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**TUESDAY,
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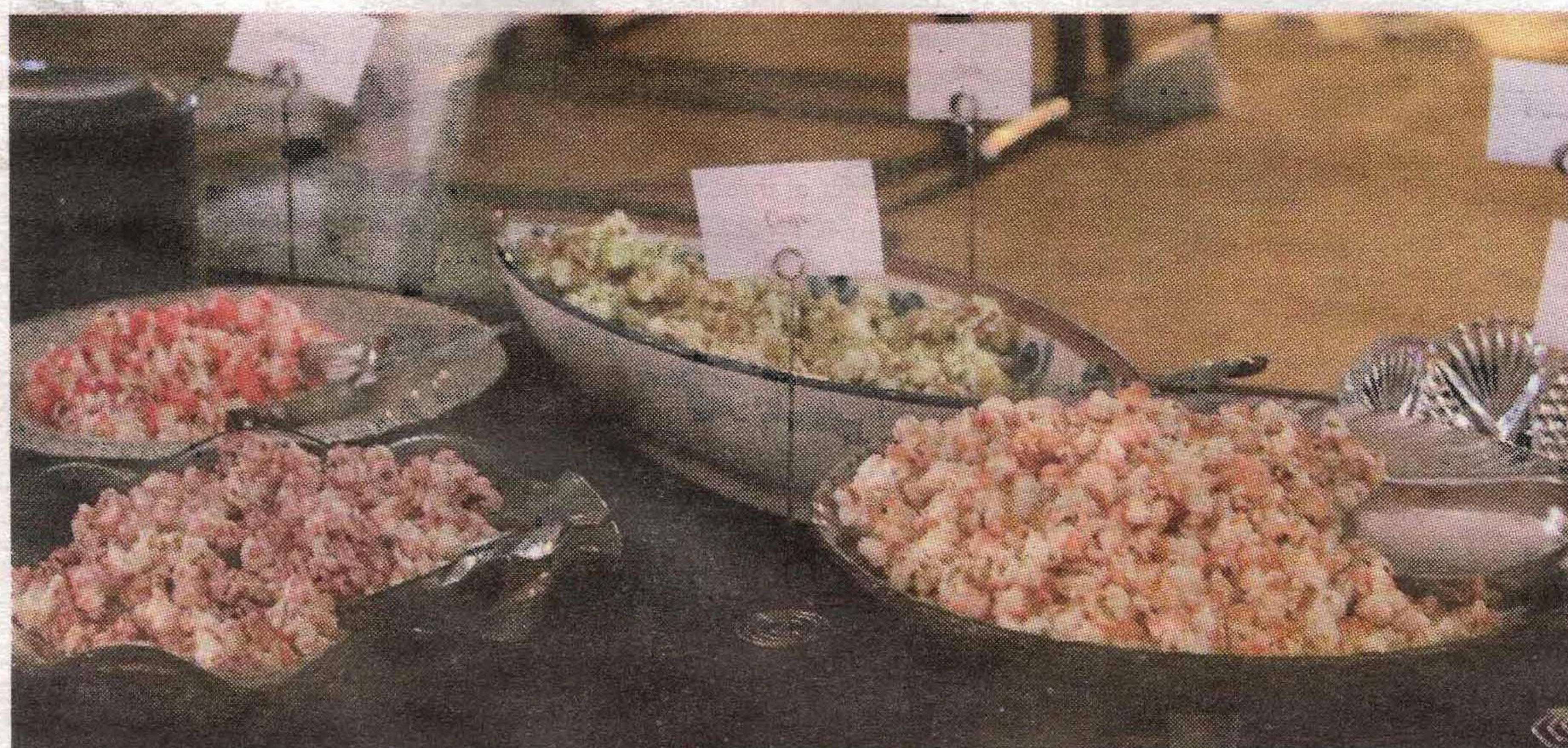
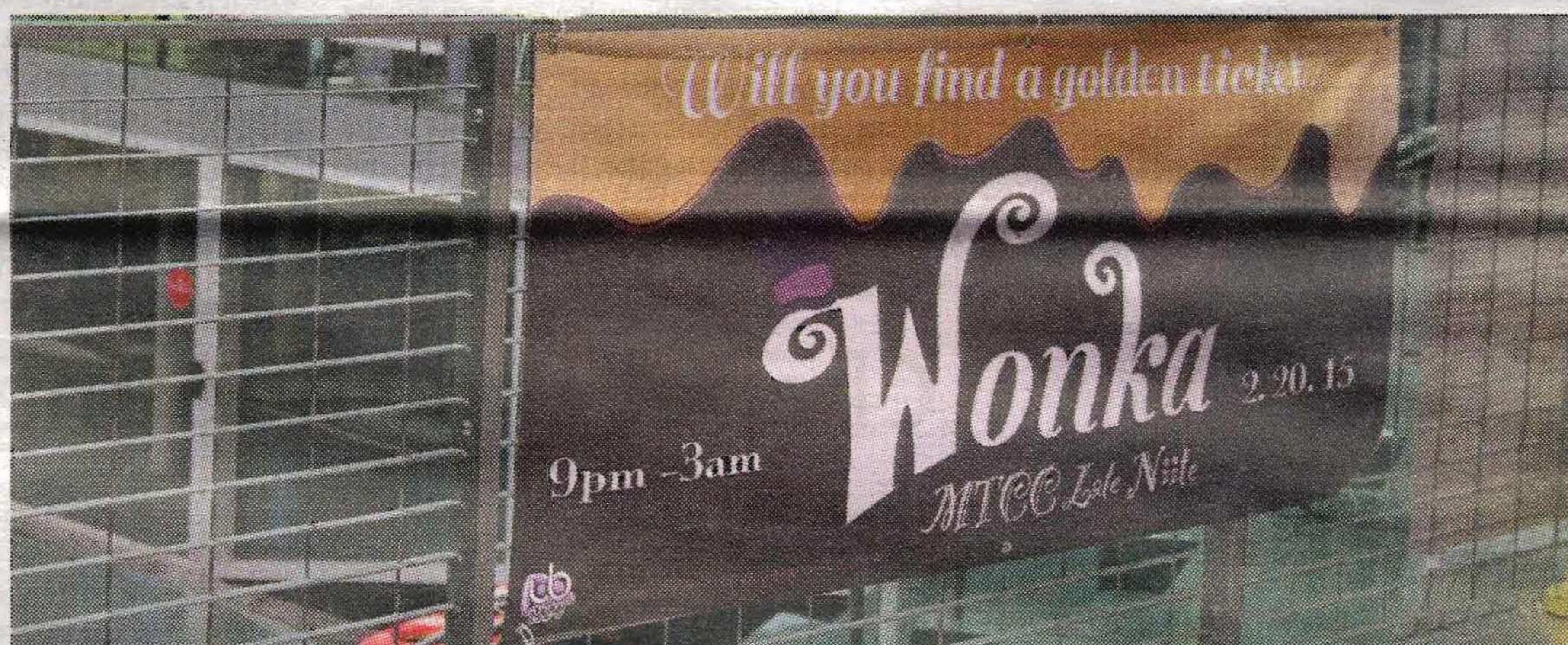
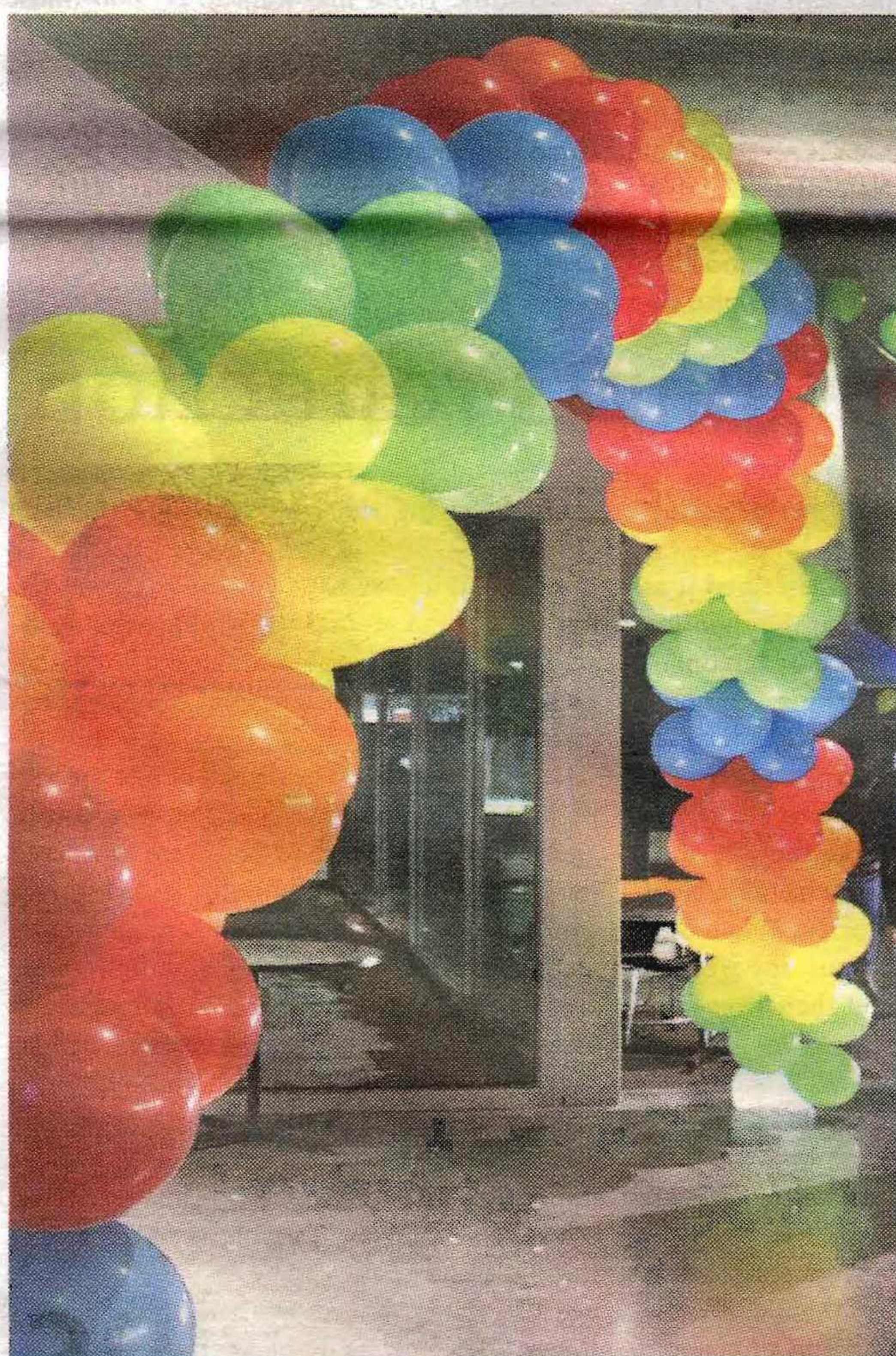
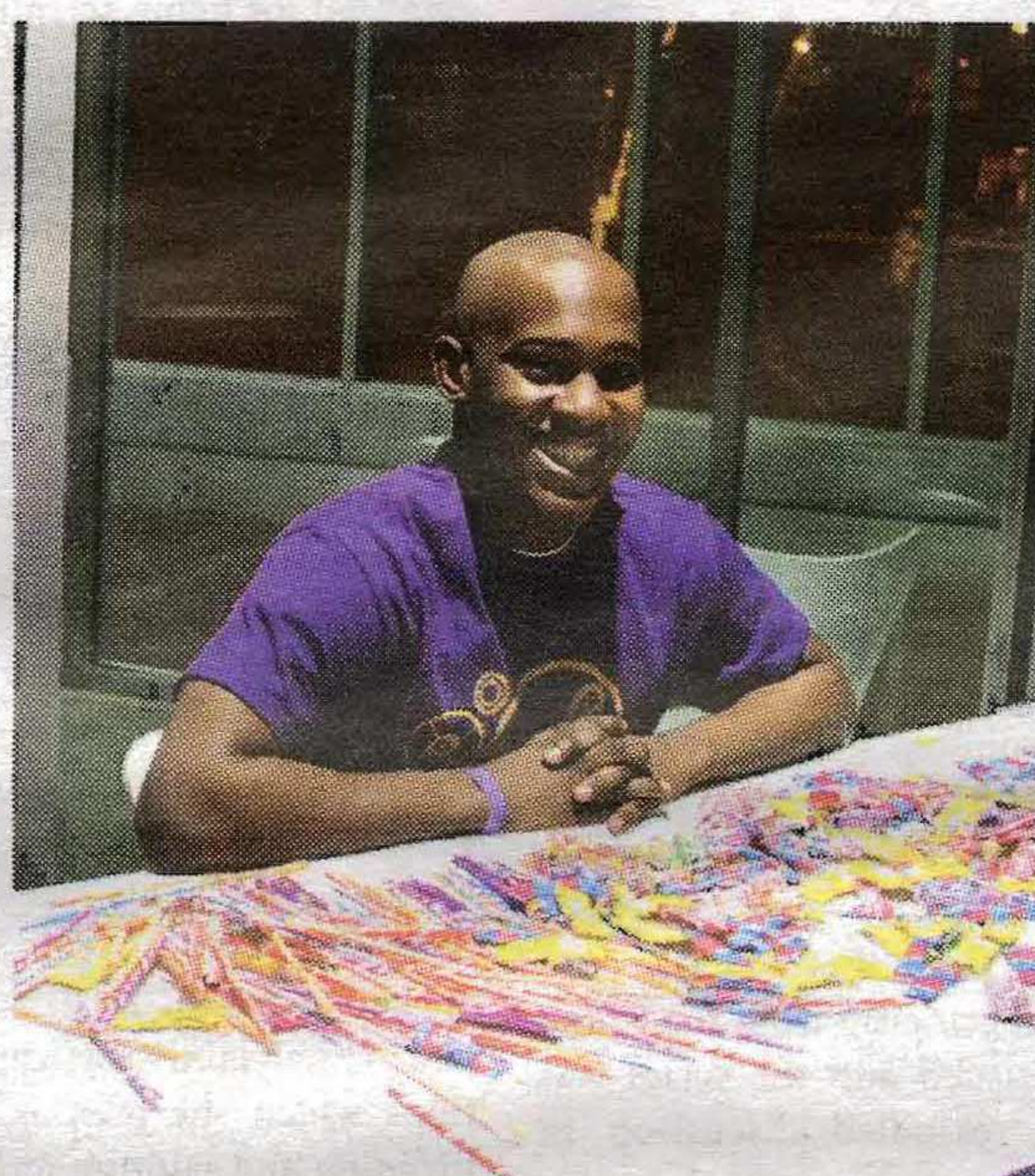
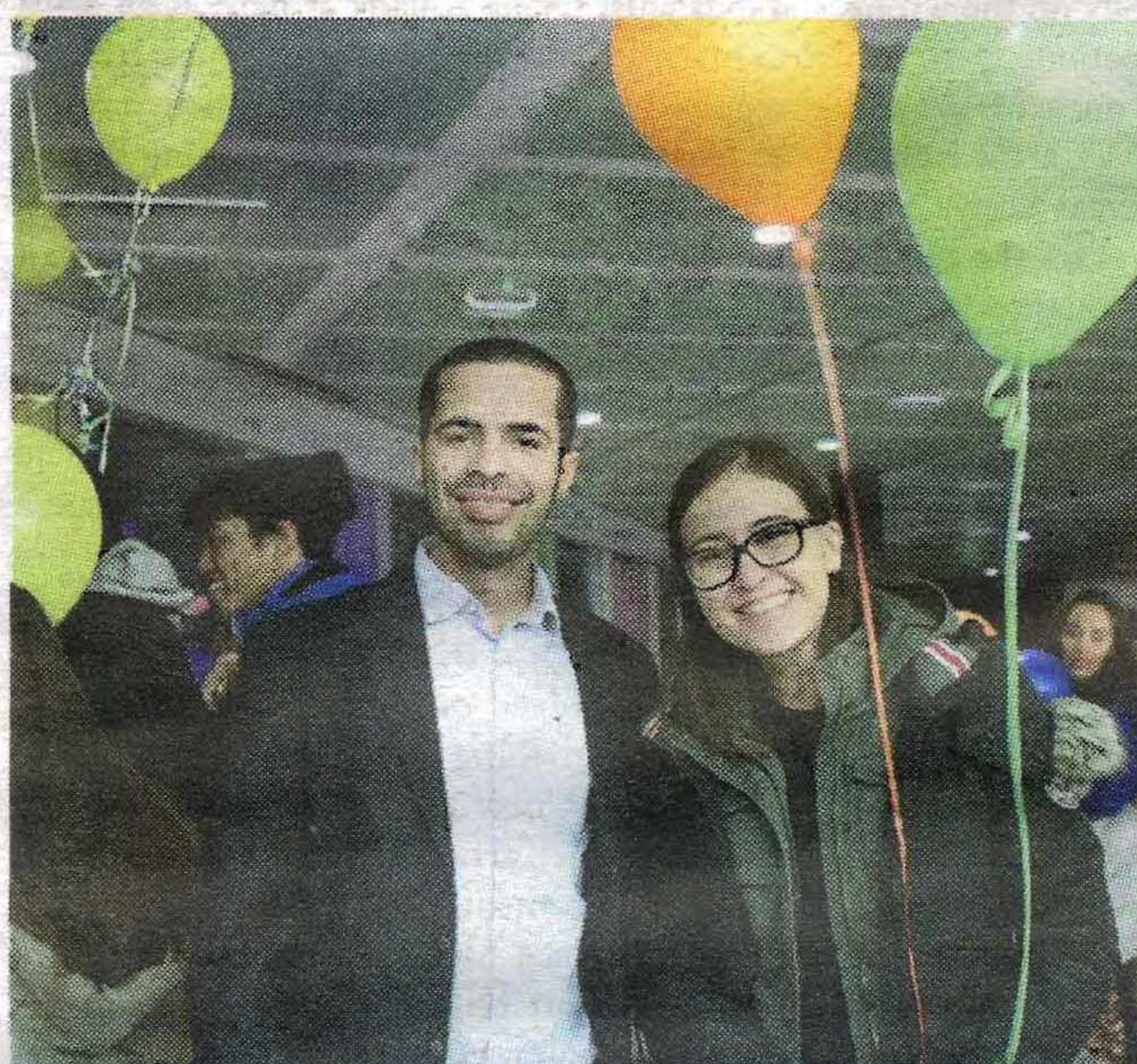
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TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Students attend Wonka-themed Late Niite



