

TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

OPINION 2
CAMPUS 2-3
A&E 4-5
SLIPSTICK 7
SPORTS 7

IIT kicks off 125th anniversary celebration in Galvin Library

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In 1890, Chicago minister Frank Gunsaulus and meatpacking industrialist Philip Danforth Armour teamed up to create the Armour Institute, which would later merge with Lewis Institute in 1940 to form Illinois Institute of Technology. This year, the university celebrates its 125th anniversary with many special events, beginning with a reception held in Galvin Library on the afternoon of Friday, January 23.

The Anniversary kick-off party occupied the upper level of Galvin Library with a

variety of events to celebrate IIT's past, present, and future. Many areas of the library offered different experiences to the wide variety of guests in attendance, which included students, staff, faculty, and alumni. As guests arrived, they were encouraged to stop by a table that offered free commemorative beverage cups to the first 700 attendees. University Archivist Catherine Buck and Assistant University Archivist Ralph Pugh offered tours of the historical artifacts kept in the archive collections of the library. The Kemper Room, located in the south half of the library, contained a variety of comparisons between IIT's past and present as well as some interesting facts about the university. The southwest corner of the upper level

was home to a photo booth with a variety of props that printed photo strips for visitors free of charge.

The celebration also featured contests, including a game where participants learned biographical facts about important people in IIT's history and had to guess who they were, a multiple-choice IIT trivia game, and a costume contest where participants dressed as their favorite decade.

Food was available throughout the event, provided by Sodexo catering. Food stations featured food especially relevant to IIT. A mashed potato bar, likely in the spirit of IIT Potato, accompanied three stations that represented geographical areas near to IIT: China-

town, U.S. Cellular Field, and Bronzeville.

A jazz combo from Vandercook College of Music was also present at the event to provide music and lead the crowd in singing happy birthday to the university.

Other events on the schedule for special recognition as a part of IIT's 125th anniversary celebration include a revival of the Amelia Earhart Kite Flying Contest, Alumni Awards, Commencement, Convocation, Homecoming, and an IIT Hall of Fame event, all to be held in the upcoming year. A full calendar of events is available online at web.iit.edu/125.



Photos by Kori Bowns

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

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.

ADVERTISING

Legitimate paid advertisements, from within or outside the IIT community, which serve to produce income for the paper, are accommodated. TechNews holds the right to deny any advertisement unsuitable for publication. Media Kits are available upon request. Ad space is limited and is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact the Business Manager at business@technewsiit.com for more information.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsiit.com.

Letter from the Editor:

Welcome to TechNews!

Hello and thanks for picking up TechNews! On behalf of the staff of TechNews, happy New Year and welcome to the Spring 2015 semester. We hope that your semester will be full of excitement, learning, and challenges for you to overcome. IIT has the advantage of being a small school in a big city, and our student body is as unique as our campus, providing students the opportunity to learn so much from each other.

TechNews is all about promoting and supporting the IIT community. TechNews, the student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928, serves to promote student discussion by providing a newspaper and professional public forum that is highly accessible and represents views from all segments of the IIT community. Anyone at IIT is always welcome to submit their work for

inclusion in TechNews.

Our writers cover a variety of topics each semester; our Opinion section regularly includes takes on university policy as well as students' views on politics. The Campus section provides coverage of any campus event, from a small general body meeting to Homecoming to administrative meetings; the university community wants to hear about the things that are happening on campus, and writers are welcome to share any part of it. The Arts and Entertainment section features writers' experiences in the city, including reviews of restaurants, movies, and music. Students are also welcome to submit comics, riddles, and puzzles for our Slipstick section. Lastly, the Sports section includes recaps of sports on a university, local, national, or international scale.

TechNews also isn't only about writing; several students contribute by submitting photos and working on our copy editing, layout, or management staff.

A strong campus newspaper is part of a strong campus community, and we'd love to have the opportunity to share your work and passions with others at IIT. To learn more about TechNews, please drop by a weekly Writer's Meeting, held every Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. in our office, located in MTCC room 221. If you'd like to submit any content for the paper or ask any questions, feel free to send me an email at editor@technewsiit.com.

Sincerely,

Kori Bowns

Editor-in-Chief, TechNews

CAMPUS

campus@technewsiit.com

TEDxIIT prepares for upcoming event

Olumurewa Oguntade

TECHNEWS WRITER

It was only a week ago that planning began for TEDxIIT 2015 and already, a lot of progress has been made. TEDxIIT is a student organization on campus with the mission "To create a world class TED-like event which is innovative, mind-opening and attention-grabbing, featuring inspirational and energizing speakers from the IIT community," and a vision "To inspire the greater community by spreading positive ideas and action to impact the global humanity."

The first planning meeting was held on Thursday, January 15, and was facilitated by Amy Lee Segami, TEDxIIT Founder and IIT Alumna (BS ME 1979; MS MMAE 1982). Also present at the meeting were the Faculty Advisor, Professor J.D. Gershbein, from the IIT Stuart School of Business (MS I/OPsyc 1985; MBA 1989) and Chair of the Advisory Board, Yoetzin Diaz (BArch 2014). All three advisors are IIT alumni who set great examples of giving back to the IIT community by offering meaningful mentoring and practical coaching to current students.

The main agenda for the first meeting

was the selection of the executive board and committee chairs. A majority of the 30 students present nominated themselves, and in some cases provided brief manifestos. It was a successful process resulting in the election of the executive board: Rahul Ainapur as President, Sarath Chandra as Vice President, Sai Krishna as Secretary, Vishak Chandra as Treasurer and Prakhar Jajoo as Communications. Leaders were also elected for the following committees: Speakers, Hospitality, Marketing, Public Relations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Maintenance, Production, and Volunteers.

The second meeting, held on Thursday, January 22, began with updates from the executive board and committee members. Progress reports on assigned tasks for the past week were shared and everyone was excited to hear about the incredible amount of work done. The team was particularly excited about the positive feedback reported from the promotion efforts. About 70 new students had signed up to be a part of TEDxIIT. The string of successes continued with the accomplishment of the main agenda for the second meeting—the selection of a theme.

