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**TUESDAY**

February 15, 2011

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technewsiit.com

# TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## 'Vagina Monologues' arouse generosity

By **Karl Rybaltowski**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This past weekend, the Pritzker Club and MTCC Ballroom hosted a play that spawned an HBO production, a worldwide non-profit movement, and plenty of controversy in the United States and abroad.

Organized by members of IIT Feminists United, the event raised money for Porchlight Counseling Services, an organization that provides counseling and resources to victims of sexual violence. With a strong turnout, the event was regarded by the organizers as a big success.

The Vagina Monologues started as a one-woman play performed by Eve Ensler in New York. What had started as a series of anecdotes from acquaintances relating to sexuality and sexual violence turned into a series of interviews with 200 women - the result being a number of monologues that explore these issues, powerful because of their grounding in real events.

Though the play initially started as a celebration of female sexuality, it soon took on a more serious tone and became part of the V-Day movement, which opposes sexual violence worldwide. While a portion of the proceeds (10%) from each production of The Vagina Monologues goes to the V-Day non-profit itself, the rest is given to local rape and

sexual violence crisis centers for women. The production itself has also expanded to touch on transgender issues.

The performance at IIT was organized by members of IIT Feminists United, with FU Secretary Vlada Gaisina (MMAE '11) directing. The members of the organization felt more female-oriented performances were lacking in the university. "I was... really influenced by a performance at IIT's Kent College of Law in 2009. I had interviewed the director in an attempt to promote it on Main Campus, and I was struck by how positive the entire experience was. I knew then that IIT was in desperate need of an event that is so empowering and positive, and focuses so much on women." Meagan Sarratt (PSYC '11), President of FU, agrees. "We, as a school, are so unaware of the daily violence that women around the world face, and I was hoping that this would be our wake-up call."

Open auditions were held for the all-female cast on January 20 and 21, with students from different colleges and even IIT staff getting involved, for a variety of motivations. had already had some experience with the V-Day movement. "My mom saw Eve Ensler perform the monologues a while back, and my older sister was involved with V-Day activities on her college campus," said performer Elaine Erwin (ARCH '13). "So I thought I could carry this sort of 'legacy' by getting involved with

FU's production." To Residence Hall Director Jordan Alexander, it was a chance to stay involved. "I love this show, had been a part of it at the University of Vermont in 2007 and was thrilled I did not miss my chance here at IIT"

The monologues themselves cover a broad range of themes, and challenged the performers to interpret the very personal material on their own terms. The monologue performed by FU VP of Publicity Kunoor Ojha (PSYC '12) presented "Memory of her Face," three stories of women around the world (Baghdad, Islamabad, and Ciudad Juarez) who were victims of sexual violence or mutilation. "It's a sad one, to say the least... so that's what I tried to get across in my performance. No shaking my fist at sky in rage, no yelling out about it, just a sort of sad detachment." Other monologues were more affirmative and even humorous, while no less enlightening, such as Jordan Alexander's "My Angry Vagina." "The character I play... is my strongest feminist voice on my most passionate activist day. She allows me to express my anger in a healthy, educational and artistic way that resonates with other women and encourages the feminist movement forward."

The monologues were also accompanied by a raffle with sex-positive items as prizes and the sale of chocolate hearts (due to a shipping error, the standard chocolate vaginas didn't make it to the event in time). Despite the mi-

nor hiccups, however, the cast and organizers were very pleased with the audience. "The Pritzker Club was filled with laughs and great feedback from the crowd; I think the dimmed lighting in the audience with the spotlights on the performers worked perfectly. Most of the monologues got lots of claps, but there are always those few monologues that speak the truth yet quiet the crowd," said performer Julie Alkhovsky (PSYC '12).

There was an overwhelmingly positive reaction from the audience, as well. "The turnout was phenomenal! Every seat was taken on the first night! I'm usually really skeptical about student interest but people really responded! I would never have guessed how much we'd raise from it," Kunoor Ojha said. One audience member was overheard saying "People often talk about penis envy - I think I'm feeling the opposite right now."

There is already support for a repeat performance of The Vagina Monologues next year, and even making it an annual event. Asked about the future, Vlada Gaisina said "We've even talked about doing a performance of 'A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and a Prayer,' which includes men, next year. ... We want it to keep getting bigger!"

With the reaction The Vagina Monologues received this past weekend, that's not difficult to envision.



Photos by Jean-Emmanuel Guebey

## Alternative Spring Break needs your help (and money)!

By **Rebecca Waterloo**  
A&E EDITOR

It's a month until spring break; for thirty two IIT members, that means packing up and taking off to sunny California where they'll be building houses through Habitat for Humanity for a week. In order to get out there, they need your help. Keep an eye out for the numerous creative fundraisers for all crowds. Any donation gets them one step further to Oakland, so keep reading to find out how you can help!

**ASB Benefit Night @ The Bog**  
Thursday, February 17, 7 pm @ The Bog

Alternative Spring Break is organizing an event in The Bog to help them get to Oakland, California to build houses through Habitat for Humanity. There's lots going on, including food, raffles, rec center tournaments, a kissing booth, karaoke bribes, and a "Date Auction" at 9 pm, when you can bid on some hot ASB'ers to give you the love you deserve.

Some dates involve a walk to class, a coffee date, or requests are welcome (G rated only, folks). ASB gets The Bog the whole night, but

the fun will start around 7 pm. Bring your dollars and coins, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss.

**Fundraiser Bowling Tournament for ASB**  
Saturday, February 19, 3 pm @ The Bog

Come down and bowl with some friends, win some prizes, and help build homes for people in need all at the same time! \$5 per person to enter. Prizes for highest score and more. Register here:

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dEJEVHVwWk5tcWZxWUxhUjJPWkJWN0E6MQ>

**ASB Spaghetti Dinner**  
Sunday, February 27, 5:30 pm @ Delta Tau Delta house

Come get a bottomless plate of spaghetti for only \$5. ASB members themselves will serve you spaghetti until your button bursts from your pants. \$5 for a plate of spaghetti is a meal you can't pass up!

**ASB Night at Rocky's**

Thursday, March 3, 9 pm @ Rocky's Bar & Grill, 234 W. 31st

Head to Rocky's for college night specials. All tips given will be matched and donated to ASB. After 10 pm, the event will be 21+.

**Take On ASB**

Saturday, March 5, 6 pm @ Keating Sports Center

Compete against ASB teams through different sport competitions; basketball, soccer & volleyball. \$5 per person buy in, winning team gets a prize at the end. Registration will soon be up, but email [asb.iit@gmail.com](mailto:asb.iit@gmail.com) for now with your preferred sport or register as a team to take on ASB!

Supporters can also donate directly to a link (<https://payment.iit.edu/item.php?item=464>)

Find ASB on Facebook to hear more what they're up to! (<http://www.facebook.com/IITASB2011>)

## TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

McCormick Tribune Campus Center  
Room 221  
3201 South State Street  
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E-mail: editor@technewsiit.com  
Website: http://www.technewsiit.com

### TECHNEWS STAFF

**Editor-in-Chief** Karl Rybaltowski  
**IT Manager** Piyush Sinha  
**Business Manager** Piyush Sinha

**A&E Editor** Becca Waterloo  
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**Sex Tech**

THE SEX AND RELATIONSHIP ADVICE COLUMN  
**Sweet Pseudonym**  
SEXTECH EDITOR

Submit your question through  
[technewsiit.com/ask-sextech](http://technewsiit.com/ask-sextech)

**Q:** Hi. So, I've been dating the same boy for a year now, and it's definitely serious. We're doing super well, except for one thing: lately he's been bringing up marriage seriously and repeatedly, but no way! We're still undergrads, and while I don't see myself never getting married, it sure isn't going to happen anytime soon! I guess my question then is: how do I take the idea off the table for now, without hurting his feelings or our relationship?

**A:** That's definitely tough. I think you just have to go into it knowing that if his mind is really that made up about marriage, nothing you say is going to change it. That doesn't mean there's no point in having a conversation though! The most important thing to

remember is to not take an accusatory tone when you're talking to him about this. Frame your concerns in statements about how marriage isn't out of the question forever, and how you love him, and you don't want this to be a dealbreaker for you two. This doesn't mean you shouldn't be firm about your beliefs though. Don't be scared to tell him that you can't imagine getting married for at least another (however many years you want to wait), and that it simply isn't up for discussion. Then tell him why. Tell him you want to make sure you have a career first, and that you want to live in the real world before you even begin to think about marriage, or whatever it is that has driven you to decide to wait on marriage. If he loves you, he'll understand. Just be prepared for marriage to be as non-negotiable for him as it is for you, but then I suppose it would be better to know now rather than later. Good luck!

**Q:** I recently started dating a girl from the same friend circle, but it just ended - big and badly. She's apparently dialing up the drama, and trying to make people take sides. How do I navigate this situation without tearing all of our shared friends apart? And also, is there anyway I can salvage a friendship with my ex? We used to be super close even before we started dating.

**A:** Honestly? The only chance you have at mediating this is by talking to your ex. Try and get her to meet you face to face so that you can discuss how to deal with the mutual friends issue. First and foremost, you should try and understand why she's reacting the way she is. Tell her that you feel like she's trying to make your shared friends take sides, and how it makes you upset. You won't be able to get her to change until you know what's driving her behavior (and remember, what you see as her dialing up the drama, that might just be how she actually perceives the situation). From there, you should of course discuss different options to keep your friends out of it. Perhaps you can propose not talking about the situation with the friends that you share? Either way, feelings have been hurt, and it's going to be tough to be on the same page with things like this, so just work on making her feel that it's as much in her interest to keep your friends neutral as it is yours.

As to the topic of remaining friends, I just say time. Don't burn any bridges while you're broken up, and I'm sure that you'll eventually be able to be friendly, if not good friends, again. Time really does heal most relationship wounds, so you're just going to have to wait, and if her friendship is worth it, you will.

# SUMMER@IIT

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK SUMMER!