Photos by Katy Banks

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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The Ethics of Art and Journalism

Reno Waswil

TECHNEWS WRITER

Art and journalism have complemented each other as long as they both have lived: logos and pathos both being desirable qualities for a compelling experience. Having had the opportunity, as a member of IIT's Ethics Bowl to attend the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics' (APPE) annual conference in Orange County California and, listening to many seminars, discussing the ethics of journalism and its thorny thorniness, that fact only became more apparent. Particularly a talk by Derek Moscato of the University of Oregon, entitled Fukushima Fallout in Japanese Manga: "The Oishinbo Controversy through the Lens of Habermasian Discourse Ethics" reminds me of this and begs the question of what we should expect from our artists, many of whom seem to hold so much sway in the realms outside of art.

The talk focuses on an event that took place in 2014 when the popular Japanese comic Oishinbo by Tetsu Kariya published an issue that entertained feelings of fear and skepticism towards the conditions of the area surrounding the nuclear plant, held so much in contention after its much publicized earthquake and tsunami induced meltdown in 2011, including an infamous picture of the main character, after visiting the sight, later developing nosebleeds, a symptom which many individuals have attributed but never proven to be caused by bodily harm by people in the area.

In the light of this negative press, immediate backlash from the Japanese government, even direct criticism from the Prime Minister himself, ensued and the series was discontinued. The rekindled discussion in the media which Moscato traces back to this manga was apparently such a concern for the government that they commissioned a YouTube video to be produced to the song "Happy" by Pharrell Williams with residents of the area dancing showing that they are happy and healthy: a sort of positive advertisement of the area. Moscato argues for this sort of display of Habermasian Discourse Ethics, which is ba-

sically a journalism of the public sphere, not regulated as viciously as it was by the Japanese government who have such an investment in promoting their country in a positive light.

The problem in this case with that view of journalism is that the story in question was fake. Dostoevsky, writer of such works of literary brilliance like "Crime and Punishment" and "The Brothers Karamazov" can be as inspired that all he wants was to get into real politics in Russia in the mid-20th century, his stories can never be seen as a journalistic one. Another member of the talk even asked whether or not, in this case, Kariya might be the Fukushima fallout's equivalent to Jenny McCarthy in the Anti-Vaccination debate: a public representative of a side of a debate unfiliated with the established media who is marginalized for being scientifically on the wrong side and spreading misinformation.

I would argue that no, art is art and journalism is not art. Jenny McCarthy frames her position as the truth, whereas Kariya does not. In as much sway as it has on the public, if he is at all successful in his mission, he was not manufacturing a sentiment that was not already there, confirming its cultural relevance, so he was not betraying the goal of art, being a medium of perception rather than one of truth. I firmly believe that art cannot be judged by its factualness, only its insightfulness and ingenuity in itself, and any proactive points it may make which may cause cultural shifts are beside the point.

McCarthy on the other hand has an obligation to be factual. She is carried by her anecdotal pathos relating to her son's autism which she claims was caused by his vaccinations which she uses as evidence. Art is an invading and tainting journalism in this case, which is a real and present problem. In Kariya's case, it is obvious that he is not making any legitimate arguments. I might say that the artist's motive matters, but the acknowledgement that, what is being created is art, is revelation of motive in itself. Art is completely bias. If I may take an Aesthetic point of view, the art may even be harmed by too much reality or too little bias and I think that, what may be a helpful ex-

ercise in skepticism towards art in general, is trying to criticize it for what it is and not what it is trying to do, no matter how much it may be trying to do that thing. If artists want to be seen as legitimate journalists, they need to put the same scrutiny into what they say and imply as journalists. No matter how much you may agree with what Bob Dylan or Bob Marley say in their politically charged lyrics, the medium matters.

This fact only became more apparent in the talk given by Aaron Quinn and Mathew Blake of California State University, entitled "The Sound of Music in Multimedia Journalism." It expanded on the fact that people can be undeniably primed by, particularly music used in journalistic reporting. Not to say that freedoms such as music are absolutely off limits for a journalist trying equally as hard as an artist to make a compelling work, but journalists are required to make it clear about their motives or biases, when presenting something in that vein. Their solution has more transparency, a journalistic virtue not required by art. Journalists are obligated to state their biases in these cases and layout the choices they made and why they made them.

There can be something to be said about mixing art with journalism to create a more compelling form of each, but one cannot compromise either. In Kariya's case, I was so blatantly illogical that it doesn't matter; may the art be judged on its own and may it not be held as anything more. It does not ask the questions—it may compel others to ask the questions when art could sway them with such a lack of argument, they wanted to ask them in the first place. McCarthy is asking the questions to report on them, putting her in the journalist realm, putting her up to that level of scrutiny. Those that want to do both must be willing to be scrutinized in both realms and cannot hide behind the fact that they are rooted in either. If, at later point, Kariya decided to take what he is implying and make a claim with the appropriate evidence, then he could be torn down to whatever level he may deserves.

Chapel Hill shooting prompts reflection

Shireen Gul

COPY EDITOR

I have been trying to write about the shooting at Chapel Hill for quite a while now, but each time I sat down to write about it, all I could do was relate the tragedy with myself. I lost my older brother to cancer four years ago and I still cannot overcome his death. The day my brother left us was the day my heart wanted to stop beating but I had to stay here and keep his memory alive. I know I'll see him again one day, but still I miss him so much. I saw my brother suffering and I knew he is going to die but still, when he left us for good, we couldn't accept the truth easily. We still sit and think about how it happened all of a sudden. So it's hard to just imagine the pain the families of the Chapel Hill victims are going through, where someone else decided to kill them because they thought they didn't deserve to live.

On the evening of Tuesday, February 10, something really unusual happened in a quiet neighborhood. Everything seemed to be quite okay until two women called 911 to report multiple gunshots and screams echoing through a condominium complex near the University of North Carolina (UNC).

By the time the police arrived, three people were dead. The victims were identified as Chapel Hill residents Deah Shaddy Barakat, 23, his wife Yusor Abu Salha, 21, and her sister Razan Abu Salha, 19, of Raleigh. They were young university students, Muslims of Arab descent, and high achievers who regularly volunteered in the area.

A neighbor, a middle-aged white man, went missing on the same evening and was later under arrest when he turned himself in after the shooting in Chapel Hill, just outside the UNC campus and was charged with three counts of murder. The shooter, identified as Craig Stephen Hicks, 46, was being held in Durham County Jail, the Chapel Hill News

and Observer newspaper and other news outlets said.

The victims' families described it as a hate crime. The police said that the shooting appeared to have been motivated by "an ongoing neighbor dispute over parking," but that they were investigating whether religious hatred had contributed to the killings. I just don't understand how you can decide to kill someone just because you don't like the way they look. You are not the Lord, you have no right to decide either who will live or die. When they never questioned you over your appearance, who are you to decide to end their lives over their appearance?

Mohammad Yousif Abu-Salha, the father of the two women who were killed, said that daughter Yusor Abu-Salha had told him that she and her husband had been harassed for their appearance by a neighbor who was wearing a gun on his belt. As mentioned in NY Times, "A friend of Yusor said she knew that Mr. Hicks had complained to the couple before about making noise and the use of parking spaces by their visitors, and that he once came to their door carrying a rifle. It is not clear whether they ever called the police about the altercations."

Following the murder of three Muslim students in the university town of Chapel Hill in North Carolina, many questioned the kind of coverage the gruesome incident received from mainstream US media in comparison to similar incidents involving members of other faiths. President Obama took four days to offer his and first lady Michelle Obama's condolences to the victims' loved ones, and stated, "We are all one American family."

I liked that President Obama added to his statement regarding the debate over the crime's motive that, "No one in the United States of America should ever be targeted because of who they are, what they look like or how they worship." But then again, are people

really following the laws regarding the hate crime?

While #ChapelHillShooting was the top most trend around the world, many gathered under #MuslimLivesMatter to combat racism and the creeping scepter of Islamophobia.

Haya Barakat, cousin of one of the victims Deah Barakat, tweeted that her cousin and his wife, her sister-in-law, were murdered for being Muslims, questioning growing racism/hate crime in the society. My question is whether anyone even knows what hate crime is and what its laws are? The FBI defines a hate crime as one with an added element of bias against a person's race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. The agency says: "Hate itself is not a crime - and the FBI is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties." Proving whether something is a hate crime can be extremely difficult because you have to show that someone committed the crime as he had certain beliefs regarding some issue.

This will be very prolonged and many people will forget this sooner or later, but their families will have to live with this pain forever. My humble request to everyone out there is that if you ever had any negative vibes against anything then try to work on it and talk it out to someone who can help you because you never know when that negative feeling will change into hatred and you might end up doing something which you will repent your entire life. Everything can be sorted out except for the death because when someone dies, everything comes to an end and that person can never come back, no matter how hard you try.

If you have any questions regarding any religion then please attend an interfaith talk where you can talk it out and remove your misconception because it's never too late.