Through a 120-minute session of brainstorming, debate, and discussion, the

planning team was able to distill more than 90 ideas into one single concept: 'X-FUSION'. The theme for 2015 was agreed upon unanimously because it met the selection criteria. It is simple, crisp, powerful, innovative, universal and very inclusive, since 'X' could represent a variety of things to different people. This will ultimately allow for the spread of rich and diverse ideas at the event slated to occur sometime in April.

There is still time to get involved with TEDxIIT. The planning team encourages new members to attend the weekly meetings held every Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. in the MTCC, Room 516. According to Segami, members have a lot to gain from participation. She said, "You will learn strategic planning, problem solving and innovative collaboration. You will learn the tips, tools and techniques of how to put a major global TED-like event together and actually deliver it live on campus for the world to witness."

Participation is open to the entire IIT community - students, faculty, alumni and staff. Bring your ideas, energy and passion! To learn more about TEDxIIT, visit TEDxIIT.com and sign up for the mailing list to receive updates. The organization can also be contacted at TEDxIIT@iit.edu.

Illinois Tech Robotics hosts FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For over a decade, Illinois Tech Robotics has been supporting the endeavors of youth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education through many partnerships with FIRST Robotics. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) . On January 3, 2015, ITR's students returned to campus early to put on the Chicagoland FIRST Robotics Competition kickoff event.

The FIRST Robotics Competition was founded in 1992 and is an international high school robotics competition where teams of students and mentors work during a six week build season period to build robots weighing up to 150 pounds that play in a competitive challenge that changes every year. These competitions culminate in a world championship held in St. Louis, but they begin with local kickoff events held simultaneously

around the world on the first weekend of January each year.

At kickoff events, teams from the local area come together and watch a live broadcast that reveals the challenge for which teams will have to build their robots. As the live broadcast concludes, teams of students receive the set of rules for their challenge as well as a kit of parts that contains components that they will find useful when building their robot. Many kickoff events also hold workshops that allow teams to meet, exchange ideas, or learn new skills that will help their team succeed.