## SUMMER SESSIONS AT IIT

- Summer is a great time to take an IPRO.
- Smaller class sizes, closer contact with teachers.
- Fast-paced, concentrated, and to-the-point classes during 6- or 8-week sessions.
- Get ahead (or make up credits) to stay on track to graduation.
- Affordability — Financial aid is available.
- Stay in the city and have fun!



SUMMER SESSIONS BEGIN:  
**MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011**  
(sessions A, 6-week and D, 12-week)  
**MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011**  
(session B, 8-week)  
**TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2011**  
(session C, 6-week)

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# Valentine's Day endorses deceit

By Ryan Kamphuis  
CAMPUS EDITOR

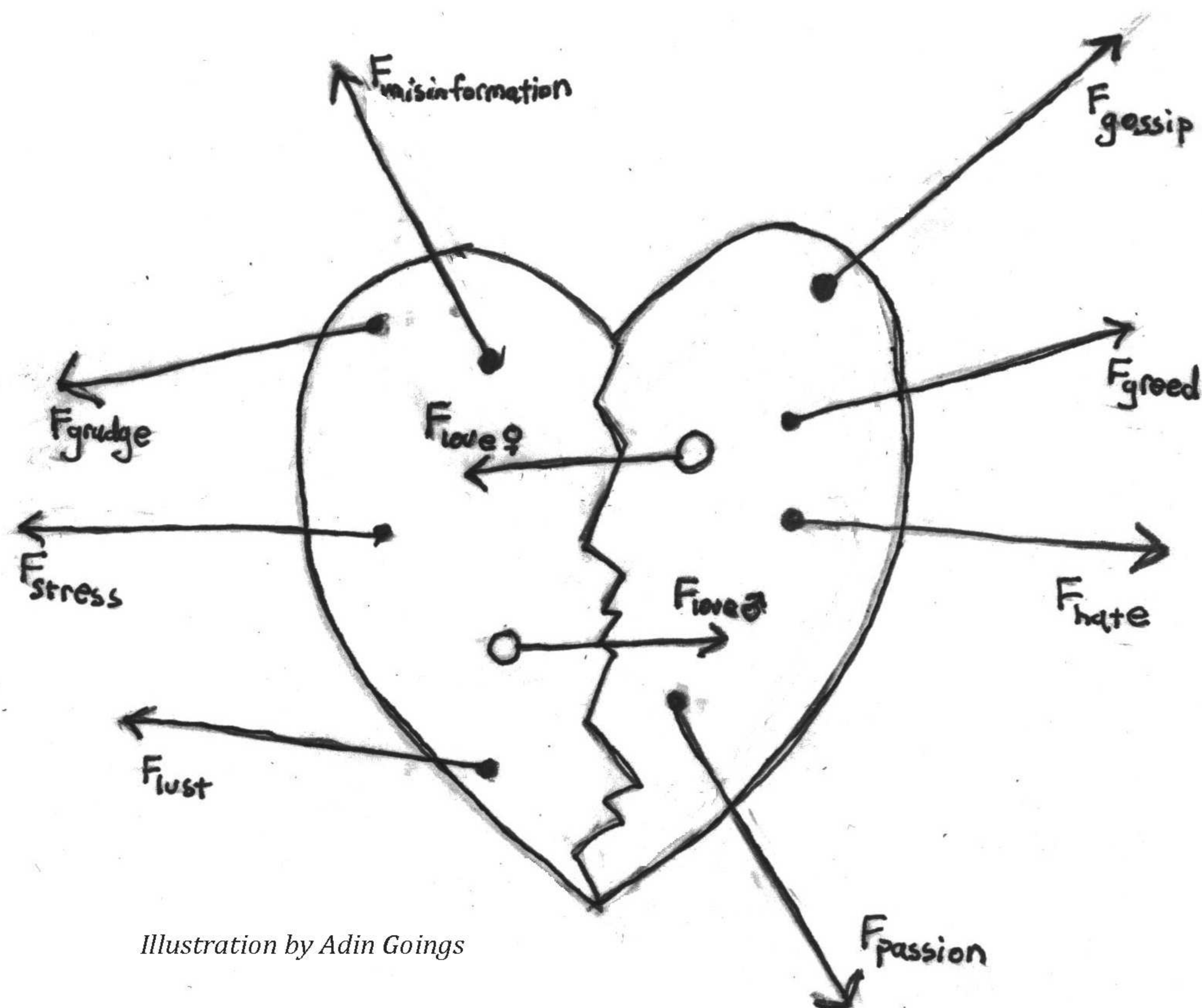


Illustration by Adin Goings

I'm not really sure why I loathe Valentine's Day so much. Maybe it's due to the repressed memories of my years in elementary school, where I was always the one kid that had fewer Valentines than everyone else in the class - even though it was required that every student bring a Valentine for everyone. It could be due to my years as an awkward teenager, where every girl I ever asked on a first date said no, and then started dating someone else within the following two weeks. Or it could just be because of the fact that Valentine's Day is the one day of the year, where I'm reminded of my failures when it comes to getting into a relationship by seeing thousands of happy couples out and about.

But when I really think about it, none of these things really contribute to my disgust with Valentine's Day. Which is a real shame, because all the tales of my spurned attempts at love would really contribute to the whole "heartless cynic" personality I'm trying to develop.

When I truly think about why I despise Valentine's Day, one reason shines clear: Valentine's Day is in no way, shape, or form about love. The powers that be have changed Valentine's Day from a day of love to a day of commercialism. On Valentine's Day, "love" is something that can be bought, sold, and marked down. The marketing minds behind this scheme have ingrained in the public perception the idea that there is no way you can love someone without buying them something on Valentine's Day. All one has to do to see this is look in the spam folder of his or her email

account. In that folder, you will see how the only way to show someone you love them on Valentine's Day is by taking that special someone out to dinner, or buying them clothes, a laptop, an iPod, or off-brand Viagra. For 364 days of the year, we ignore the spam we are sent, so why do we do everything it tells us on Valentine's Day?

There's one other reason I have such animosity for Valentine's Day, and that's the very purpose of the holiday. The purpose of Valentine's Day is to show that special someone that we love them. But why do we need a holiday for that? Shouldn't we be doing that every day that we spend with our significant other? Call me old-fashioned, but love is not something that can even begin to be expressed with money or possessions. Love is a deep thing. Love is being there for someone always, through the good and bad. Love is caring for someone. Love is helping someone. Love is sacrifice. Love is 24/7. Not one day in February.

Valentine's Day is merely a representation of what love has become in our society. In pop culture, love is merely an object. Music tells us that it can be bought. Reality TV shows turn love into a game. If we want to make love mean something in modern society again, Valentine's Day gives us a good point to start.

We can stop celebrating Valentine's Day, and instead show our love every day of our life. And that would provide the first steps necessary to take the concept of love back from the corporations.

# What's your angle?

## An ethical discussion on current topics

By Annie Hutches & Phil Theisen  
TECHNEWS WRITERS

"So, Marcus, have you ever bought anything from Nike?"

"Hmm, I believe so. Probably a pair of shoes, shirts... stuff like that. Why?"

"Well, I just heard an interesting story about how some of Nike's soccer balls are made in sweatshops

over in Pakistan. Apparently, the working conditions there are terrible, and the workers, children included, are treated poorly, just so the company can bring the cost down. It seems like it's a cruel way to make money."

"Maybe, but don't you like to buy cheap things?"

"Yeah..."

"Well, these sweatshops will make products cheaper for you. If they are paying less money to their workers, then they can lower the prices of their products. A lot of poor consumers benefit from this."

"But what about all the Americans being

put out of work just so the company doesn't have to pay employees a decent salary? Or how about other businesses that don't invest in sweatshops? They are doing the right thing but have to compete with these business' cheap prices."

"Yes, I agree, but you have to also think about this from the perspective of the kids in the sweatshops. These kids live in third-world countries, and they are being given the opportunity to make money. Working in sweatshops is a much better life for them and will probably help them in many ways. Many alternatives are things like unpaid labor jobs,

subsistent farming, picking through trash, unemployment, and it can keep them off the streets, which are not always safe."

"Safe?! Sweatshops are not exactly the safest place either, you know. There are a lot of health and environmental issues with those places."

"Safe?! Sweatshops are not exactly the safest place either, you know. There are a lot of health and environmental issues with those places."

What's your angle? Send your thoughts to peds.iit@gmail.com.

### This week: sweatshops and savings

# Marriage is for love & profit

By Ed Scanlon  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Such an odd title. One might think that I am attempting to suggest that marriage can be used as a scam (which it can), but I insist that this is not my intention.

#### What am I talking about?

The thing I'm talking about is gay marriage. It has been a complicated issue in America in recent times. America has a tendency to oppress people, and then stop, and then move on to the next human rights violation, and fix it. With any luck, eventually people will be free in the land of the free.

Until then, we have to have debates between people who want freedom, and people who won't give it to them. For some reason, it is acceptable to tell someone they can't have something that you have because they're different from you. We did it to the blacks, the Irish, the everyone else.

Every time a group of people points out that they're not being treated equally, there's always some other group ready to point out that they don't deserve equality because of [insert reason here]. The GLBT crowd is no different.

#### Why can't gays marry?

Naturally, if there are people saying that something should not be allowed, the only way they'll be taken seriously is if they can provide a reason. Without reason, after all, the logic never flows to conclusion. Let's see how many reasons I can remember.

- Being gay is a choice, so gay marriage isn't necessary.
- God doesn't like gays, and since it's not PC to hate them, I'll just hate the idea that they could get married.
- Marriage is between a man and a woman.
- Marriage is sacred.
- Gay marriage undermines the institution of marriage.

#### Exploring the reasoning

In all logical pursuits, when presented with reasons, the next step to legitimizing them is determining why they work (or why they don't). So let's explore.

First up, "being gay is a choice, so gay marriage isn't necessary." This one is scientific. Either it is [true], or it isn't, and we can determine which using science.