IITPSD updates student escort policy

Shireen Gul

COPY EDITOR

I have lived on campus for a good three semesters, but this semester I decided to move off due to personal reasons and thought commuting on a cold Chicago evening wouldn't be an issue because we have "my best friend," IIT Public Safety. But who knew that the moment I moved off-campus, IIT's Public Safety Department (IITPSD) would decide to update their escort policy, which means no more rides to neighborhood. Sigh, life is tough, especially when you are a commuting student in Chicago.

I can totally understand that there might have been some people who misused this escort service, but did IITPSD have to do this in the cold harsh winter of Chicago, where even going from one class to another is a hassle? No, IIT, you can't do this to us. We love you, and you have to love us back in return, that's how things work in a relationship. I

guess?

I am not sure how many of you know about the updated policy for the IIT Main Campus Public Safety Escort Service, so let me walk you through this. As mentioned in IIT Today on Wednesday, February 11:

"A Public Safety officer will escort members of the IIT community to any IIT facility on Main Campus if individuals express a significant concern about their personal safety. Security escorts to off-campus locations from Main Campus will also be available, during specific hours, to a limited number of destinations. As previously noted, such security escorts are not in lieu of taking public transportation or using a taxi/car service."

We have a good population of international students in Illinois Tech, 40 percent, according to myIIT. Not everyone can afford living on campus, because of which they have to look for places in the nearby neighborhood. This means that they have to commute on a

daily basis, and in order to commute they have to either walk or take a bus. There are many students who live in places where there are no bus services (such as my place,) due to which, they have to walk in this dark cold winter evening.

I know many of you might be thinkin'; why don't they drive? Let me tell you a little secret. We, international students, are not lucky enough to have SSNs as soon as we arrive here because we can't find on campus jobs in the first place. On the other hand, we are not allowed to work off-campus in the first year. After one year, you can only work in your field-specified places, which makes the choice tougher for us because most of the employers want citizens or permanent residents.

As mentioned in IIT Today, "On-campus security escorts may be requested at any time if students, faculty, or staff express a significant concern about their personal safety.

Off-campus security escorts are

available between the hours of 7 p.m. and 3 a.m. for students, faculty, and staff. If an off-campus security escort is requested outside of these hours, it must be for a specific safety concern and will be considered on a case-by-case basis."

My question is this; what specific safety concerns are they talking about? And what can make the case sensitive? But again, I will say that we are not complaining, all we want is to at least let things work the same way they were working before, in winter only. All the students who are reading this and have any questions, please email me at sgull@hawk.iit.edu because I am trying to arrange an interview with the head of IITPSD and find answers to our concerns.

Also, please note that IITPSD has activated a new security escort request number: 312.808.6310. So if you have any concern related to escort services, please call this number.

MTCC Late Niite meets mixed reviews

Shireen Gul

COPY EDITOR

Once again, Union Board organized MTCC Late Niite and everyone was as excited as always. Unfortunately, this time it was not a huge success. There was a huge crowd of students, staff, and their friends and family.

This year the theme was Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory and they did an awesome job in changing MTCC to a wonderland. The place looked very beautiful, with all those balloons and Wonka chocolate bars. The event was good and engaging, so was the decoration.

A few things that disappointed students were: the oxygen bar, bumping cars, and food. Many students complained that the time given to individual students at oxygen bar was extended up to 10 minutes for no reason, the line was too long and many students left because of it. The bumper cars turned out to be a

huge failure because in the beginning they were not working. Due to this, many students didn't stop by later on. The poor quality of the cars caused disappointment for those who tried it, the small size of the floor area didn't help either in making it any fun.

Lack of eating options were a huge disappointment to the event, the only "food" options were cupcakes and popcorn at the south entry, the candy station along the front of the radio station, and the elaborate breakfast menu at the Welcome Center, which was great while it lasted. They should have prepared food for more than 50 people, as the supply ran out as soon as they started serving, with many people left high and dry as there was no food being served anywhere else on the campus.

One of the interesting things at the event was the free t-shirts, which unfortunately didn't last for a long time. It could have been organized better, live printing was a nice

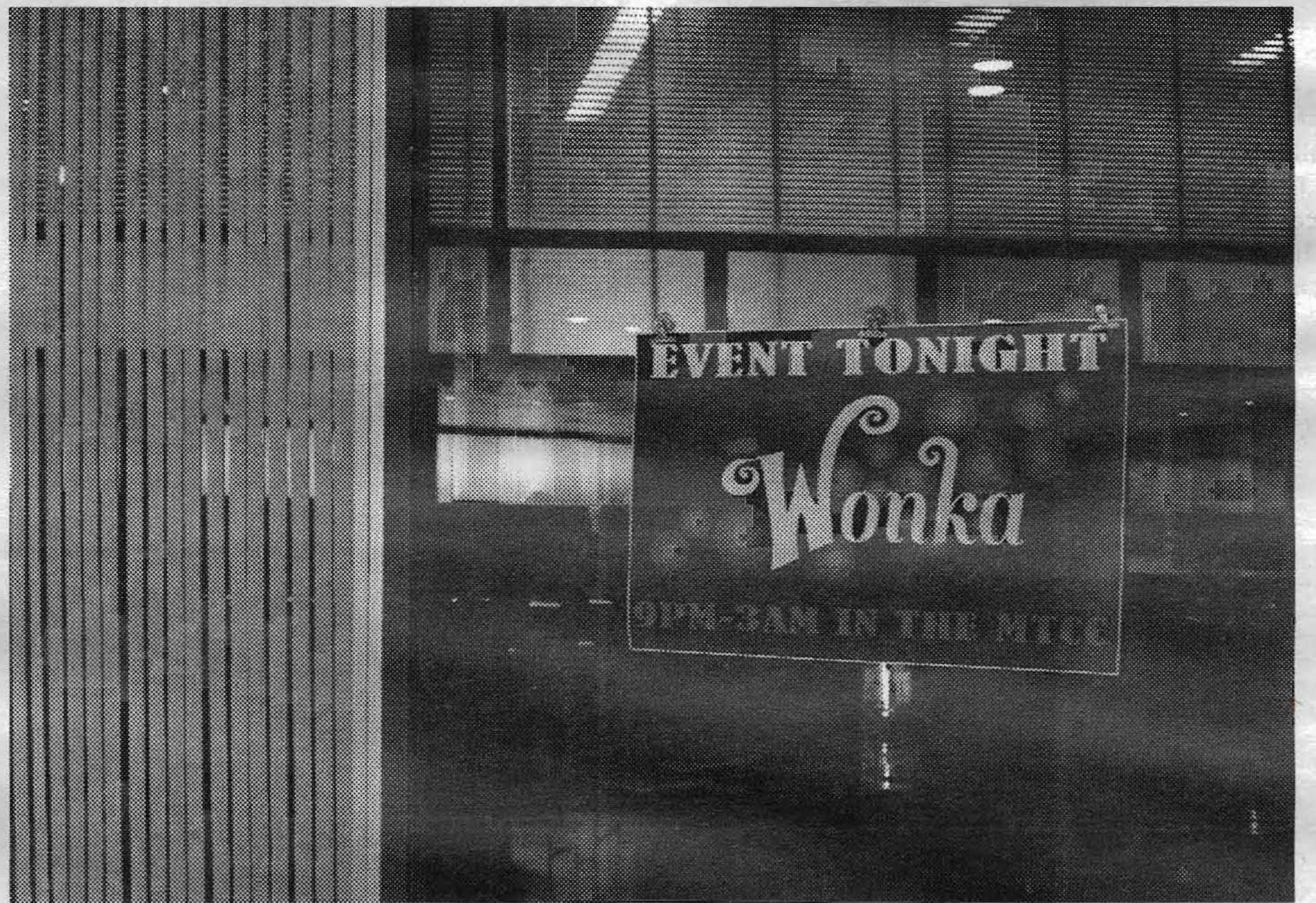
idea, but lack of options to choose from made it an unnecessary exercise resulting in mob like gathering, and like any mob, it resulted in some damage as well, as some students reported that their t-shirts were picked up by someone else and they had to leave empty handed.

Once again, the photo booth was very successful and had a long line until the end. The students enjoyed the cute props provided to them and made funny and awesome poses for the pictures. Another interesting activity was the roller skating rink. It was a great idea, and very well executed as people skated to different tunes.

The two Chocolate Factory movies (Willy Wonka and Charlie) were also aired, the auditorium had the 1971 version and Pritzker club hosted the 2005 adaptation of the story. They were a good sight as they proved to be a good place to sit and relax amongst the mayhem that ran outside.

Apart from all these activities, there were also various gaming consoles set up throughout the MTCC. Dance Central on the Xbox proved to be a crowd pleaser, and the gaming consoles from the bygone era provided the crowd with super Mario kart. But some of the consoles were left unattended with no games in them, just an empty console hooked to a large TV, sitting idly in a room. These are the things that could have been taken care of if they had more organizers and better student involvement. The sad part is that not many students are interesting in helping out, but when things turn out to be bad, they are ready to complain.

In the future, if anyone is interested in helping Union Board, please attend their meetings. They take place every Thursday during lunch break in The Bog, and good news: there will be food.



Photos by Katy Banks

Ethics Conference eschews rigor for practicality

Austin Gonzales

OPINION EDITOR

This weekend, IIT's Ethics Bowl flew to sunny Southern California for the APPE conference. APPE is an annual conference put on by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics. The Conference also hosts the national Ethics Bowl Finals where undergraduate teams from around the country compete in a debate style Battle-Royale of right and wrong.

Conference topics ranged from the manga Oishinbo's representation of the Fukushima disaster, to how to engage millennials in ethical leadership training. The conference consists of several focus group tracks in Journalism, Bioethics, Business, Education, and

the like. Boasting over 20 sessions over a given time block, it's not hard to find something you enjoy, or so they say.

Ethics is not necessarily the most attractive and enticing subject for most people. The population at the conference consisted largely of an older generation and graduate students seeking jobs and mentorships. Many of the sessions seemed to lack an expected rigor in discussion as well as missing the inclusion of what one might expect to find at an Ethics conference; that is, ethics.

Many of the presentations we attended were uninspired and failed to dive deep into any discussion as to right and wrong or even the basis one could look at for such a decision. For example, one session was labeled "Generation Ethics: A Battle for the Ages." One might expect to find how millennials view eth-

ics differently from baby boomers. Anecdotally, I have seen a separation between the two groups in moral reasoning. The former lacks a strong foundation as they move from tradition towards the uncertainty and ambiguity of the world they inherit. They are determined to work in the name of self-interest and loyalty to support their communities, be it work or family. This is an idea formulated during the immediate process of writing a short-word article, and it should surely pale in comparison to the thought and expertise of lifelong ethicists. Instead, a study from 2011 was displayed as a discussion, and passed around the room. It was about where the audience was from, and how they viewed their generation.

Some sessions were certainly more in tune with questions about basis from ethics, action, and rights (Surprisingly, the Oishinbo

manga presentation was one of the most poignant in this regard.) Perhaps the dissonance came from the misaligned expectations of the young and eager participants, and the reality of the situation. The people of the association, alone, are wonderful for the views and interest in ranging topics, but in presentation perhaps are tuned to a different audience. Ultimately, while there is great breadth of topic at APPE, depth remains to be seen from the practical professionals.

If you like to talk, go to conferences, or are interested in learning more about competing in relaxed and effortless National conferences, EthicsBowl meets every Thursday in the Cherry Room of Galvin Library during lunch.

Dean Himes responds to Humanities Department changes

Shreya Jha
LAYOUT EDITOR

In response to a previous TechNews article on the recent changes in the Humanities department, TechNews engaged in a conversation with the Dean of the Department of Humanities, Dean Christine Himes.

Himes is the former Director of the Center for Policy Research at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, serves on the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Center for Health Statistics, and is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America. She has also been an assistant professor of sociology at Syracuse University, and became a part of the IIT team in April 2014.

In the discussion, Dean Himes responded to the mentioned situations regarding the decrease in the number of courses and a decrease in variety.

“Humanities provides students with the ability to think of complex ideas. Studies in the topics of humanities helps enrich lives in terms of work and personal growth. Colleges don’t just prepare you for a job; they help you grow as a person. Humanities emphasizes critical thinking and values, and instills an appreciation for art and creativity in all forms,” said Dean Himes.

Dean Himes says that the current and future academic years will observe a reduction in the course options. Many of the courses in Humanities are taught by adjunct faculty; adjunct faculty refers to the professors who are hired for a temporary period to come and teach about 2 courses a year. The Dean said that the Department of Humanities will focus on the permanent professors instead of the adjunct ones. “Some classes are really small in the

sense that they have less than ten students. The department cannot afford to have such small classes. It looks at all the courses offered, and removes the ones with less than ten students. This would mean that about 2-3 courses would be cut off each semester because of low enrollment”, said Dean Himes.

A number of students reportedly face issues while registering for courses—these issues pertain to which courses satisfy their Humanities requirements. There are a number of courses under topics related to philosophy, history, communications, social sciences, and more, which satisfy course requirements for humanities. The department is trying to find a way to make registration for such subjects easier while working with the Office of the Registrar. “For instance, all courses which satisfy course requirements for humanities could be listed under one group, or the courses satisfying the humanities requirements could be listed on the our website,” said Dean Himes.

While deciding on the type, time and subjects of courses, the department looks at the list of mandatory courses required for the students majoring in topics which falls under the Department of Humanities. “They are our top priority, and then we look at what other courses are available within the expertise of our faculty. The humanities department does have a certain understanding of the pattern of popular courses. Over time, the courses with more registered students were kept, while new courses replace the less popular ones. Our objective is to maintain a balance between classes which satisfy student interests and the mandatory courses required for academic purposes within the humanities department,” said Dean Himes. Certain courses are introduced so that the students can continue their prog-

ress through a subject. For example, the department offered Spanish 1, 2 and 3 in the past semesters and is offering Spanish 4 to maintain continuity of courses.

