

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

McCormick Tribune Campus Center
Room 221
3201 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616

E-mail: editor@technewsiit.com
Website: http://www.technewsiit.com

TechNews STAFF

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Opinion Editor	Austin Gonzalez
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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

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Obama delivers Sass of the Union

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

The State of the Union is the regular and much-anticipated address from the President of the United States to the people. As one might expect, the State of the Union discusses the current state of nation. The State of the Union is also the time for the president to outline his hopes and goals for the coming year. Barrack Obama's speech was watched particularly closely this year, now that the Democratic leader of the free world will be facing a Republican majority congress.

Obama outlined what he considered to be a plan to promote growth for the middle class. With the ongoing rise in the economy along with promising job growth, he sets out largely to continue what he started. A large portion of the speech was dedicated to difficulties families now face raising children. With increased costs of living, particularly in childcare, families have struggled in recent years. Obama promoted the idea of increasing

time away for maternity leave to match that of other developed nations. He gave his support for more sick days so that people can take care of themselves. These things, he believes, will help create a more productive workforce by allowing them to live healthier, fuller lives.

Once again, the President proudly proclaimed his stance on the minimum wage. "Give the hardest working people in America a raise" was met with much applause, though not from the opposition. New to his agenda is making community college free to all Americans. If you can maintain a certain GPA, the President proposes that higher education should be as ubiquitous as a high school education. To help support these programs to benefit the middle class, Obama has also staunchly stated that he will seek to close tax loopholes for the rich.

As with any good address to the people, Obama proclaimed that America and her values will not be undermined. In the wake of the attacks on the school in Pakistan and the Charlie Hebdo office, he reaffirmed that we will unwaveringly stand for freedom

and liberty at home and abroad. Obama asked for the permission to seek out forces such as ISIS using the might of the US military. In the vein of freedoms, Obama put forth his support for an "open and free internet." Whether this means coming out in opposition to the obvious prevention of freedom such as the Great Firewall of China, or the more recent discussions on privacy from David Cameron and the EU, was unclear.

More items were discussed in greater detail along with some older promises reiterated. One of the more notable moments from the evening was the quick response from the President to the reactions of the Republicans present. After mentioning that he is unable to run for president, there was a moment of applause. Obama's response, "I know, because I won both of them," made waves through social media. This, unfortunately, was the most telling and honest moment during the entire speech. It is unclear how much work will actually be accomplished with gridlock being the only likely outcome for the next few years.

Campus movie screenings worthwhile

Timothy Ayodele
TECHNEWS WRITER

Let's face it, our student body faces one of the greatest problems detrimental to the health of student life: social awkwardness. The idea for too many people of an IIT student is a computer science major with thick glasses playing League of Legends 24/7. When actually going to this school, one will realize that this is only partially true, but still the stigma remains. So how have we gone about to fix this? Clubs. There are a ton of student organizations that anyone is free to join at this school regardless of their background, and many of these clubs have various activities and events. But then that's when the problem really comes in to play.

Many of these events can often be plagued with low attendance, which isn't anybody's fault but just the nature of events at IIT. If people don't want to meet new people or socialize, why would they go to the one

thing that encourages it? A poorly-planned event can quickly become a social outing that suddenly dive bombs into a crash course on oral communication, and we all have enough classes already.

Based on the evidence, it seems that all hope is lost, but then you attend a movie screening like I did last week. Now to be frank, it wasn't the best movie screening you'll ever see. Cellphone screens glared everywhere, dialogue was barely comprehensible, and the movie quality wasn't exactly IMAX, but what made it work so well is that it got people together in one place, and this place was not just for members of the hosting organization. Several members from fraternities, sororities, and other clubs attended to watch the movie. Looking back, one has to ask how a movie is able to pull a crowd that no party at IIT can.

The trick, is in movie culture. When at a theatre, the expectation is that nobody talks, phones are off, and heads are down. Though

these theatre ethics are only loosely followed in a college setting, the suggestion of these social policies are still there. This allows people who may not be too big on socializing to just enjoy a movie, while the social butterflies are able to hang out with their friends and even get to know the person next to them. Movie screenings eliminate the issue of social awkwardness because they don't require you to be social, just there.

Movie screenings are getting more and more popular among clubs over the years, and it's no surprise. Screenings are a perfect way to not only make people aware of your organization, but can be easily SAF funded as a school-wide event. The perfect buffer between an architecture major all-nighter and a party, screenings are the key to bridging the gap between our schools educational prowess and the potential in our student body's diversity in culture and ideas.

Cage match: politics getting bloody

Timothy Ayodele
TECHNEWS WRITER

In a world of elephants, donkeys, and all the animals in between, things are bound to go tooth and nail.

President Barack Obama recently powered through the State of the Union (SOTU) Address. One of the highlights of Obama's administration is his SOTU addresses, which have been known to be extremely publicized and not without their controversies. This year was no different; Obama is pulling all the stops to make sure his legacy is maintained. The address began with Obama flexing his muscles through a flurry of statistics showing positive economic growth and the success of his affordable care act. A couple swift jabs at gas prices and graduation rates to make sure his haters know what's up. After softening up the oppositions'

faces, the president of pugilists starts whipping out political combos with remarks concerning bipartisanship. Not only did Obama throw out the fact that he will continue to push his budget through Congress, he also insisted that the entire idea of partisan debating is petty.

The ball really didn't drop until the end. Confidently, President Obama stated, "I have no more campaigns to run," boosting his opponents' morale. Republicans and Conservatives in the crowd roared in glee and ridicule, but Obama was not done. Gathering the power to roast a homie from Zeus himself, Obama spits hot fire and proclaimed, "I know because I won both of them." Even Joe Biden, Obama's Vice President, was in a state of shock. After this year's SOTU, it's obvious that Obama is prepared to leave office swinging.

In addition, earlier this month, Mitt Romney made notions toward a 2016 bid for

presidency, but decided not to step foot in the ring after being taken out by President Obama himself in is previous run. He has been quoted in TIME saying, "After putting considerable thought into making another run for president, I've decided it is best to give other leaders in the party the opportunity to become our next nominee." It seems that after two failed bouts with the king, Romney isn't quite ready for a round three.

Obama's budget proposal is also set to hit Congress in the coming week. Will his ideas go peacefully or will the Senate and House lock into mortal combat once again? With only two years left in the presidential term, sooner than later, the contenders for the title will rise from the shadows for a chance at the title.

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