So what does the science say? Psychology and biology experts are in agreement that homosexuality exists from birth, or at least from a very early age. Of course there are plenty of scientists with degrees from [insert not re-

ally accredited religious college here] who are quite capable of denying this. They're the same people who can deny global warming while watching it happen. In other words, this debate is decided. It isn't a choice.

Next on the list was the "God hates gays" argument. We can treat "marriage is sacred" and "marriage is between a man and a woman" in the same breath. See, these things are all religious arguments. With that, I'll pause. This one can come later.

The last one remaining is the "gay marriage undermines the institution of marriage" argument. The question that inevitably follows is ... how? This is normally the part where I explain the argument and then get snarky, but I can't.

I don't get it either. Marriages are independent units. No one marriage has a direct causal effect on another simply by virtue of the sex of the participants.

#### Religion

It was inevitable. And you knew it was when I said "this one can come later." See, as I mentioned, these arguments come from religion. But when we talk about the law and gay marriage, we talk about the good old USA and how it works. When we talk about how it works, we talk about the Constitution. "But the constitution doesn't talk about marriage", you say. Correct.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or preventing the free exercise thereof." The good old first amendment. For those who don't speak 1700's English, "no law respecting an establishment of religion" means that we can't have laws enforcing religious values in and of themselves.

We can legalize murder because that has logical reasoning behind it. But when the only reasoning is religious, it violates the first amendment. Since the only reasoning that can't be disproven is religious, the only arguments that can stand against gay marriage are also religious.

#### Conclusion

The conclusion here is as short as it is obvious. Because we can't legalize something purely on religious grounds, and the only grounds are religious, we can't ban gay marriage.

And that doesn't even consider the religions in which homosexuality is not taboo, which will be infringed upon by the others. The others just happen to be more popular. And we all know that the best societies are based on popularity contests, right?

Syndicated from www.blog.over-yonder.com

## TechNews Corrections

In our previous issue's coverage of summer options on campus, some important information was left out:

As of January 31, all current IIT students are able to register for summer classes using their existing Spring 2011 pin. All summer registration is initially waitlisted, so there is no obligation to the student to complete the registration when they register for fall, the week of April 4. Initially, all registrations are waitlisted in order to determine which classes are most popular and which may require more sections to open.

TechNews regrets the error.



## Weekly SGA roundup

By Rani Shah

SGA SENATOR

### Student Life Committee:

1. SSV and Gunsaulus Printing: Find temporary solutions in Gunsaulus and SSV this semester and permanent print-stations for Fall 2011.
2. E1 Water Fountains: Replace water fountain piping to get rid of rusty water.
3. Red Bull: Bring the Red Bull cars to campus, especially during high-stress times for students.
4. Shuttlebus: Try to expand shuttle bus routes to Prairie Shores.

### Academic Affairs Committee:

1. Foreign Language Program: Finish up with approval of the proposal and work on implementation of a foreign language program at IIT!
2. Clocks for Classrooms: Install clocks in every classroom, and maintain existing clocks to make sure they are functional and correct.
3. Art Classes for Non-Architecture Students: Streamline the process for IIT student registration for Shimer-offered art courses.
4. Improving Advising: Get student input with research and surveys to see how we can better the advising process.

### Communications Committee:

1. Universal Calendar: Unveil the UCal at the Heads of State General Assembly later this semester.
2. Bike Registration: Research benefits of a bike registration system on campus.
3. Scheduling: Meet with Administration to determine how to allow more time for students to access professor office hours and other activities.
4. Thought Drive: Host a series of events to collect input for surveys, new projects, and overall school improvement.

## Finance Board hosts intercollegiate conference

By Kevin O'Leary  
FINANCE BOARD CHAIR

Last Saturday, February 5 2011, IIT Finance Board hosted its first annual 'Student Government Finance Conference.'

Other Chicago area schools' relative student fund allocating bodies, including those from DePaul, University of Chicago, Loyola University of Chicago, and University of Illinois at Chicago were invited to the MTCC for a day of sharing ideas and processes. Specifically, schools were to outline their process for applying for funding, describe the structure of their allocating board/committee, the structure of their actual hearings, and any governing documents or guidelines to abide by. The conference was designed to facilitate idea exchange, so that all the respective 'Finance Boards' could see the process from other perspectives and improve upon what was already in place.

Attendance to the conference was scheduled to be 12 people, with representatives from IIT, Loyola University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago, but due to last minute cancellations involving a walk from a formal dance at the Drake Hotel all the way back to Loyola (the Friday after the blizzard), the LUC representatives were not able to attend. Thus, four members of IIT's Finance Board and University of Chicago's Student Government Finance Committee along with their Student Government VP of Administration were able to attend, for a total of eight people.

There were stark differences between the funding processes between the schools. While IIT's Finance Board allocates the entire Student Activity Fund itself to respective student organizations and clubs, at U of C the SAF is divided into several different funds, including Sports, Programming Coordinating Coun-

cil, Community Service, and an 'Uncommon Fund' to be used on particularly unique projects. Each of these funds are allocated by a specific and separate body, and then their general student activity fund (like ours) is allocated by their Student Government Finance Committee. Also, their hearings are weekly, during which every RSO, or Registered Student Organization (U of C jargon), has to come in and explain their budget. Then, the org leaves the room and the committee deliberates, and instead of getting a decision letter later on, the org comes back in and they are directly told their amount of funding.

Since our two schools are so different (U of C has roughly 5000 undergrads, we have half that, and they have over 350 student orgs, whereas we have around 140), it is difficult to implement many of each other's policies regarding the funding process. However, one idea U of C really liked was the fact that we have 'Follow Up Budgets', which we refer to affectionately as 'FUBS'. They do not currently have any type of follow-up on funding they allocate, which leads to fiscal irresponsibility within orgs and lack of accountability as to if the money is going to good use, if their events are successful, etc. They intend to put the FUB into effect immediately.

The conference included much discussion of the internal functions within each school, talk of major differences between schools (like the surprising news that U of C does not get U-Passes) and mock hearings from both groups, but finally came to an end after lunch. Overall the first annual Student Government Finance Board Conference was a success, and we plan to hold it again in the future. We hope it will grow into a much larger event, and will help schools throughout the city refine and improve their student activity fund allocation processes.

## College Goal Sunday

By The Office of  
Financial Aid

This year IIT is hosting a free FAFSA completion workshop provided by College Goal Sunday (CAP).

College Goal Sunday is a statewide volunteer program that provides free information and assistance to students and families who are applying for financial aid for post-secondary education. College Goal Sunday brings together financial aid professionals from colleges and universities along with other volunteers to help college-bound students and their families complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Experts from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, high school counselors, college representatives, and other volunteers will be available to help you complete your FAFSA.

When: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: 3301 S. Dearborn St., Siegel Hall  
Chicago, IL 60616  
It's free!

### What should you bring?

- Social Security Number.
- Records of income, such as income earned from work and business, child support paid or received and other untaxed income. If you have them, refer to the W-2 forms or Federal Income Tax Return IRS 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ.
- Information about assets, such as savings, certificates of deposit, stock options, bonds, 529 plans and other college savings programs; and investment real estate, business and farm.
- Driver's license number, if you have one.
- Date of birth.
- Month and year of marriage, separation, divorce or other change in marital status.
- Alien Registration Number, if you are not a U.S. citizen.

## FB March Hearing Change: Programming

By Kevin O'Leary  
FINANCE BOARD CHAIR

Normally, the upcoming hearing in March would only be for Capital, Conference and Competition budgets. However, the Finance Board would like to announce that it is opening up the option to request funding for Programming budgets. The Board feels that this will enable more events that will improve student life, and hopes for another round of quality submissions.

## IIT First-Year Students and Graduating Students (Seniors)



Want to win  
an iPod Touch?

- DISAGREE
- AGREE
- STRONGLY AGREE

## TAKE THE SURVEY!

IIT is participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). You will receive your survey by email from NSSE soon.

Respond by April 1 for a chance to win one of two iPod Touches.

### We want to hear your feedback about IIT!

Your opinions count and will help IIT to improve academic and social programming at the university.

HAVE QUESTIONS?  
Contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@iit.edu](mailto:registrar@iit.edu).

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# I PRO 335 in Haiti: Day 2

Photos courtesy Simon Brauer

By Simon Brauer  
TECHNEWS WRITER

We stirred in the room as the alarm rang - 6 a.m. Our second day in Haiti would bring us across a mountain range to the small town of Lascahobas, and we certainly didn't want to be late for our 7 o'clock departure. As I rose and threw the shades open, I was welcomed by the bright, early-morning vista of Port-au-Prince. The sunken city was below our hill-top hide-away, the sun was reflecting steeply off of the panoramic ocean, and the myriad concrete buildings and palm trees were going out to meet it.

7:30 passed us by but still no word from our escort. "We'll be there in 15 minutes," we were told after many futile phone calls. The time continued to pass as we discovered what we humorously dubbed "Haitian time," until finally at 9:30 the vehicles arrived to take us to Lascahobas. There we would examine three schools to determine which was suitable for our solar implementation. As the houses began to diminish, the open field lay before us holding the mountains in the distance. Suddenly, the ride was as peaceful as it could be, with smooth, straight roads leading us to what loomed ahead. This didn't prepare us for the ride through the mountain range, though, as easy riding suddenly became a swift roller coaster of turns, zipping around hairpins—we in the backseat grabbed onto anything that gave us whatever false sense of security we could believe in.

We arrived at our first school. Its construc-

tion was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and it served as a primary and teacher training school, with a broad campus dotted by brightly colored stucco buildings, some with simple sheet-metal roofs. As we wandered the paved pathways examining the structures, we couldn't help but think that this was the one we were looking for. We wrapped up and headed to the next one, a nice Catholic school with a large courtyard. The roof seemed terribly weak and there was a strangely ominous dilapidated building opposite the main classrooms—we were told that government funds got caught up and it couldn't be completed. The sisters were more than happy to help us, though, and they led us around the two-storey school house. We left and drove a bit to the last one. As we pulled up, a concrete building with a large, gaping hole in its wall greeted us, a strange welcome after the seemingly pristine school we visited first. Inside the gate, it was cool and shady, with two buildings closely mirroring each other. There were no doors on these buildings and the hollow cement block walls let light into the classrooms. Once again, there seemed to be some issues with the buildings, but the officials were more than happy to show us around and answered all the questions we asked.