The Illinois Tech MediaRoom is an online platform with news articles about IIT. Illinois Institute of Technology has been defined as a “technology focused university” in the Illinois Tech MediaRoom. Digital Humanities has become a new topic of discussion and seems to be in favor of the general consensus in a “technology-focused university.” “It is a fairly complicated term. Even within the study of humanities, people do not agree on its exact definition. On one hand, it refers to the study of subjects related to humanities and social science using technology. For example, special programs are used to study the word patterns in the plays of Shakespeare. When people say ‘Big Data,’ they are actually implying the study of Social Sciences with the aid of technology. On the other hand, it refers to the impact of technology on our world related to communication, relationships, etc. We do not plan to introduce courses relating to digital humanities based on the first definition. Our focus has been more towards the second definition, the impact of technology on the traditional subjects of the humanities,” said Dean Himes.

In the Illinois Tech MediaRoom, Himes has been quoted to say, “While much effort has been put into training leaders in the development of new technology, I believe it is equally important to train leaders who understand the role technology plays in our everyday lives and in shaping society more broadly. In that regard, Lewis College at Illinois Tech is poised to play an important role in educating students who will be the creative innovators of the future.”

“At this point, I am working on the projects which are already in motion and trying to understand the process as a whole. We are trying to focus on the introduction of Digital Humanities,” said Dean Himes.

Dean Himes says that she understands that there are scheduling issues related to the times of the courses. She says, “I definitely have to learn more about such scheduling issues.”

Himes says that if she could make one change in the department, she would wish it would be easier for students to take more classes in the humanities and social sciences rather than just focus on their own major or core topics.

Dean Himes had been an assistant professor of Sociology at Syracuse University. “In teaching, I try to make the subjects interesting, relating them to the students. I ask them a lot of questions. Sometimes the classes tend to deviate from the original lesson plan, but that’s okay. I don’t feel the compulsion to stick to a lesson plan and my classes are about sharing ideas and being involved.”

“My experience at IIT has been exciting. There certainly is a lot to learn when you come to a new institution. There are new people, a new culture. You have to find out where the challenges are. I have been impressed with the administration and the faculty with their willingness to think about new ideas,” said Dean Himes.

The conversation with Dean Himes was indeed candid and informative; it was a reminder that a two-way flow of information at Illinois Tech is indeed possible.

Thank a Giver (TAG) Day

Zaira Ortiz
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT is one of the most generous schools in the nation when it comes to providing students with Financial Aid packages that meet their needs, and helping students finish school without worrying too much about finances. IIT, a private institution, is so committed to making sure students can afford their tuition, that by the end of their college careers, IIT graduates have paid less for a private education than students attending state schools. How is this possible?

It is possible because IIT has some of the most generous givers in the world who

care about the success of IIT students throughout their education and even after, givers who want to change the world by investing in us. Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day is a day where students show appreciation for the individual donors who have contributed to the financial relief many IIT students feel.

This is a day where Illinois Tech will join more than 100 educational institutions worldwide to participate in the third annual Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day organized by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The goal of the program, which will take place at institutions in the United States, England, South Africa and Australia, is to educate students about the importance of philanthropy and grow en-

gagement opportunities on campuses.

Students, you can participate by joining the Office of Institutional Advancement in thanking the extraordinary donors and alumni for their contributions to Illinois Tech and your education. There will be free food, giveaways, and more planned for Thank A Giver (TAG) Day 2015. Go to one, two, or all of the events ranging from a Thank-a-thon to a student trivia night and dance party! The Thank-a-thon will take place from noon to 2 p.m. where you can sign banners at the MTCC Bridge, Galvin Library, or Hermann Hall. While you’re at it, sign some cards to really show IIT donors some love. The student party will be at 7:30 p.m. at The Bog. Participate in philanthropy trivia games and then dance the

night away.

Students, do you know where the money for your scholarships comes from? Or the dollars that pay for some of the resources you use every day? Take a moment out of your day on Thursday, February 26, to learn how philanthropy impacts your daily life. Finally, students you can thank a giver by signing banners, cards, taking photos in our Thank-a-Giver (TAG) Day photo booth, or saying a quick thanks on camera. There will be free food, giveaways, and more planned for TAG Day 2015.

Read more about the event at alumni.iit.edu/tag, and don’t forget to “tag” your TAG Day photos with #illinoistechtag.

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editor@technewsiit.com

Students rewarded for completing FAFSA at One Stop event

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In order to encourage more Illinois Tech students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the IIT OneStop hosted Fat FAFSA Tuesday, an event for students to learn more about the FAFSA and be rewarded for filling it out. The FAFSA is a form that can be submitted each year by current and prospective college students that determines their eligibility for several types of

federally-offered student financial aid including the Pell Grant, federal student loans, and Federal Work Study.

The One Stop's event was held on Tuesday, February 17 in the One Stop office located in MTCC 106. Staff members were available to assist students with completing the FAFSA; students who had already completed the FAFSA were able to show their confirmation email to receive a ticket for a raffle. Raffle prizes included IIT-branded tee shirts, Tech Cash Prizes, a DVD player, a Flip Camera, and

a grand prize of a Microsoft Surface 2.

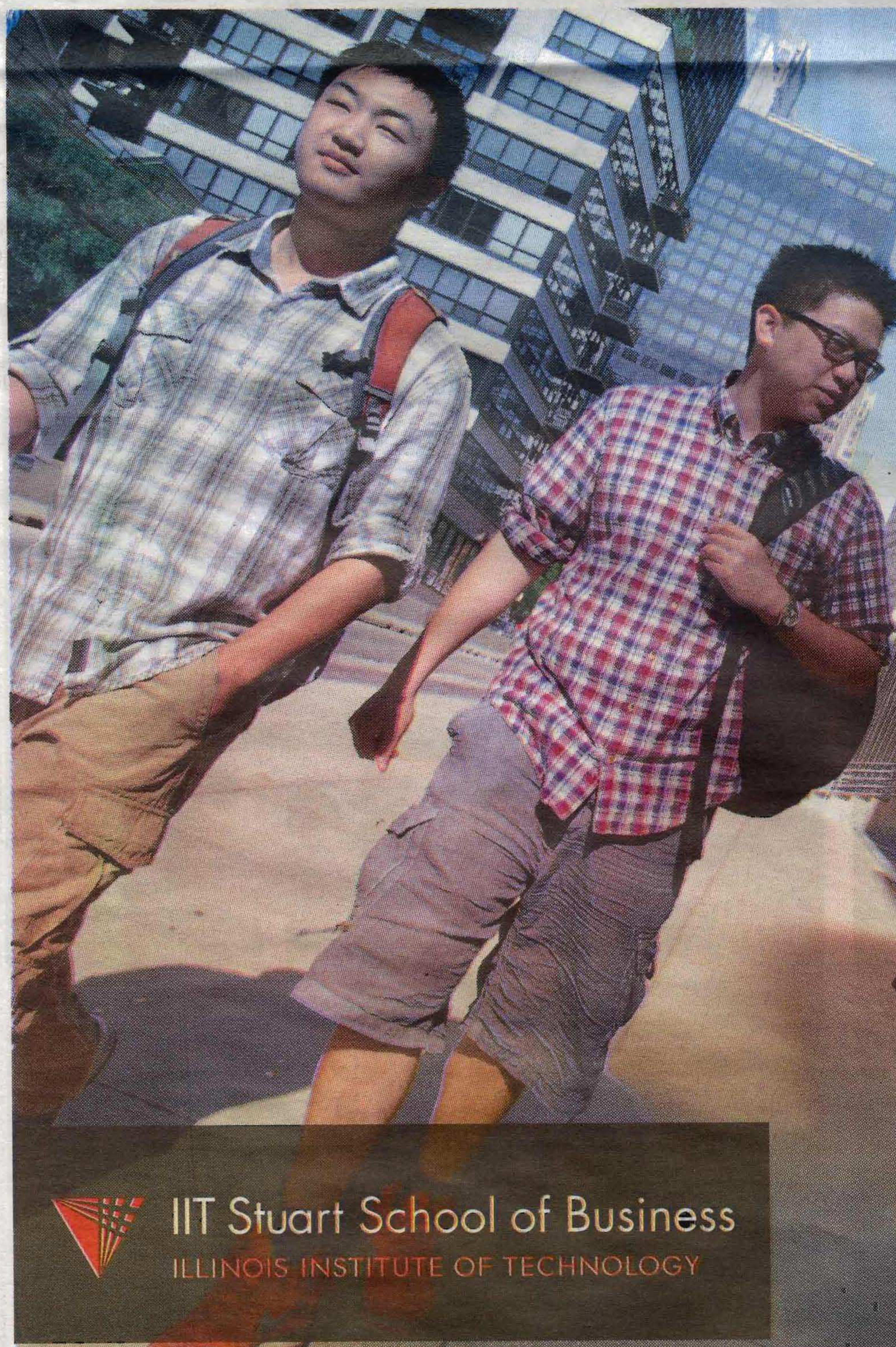
The One Stop, which was formed in 2012 as a centralized location on campus for students to find answers to administrative questions, also offered other ways for students to be rewarded for their financial knowledge and preparedness. The office allowed students to answer a multiple choice question about finances; if the students answered correctly, they got their choice of some IIT-branded items as their prize, including tee shirts, bracelets, and wallets.

Different varieties of paczki, a Polish pastry similar to a doughnut, were also offered to students who attended the event, and the office and its staff members were decorated with a Mardi Gras theme in the spirit of Fat Tuesday.

At the end of the day, the raffle winners were drawn and picked up their prizes. Fat FAFSA Tuesday also counted as a Freshman Fifteen event for new students.



Photos by Kori Bowns

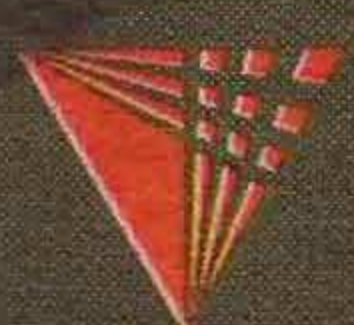
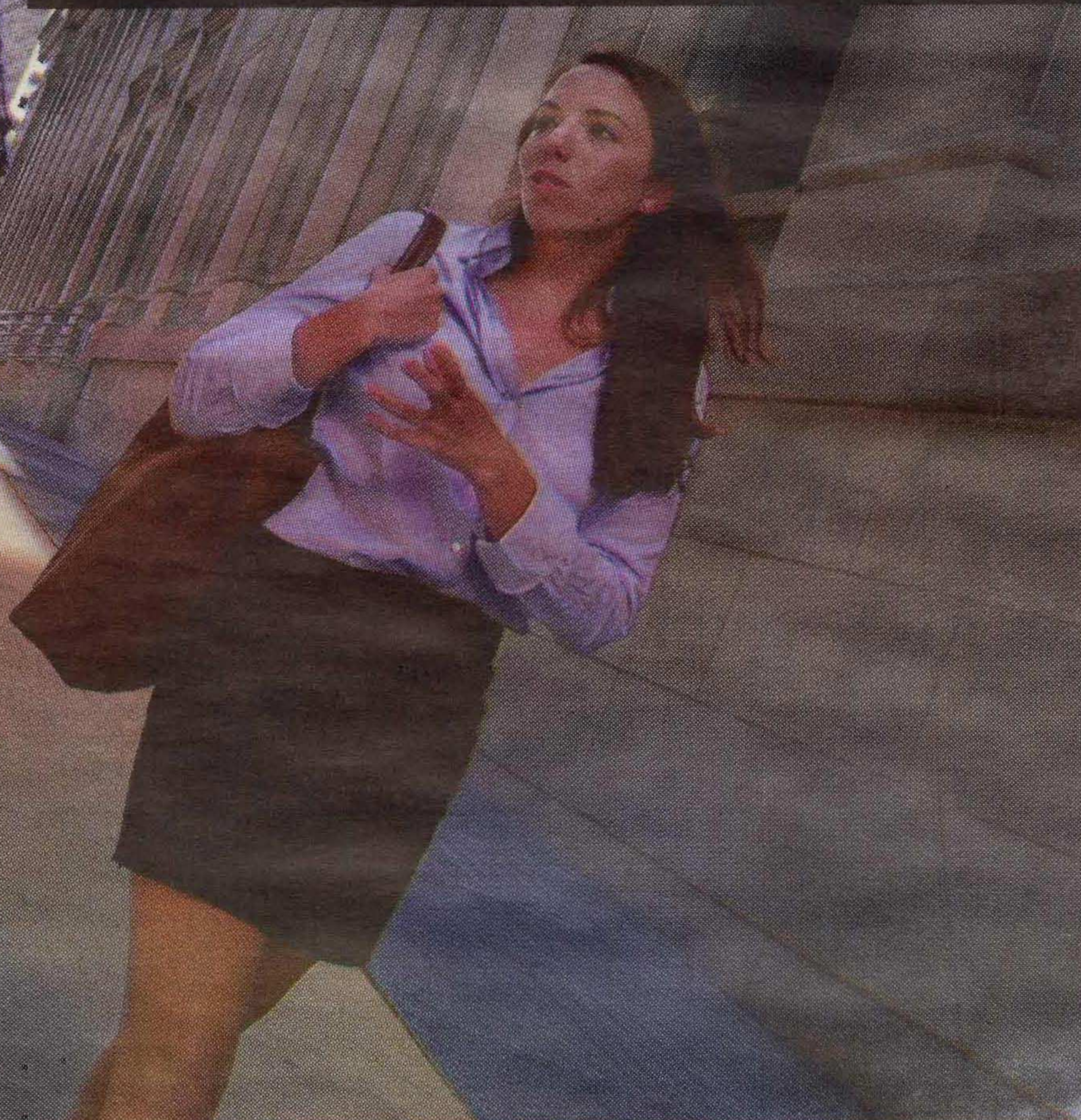


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ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Illinois Tech Robotics, IIT host FIRST Tech Challenge Championship

Kori Bowns

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Illinois Tech Robotics (ITR) has been supporting the endeavors of youth Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education through partnerships with FIRST Robotics for more than a decade. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an international youth robotics organization that offers robotics competitions for students grades 1-12. This past weekend on February 21, 2015, ITR played a large role in hosting the Illinois FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) State Championship at IIT.

