

# 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.

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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.

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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

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# High expectations for 2Sense Improv

**Reno Waswil**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

In the Netflix series "Garfunkel and Oats," which presents a fictionalized account of the career of the popular comedic songwriting duo composed of Riki Lindhome and Kate Micucci, Micucci tries to convince someone that although he claims to like Jazz, he doesn't really. She argues that the only enjoyment from Jazz comes from the idea of playing it, and to everyone that is not or does not play it, there is absolutely no appeal. As someone that would claim to appreciate Jazz, I would say that it, like most negative critiques of entire music genres, is an incorrect oversimplification. I do admit, however, that in as far as Jazz is an experience to listen to, the listening experience is greatly amplified by a certain vicarious appreciation of the people playing it, and furthermore, truly cannot compare to the joy and power of playing it in a way that I don't think is nearly as potent in any other musical genre.

The reason for this is the natural reliance of Jazz, as a musical art form, as a medium for syncopated, often team-centered improvisation: working off of and with others and within certain intuitive confines to do whatever you feel like. The use of improvisation does not, however, limit itself to music. Improv Comedy, or simply Improv, is a popular method of using improvisation in a performance art setting, typically in groups of two or more people, to elucidate humorous ideas and relationships, and surprise: it is really fun; It's fun to watch, especially live, and it is fun to do. All it really requires from a basic level is confidence and creativity, and there are all different methods of doing it.

I love Improv, and am the Chair of 33rd Street Productions Improv team 2sense Improv. In its current form, we focus on long-form, storytelling scene-based Improv with

short-form, or the "Who's Line is it Anyway's" style slightly less focused on. Because Improv in these terms is still so broad, what you see is crafted a lot by what tricks and tools are used in building a scene or conducting a game, along with the practice and wherewithal to use them. Unsurprisingly, an Improv show is even more so shaped by how an actor learned it and who they are improvising with (troupe being so great because they know each other so well), and that is where 2sense Improv comes in.

It is at our weekly meetings that we practice and personalize our technique with casual but still structured and productive Improv. Perhaps you'd like to give it a try but might want to know what to expect. I will thus give a breakdown of how I plan to conduct these meetings in hopes that it seems less weird or alienating.

Each will begin with a warm-up game. If you are unaware of what these are, warm-up games often take the form of ice-breakers you may see which are designed to "bring you out of your shell." Even from an Improv point of view, I despise these sorts of games with a passion. In practice they tend to focus a great deal on training action/reaction skills and are often needlessly embarrassing. Although you need to have confidence in both acting and improvising, it doesn't need to be embarrassing if you don't make it so. Improv may be a little embarrassing at certain points, but I think those can be dealt with in a manner that doesn't take it out of the context of what we are doing, which is building a good scene.

I will try to make these games, therefore, practical, fun, and not alienating, while heavily encourage creativity. The primary reason for this last part is that what these games will do, in addition to "warming up," is provide some creative fodder to be used in generating the bread and butter of our style of Improv: the long-form scene. Games, suggestions, and real life stories are some of the more popular

method of inspiring scenes, and I've decided to work this fundamentally into the procedure of the practice. The structured nature of the game offers a prime opportunity to experiment with humorous ideas and situations, from which the actors are free to, when compelled and feel justly prepared, break out of the game to initiate the scene.

The meeting will follow this consistent pattern of games followed by scenes inspired by those games. The games will change form as the night progresses and a number of scenes may be drawn from any given game, or even from previous scenes themselves. My only unique responsibility as the Chair will be in choosing the games. We all will share the responsibilities in drawing ideas from games, initiating and contributing to scene, and critiquing each other's work. The first game will always be something akin to a warm-up game as I have described, and following games will be more of the short-form kind, or possibly scenes with more simplified narrative forms. As per tradition, we will end each meeting with the game "World's Worst."