After we had completed what we needed to accomplish in Lascahobas, we headed back toward Port-au-Prince. On the way back, we stopped by a hotel complex and ordered some much-needed lunch—it was 2 p.m. by that time and we had eaten breakfast before 7 a.m. "What does the club sandwich have on it?" we



asked. "Is it like what we get in America?" The waitress assured us that it was exactly what we were expecting... well, once we glimpsed upon the awkward layers of egg, tuna, and ham, we realized that it, in fact, wasn't. Needless to say, we arrived hungry and we left in like fashion. With that, we braced ourselves for the next two-hour trip over the mountain and back to the Prince Hotel.

But this was a five-day trip, and had we really just made up our minds after day two? Well, we were confident for that night at least, but we were certainly thrown for a loop the next morning.

For more information on I PRO 335, please check out <http://iitempoweringhaiti.org/> and the IIT Empowering Haiti facebook page for updates, events, and pictures of our work.

## An interview with Student Counseling Services

By Utsav Gandhi  
CAMPUS EDITOR

Tucked away in a small office next to the Student Health Services on the 3rd floor of IIT Tower (a much better location than their previous one, they admit) is an incredible resource that's available just a phone call away for the IIT community. As the interviewer found out, it's run by some very empathetic and qualified professionals who can bring about positive change in the lives of those who approach them for help. I'm talking of the IIT Student Counseling Services, which, since as far back as the 1940s, has provided psychological services, professional counseling and outreach programs on topics including (but not limited to) stress reduction, time management, study skills, homesickness and cultural adjustment. Interviewing Dr. Daniel Kaplan, Director & Staff Psychologist; and Dr. Jean Tzou, Staff Psychologist & Outreach and Group Therapy Program Coordinator, was just as enlightening and transformative as an actual counseling session.

**What do you feel are some of the most striking psychological issues specific to the IIT community, both in regard to your experience here, and as compared to other campuses you'll have worked at?**

This is [Dr. Tzou's] 5th campus, and [Dr. Kaplan's] 4th campus, and what is most notable about issues brought forward by the student community is that academic stress tends to figure quite high on issues felt by students, especially because of the tech-heavy math and engineering majors. This causes depression and anxiety in some cases, especially before exams, and the center has in the past had to deal with quite a bit of such cases. On the other hand, we have seen a lot less substance abuse here as compared to other campuses, which is really heartening and reflects positively on our students as a focused, driven, we-know-our-limits kind of bunch!

Since such a large proportion of students here is international, homesickness and adjusting to a new environment is obviously a major issue. What kinds of services are offered keeping this group of students in mind?

The Counseling Center welcomes students of all nationalities, faiths and beliefs. I

[Dr. Tzou], as well as another one of the four staff members, were international students. I think this really helps them approach homesickness and related issues empathetically, and pushes us even further towards our goal of 'multicultural competence.' There are several outreach programs organized by the Center where students are encouraged to unhesitatingly ask for any kind of help. The Center is open to arranging programs in conjunction with the International Center and really hopes that every student here feels supported and within reach of assistance.

**Who are some of the people you work with on- and off-campus in order to provide your services?**

Clinical Services are provided by doctorate-level psychologists, a psychiatrist and closely supervised professionals in training, all located on campus or locally. We also work with the nearby Mercy Hospitals, if we feel students need assistance from their end; and we also have a counselor at the Downtown Campus. On the main campus, we recognize the tremendous importance played by RA's in the residence halls, as the first friend a student might approach if he or she is facing personal issues that need help. We participate in the orientation and training sessions for RA's somewhere around August, and they are also instructed to either consult higher authorities or refer a particular student directly to the Counseling Center if they feel the student needs professional help. Organizations such as the Muslim Students Association and offices such as the Office of Spiritual Life and Service Learning are also excellent resources for students to approach for help.

**Many students have never approached a**

**psychologist before, so they might be a little apprehensive about what to expect at a meeting. What kind of information is asked for, and what is the general procedure followed when a student comes in for a session?**

Students can either walk in or schedule an appointment over the phone. If the student indicates that he is experiencing an emergency or crisis we will encourage him come in right away for a brief crisis meeting. The intake appointment lasts one hour, and involves discuss-

ing your concerns with a staff member. Based on information gathered in this meeting we will make treatment recommendations. In some cases we may recommend meeting with a staff member here for psychotherapy and/or a medication evaluation. In other cases we may recommend a referral to a nearby mental health professional for treatment. We tailor our services to the individual and make a treatment plan in collaboration with each person to best meet his or her needs.

**What are your plans for this new semester? Any outreach events planned that you'd like students to know about?**

There are three therapy groups we are organizing, the details of which are provided on our webpage under the clinical services section.

First, a group especially for undergraduate women, since we understand the concerns associated in studying male-dominated classes and male-dominated majors.

Second, a group on how to cope with academic stress, especially for international/new students for whom adjusting to a new environment may be affecting their class performance.

Third, a group on keeping the mind and body healthy, possibly a tie-in with some recre-

ation classes the Keating Sports Center offers, such as yoga. Keep an eye out for updates on the website!

**Do you feel the Center has a visible enough presence on campus?**

Judging by the response and referrals we get, I believe that yes, the existence of the Counseling Center is acknowledged by all, but I believe there still is greater need to make students more aware of the programs we offer - sleep pattern assistance, alcohol abuse, anxiety, attention deficit disorder, college survival, eating disorders, depression, homesickness, procrastination, sexual assault, study skills or anything else that might be disturbing and negatively affecting students.

**Does the motivation, that final decision, to approach a psychologist have to come from within, or do students need friends, family, RA's or someone else to guide them and show them that the Counseling Center is the place where they can find assistance?**

You need to trust yourself. Know yourself. Know when it's that limit when you can't handle it by yourself anymore, when you have to accept that you need to approach someone trustworthy, someone qualified and experienced enough to guide you on the right way back. Friends can help, especially if family isn't around and they understand you more than anyone else, but friends must too realize that they must refer those who they feel need professional help. College is an exciting time - but students may face stress along with all the risks they might take and the consequences these risks may have. Questions of identity and purpose may start cropping up, and these require you to find your inner strength and wisdom. Student Counseling Services is one such place which can help you find this inner strength, and pull you out of any personal crisis you may be facing.

To learn more about Student Counseling Services visit their website at [http://www.iit.edu/counseling\\_center/](http://www.iit.edu/counseling_center/). To schedule your first appointment call 312-567-5900 from 8:30 - 5 on Mondays through Fridays. For emergencies that occur during weekends or evenings call the Aetna Student Assistance Program 24 hour support line at 877-351-7889, or 800-442-HOPE, or IIT Public Safety at 312-808-6363, or 911 if need be.

## 'Facilitator's Guide' teaches students to lead discussions

By Lisa Kwiatkowski  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Toby Causby was invited to present A Facilitator's Guide to the Universe on February 6. The day started with an introduction of Toby detailing his consulting past, as well as his background as an adjunct professor at DePaul previously, and at Columbia currently. He asked for our expectations: why am I here, what am I looking for, and what am I hoping to find?

The program walked through the four core competencies of good facilitation - stewarding the process, developing and maintaining balanced participation, optimizing the environment and managing distractions, and dealing with difficult situations (and challenging people). The day was spent providing us with some group discussion topics, and finally, giving us the skills to effectively facilitate a group discussion.

At the end of the program, Toby asked all of us to answer a few questions to reflect on the day. For my reflection, three ideas worth sharing are: empty your cup, silence, and flip-flop. These ideas, as written, don't really make too much sense, but this is what they mean.

The idea of empty your cup is a way to diffuse situations where someone is endlessly complaining or heckling. If someone says, "This sucks!" and you ask them why, it gives

them an opportunity to express their feelings, or realize that they don't have any concrete response. Moreover, the first response they give usually isn't the underlying reason they're upset about the situation. Continuing to ask questions allows you to get to the root of the problem, find a solution, and diffuse the situation.

To demonstrate to us what he mean by "silence," Toby walked to the front of the room, sat down, and was silent. It was only six seconds later when Bruce Fisher jumped in to break the silence. When facilitating a group, sometimes the best way to get responses is to employ silence. Ask a question and pause. Generally, someone will volunteer an answer within ten seconds, and if not, then it may be necessary to rephrase the question or ask if anyone needs a clarification.

The final idea I thought was worth sharing was the "flip-flop." This idea is useful when there is a difference in power dynamics - males and females, professors and students, old and young. The idea of the flip-flop is that for every male voice, you get a female. This is a great way to pull others into the conversation and ensure a diversity of ideas.

My three ideas worth sharing was just a small sample of the topics that were covered. This presentation certainly met the goals set forth, and left us all enlightened with new strategies to use when facilitating groups.



## Campaign : < / end hate >

By Utsav Gandhi and Mohini Lal  
CAMPUS EDITOR AND TECHNEWS WRITER

Last week, you may have read about our work as One Chicago, One Nation (OCON) 2011 Community Ambassadors. OCON, in partnership with The Chicago Community Trust (CCT), Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), and Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN), seeks to bring Chicagoans from diverse religious backgrounds together through meaningful social action.

We have decided to try to provide assistance at the Benton House, a historic community center in the Bridgeport Community in Chicago. More specifically, we are aiming to work with the Food Depository, Urban Garden, Senior Programs and Youth Technology Corps (the latter aims to connect underprivileged youth to technology and community resources.) We believe this is a practical service opportunity to reach out to our immediate community while still addressing the role of faith and non-faith practices.