The FIRST Tech Challenge was founded in 2005 with 130 teams participating in 6 regional tournaments; today, there are over 4500 teams around the world that compete in over 200 qualifying events that culminate in a world championship held in April in Saint Louis, MO. Students on FTC teams are

generally between the ages of 12 and 18. Each year, they receive a different challenge that the robot they build must complete. The game is played on a 12 foot square field, and this year, teams' robots must move wiffle balls of different sizes into different goals on the field in order to score points.

The 32 teams of students who arrived at Hermann Hall on Saturday morning were among the best FTC teams in the state of Illinois; in order to advance to the FTC State Championship, teams had to rank in the top 30% of all teams in the state at qualifying events that were held earlier this school year.

Vital to the success of the event were the over 100 volunteers who gave their time on Saturday, more than 20 of whom were IIT students. Volunteers assisted with inspecting teams' robots to ensure they follow all rules, checking in teams as they arrive to the event, refereeing matches, tallying scores, maintaining field electronics, and announcing play-by-play of the action on the field.

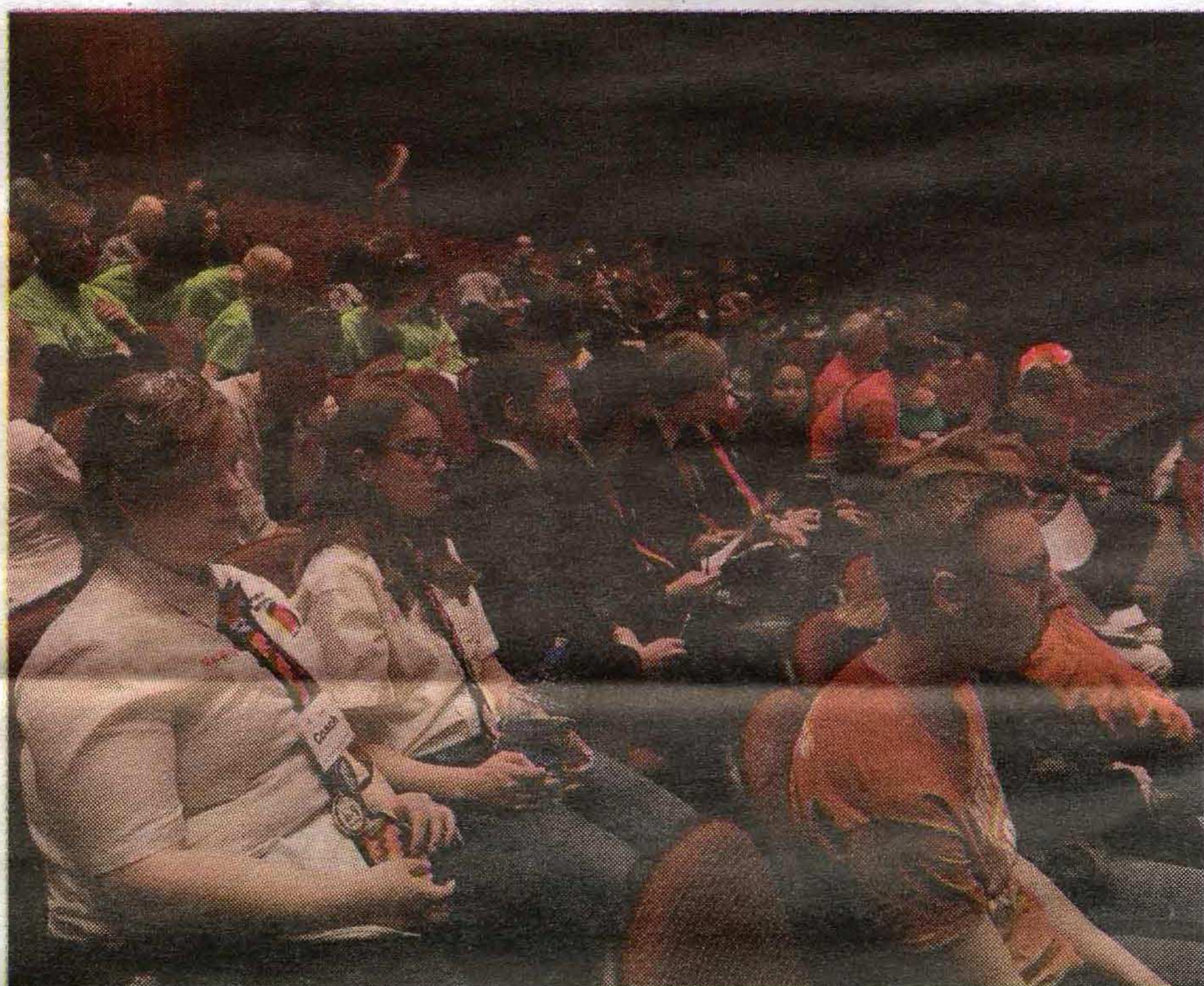
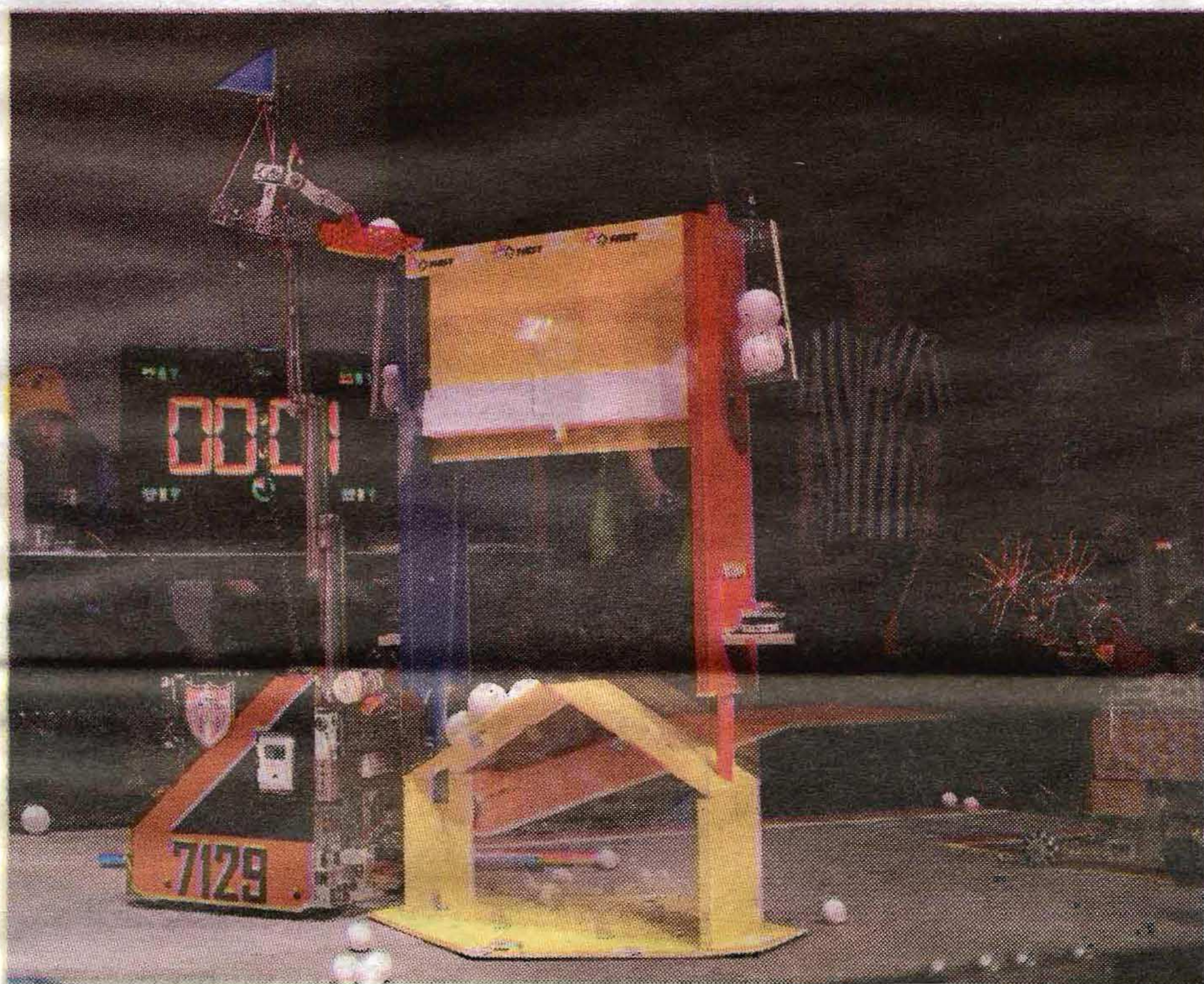
The event began with an opening ceremony to welcome teams and spectators and to pump up the crowd. Shortly following were several hours of round-robin qualification matches. In these matches, teams were paired up randomly with another team at the event, and played against another randomly-assigned alliance of two teams. After these matches concluded, teams were ranked according to the number of matches they won, and then the top 4 teams chose their partners to continue on to playoff matches before a champion was crowned.

While matches are taking place, a team of judges representing many facets of the professional world also observes teams and interviews them between their matches. Teams are eligible for a variety of awards ranging from best robot design to most effective community outreach to most team spirit. The most prized award in the FIRST Tech Challenge is awarded to a team that performs well on the field and across all judging categories. The top eight

teams at the Illinois FTC State Championship will be advancing to a regional event in Iowa in March, and the top teams there advance to the world championship.

Illinois Tech Robotics students coordinated logistics and volunteers for the event. Sponsors for the event included Illinois Institute of Technology, IIT Online, and Motorola Solutions. Media coverage at the event included the Chicago Tribune and WGN-TV news. FIRST events held at IIT through Illinois Tech Robotics annually bring hundreds of high school students interested in STEM to the university's campus.

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 7 p.m. in their robotics lab in 3424 S. State Street.



Photos by Kori Bowns and Angela Kuqo

Phoenix Pitch brings together students for innovative pitching competition

Shriram Anbalagan
COPY EDITOR

Several teams consisting of students from Chicago assembled at the Chicago Innovation Exchange (CIE) in Hyde Park on Friday, February 13. This is a newly opened building, owned by the University of Chicago. The event was the first annual one, which mainly focused on providing a platform for young entrepreneurs and like minded students to network and build connections.

They presented their startup or business idea with a clear cut goal and map, collected feedback and did some valuable networking. The IIT Mobile App Development (MAD) association played

a key role in making this event possible. Also, several IIT teams and students were seen actively pitching their ideas and discussing with entrepreneurs. The CIE played host to over 80 participants consisting of 25 teams

from local schools and universities. Students were seen from the University of Chicago, DePaul University, University of

Illinois at Chicago and our very own IIT. All twenty five participants were asked to submit a thirty second video pitch for the first two rounds of selection. The videos of all the pitches were played in front of all the contestants at the event and each contestant had to vote online for their top three picks. Then the top ten teams would go through to the next round. The quality of the videos in terms of presentation and innovation was pretty remarkable. All kinds of ideas were flying around and some had made their videos so impressive using their editing skills, making it very hard to choose for the contestants.

