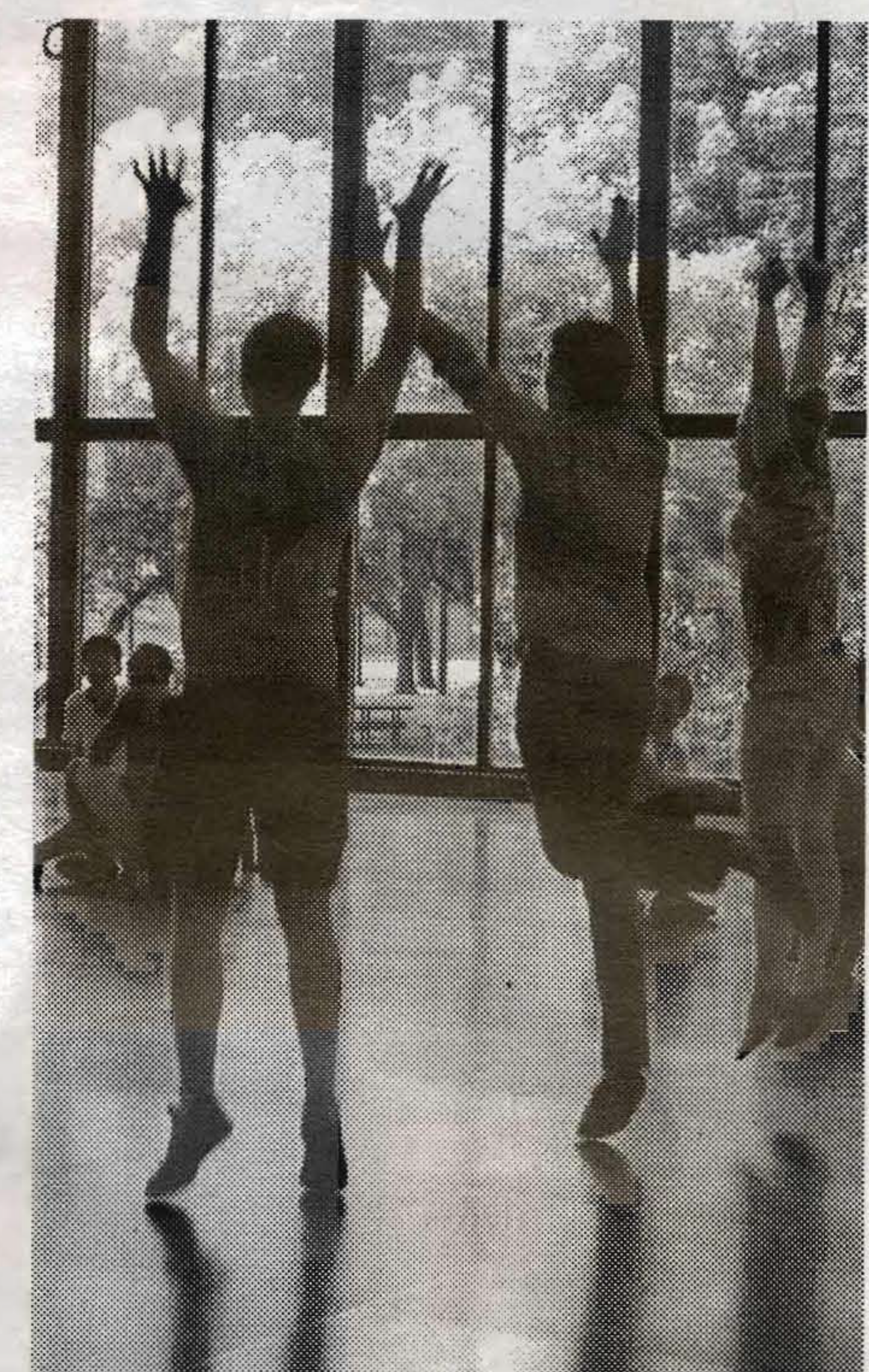
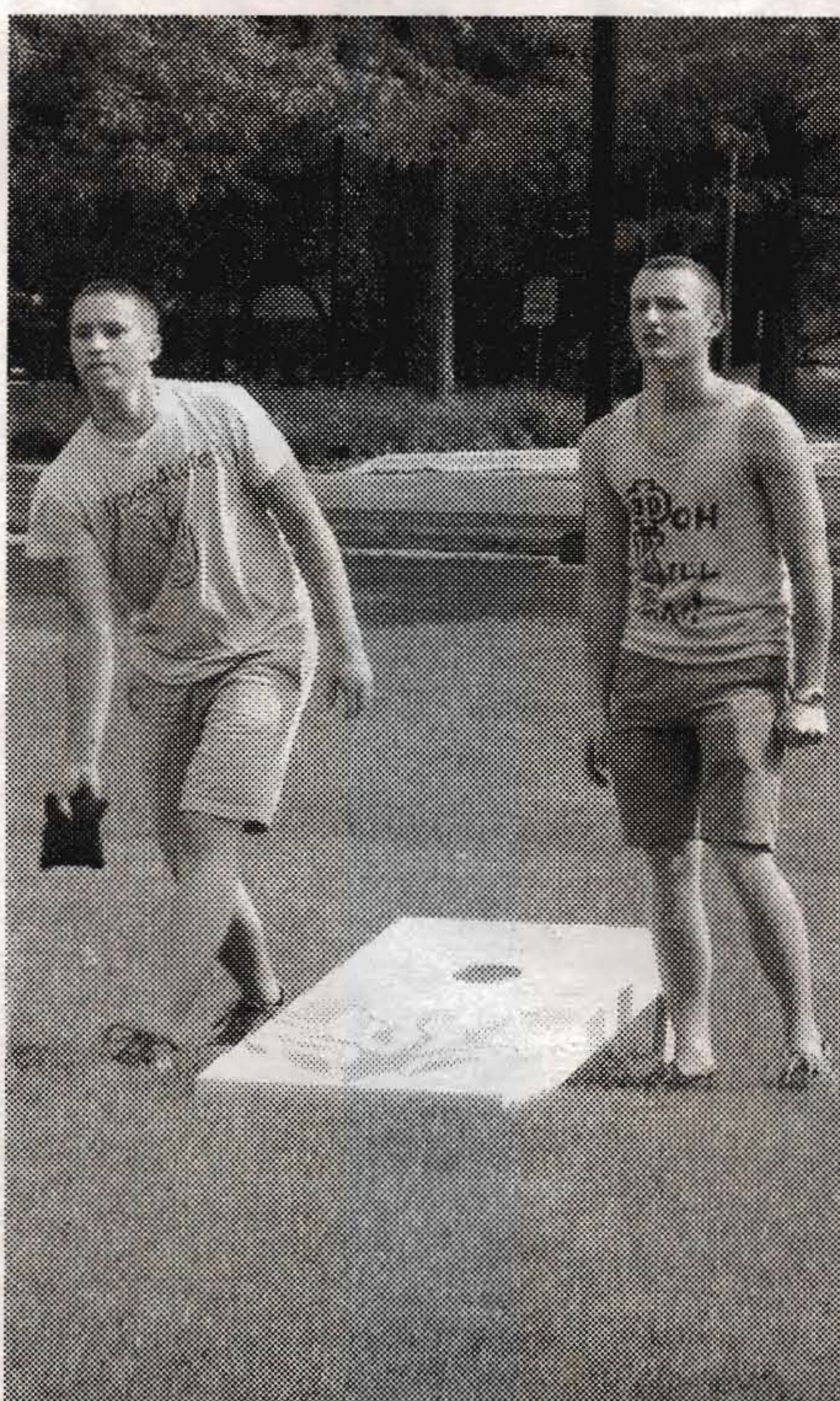
safety. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat for Humanity International has built or renovated more than 600,000 homes, which have improved the lives of more than three million individuals. Habitat for Humanity has active projects across five continents, with housing solutions tailored to the particular resources, needs, and cultures of particular areas. Samples of these homes are on display in Habitat's Global Village museum in Americus, GA, which IIT Alternative Spring Break team has had the pleasure to visit in past years.

Illinois Tech's Alternative Spring Break has held a spring break build every year since 2009. The organization also began doing fall builds last year. The team has built homes in Alabama, Georgia, California and West Virginia. All majors are welcome to apply to the team. No prior construction experience is needed (we all learn together on site). To learn more about Alternative Spring Break, join their remaining information sessions this week, on Wednesday, August 27 and Friday, August 29. Both remaining information sessions take place at 12:45 P.M. in room 104 in Engineering 1 building. The organization can also be reached at asb.iit@gmail.com.



Photo by Kori Bowns

Welcome Week 2014



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