Looking for motivation to join our campaign? This is a story shared by SaraLouise Dawson, a student at Shimer College, which gives us an insight as to what her motivation is to be a part of this initiative.

"A friend of mine recently asked me, "Are you at peace with yourself?"

I was shocked he had asked. Of course I was. How could someone even come up with that question?

But then I remembered that he had only known me a few months, didn't know much about the religious tradition I grew up in, had assumed that I was a Christian, and knew very little of me. So maybe, to someone who wanted to know more about me on a personal level, the question made sense.

But my answer was still the same. Yes, I am at peace with myself.

I think I owe a lot of my inner peace to my upbringing in Religious Science, my brief conversion to Wicca when I was thirteen, and then my transition to Unity Church as a sophomore in high school. I was raised in a tradition that gave me power and responsibility for my own

actions, words and beliefs. I was raised believing (and still believe) that love is all there is. God and Love are synonymous in my book, and I see the divine as an infinite source of unconditional love. This is what has given me the most peace in my life, with myself and with others, no matter their beliefs or religious practices.

I was homeschooled all through school, and my parents encouraged me to read as much as I could about anything I was interested in. I took a class on Living World Religions my Junior year, and there I learned that there was a slew of other religious beliefs and practices that I didn't know anything about. This class was really eye-opening, not just in that it gave me an idea about more of the religions that were practiced by people around me, but the intolerance of some people in my class. One of our assignments was to go to a ceremony of a religion we had no experience with. I was really excited about this, but some people were too wrapped up in their own bigotry to open their minds to other practices.

Since then, I have been determined to ask questions about things I don't understand, especially when it comes to a belief in God or lack thereof. I devour books and engage my peers in conversations about God, the universe and the way things are organized. I'm grateful for the experiences that I've had as a spiritual person in a world that can shunt belief to the side, and I've learned from it."

April 2nd, 2011 has been chosen as our day of community outreach, when we plan to have an interfaith concert where there will be artistic and musical performances, in the presence of various local religious leaders. At this stage, we are looking for volunteers who will help us plan this event and mobilize students on our campus. We already have students from Shimer who are very willing to devote time and energy, and are now looking for more participation from the IIT Student Body. If you are interested in joining our campaign, please get in touch with us at [endhatewithaction@gmail.com](mailto:endhatewithaction@gmail.com). It's not that great of a time commitment, but with your help, we can change a part of the Bridgeport/Bronzeville area for the better.

## WIIT rededicates studio to alumnus

By Alex Miller  
TECHNEWS WRITER

In recognition and celebration of a generous contribution by IIT Alumnus Sidney Katz, the WIIT studio will be renamed the Sidney Katz studio this Thursday. A small ceremony starting around noon will include a reception with light snacks, and a few speeches to commemorate the occasion. All students are invited to the event and greatly encouraged to stop by if they have the time.

Betsy Hughes, the VP of Institutional Advancement, will commence the affair by discussing Katz's connections to IIT, and why this dedication is so important to him and the school. This will be followed by a speech by the Dean of Students, Katie Murphy Stetz. Katie will connect the dedication to the impact the station and donation has on student life. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to commence the grand renaming, then Sid will be interviewed "On-Air" in the studio.

As an IIT alumnus himself, Sidney has invited several of his college friends to attend the event and celebrate with him. Katz was a DJ in the WIIT studio until his graduation in 1962 with a bachelor's in electrical engineering. He is now a partner in the law firm Husch Blackwell Welsh Katz.



## Person You Should Know:

# John Collins

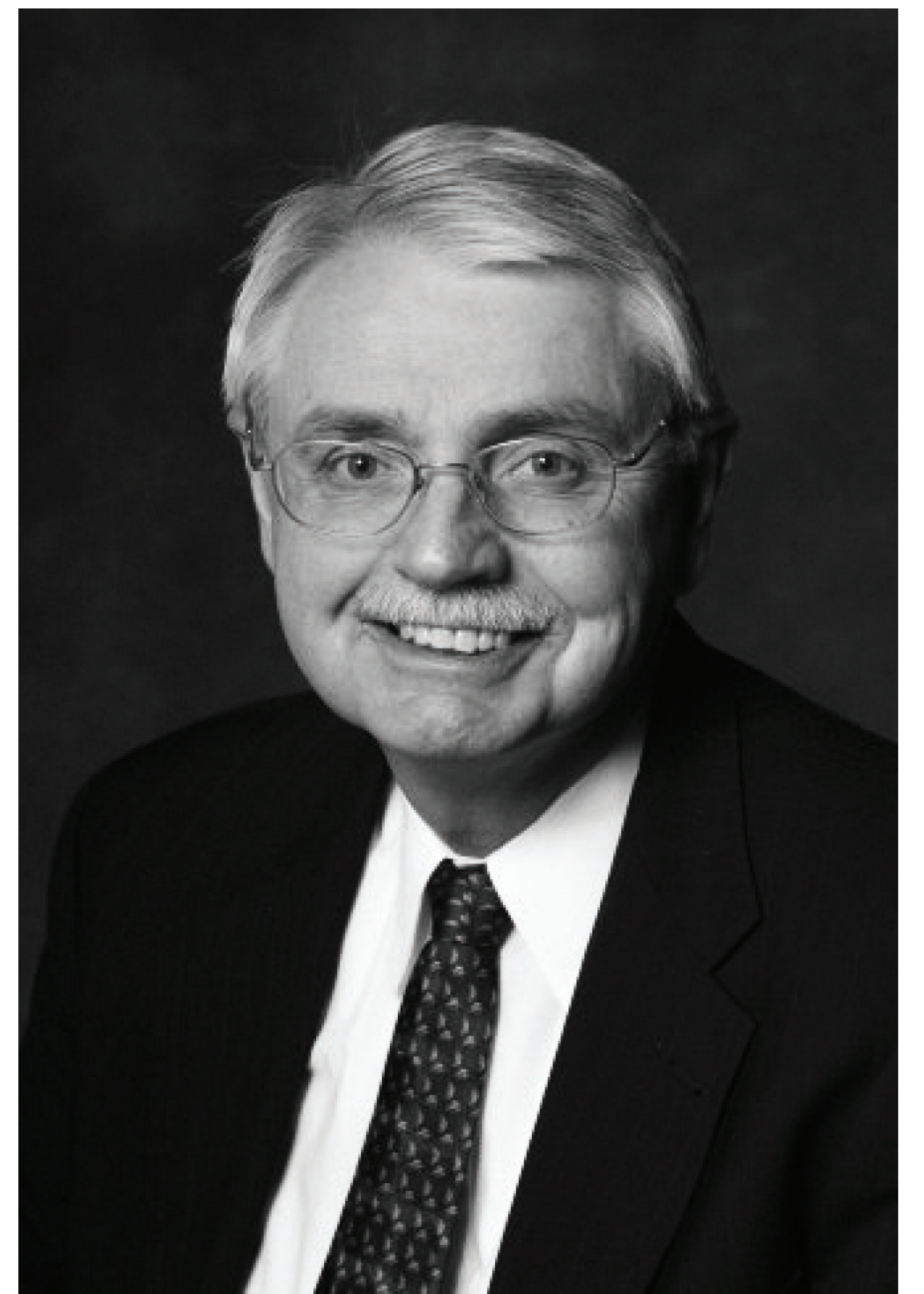
By Harshita Iyer  
TECHNEWS WRITER

At IIT, most students only get exposed to our classmates and our professors at best. But IIT is an institution, and every institution needs a business department to keep its blood and soul together. As the Vice President of Business and Operations at IIT, this is basically the function served by John Collins. He is the man who takes care of everything on campus that is not related directly to academics and financial aid. He is the one in charge of all business functions of IIT, public safety, facilities management, design and infrastructure, real estate, all food services on campus, all auxiliary services like 7/11 and the Bookstore and the post office. He is also the coordinator of the Emergency Crisis Response Plan on campus. Try saying all that in one breath!

He has been at IIT for the past 11 years, and was in Detroit for all his life before that. Throughout his career, he had always been involved with business and facilities management at various other locations. He has been to several training sessions and conferences with counterparts at other universities to come up with the best possible plans for emergency crises and institution management in general. He has organized several "Crisis Response Drills" which are very useful in determining whether the communication lines are good enough to allow quick communication in the event of a crisis.

And yes, he was the man who was at the forefront of the operations on the day of the bomb scare on campus last semester. It was his decision, after discussion with the Provost and the President of IIT to evacuate all buildings and send back the 1000-odd visitors who were on campus that day.

He has a complete open door policy. In fact, this was practically a walk-in interview. His team responds to student demands either through the Student Speak



Surveys, or through complaints or concerns that students bring to him directly. He is also behind the exciting new bicycle-renting program at IIT, which is to become operational in the Spring. According to the new program, there will be two locations on campus, where the bicycle racks will be placed, with up to 20 bikes at each spot. This is inspired by similar city-wide systems in some American and many European cities, and is something that the city of Chicago is also working on across the city. It is to be funded jointly by the SGA and the Campus and Conference Centers.

To the students, Mr. Collins words were "We are one hundred percent focused on student and customer service, and maintaining the university's strategic plan." So if anyone out there has any concerns about any system at IIT, this would be the person you should be talking to. His team truly does want to help anyone who raises a concern, so make full use of it!

# IIT Idol rocks the Bog



Photos by Jean-Emmanuel Guebey



# Get in the Game!

Recycle to win. Get involved in RecycleMania, the eight-week recycling competition.



For more information please visit:

[www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org)



*The Coca-Cola Company*



February 6 – April 2, 2011

Get Involved

[www.iit.edu/recycling](http://www.iit.edu/recycling)



# GreenIIT

Did you know...

...Recycling is more popular than democracy? A recent survey showed that more people recycled than voted during the 1996 presidential election. This is a huge step to making our world a much more sustainable place. Every little piece counts; recycle your newspapers, your bottles, and return plastic grocery bag to your local supermarket for recycling

The Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability (OCES) is coordinating an effort among students, faculty and staff to define the specific actions, programs and policy changes IIT will make in order to reach the targeted commitments that will define IIT as the most sustainable urban university campus in the United States.