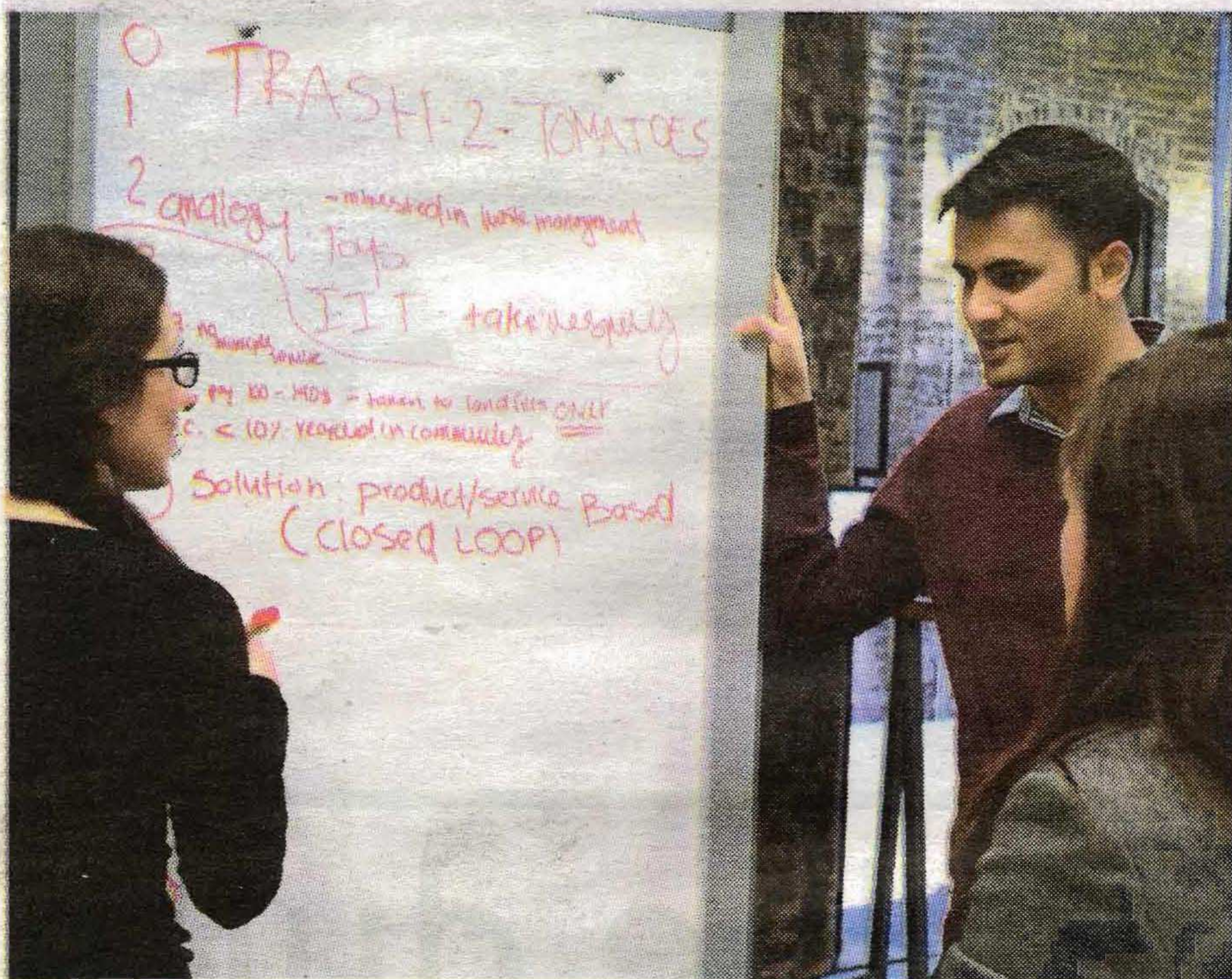
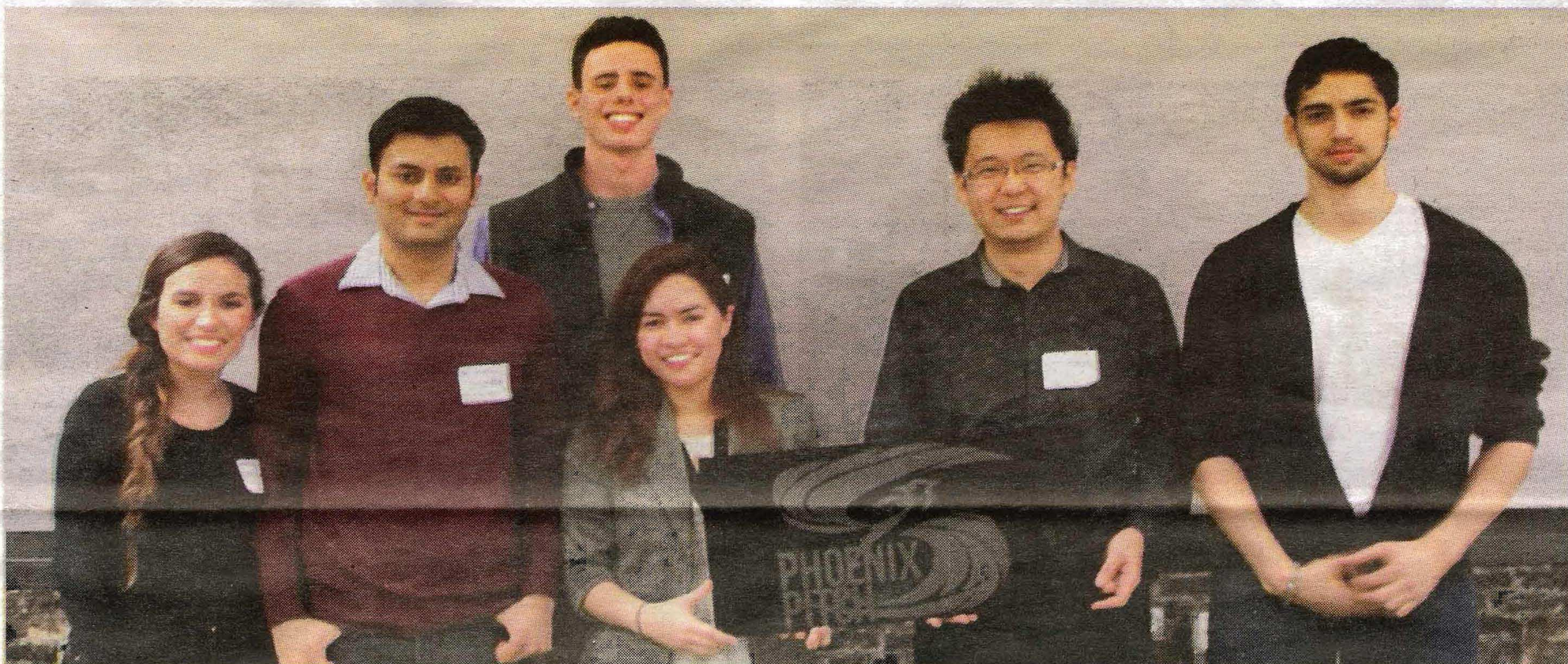
Ideas ranged from swapping jobs with someone, making blogging easy through a mobile app, to turning trash into tomatoes.

Ten finalists were selected and they had to provide a final pitch in front of six well

accomplished judges, namely Rick Zullo, Vice President at Lightbank, Alida Miranda-Wolff, Associate Manager at Hyde Park Angels, Imran Ahmad, Principal at OCA Ventures, Shradha Agarwal, President and Co-Founder of Context Media, Shreena Amin, Co-Founder and COO at Pretty Quick, and Bob Rosenberg, Adjunct Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Booth School of Business. The final pitches were three minutes long and could have a Question and Answer round of up to four minutes. The contestants were given two hours to prepare for this. There were a set of mentors commonly available to all students to help them through and discuss real world issues. The judges rated each pitch on how innovative the idea was, the business viability and market value of the product.

The results were then announced by the judges, with Amazon gift cards being awarded to the winners. Coming in at third was none other than our very own fellow IIT

team, Trash-to-Tomato, consisting of Prasan-na Deshpande, Juana Villalpando and Ivaness Chiong. Their pitch was based on creating a system which helped restaurants turn their trash to tomatoes by collecting the waste, assembling and composting it and finally growing the tomatoes. They bagged a \$125 Amazon Gift Card. Coming in at second was Prepify, a startup which offers adaptive SAT study materials for free. The first place was bagged by GE Yang for his amazing creation, The Escherpad. It is a collaborative note-taking web application which saves a lot of time for students and members of the academia by short handing scripts and different styles with nifty shortcuts. The first place and second place winners were awarded with \$500 and \$250 Amazon Gift Cards respectively.

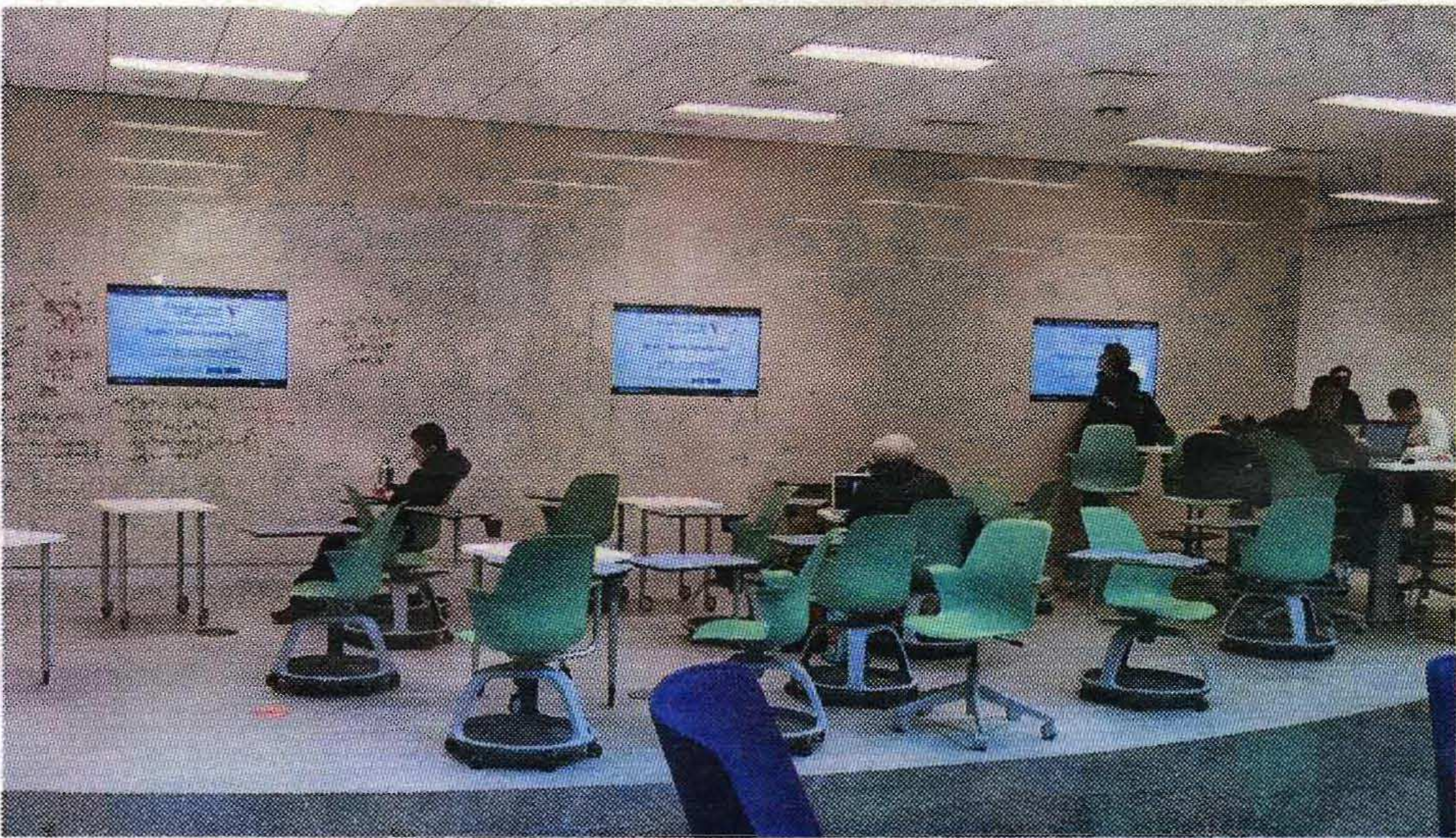
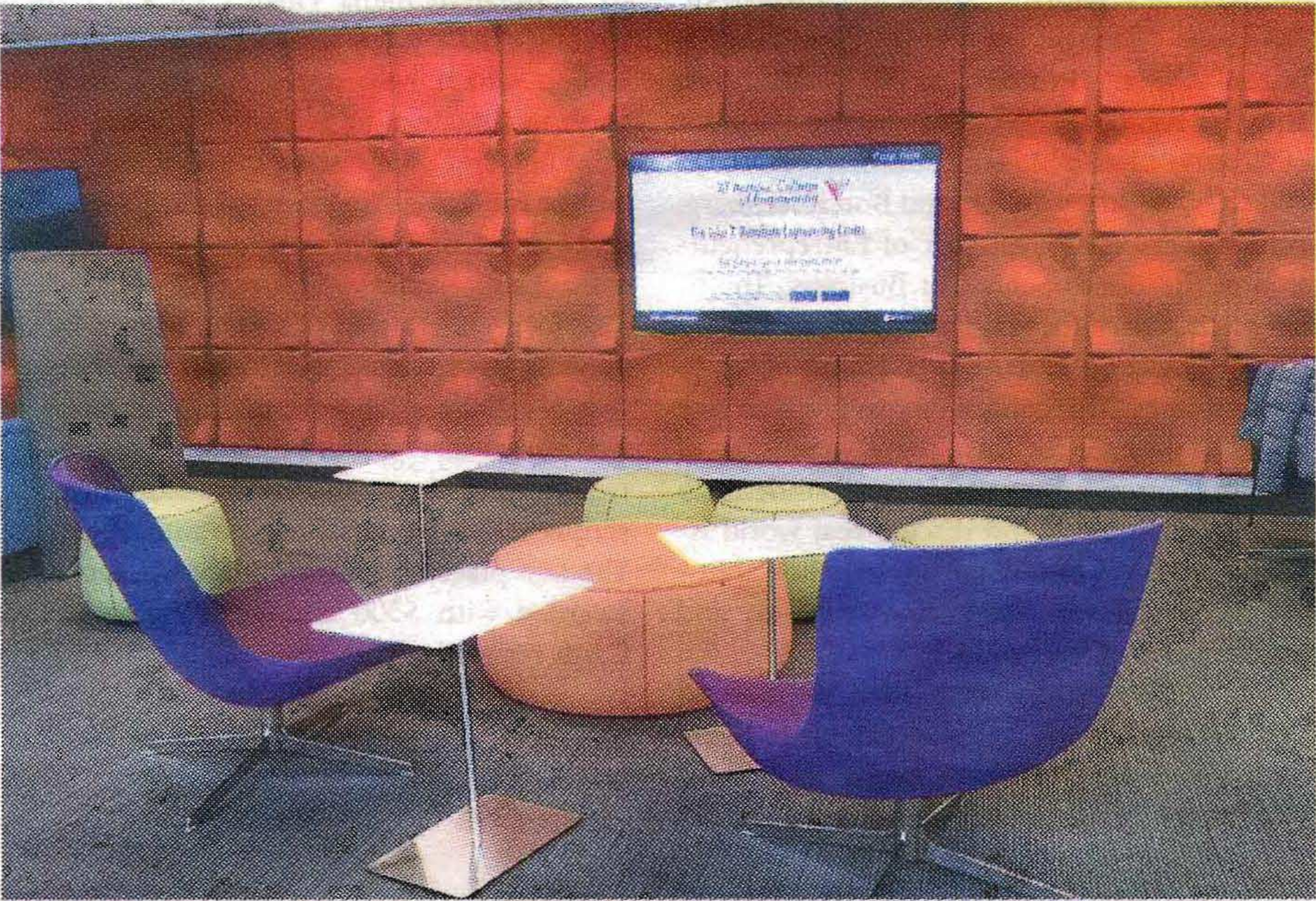


Photos courtesy of Phoenix Pitch

place an **AD** with our **AD MAN**

business@technewsiiit.com

Newly-renovated E1 atrium, common areas open to students



Photos by Kori Bowns

A&E ae@technewsiit.com

Auto Show sparkle dulls

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

Last year, I went to the Chicago Auto Show for the first time and with a press pass, no less. Aside from the glaring that I attracted for being so young and on the floor outside of public days, it was really enjoyable. The displays were interesting and there were many experiences to be had that I hadn't seen before. A great showcase of classic cars in the back caught my attention and I think I put my butt in just about every car that had the doors unlocked (even the 2.6 million dollar Bugatti

Veyron). Through an unfortunate combination of rose colored glasses and first time wonder, the Auto show may never be the same for me. The experience going a second time was not as great a second time and almost felt routine. Once again, I could gather the feeling that I didn't belong. I had the pass and the credentials, but I could almost hear the other reporters thinking, "We'll let you stick around, but you are not one of us." Getting the pass was difficult enough and even required a call to the editor in order to smooth out some wrinkles. The excitement from last year wasn't renewed walking onto the floor again a second time.