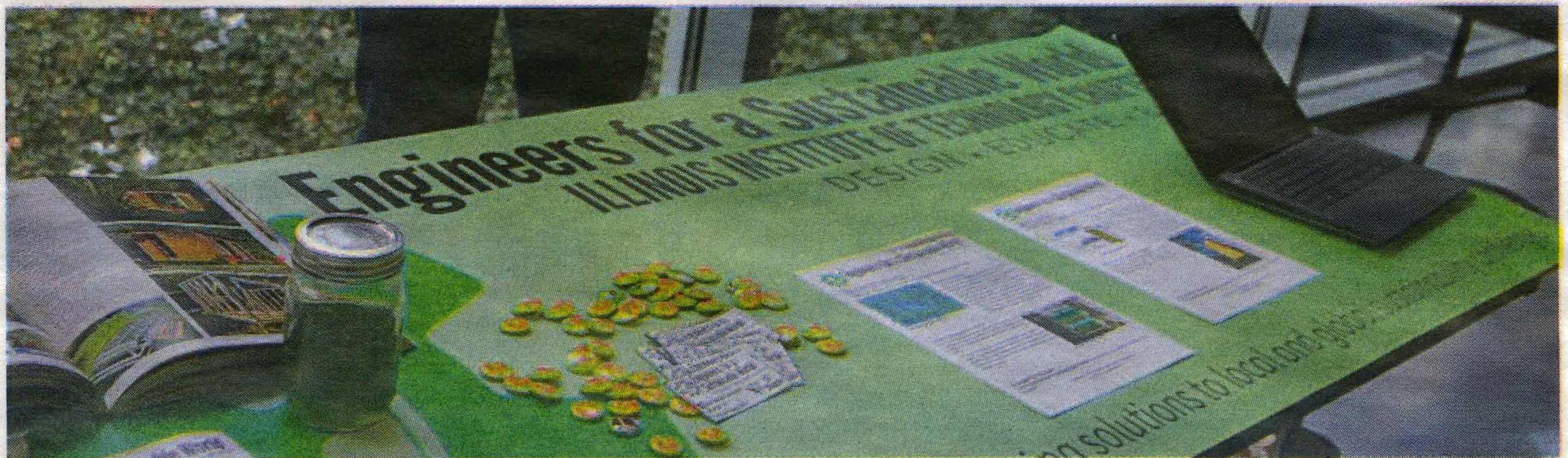
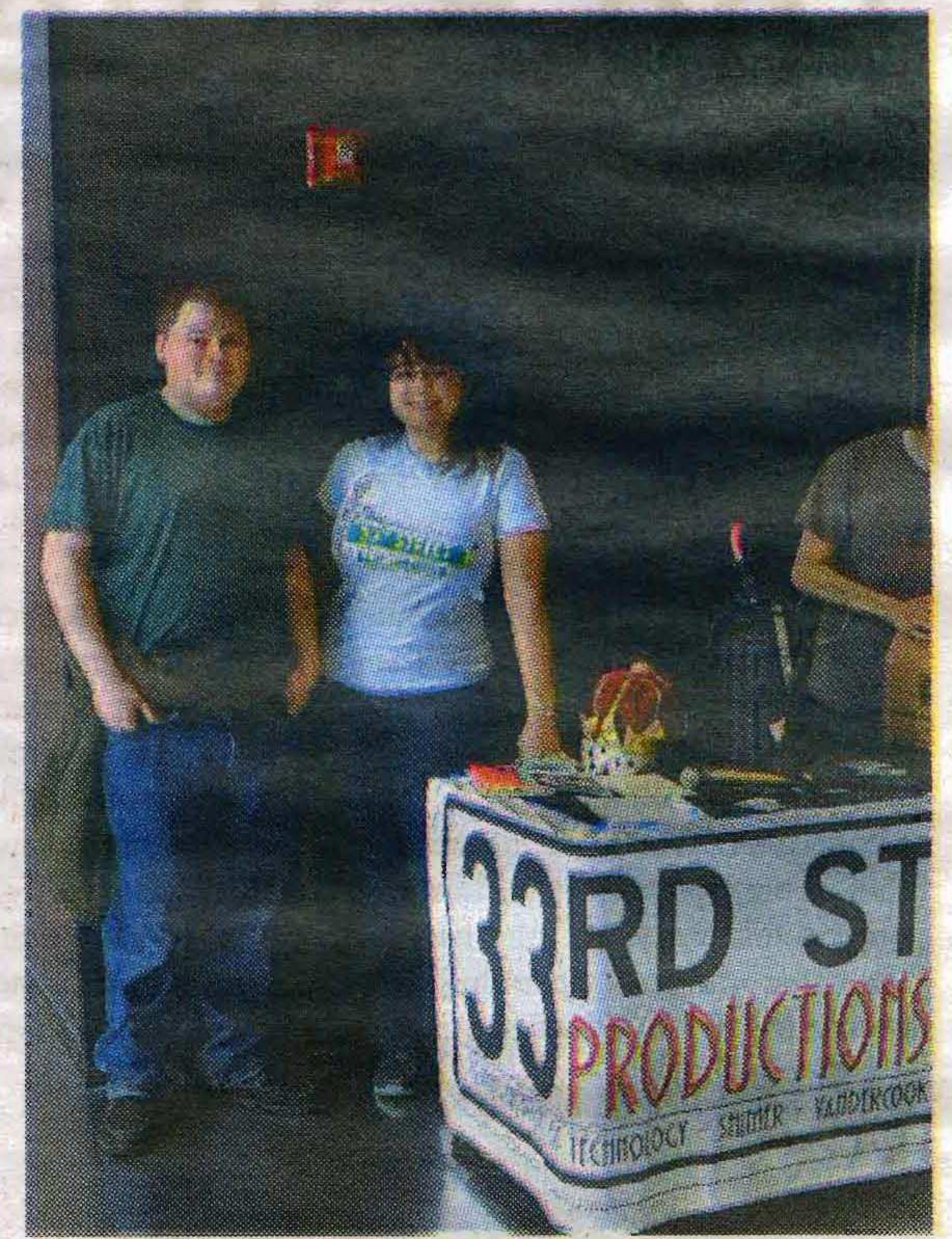
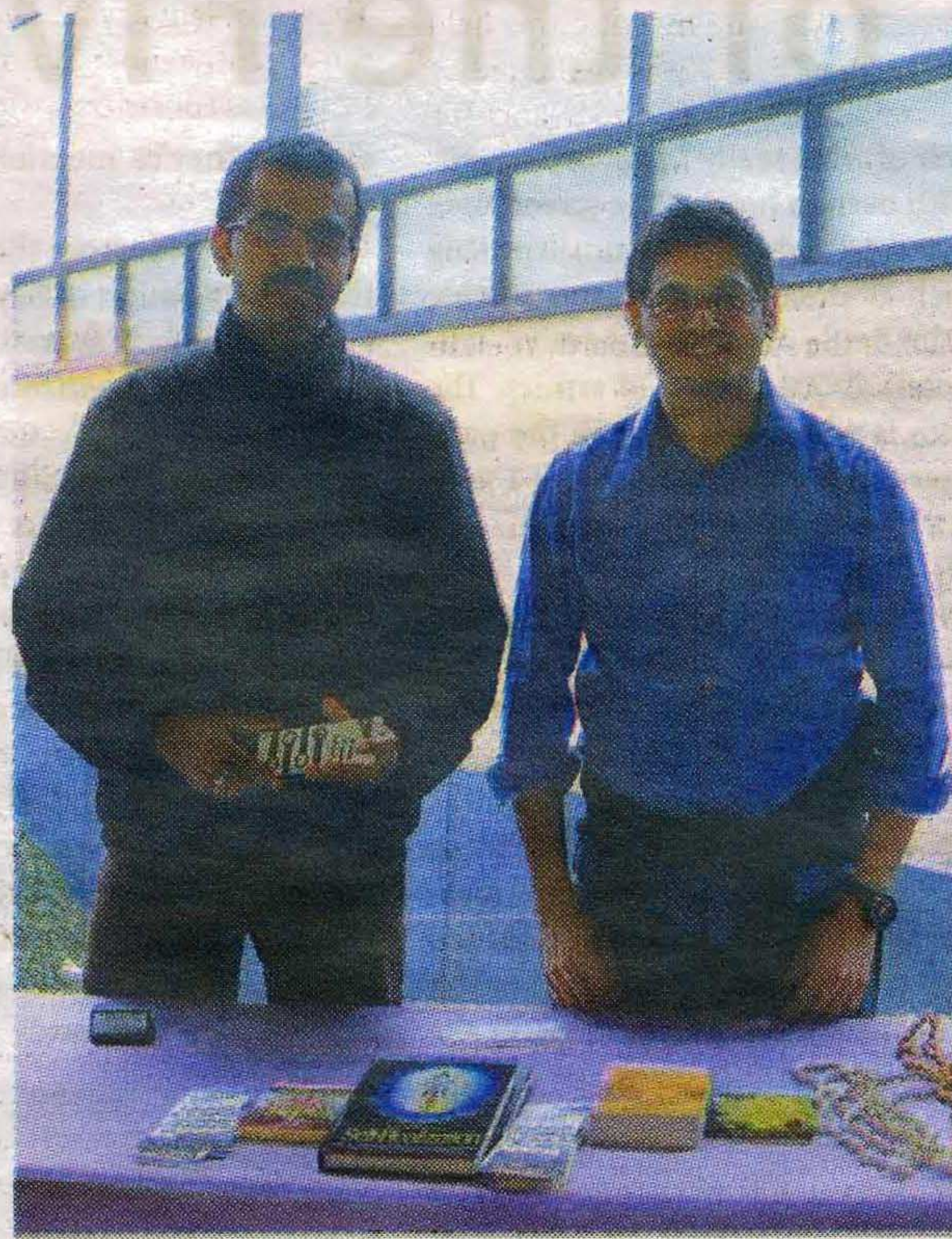
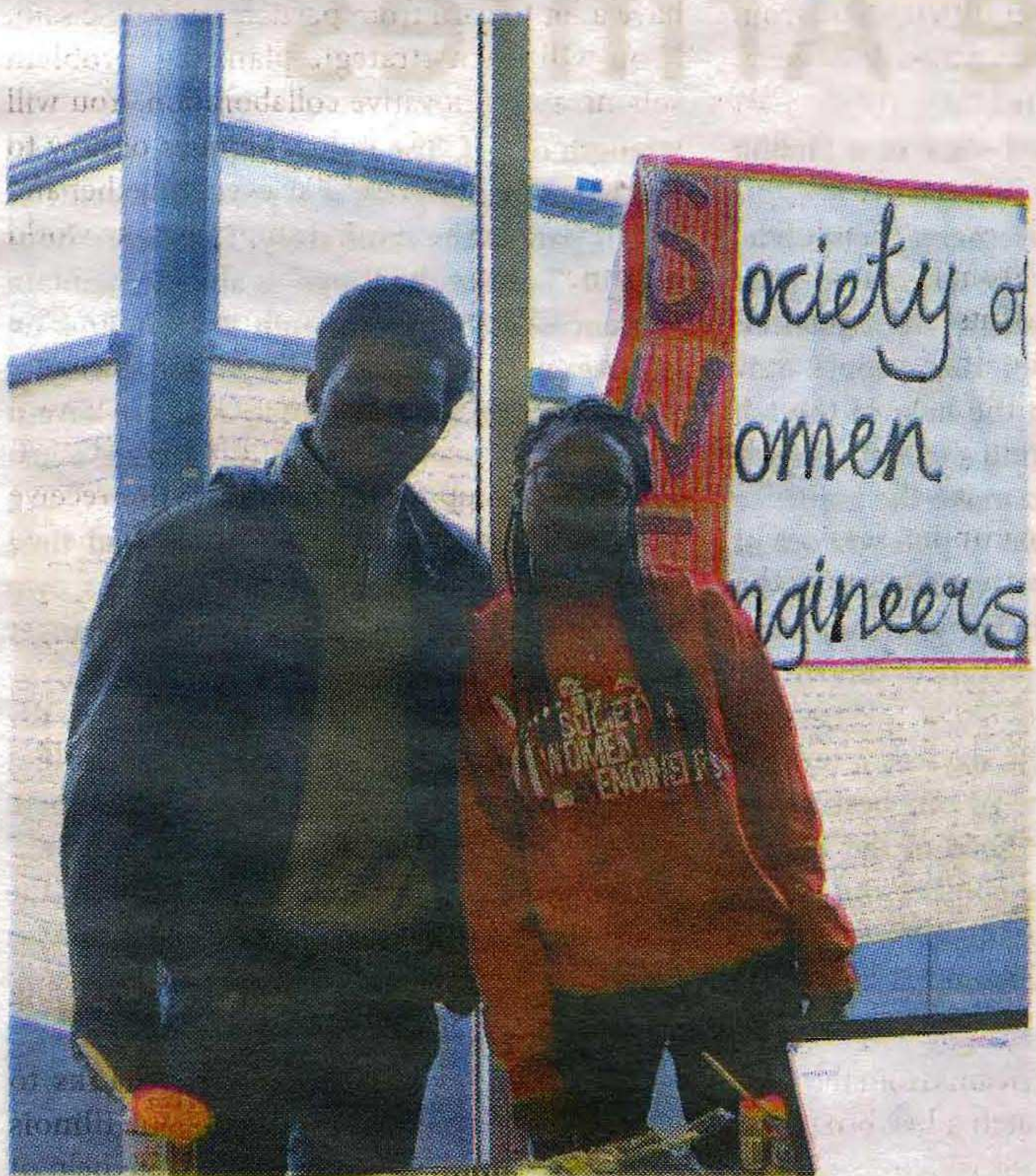
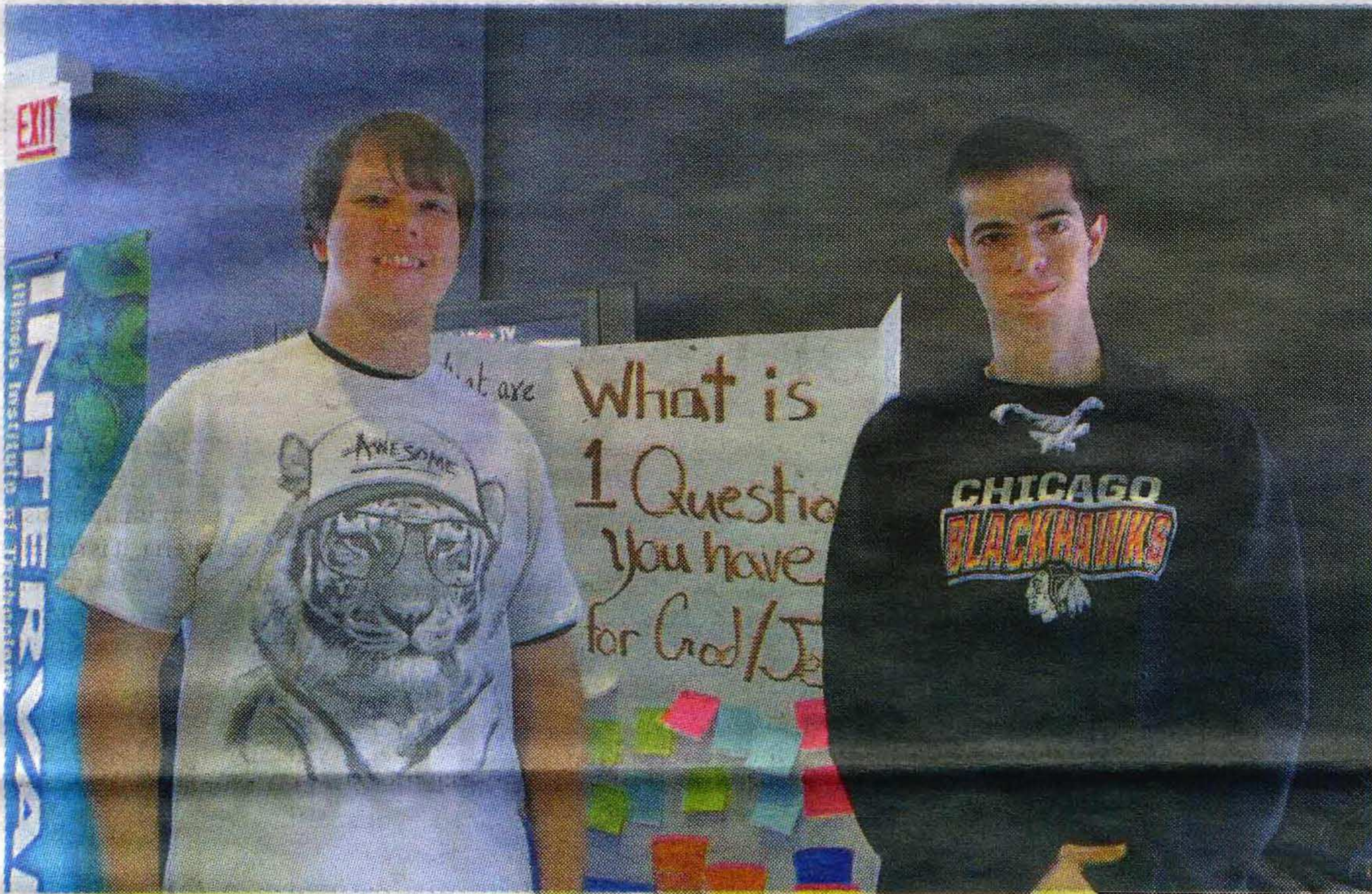
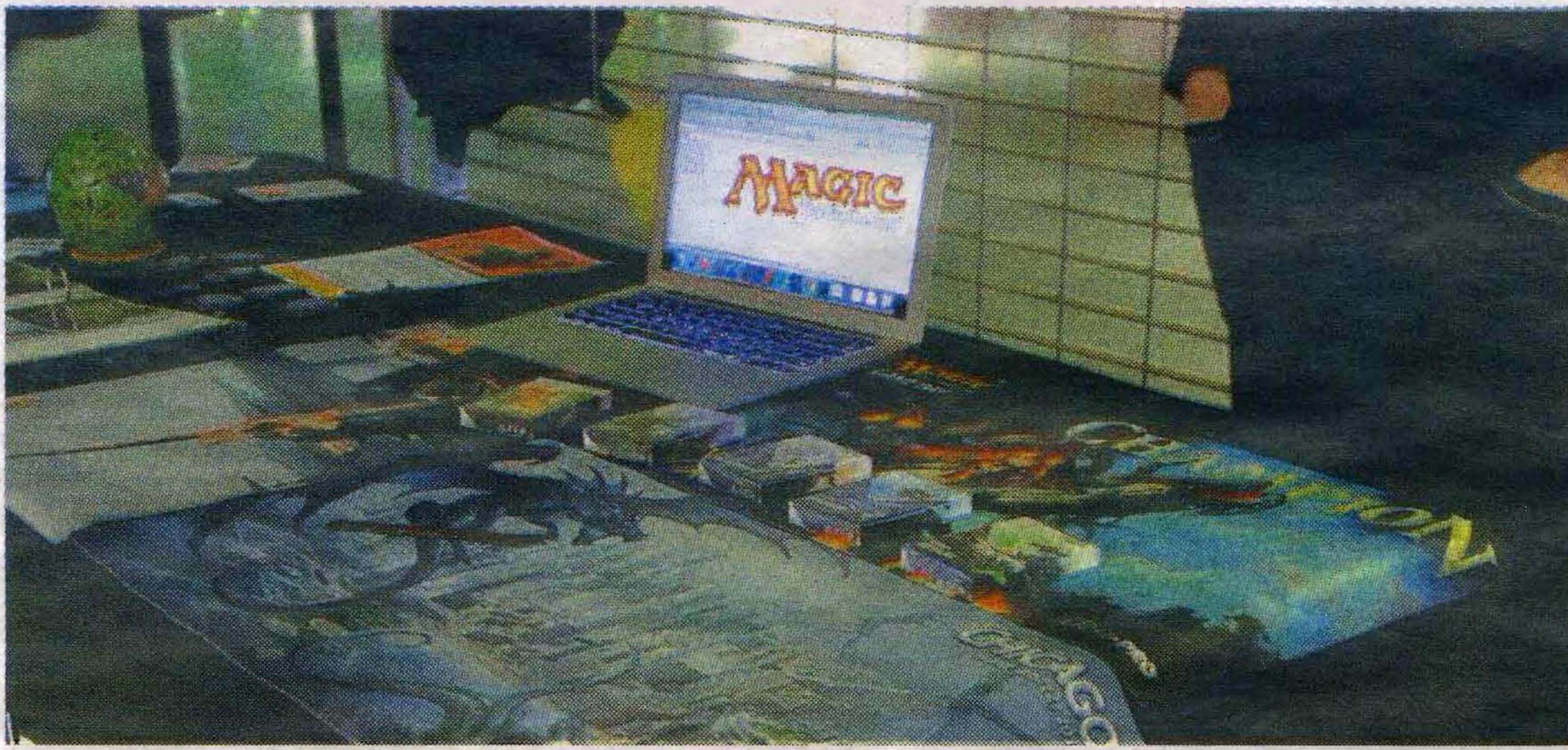
The Chicagoland kickoff hosted by Illinois Tech Robotics in Hermann Hall welcomed more than 250 students from 28 teams and their mentors, parents, and supporters. Many team representatives were from Chicago or nearby suburbs, but the Chicago kickoff also assisted teams from Iowa and Brazil. After the broadcast concluded, volunteers helped teams receive and inventory their kit of parts, review rules for the competition, lean programming