# ASB

## benefit night

# @BOG

date auction | karaoke  
tournaments | kissing booth  
raffles | music | fun

## 2.17.11

7 P.M. - 1 A.M.



all proceeds 2.17.11 go to Alternative Spring Break; an opportunity for IIT students to travel to Oakland, CA to build houses through Habitat for Humanity this spring contact ash.iit@gmail.com



## Tuesday 2/15

**HawKEYE Workshop: Developing Your Flock: Maintaining Membership and Recruitment**

*Office of Student Life*

12:50 p.m. - 1:40 p.m., MTCC Executive Conference Room

Improve the visibility and effectiveness of your organization through the use of thoughtful recruitment, retention and publicity strategies. Keep your members involved with helpful officer transition tips.

**Primitive Future**

*College of Architecture*

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Crown Hall

Lecture by Morgenstern Visiting Chair Sou Fujimoto, Sou Fujimoto Architects, Tokyo, Shinjuku

## Wednesday 2/16

**The Sustainable Energy Challenge**

*Chemistry Colloquium*

3:15 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by George Crabtree, Departments of Physics, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago and Materials Science Division, Argonne National Laboratory

## Thursday 2/17

**Physics-based Methods for Simulating and Mining Biomolecular Interactions**

*Physics Colloquium*

3:50 p.m., LS 111

Lecture by Sameer Varma, BCPS - Chemistry Division IIT

## University Calendar



## Friday 2/18

**Orientation to Vedic Studies**

*Vedic Vision Society*

12:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m., Wishnick 119

Vedic Vision Society is a spiritual organization on campus catering to the spiritual needs of IIT's dynamic student body. This week's topic: religion vs spirituality. Free lunch will be served to all participants. All are welcome. The lectures are facilitated by H. G Nityananda Pran Das.

**Architecture Lecture: Ground Control**

*College of Architecture*

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Crown Hall

Lecture by Michael Morris and Yoshiko Sato, Principals, Morris Sato Studio, New York City

## Monday 2/21

**Fall Incomplete Grades Due**

*Everywhere*

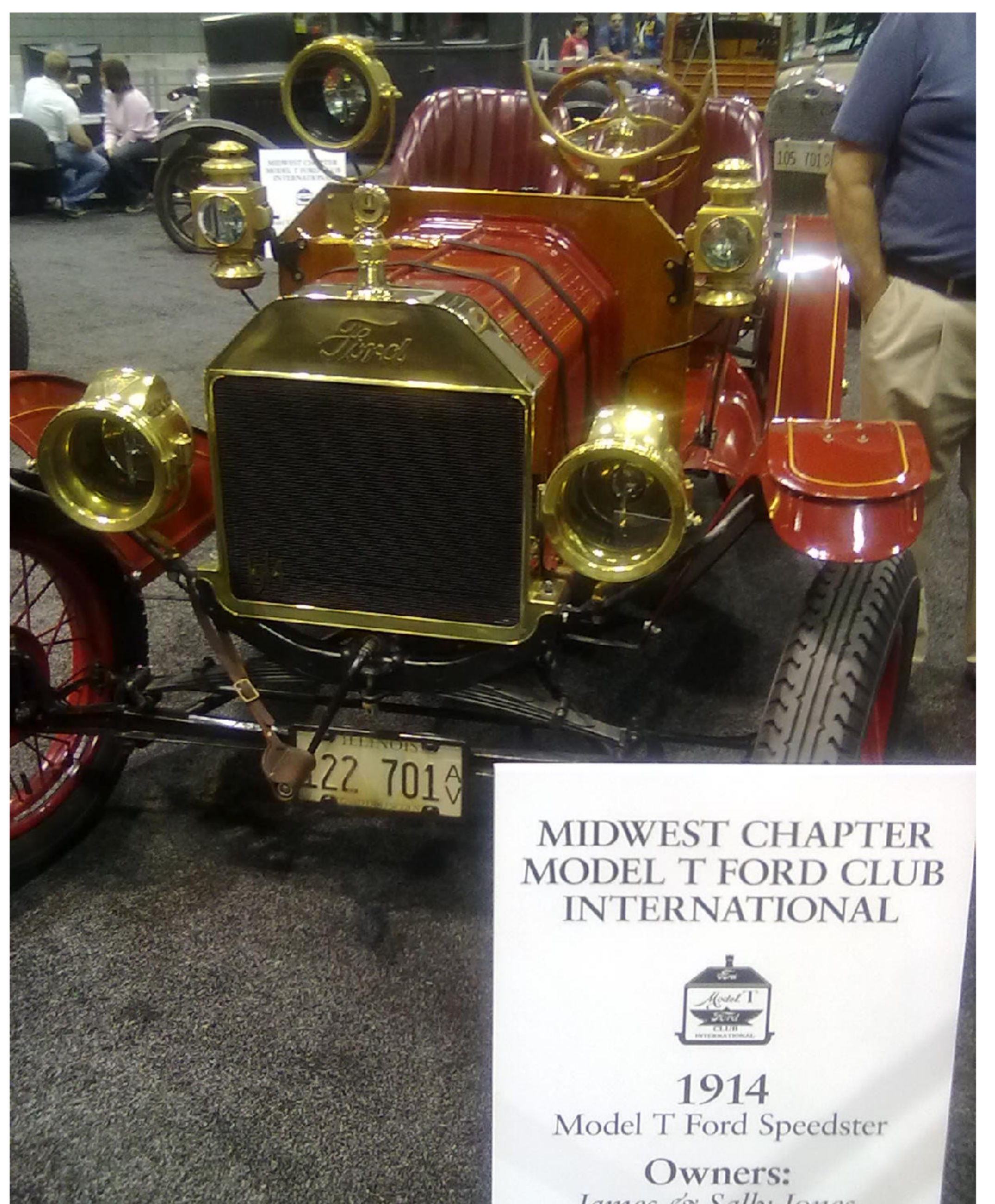
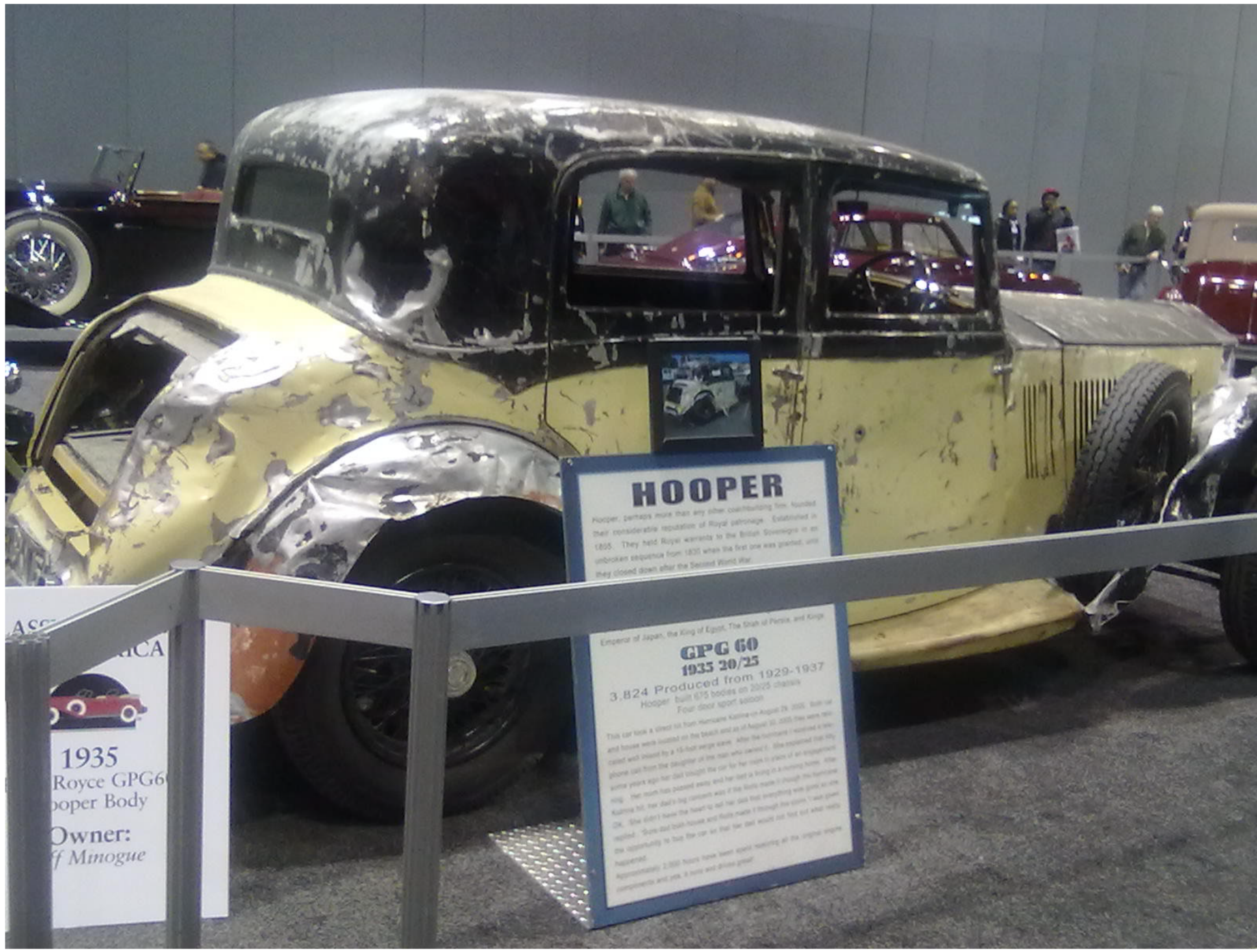
**36th Annual Chicago Regional Bridge Building Contest**

4:00 p.m., Hermann Hall

High school students from around the Chicago area will compete to see who can build the most efficient model bridge. Students will test their bridges, which must weigh less than one ounce, with up to 50kg of load. The winning students in three regional divisions will advance to the International Bridge Building Contest to be held April 30, also at IIT.