The show, apparently is 95% unchanged year to year (and some parts changed for the worse). Instead of a dragster, Toyota had an LP1 from Le Mans, in place of trucks, the test track had sedans; nothing excitingly different. The blinding sparkle of an endless sea of body work and diversity in automotive invention, instead became a pile of uninspiring metal and rubber to wade through. There is something to be said about going to the show on public and media days. Last year, I experienced both sides of the event and the dazzle and awe of so many people packed into the space makes the show more of

a spectacle. The lull of media days, while great for avoiding lines at simulators and test tracks, takes away from the grandeur of what the largest automotive expo in North America is all about. For the briefest of moments, sitting in the Audi R8, I could feel the excitement. Looking at the Alfa Romeo display (aside from the presenter not knowing the name of the company she was representing), I was once again in the world of flawless execution and power that comes with automotive design. In reality, these brief moments gave way to a largely uneventful day. At least, the photos turned out great and I now have some new desktop wallpapers.

Netflix and Nachos: "Hitch"

Timothy Ayodele
TECHNEWS WRITER

Sometimes, after a hard day of classes and studying, it's nice to just relax a bit. So grab some nachos and enjoy the movie being reviewed this week, "Hitch." "Hitch" is directed by Andy Tennant and stars hit actor Will Smith. The movie's premise is set like this: it's New York City and love is hard. In a world where no average Joe stands a chance with a decent girl, what's a guy to do? In steps the date doctor, a secret consultant who helps guys get the girl of their dreams in just 3 dates. But this isn't just a hookup guy; the date doctor sets people up for long-term, and even life-long relationships. Even though he is the king of love, there is more than what meets the eye from the mysterious date doctor. Just to set the mood of this review from the gate, "Hitch" is a Will Smith classic and essential to any true fans of the actor. The performance for this A-list actor

is the very definition of the type of characters he portrays. Smooth, charismatic, and caring; Hitch feels like that friend you have that's always trying to set you up with people, except



he's right. In this movie, Will Smith definitely doesn't stand alone, as he has top names like Eva Mendes and Kevin James to back him up with their own star-studded performances.

Now here's where this review is going to have to do some convincing. Of all the genres for movies that catch a bad rap, romantic comedy has to be the worst. This movie is

intact. The plot was well-structured, and much of the writing was surprisingly absent of the cheesiness that plagues most romantic comedies.

This movie is perfect for watching with friends, a significant other, family, or pretty much anyone. The only thing that one might want to watch out for is that language does get a bit spicy, but nothing a twelve-year-old hasn't already said on Xbox Live. So if you want a story, hope, love, and that first kiss, go watch "Hitch." A surprisingly good movie with a feel-good ending that satisfies the soul, it's good enough to get a drink with those nachos. You can see "Hitch" by going on Netflix, a subscription based streaming site for movies and TV series that, if you're interested, can get a free trial by signing up to enjoy thousands of movies. Or just get your best friend's/parent's/siblings/girl- or boyfriend's password. They won't mind, right?

Image courtesy of fashiontimes.com

HITCH

a romantic comedy, but it's different. Focusing more on the comedy than the romance, the movie itself is making fun of romance, while still keeping its core anti-materialistic themes

Chicago Auto Show an impressive experience

Wildaline Serin
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Chicago Auto Show should consider changing their name to Chicago awesome show. Okay, maybe that was a bit too much, but it does express how much I enjoyed this year's auto show. Being that it was my first, and I had nothing to really compare it to, I can only write based on my experience at the show. The Chicago Auto show has been around since 1901 and boasts the title of biggest auto show in North America. The day was a bit

rough starting off—considering the cold—but as soon as we got there things were turning around, or so we thought. We couldn't get our passes because of a registration issue, and it seemed a bit hopeless as if we'd never get in. Things ended up working out; however, and it was finally time to see what all the excitement was all about.

As soon as we stepped onto the show floor, my eyes weren't sure where to look. The light fell perfectly onto the different vehicles as if we walked into automobile heaven. The light murmur of voices, snapping photos, and discussion of the cars was quickly interrupted

by the revving of an engine that shook every cell in my body. It was the new Shelby GT350 Mustang; throughout the day, you could hear the engine enticing viewers to see where the sound was coming from. Simulators were a big part of the auto show this year as one could go from doing laps on a virtual track inside a Dodge Challenger II to the million dollar hydraulic Ford simulator that was nothing short of a mini roller coaster.

The real winners at the auto show for me would have to be the Toyota Imsa GTP Eagle Mark III and the 1967 Toyota 2000 GT 2-Door Coupe. The former, an aerodynamic

car that was so fast for the road, new regulations had to be put in place. The latter was the most expensive and underrated car at the auto show. At first glance, the car didn't seem like much until we met a guy, and he brought the car's background stories to life. The 1967 coupe was a small white car that was used in commercials, and the car used in a James Bond movie. Originally, the cars had magnesium wheels, but these caused problems as the wheels would catch fire when the car went too fast. The car ran in at around 1.8 million dollars and only about 350 were made.



Photos by Rohit Agarwal

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SUDOKU

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The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of “Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru,” meaning “the digits must be single” or “the digits are limited to one occurrence.”



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Hawk Pride Spotlight

Billy Bafia
TECHNEWS WRITER

We honor President John Anderson in this month's Hawk Pride spotlight. Among his numerous responsibilities as President of Illinois Tech, Dr. Anderson has contributed a large portion of his spare time to cheering on Scarlet Hawk athletes at various sporting events both locally at the university and at National Championship events. Joining the university on August 1, 2007, he came to us from Case

Western Reserve University after serving as the Provost and Senior Vice President for their student body. He was fortunate to find the posting for the position of President at Illinois Tech and interview last minute to secure his position as President.

As President, Dr. Anderson is primarily responsible for five large university projects: finances, quality, alumni relations, nation profile, and leadership. Since joining the university, Anderson was able to take dramatic steps with the help of university staff to balance our budget and bring financial stability back to the university – three years and counting. His high standards and expectations for a greater quality university have led to new faculty joining the university, more well-deserved promotions, and a richer environment for faculty to flourish in research, teaching, and scholarship through book and grant writing. On a national level, Illinois Tech is continuing to be recognized for its advances and students in the fields of STEM through institutions like the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy, putting us on the same playing field with institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). As a leader for the university, he continues to be upbeat and prideful even when things are down. "It's important to keep in mind we are growing and

becoming a contender at the level of universities like MIT and Caltech."

Although riddled with a number of professional and formal responsibilities, Dr. Anderson always enjoys interacting with alumni and students which give him a number of stimulating opportunities he would have



never had otherwise. After breaking ice at alumni events or trustee meetings, he meets fantastic and outstanding individuals who continue to rave about the university and want to know more about what students are doing; these interactions create something special for him eventually leading to opportunities and

discussions with mayors, governors, and even shaking hands with President Barack Obama.

Dr. Anderson's connection to athletics doesn't start at Illinois Tech, but stems from his career as a college student at the University of Delaware and University of Illinois, and then a faculty member at Cornell University in

for how much time and work varsity athletes put into their sports.

Now being at Illinois Tech, when Anderson hears the words athletics, intramurals, or sports, his first thought is hard-working, brilliant students. "When you see a women's volleyball team who is basically half engineering, where are you going to find that anywhere else? It's a lot of work to be an engineer."

I'm very impressed they can do all this and put in so many hours as a student and athlete. I have great respect for them being able to manage their time and keep their first priority as academics. They are truly the definition of a student-athlete."

Of all the games and events Dr. Anderson has attended, his favorite ones to attend are baseball and swimming. His favorite memory is a connection between Scarlet Hawk baseball player Nick Wise and a blast from the past – Willie Mays. It was a tough game against the University of Chicago (UChicago) at U.S. Cellular Field, but the Hawks were holding their ground well. As UChicago was up to bat, the batter hit the ball into the far outfield. Sprinting to make the catch, Nick Wise stuns the crowd with the same catch made by Willie Mays years ago. You can see the official catch by Mays by checking out this YouTube video: <http://youtu.be/7dK6zPbkFnE>. This amazing moment has stuck with Anderson as his favorite in Illinois Tech athletics.

As athletics makes the transition from NAIA to NCAA, Anderson sees us recruiting more brilliant and passionate students to the Illinois Tech program to play against top schools with similar students like those in our academic environment. "Students who go out onto the field, play their hearts out, hang in there, and give 100% no matter what the score is will always be the spirit of Illinois Tech athletics."

Photos courtesy of IIT Athletics



Tuesday, February 24

Men's Basketball
vs. Lincoln Christian
7 p.m.

Saturday, March 7

Baseball
@ Eureka
1 p.m.

Sunday, March 8

Baseball
@ Eureka
TBA

Monday, March 9

Women's Lacrosse
vs. Albion
7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11

Women's Lacrosse
vs. Defiance
1 p.m.

Sunday, March 15

Baseball
@ Central Iowa
4 p.m.

Monday, March 16

Baseball
@ Marian
11 a.m.

Tuesday, March 17

Women's Lacrosse
@ Illinois Wesleyan
7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Baseball
@ Augsburg
11 a.m.