Our ultimate goal in all of this, besides of course doing it to strengthen our acting, confidence, creativity, and just for the immense fun of it, is putting on at least one larger show in the Spring, and possibly some smaller live shows if we get around to it. It is not a requirement of being part of 2sense Improv to take part in any of the live shows, or even every aspect of our meetings for that matter. But if you are interested at all--if you like acting but don't like memorizing lines, like role playing but aren't too particularly fond of commitment to characters, or just like comedy and friendship---I suggest you take part. Email us at 33rd.iit@gmail.com or stay alert to our meeting advertisements. You can come to our meetings to watch, help, play, or all of the above.

## Change is in the air: What's new at Illinois Tech this Fall?

**Soren Spicknall**  
COPY EDITOR

Anybody who's visited a place after leaving for a long while knows the feeling of discovery that comes with finding something new there. For students who've been away from Illinois Tech for the summer, that feeling is bound to pop up at least once or twice in these first few weeks of classes. Here are a few things around campus that you might notice as you settle into this new academic year:

Somebody, somewhere, is attempting to popularize the abbreviation JTREC (pronounced "JAY-trek") for the recently renamed John T. Rettaliata Engineering Center, previously officially known as Engineering 1. Like many faculty and staff members have had trouble mentally switching away from the convenient nickname "The Hub" for Hermann Hall, which was historically named the Hermann Union Building, it's plausible that the popular acronym "E1" will remain in popular speech for some time as the preferred nomenclature for the renovated center of engineering courses on campus.

Illinois Tech Dining Services have switched from blue corporate Sodexo uniforms to a red motif, part of an overall pivot toward integrating themselves more effectively into the mental fabric of the university as a part of the community, rather than a separate entity existing within it. This uniform switch has been accompanied by the annual reshuffling of Dining Services staff across different dining locations, in addition to some big changes to dining options in the

Commons like the addition of a new entree for each meal period at the building's northwest edge and the introduction of a grab-and-go "express meal" program within the Commons itself. Previously express meals were available in Pritzker Club and The Bog for those who missed dinnertime (used mostly by athletes), but this new program is quite different than that prior offering.

On the day of first-year student move-in, the ground floor of Lewis Hall flooded. This is in stark contrast to last Fall, when on the day of first-year student move-in, the second floor of Lewis Hall flooded.

There is now an official public notice of renovation plans posted on the northern door of Main Building, kicking off a pre-season of sorts for building as the building's private developers enter the permit-gathering and plan-drawing phase of their work. As opposed to the beginning of last year, when WIIT and ITMR still held facilities in the building and were permitted occasional access, no students are allowed in the building any longer.

In other construction news, the new Ed Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship has undergone groundbreaking and is slated to begin rising soon from Morton Park. If you are unaware of the project at this point, it's possible that you are living in an alternate universe. There's no word yet on the fate of the cool wooden amplifier that was built in the park last year as a public performance space by an IPRO team.

Former SGA VP of Communications Subarno Saha has graduated, despite his best efforts to appear to the contrary.

The general atmosphere of student organizations at the beginning of this semester seems to be very positive, as the determined structural improvements made by many last year have turned into marked progress toward recruitment and retention. Unfortunately, everyone seems to have caught onto the convenience of a lunchtime meeting during a weekday, thereby making it inconvenient because everybody has scheduled their meetings during the same five hours of the week.

A new Jamaican Jerk Chicken place has opened at the corner of 35th and Indiana, bringing the total number of chicken-based restaurants on 35th between Michigan and King to six (exceeding an average one per block). Despite this, those who claim there are "too many" chicken stops on 35th are still wrong, and always will be.

Hopeless cynics and hopeless apologists continue to battle it out on ITSC. But hey, some of the faces are new.

Shimer College is winding down their presence on campus as they prepare to be integrated into North Central College in Naperville, leaving us without anybody to make T-shirts that say "illIITerate" and leaving IPRO497-312 (Shimer + Illinois Tech + Community Forum) in a very awkward spot.

For some reason, the faculty, staff, and students of a tech school still continue to read a physical newspaper each week to find out what's going on around them.

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