# 2011 Chicago Auto Show

## The nation's oldest & longest running car expo



Photos by Utsav Gandhi

## William S. Burroughs: A Man Within

By **Udayan Debasis Das**  
STAFF WRITER



Image courtesy flickr/Christiaan Tonnis

Normally, having the filmmaker present at the screening of the film is something that adds to the experience. They usually have something interesting to say about the film that adds to our understanding or appreciation of the film (this was the case with the Louder Than a Bomb screening.) I remember going to a screening of the film *Road* by Leslie McCleave. McCleave and the music composer for the film, Chris Brokaw, were present for the screening at Facets Cinematheque, and there was an engrossing conversation that lasted more than half an hour about the circular nature of the film's narrative, and by extrapolation the circular nature of time.

In the case of Yony Leyser's *William S. Burroughs: A Man Within* there was no such gain from having the filmmaker be at the screening. His answers were mostly evasive, adding little or nothing to the film, and in essence not doing a lot to explicate the questions raised by the film. The film itself is a disappointment, made in a choppy editing style, with distracting music rising up at odd times while a person on screen is speaking, in a sense, complimenting the strange animations and other "artistic" artifacts that showed up from time to time, serving as it were to break the general lack of focus by adding something else into the music. The film bears a number of parallels with the documentary *Gonzo*. The trailer looked similar, and so was the film. It's true that there were elements of life that were remarkably similar:

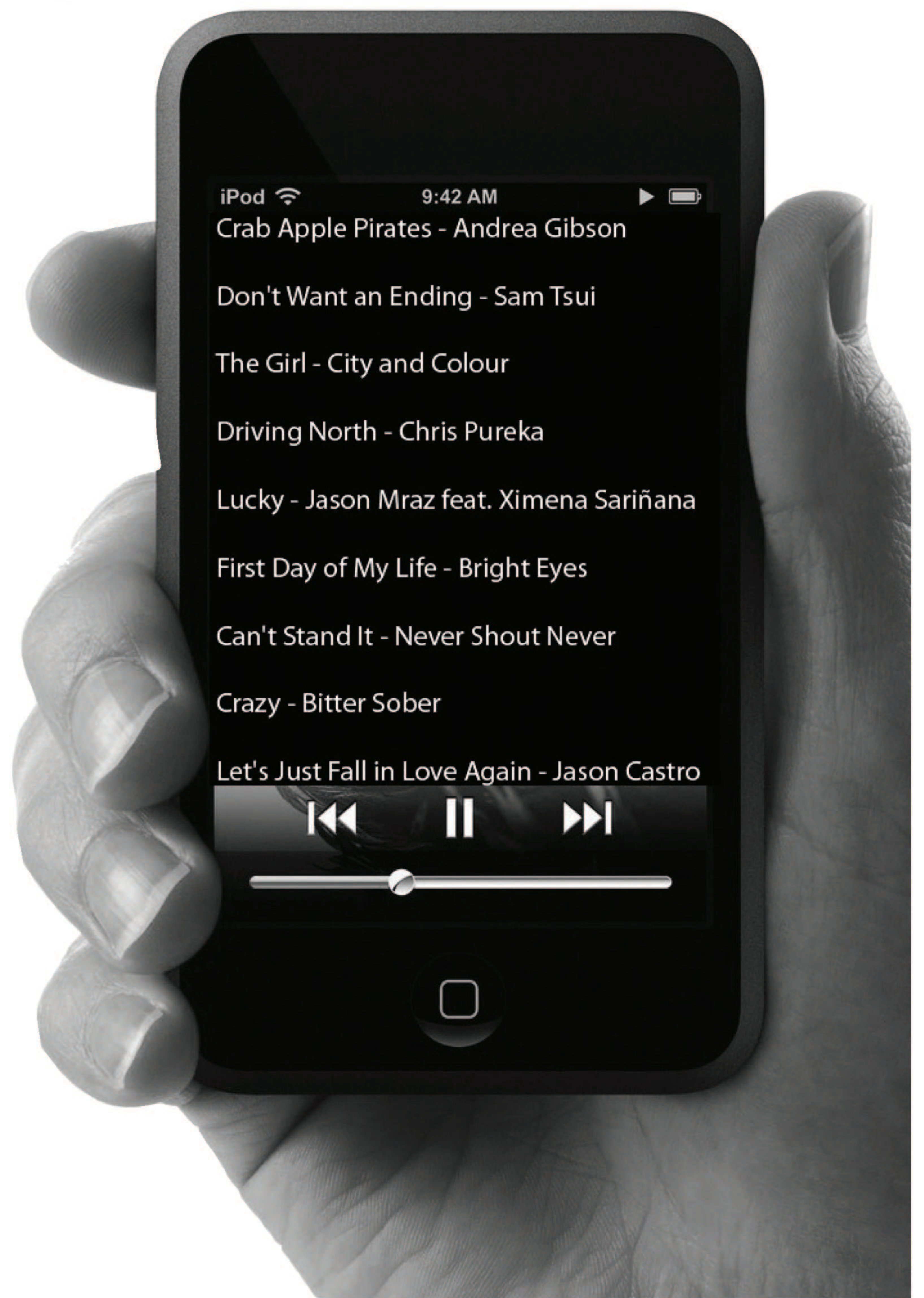
the obsession with drugs, the obsession with guns, but I feel like with such people there is perhaps a great deal that remains hidden from the public view, which it is the task of the documentarian to bring to light.

Leyser's film, as was the case with *Gonzo*, is really interested in the public persona of these individuals: something that is well-known, well-documented, and well-abused. There is no interest in probing deeper. No interest in the personalities. The title says *Man Within*, but we do not learn much, if anything at all about the man within.

Burroughs is considered to be a far superior writer to Hunter S Thompson, often cited as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century. Some of this influence is traced, as for example his influence on punk rock, but not in terms of what is most important, that is literary influence. We get a lot about his pop culture influence, largely due to his public persona, but little about influence on the art of writing. You might hear a name or two; you might hear a who, but never a how.

All this ends up making the documentary far less than it could have been, particularly when you consider all the people who were at Leyser's disposal. It is interesting watching to an extent for these people, but the distractions, and the 'aha' moments by the director are far too many and far too grating for this to be worth recommending to anyone but the most ardent Burroughs fan. What a lost opportunity.

what's playing on *Rachel Walker's* playlist?



What's playing on *your* playlist?  
Email [ae@technewsit.com](mailto:ae@technewsit.com)!

## Akron/Family II: The Cosmic Birth and Journey of Shinju TNT

By **Karl Rybaltowski**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The circumstances surrounding Akron/Family's latest release, *Akron/Family II: The Cosmic Birth and Journey of Shinju TNT*, sound too surreal to be true. Written in a mountain-side shack in Hokkaido, Japan, and recorded in an abandoned train yard in Detroit, the album was delayed time and time again before the band's record label, Dead Oceans, received a mysterious cardboard box. That box contained four recorded bits of song on a CD-R (in a zip-loc bag), a typewritten note (containing phrases such as "f\*\*k s\*\*t up," "flourish.flourish.flourish." and "I was AK"), three pictures, dead leaves, and a "sincere but poorly made diorama." Weird enough for you yet?

But the album's production is just part of what makes it so surreal. When Akron/Family first made their way onto the scene in 2005, their material was full of haunting chants, tribal drum parts, bizarre samples, and a freak-folk grounding that combined to form a unique psych-folk act that some derided as inaccessible. However, over the years the band has been absorbing more rock and pop influences, and the gentler, more guitar-driven sound indicates as much. With the departure of one of the group's founding members in 2007, their sound has expanded in pretty much every direction, with their last couple of albums incorporating a number of eclectic influences. *Akron/Family II* is no different, from Brazilian-inspired rhythms to the heavy influence of Japanese noise music that the band delved

deeply into in the lead-up to this album. At the same time, the album hearkens back to some of the more abrasive material from the band's youth. The mix manages to walk the tightrope between pleasing fans old and new.

Despite the name, *Akron/Family II* is not a sequel to a previous album in any real sense. Nor is the subtitle, *The Cosmic Birth and Journey of Shinju TNT*, related much to the content of the album. The band members themselves admit to having "no idea" what the title means. But the album itself is a mix of vivid imagery, portrayed through disarmingly simple lyrical constructions. These mix in with songs that go from being gentle and airy to plodding along through thick guitar riffs. The jubilant "Another Sky" mixes fast-paced guitar riffs and frantic drums with melodic vocals - one can't help but draw comparisons to groups like Tokyo Police Club. In contrast, "Fuji II (Single Pane)" starts out fuzzed-out and sample-heavy but delves into calmer, then drone-inspired territory. The aptly named "A AAA O A WAY" mixes wordless harmonies with a grab-bag of samples, only to drop into a meandering pace with '60s freak-folk overtones.

All throughout the album, Akron/Family manages to tie these disparate and wandering musical concepts into a strong whole. Those who have enjoyed the work of bands like the aforementioned Tokyo Police Club or Tapes 'n Tapes will feel just as comfortable with these tracks as more folk- or psych-oriented listeners. In an album that seems to have such a short attention span, perhaps that's the most pleasant surprise of all.