techniques, and discover effective fundraising ideas.

The event was possible thanks to months of preparation on behalf of Illinois Tech Robotics members as well as the help of dozens of volunteers on the day of the event. The Chicagoland kickoff is just the first of many volunteer events that Illinois Tech Robotics will be involved with this semester, including hosting a FIRST Tech Challenge competition on campus, working as key volunteers at the Midwest Regional FIRST Robotics Competition at University of Illinois at Chicago, and volunteering at the FIRST World Championship event.

Those interested in volunteering their time with FIRST or otherwise getting involved with Illinois Tech Robotics can contact the organization at robotics.iit@gmail.com, join the organization on HawkLink, or join weekly meetings held Friday evenings at 7pm in their robotics lab in 3424 S. State Street.

Student organizations recruit new members at Involvement Fair in MTCC



"The Interview" fails to meet expectations

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

What is there to say about Seth Rogen and James Franco's new movie? There was an extensive back and forth over the release of the film. Between Sony hacks, Cinema back outs, and Obama's condemnation of Sony's initial decision to pull down the film entirely, a lot has happened since the November announcement.

At the end of the day, the controversy has stirred up enthusiasm in all camps over this rather unworthy film.

Dave Skylark (Franco) is the host of a TMZ-style nighttime news show. As his friend and producer, Aaron Rapoport (Rogen) celebrates his 1000th episode with the show, the pair begins to feel a lack of respect. One thing leads to another and then the CIA recruits them to assassinate the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). It's only slightly more ridiculous than it sounds. The jokes are all very immature. If you like butts, chubs, and Katy Perry, then you will be laughing non-stop. Otherwise, audience members will enjoy the spectacle with a feeling of shock and bafflement.

The film was funny, but offensive. It's not clever, but I don't think it pretends to be. The publicity drummed up by this movie has made it into more than what was originally intended.

This movie doesn't win awards in any category. There have been more vulgar or offensive films such as Bruno or Jackass. There have been funnier films and many

better satires. It's not good; it's just a movie.

Many people have a problem with this movie at a fundamental level. For the record, this movie shouldn't be considered offensive because of clichéd jokes, stereotypes, and a "Harro, Prees." This is a movie that makes a joke of the CIA assassinating a (whether we like it or not) world leader. If the tables were turned and there was a movie to come out about the assassination of specifically Obama, particularly from a country which is viewed as an enemy, we might have a few strong words to say about it ourselves. It's tasteless and clearly sought to capitalize on a hot button issue. As soon as Sony was targeted, they pulled down the film.

At the end of the day, in the name of freedom of speech we have to allow Sony to make the decision to release this film. Furthermore, we have a duty to protect its release. No one should have the right to force Sony to release-or withdraw the film. The film was terrible. To be honest, it was distasteful and I don't believe it should have been released or even made. But this movie isn't worth the fight.

One final note: because of the controversy surrounding this film, as soon as it became available, my father started downloading it. At that time we were a few thousand feet over the gulf on our way home. We watched it, as a family, Christmas day after traveling for over twenty hours. If there's one thing that is indisputable about this movie, it's that it is not a Christmas movie. It is not a family movie.



Image courtesy of businessinsider.com

The good, the bad, "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies"

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

The most recent and final addition to "The Hobbit" is the greatest one yet, in that it brings with it the end to Jackson's uninspired drivel. "The Unexpected Journey" was a bad start to a highly anticipated trek back into the Lord of the Rings universe.

Featuring twelve cardboard dwarves with less character than their cousins in "Snow White," audiences spend more than half the "journey" watching flashbacks. In the "Desolation of Smaug," we depart from the source material and ruin the fantasy world that was once so consistent. "The Battle of the Five Armies" relies on big screen shock and awe to tie up this poorly retold story. The plot isn't memorable. Even after dutifully spending 144 minutes viewing the movie, I had to watch it again to

remind myself of what really happened.

With over an hour of the screen time being dedicated to fighting, it's unsurprising that not much is done to create memorable moments. "The Battle of the Five Armies" truly is a film solely about a battle of armies. The basic rundown is what we've seen in the past, but with larger ramifications. Thorin is a jerk; Thranduil is a jerk; there's mortal peril.

The interpretation is bad. Tolkien's universe is massive and Jackson decided to do away with that, and make his own. His interpretation of the "Dragon's Greed" under the mountain and other elements key to his story are without backing. During the battle, there a few brief moments where the audience catches a glimpse of "were-worms." These massive creatures aren't a part of the battle in the source, they aren't consistent with the source, and to top it off they don't truly exist in the

source (They're mentioned once in a Hobbit idiom.)

Aside from the elements themselves, their composition is lazy. The cinematography is old hat after 5 movies of similar sequences. Between long segments of tiny people burgeoning ugly people with the help of the tall people, there are establishing shots of scenery. These moments do less to make the audience "ooh and ahh" than they do to pull you out of the experience. Were you watching a dwarf getting swashed by a troll baby? Well then, now is definitely the time for a picture of this snowy mountain.