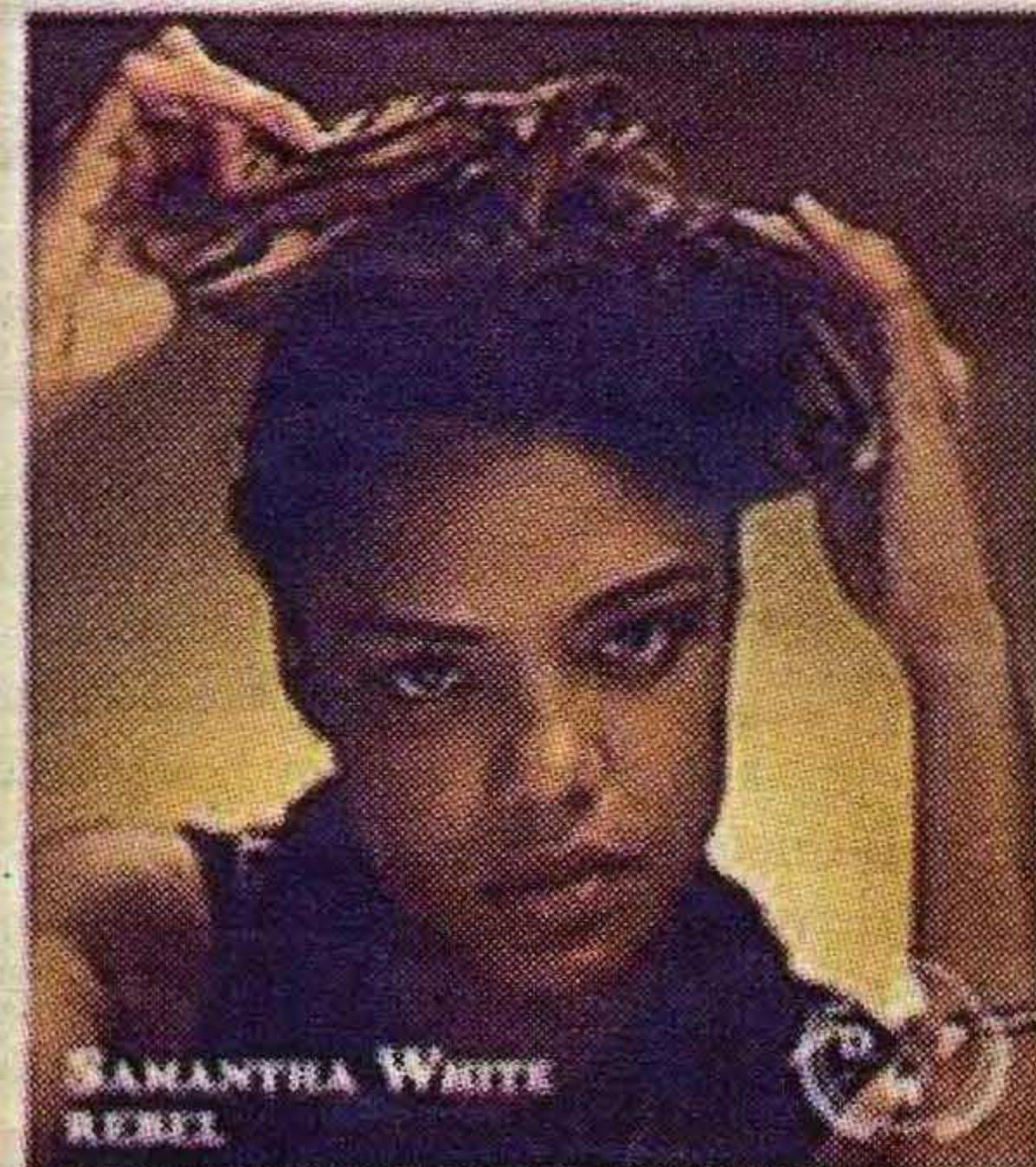
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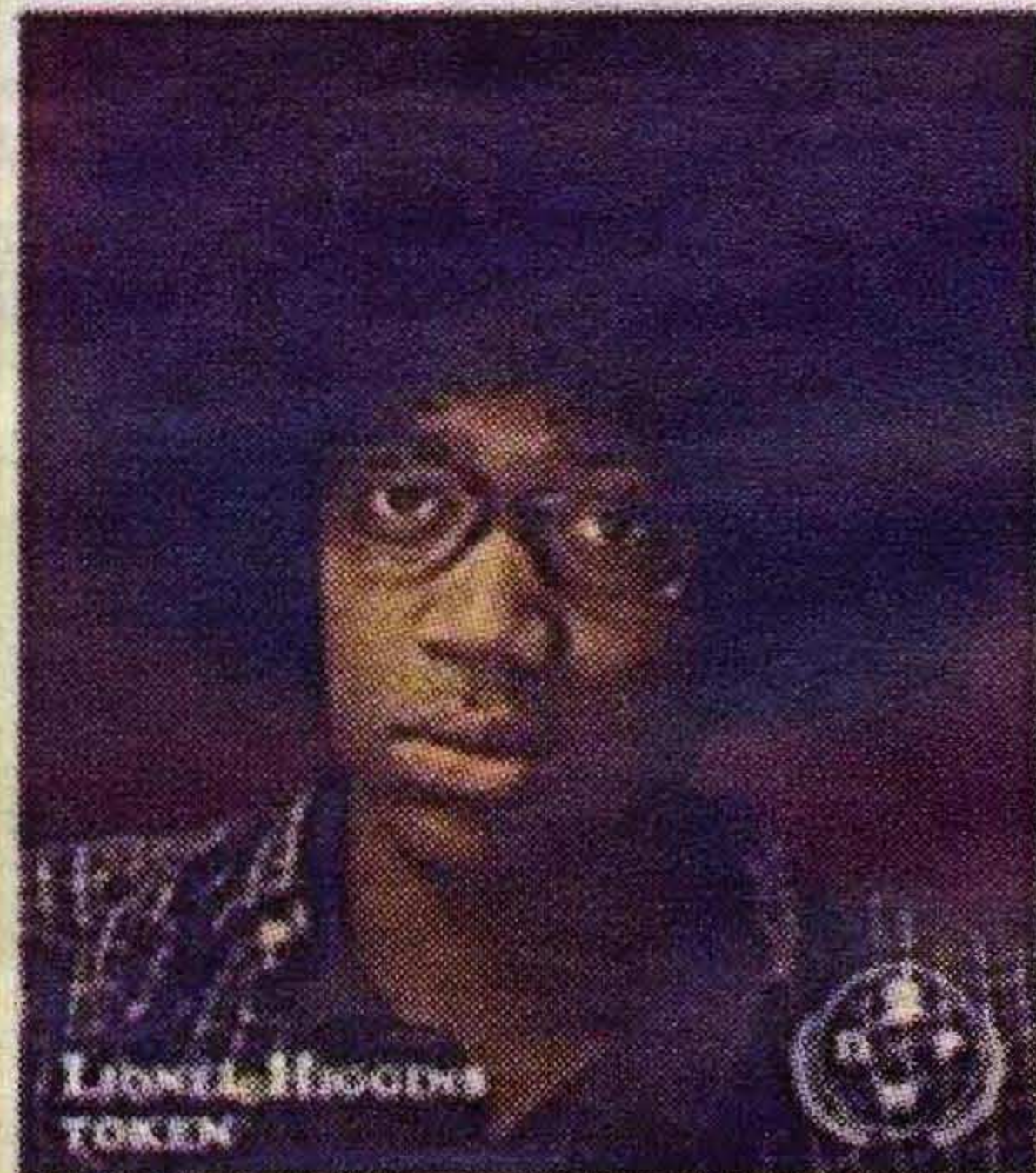
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business@technewsiit.com

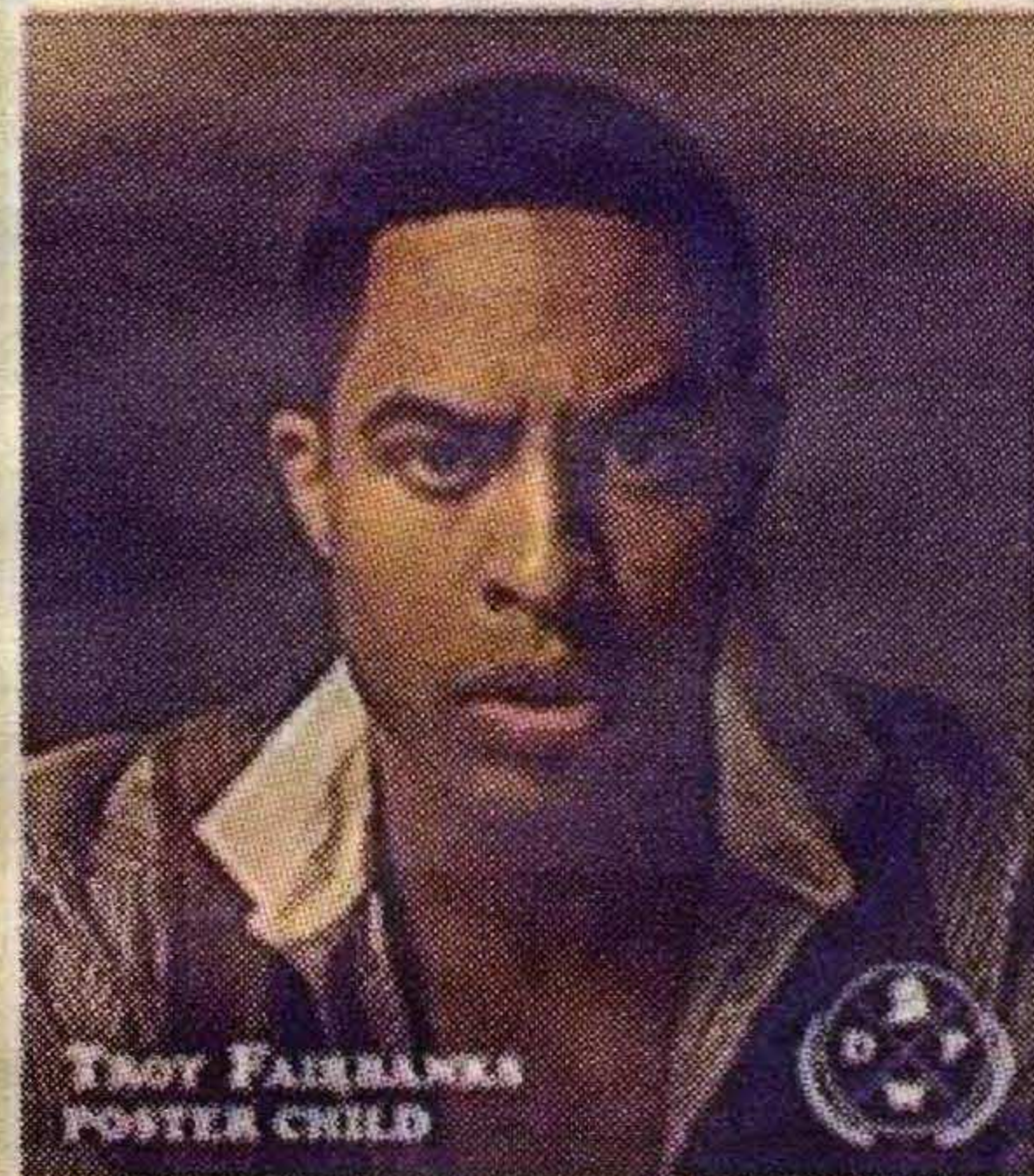
Conversations at the Crossroads: Black Face, White Place



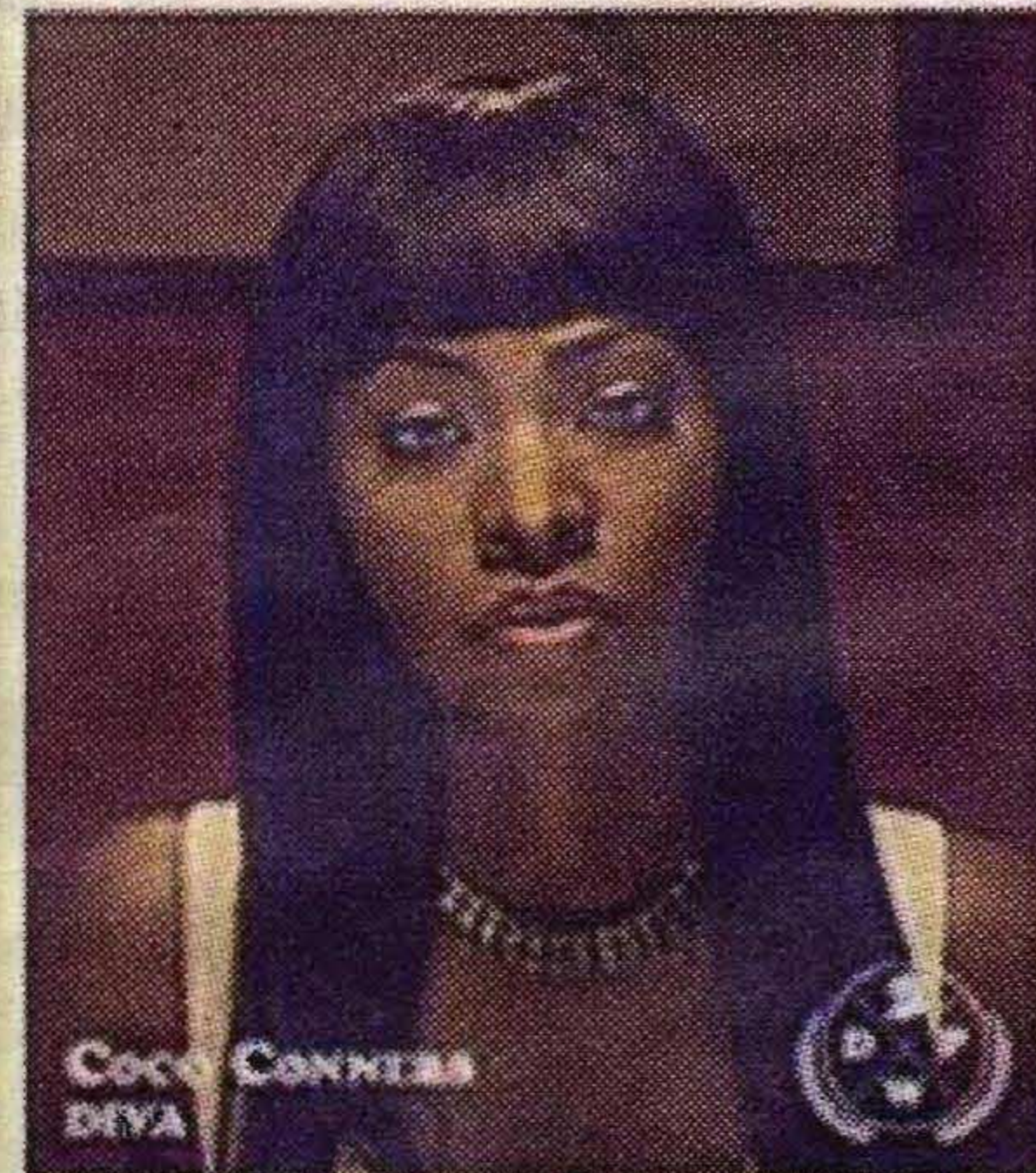
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MTCC Ballroom

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Questions? Contact either Lynne Meyer, Director, Office of Spiritual Life, Diversity, and Service at lmeyer2@iit.edu or 312-567-3160 or Brianna Jones, International Services Specialist at bjones22@iit.edu or 312-567-3870.

Co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Life and the International Center



Love to Dance will be performing during
halftime at the men's basketball game on
Tuesday, February 24 (vs Lincoln Christian).
The game starts at 7 pm. Be there!



March is Women's History
Month! Find and 'like' IIT Gender
& Sexuality Services on Facebook
for more details.

Company is presented through
special arrangement with Music
Theatre International (MTI). All
authorized performance
materials are
also supplied by MTI.

SAF Funded
Questions? Email 33rd.iit@gmail.com

Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim
Book by
George Furth

Originally Produced & Directed on Broadway by
Harold Prince

Orchestrations by
Jonathan Tunick

33rd Street Productions presents:

COMPANY

a musical comedy

Hermann Hall Auditorium

7:45 pm

FREE
admission
Recommended
for ages 13+

Friday, Feb 27
Saturday, Feb 28
Friday, Mar 6
Saturday, Mar 7



Thursday

**FIFA Tournament &
Student Philanthropy Day**

Friday

**Caribbean Visionaries
Bingo Night & 125th
Anniversary Bowling
Tournament**

Saturday

Blues Night

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
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