

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 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.

Can you imagine?

Yusra Sarhan
TECHNEWS WRITER

When I think about the year 2016, I experience a bittersweet feeling that I haven't felt before. I'm happy that 2016 is a new beginning, but I can't help feeling a little trepidation, knowing that there are many communities moving forward with heavy hearts because they feel that they have been treated unjustly.

In 2015, how many protests have happened because someone was killed who had every right to still be with us today? How many lives have been lost to brutal attacks and shootings? How many times have you turned on your TV and seen thousands of people fleeing war-torn zones or listened to people argue about refugees? How many times have you watched presidential candidates try to gain momentum by putting down millions of underrepresented people? Aren't you tired of it? As a Muslim American, I know I am.

It is difficult to dream while there are fear-mongering leaders tearing at my American fabric. I am judged before I even open my mouth. People look at me differently, and I do not always feel safe in public. The list of hindrances myself and people like me face goes on, nevertheless. However, I must imagine something better.

Before I become a successful leader, I must envision myself as a successful leader. I must go beyond the constriction of what I see around me to paint a brighter vision that will fuel my dreams and passions. I can, I am, and I will.

If you are a leader; a person who wants to make a difference; an individual who desires to be heard without being judged based solely on ethnicity, color, or religion; or a person who wants to leave behind a positive legacy; I have a message for you: it was not our choice to be in the situations in which we find ourselves. None of us wish to be divided

and pitted against one another. What we can control is our reaction and the roles we take within our sphere of influence.

Will you embrace the responsibility of taking on a positive impactful role in creating a more just future? Will you do so with pride and dignity? I'm not saying you should start a long and arduous journey to achieve social justice in every area, but you should do what you can within your sphere of influence.

Regardless of how small or large your influence is, it does exist.

We might not change the world, but we can take action to advocate for social justice within our families, our schools, our temples, our cities, and so on. Every leader is unique and has his/her own way of saying "I can." To utilize every leader's strengths, we first have to be brave enough to imagine, to dream with purpose to create a better future. Are you capable of imagining?

Imagine your name

IN PRINT

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