At the end of the day, it's a terribly poor example of what one of our best directors can produce. In the "Lord of the Rings," what you see is an internal conflict and an external conflict play out simultaneously. Frodo and journey to destroy the ring is about the

strength of self. The raging battle of good and evil happens alongside and provides a contrast that is part of the same story. The eleven hour saga of "Lord of the Rings" is able to maintain audiences' attention through its combination of characters, score, and story. The possibility of redemption for this movie does not save it from being a terrible movie, but gives it a justification for even existing. "The Hobbit" is a children's book. It's a collection of bed time stories tied together; each chapter is its own exciting adventure curtailed by a cliff hanger ending.

If Peter Jackson was aiming at the child audience, then he made a movie that children could enjoy. There are fart jokes, there are tons of gigantic things to "ooh and aah" at, and there is a battle scene. (To be clear, the battle scene is the movie.) The Hobbit movies have been a mess from beginning to end.

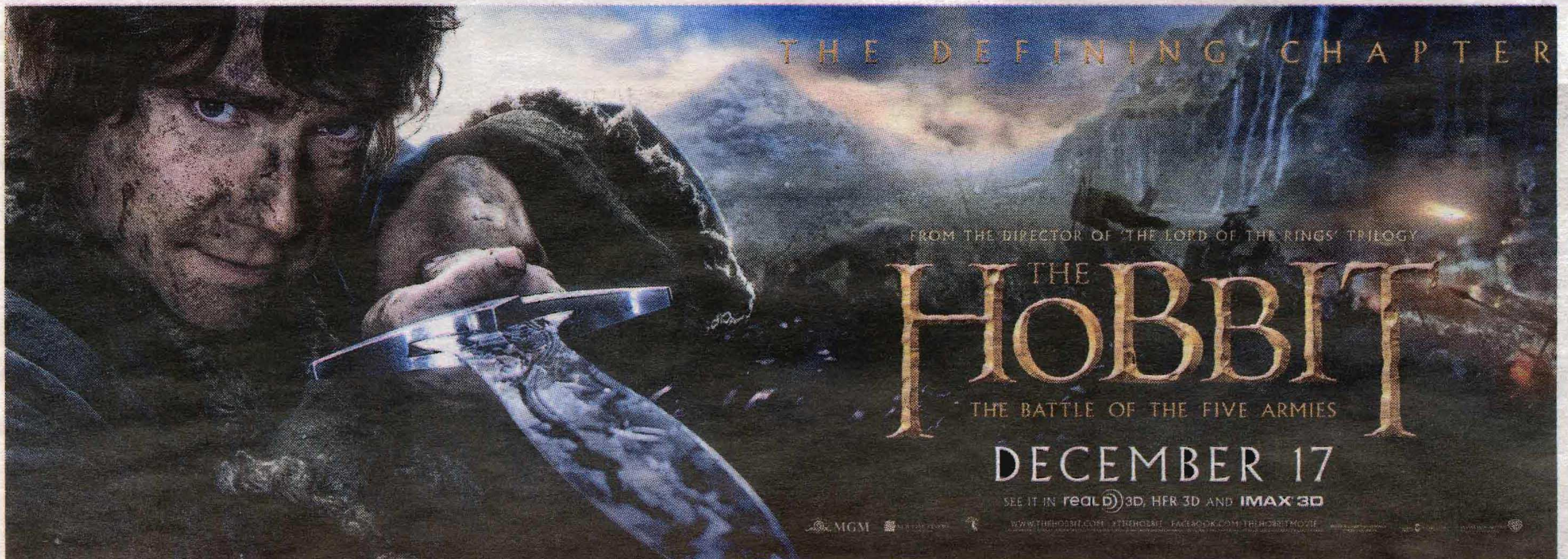


Image courtesy of thehobbit.com

"Big Hero Six" is a Big Win

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

"Big Hero Six" is an alarmingly cute and enjoyable movie with a focus on inspiring kids to seek higher education in STEM, particularly robotics.

The protagonist is a 13-year-old and 14 minutes into the movie, he goes from wanting to be a delinquent who bets of fights, to aspiring to follow in his brother's footsteps and go to "nerd school," otherwise known as college. This movie name-drops science babble like it's going out of style. With talk of super capacitors, magnetic bearing servos, electromagnetic suspension, nuerocranial transmitters, and more, Big Hero Six will be inspiring for leagues of young dorks.

The nerdfest isn't entirely superficial. The ethics of science comes into play with one character being described as a man who has "cut corners and ignored sound science" in lieu of self-interest. It's great to see a large mainstream movie support robotics and STEM, and to try inspiring young dorks to grow up and "do something with that big brain



of theirs." This movie supports the rise of nerd culture in a sincere and valuable way. If you get a chance to see the movie without watching the trailer, the experience is much more enjoyable. After seeing the trailers, I was extremely wary of what this movie was trying to be. I was expecting something clichéd and a more childish superhero movie and instead received science and intelligence. It's also nice to see a movie that gets into its plot so easily. I'm so used to 2 to 3 hour movies with waddling stories; having Big Hero come in at an hour and 40 minutes is a really nice change of pace. Enough time is given to build the characters with well done, key choices, and the pacing is really great. Everything feels intentional (if a little clichéd at times.)

Big Hero Six is the type of thing moviegoers deserve. There are symmetric elements which tie the beginning and end of the movie together and relate characters that are seemingly at odds. It's a great and inspiring movie for children to watch and enjoy. There is nothing particularly enlightening for an adult, but enjoyable nonetheless.

Image courtesy of disney.wikia.com

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sports@technewsit.com

NATHAN MCMAHON

SPORTS



Tuesday, January 27
Women's Basketball
 @ Lincoln Christian
 7 p.m.

Friday, January 30
Men's Basketball
 @ Aurora
 7 p.m.

Saturday, January 31
Swimming and Diving
 Wheaton Invite
 11 a.m.

Men's Basketball
 vs. Maranatha Baptist
 3 p.m.

Monday, February 2
Men's Basketball
 vs. Saint Mary's
 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 3
Women's Basketball
 vs. Lake Forest
 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4
Women's Basketball
 @ Mount Mary
 7 p.m.

Saturday, February 7
Men's Basketball
 @ Northland International
 3 p.m.

