

TechNews

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Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters or stories.

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Advice, lessons in positivity

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Have you ever had a moment in your life when you felt like giving up but just couldn't because you thought it's not worth it? Or maybe one of those Kodak moments where something just clicks for you? Or something you've been struggling with for a long time and it was finally coming to an end but suddenly everything changed? Whatever the source of our insight, it's these moments that bring us to a deeper understanding of our world. The better understanding we have of life, the more we live in the truth.

This Ramadan, I started a 30 day lesson Facebook update challenge, where every day I shared something positive about my life and any positive lesson I had learned in my life. Most of my friends loved it, so I thought to put them all together in shape of article and share it with rest of you.

I remember once there was a time in my life where I thought nothing good will ever happen; that is when my mom told me, "Nothing is impossible in this world. Faith is the only thing that matters and will make a difference," and, trust me, it did make a difference. There will come a time in your life when making an important decision in your life will be difficult, but you've got to do what's right for you, even if it hurts. When you are going through such times, stop focusing on how stressed you are and remember how blessed you are. It could be so much worse. No matter how long it takes, it will get better. Tough situations build strong people in the end. Look for something positive about this moment. Even if you have to look a little harder than usual, it still exists.

There is a very famous saying by Victor Hugo, saying, "The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved," and you will never understand this thing until you learn to love yourself. Learn to love yourself

first, instead of loving the idea of other people loving you. My favorite poet Rumi said in one of his verses that, "Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it," and in his support he said, "Do not be satisfied with the stories that come before you. Unfold your own myth." If you will just read between the lines of his both verses you will live a very peaceful life because life is all about love and the best thing one can do is to love himself. There is another good verse by Rumi which resonates with these verses: "Ignore those that make you fearful and sad, that degrade you back towards disease and death."

Everyone has been made for some particular work, and the desire for that work has been put in every heart. All you have to do is look for that desire and fight for it. When you will start your journey, there will be many people who will try to put you down. Just remember: "When setting out on a journey do not seek advice from someone who never left home" – Rumi

There will come a time in your life when everything will go against you and you might stop believing in yourself, but just remember what Alice Walker said: "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." Everyone is born with powers; you only have to polish them with time. There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. Speak up before it's too late. Let the world know about your power and show them that you are the one who will make his story a better one, in fact an inspirational one. As Aristotle said, "Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives - choice, not chance, and determines your destiny." So make your choices, put in your sincere efforts and keep your good intention; nothing can then stop you from being successful. The most

reliable way to predict the future is to create it. Participate in life instead of just watching it pass you by.

Everyone likes to complain—I do as well—but next time when you complain, remember this saying by our prophet Muhammad, "When you see a person who has been given more than you in money and beauty, look to those, who have been given less." Remember, social comparison is the thief of happiness. You could spend a lifetime worrying about what others have, but it wouldn't get you anything. But also remember that this doesn't mean that you have the complete right to make fun of other people. Saying someone is ugly doesn't make you any prettier. So why hurt someone's feelings? Plus nothing is ugly in this world, it's just the way we see it. Someone who appears to be ugly for you could be someone's reason for living. When you choose to see the good in others, you end up finding the good in yourself. So think before you speak and if you commit any mistakes just accept them and move ahead. You can learn great things from your mistakes when you aren't busy denying them. There isn't anything noble about being superior to another person. True nobility is in being superior to the person you once were. It's absolutely okay to be wrong at times and someone else doesn't have to be wrong for you to be right either.

One of the most important lessons you will ever learn in your life is to not listen to what people say, watch what they do. And I would like to end my article with another powerful verse by my most favorite Sufi mystic Rumi, "This being human is a guest house. Every morning is a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary awareness comes as an unexpected visitor... Welcome and entertain them all. Treat each guest honorably. The dark thought, the shame, the malice, meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond."

Don't miss the memo

Anndriene Bell
TECHNEWS WRITER

We are IIT! It is at this wonderful institution that we promote diversity, unity, and solidarity; yet, it is at this very institution that microaggressions, racist comments, racial profiling, sexist comments, unfair treatment, and segregation are commonplace. No, this is not a statement of hate toward the institution, as this is an environment that has a foundation deeply rooted in giving, education, and life-changing experiences. However, this is a call to action and attention for those who have, by circumstance or choice, missed the memo.

The goodness of so many college experiences is tainted with the unpleasant, derogatory filth that is spread with hate and ignorance on mediums such as Facebook, IIT Confessions, and in various social circles on campus. It is time to pause small-minded points of views. Instead, use technology to educate yourself. Better yet, have a decent

conversation to form an understanding of what is not understood. We are a direct wealth of knowledge to one another, so it is a pain to know that there are fellow Hawks who walk around as victims of such hurtful acts. If you have participated in such acts, then you, my friend, have missed the memo.

Stereotypes and generalizations in regard to race, sexual orientation, religion, culture, and so much more are also commonplace here on campus. It does not matter how many Taste of IITs, ISO events, and cultural organizations we form when there are hate crimes taking place and less support for some cultural groups than there are for others. Honestly, how many other cultural organizations are you a member of outside of your own? How often does your cultural organization initiate collaboration with that of others? Are you truly welcoming to those outside of your culture that wish to take part?

The only way that this institution is at fault, is if hate crimes and those who commit them are swept under the rug and left to fester

and resurface as vicious cycles that again, taint this very campus. This goes to state that not one minority group, race, religion, sexual orientation is at the forefront of this message, but it's fair to say that those who have been victimized stand in solidarity for what is right and just, and will take proper action against any opposition.

The university can make as many efforts to solve these issues as it likes, but the students are what make this place. Whether you are domestic, international, undocumented, male, female, Christian, Muslim, African American, Chinese, white, purple, green, student, faculty, or staff, don't miss this memo. It is time to stop ignoring such blatant ignorance and miseducation that builds the unspoken cultural divides that exist at IIT. Why even attend such a rich place of diversity if only to make a mockery of it instead of embracing it? Try taking advantage. Try becoming a well-rounded Hawk and consider changing your ways.

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