Thursday, February 12
Swimming and Diving
 Liberal Arts Championships
 TBA

**JANUARY
29**

**FILM
SCREENING**

A satirical portrait of race relations in early 21st-century America, writer/director Justin Simien's playfully perspective feature debut tells the story of a biracial Winchester University student whose controversial radio show sparks a media frenzy of epic proportions.

Location: MTCC Auditorium
Time: 7 p.m.

Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/DWP-IIT>



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
Office of Campus Life



Thursday, January 29

**125th Anniversary
Carnival**

Friday, January 30

Acrobats

Saturday, January 31

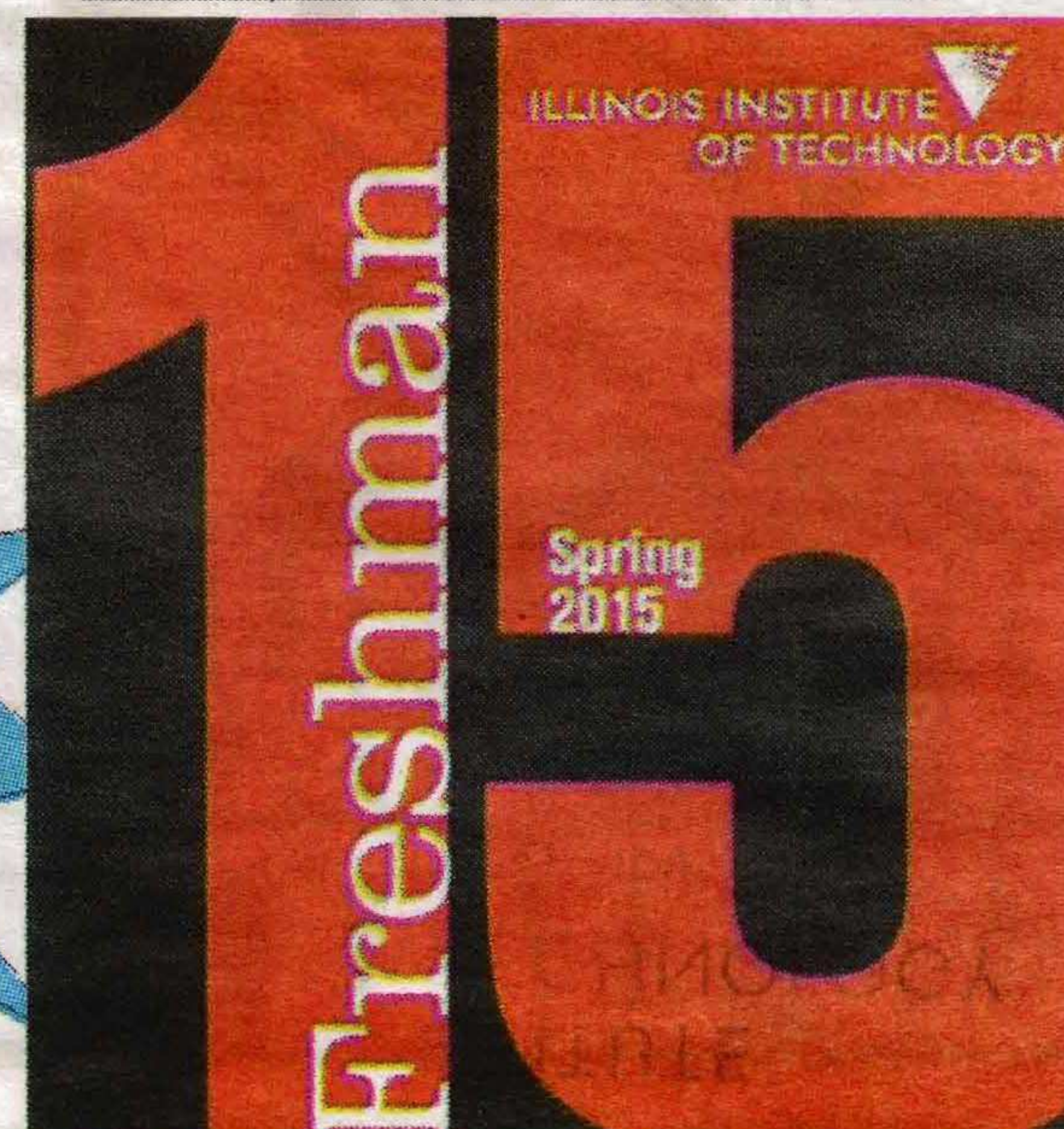
Caribbean Night

**The Bog will
be open on
SUNDAY for**

**the Super
Bowl @
4:30 pm!**

**Visit the First Year
Experience Facebook
page to learn more
about the Freshman
15 and all FYE events!**

www.facebook.com/FYEiit



**FEBRUARY
26**

**FEATURED
SPEAKER**

Join us for a discussion with **Lena Waithe**, producer of the award-winning film "Dear White People". In this student-led interactive event, we will explore the themes raised in the film as they relate to the Illinois Tech community, as well as the dynamics created by the intersection of other identities, including sexual orientation, country of origin, religion, and more.

Location: MTCC Auditorium
Time: 7 p.m.

Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/BlackFaceWhitePlace>

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

For more information about these events, contact either Lynne Meyer, Director of Spiritual Life, Diversity, and Service at lmeyer2@iit.edu or 312.567.3167, or Branna Jones, International Services Specialist, at bjones22@iit.edu or 312.567.3875.
Co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and the International Center.

For more info contact Lynne Meyer:
lmeyer2@iit.edu, MTCC 212, x73160



Applications available ONLY
at Info Sessions

Applicants **must** attend one of the
following **REQUIRED** Info Sessions:

Mon. Feb 2	12:50—1:45 pm	HH Crown Room
Tues. Feb 3	12:50—1:45 pm	HH Crown Room
Wed. Feb 4	12:50—1:45 pm	HH Crown Room

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