Image courtesy fleshytemple.wordpress.com

# A unique dining experience: Old Oak Tap

By Rebecca Waterloo  
A&E EDITOR

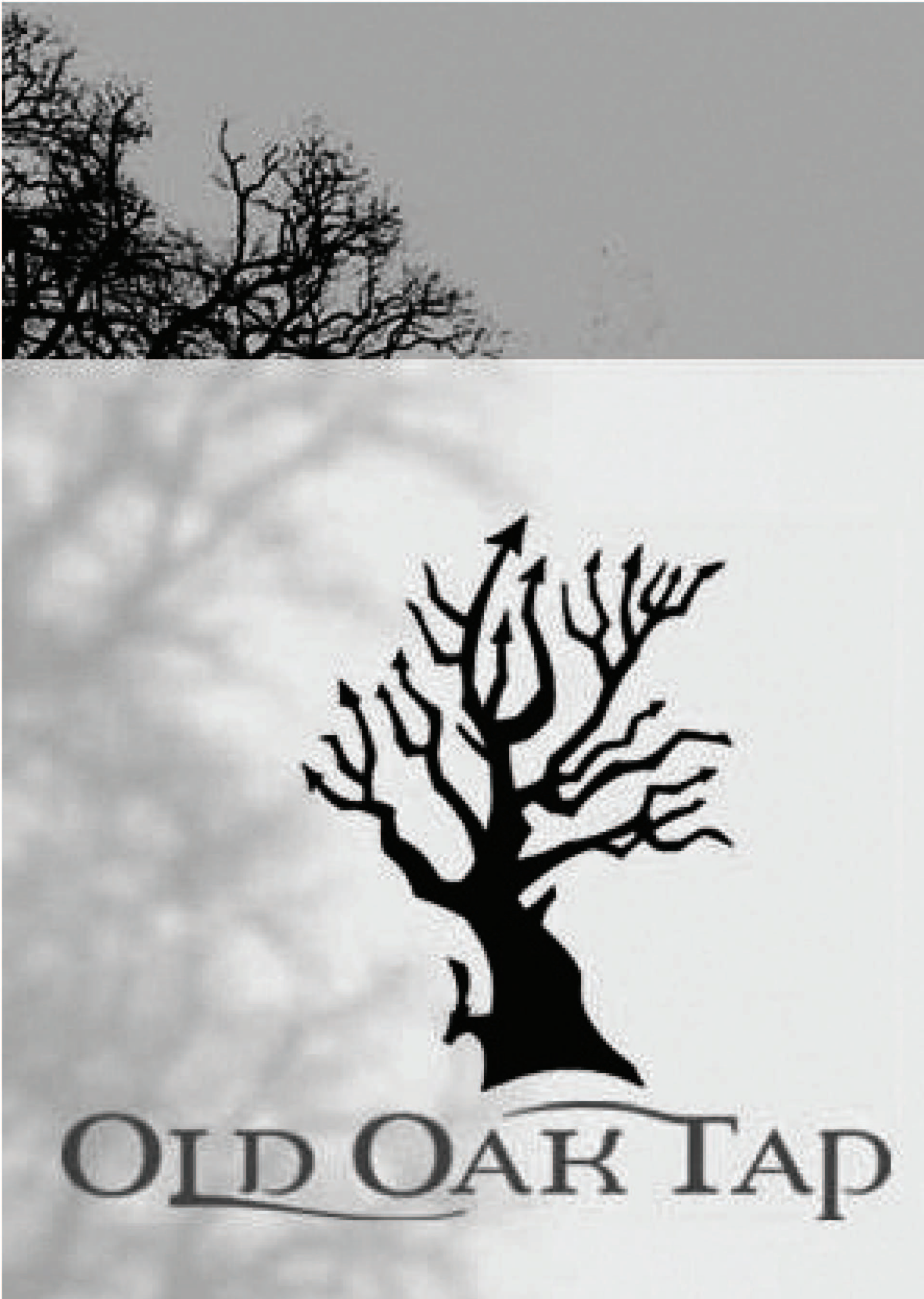
In 2008, a small charismatic restaurant opened in Ukrainian Village that's too tucked away for our own good. The Old Oak Tap is located at 2109 W. Chicago Ave and provides an environment, experience and menu that is completely underrated.

The décor is an earthy atmosphere with tall ceilings, paintings of natural silhouettes, art nouveau window frames and lanterns, a stone fireplace and a modest shade of green on all four walls. During the day it is well-lit and comfortable; the usual crowd surrounding you is young hipsters (probably the friends of the restaurant's creator).

The menu is just as creative as the demeanor of the restaurant. Items are vegetarian- and carnivore-friendly, with entrees such as the delicious Black Bean Burger with cotija cheese, pico de gallo, avocado, spicy aioli on an egg bun (\$9), or the Chicken Apple Brie, a grilled chicken, melted brie, granny smith apples, cranberry mustard, on a baguette (\$9). Their items sound as healthy as they are inventive and arrive decorative and covering the large plate they're served on. They have salads and soups (such as truffled white bean and ham) and lots of appetizers to choose from (including a basket of spicy fries with cheddar ranch dip). Another extensive brunch menu is available Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The full bar offers weekend cocktails like a \$3 Bellini (champagne and peach nectar) or Mimosa, as well as too-good-to-be-true prices for pints (\$5 to \$8) including the hipster favorite: PBR, which leaves their beer choice questionable, but still affordable.

The service is perfect, having waitresses and waiters that are prompt but not too in your face. The prices are affordable for the quality of food you're receiving, and the experience is well worth the signature when you sign the check. For an artistic meal be sure to check out Old Oak Tap at <http://www.theoldoaktap.com>.



**Come on IIT!**  
**You know where to eat, drink and be merry.**  
**Tell us about it.**  
**Do your good deed for the year.**  
**Write for TechNews.**

## Coffee Club escapades: Café Descartes: "I Drink, Therefore I am"

By Harshita Iyer  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Last week, the IIT Coffee Club went to Café Descartes, found just a short way from the Randolph and Wabash stop on the green line at 327 North Michigan Avenue.

As the name suggests, Café Descartes reflects the mood of philosophy and deep thought. With paintings of famous philosophers from all over the world hanging on the walls and a deep woody feel to everything in the store, one can feel the immediate change from the bustle of the streets of Chicago to the quiet calmness of the café when they walk in.

The person who started the café is originally from Pakistan, which shows through the portraits of eastern philosophers like Khalil Gibran, along with those of Aristotle and Plato.

The prices were quite reasonable, ranging between \$3 and \$10 for most items. They had almost everything coffee-related, as well as the ever popular hot chocolate. The drinks were delicious, as promised by the aroma. Service

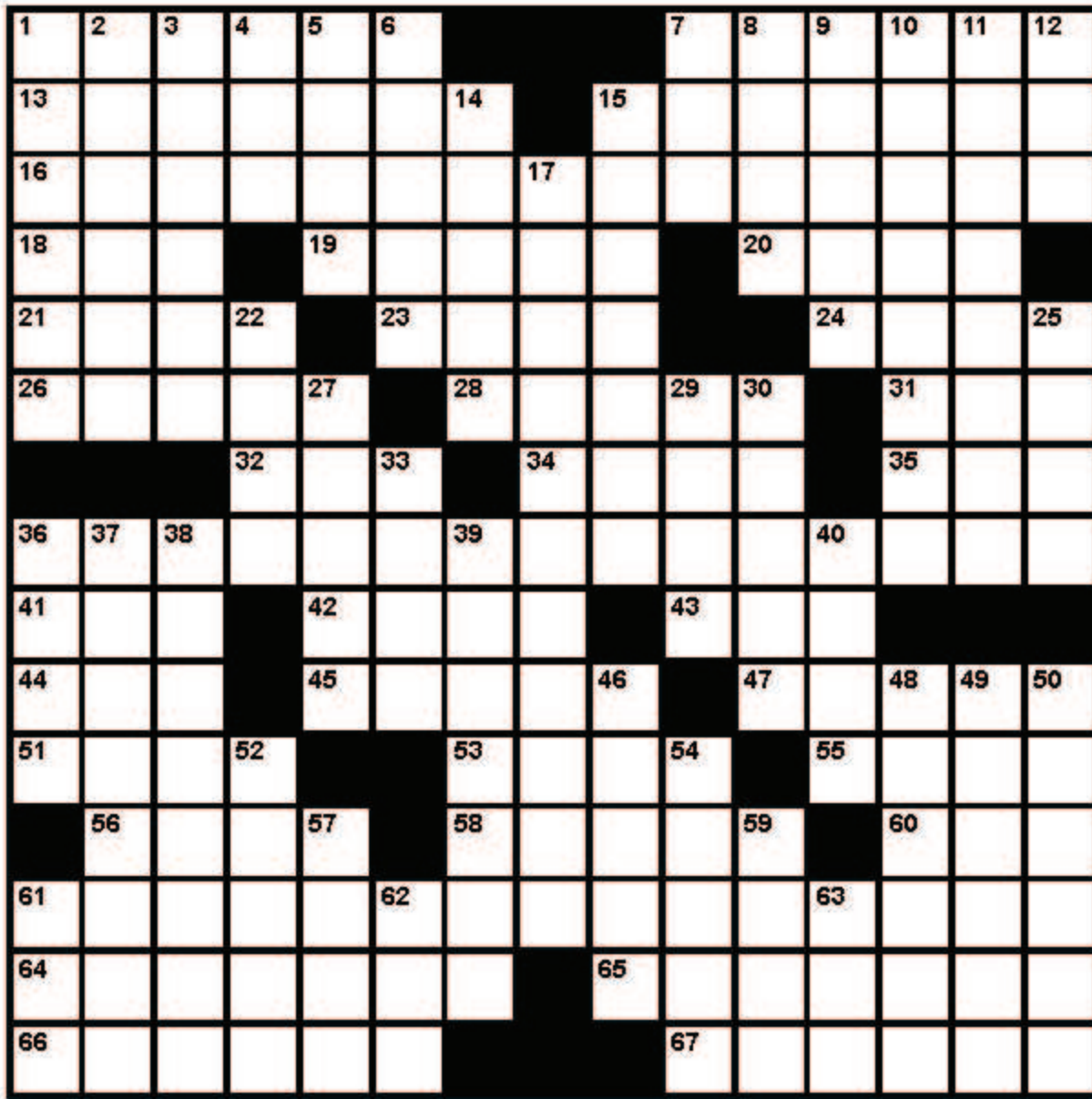
was a little slow, but that's always acceptable as there were enough interesting things to look at around the shop (be it the pretty work on the mirror frame, or the painting of Café Descartes from 1991, proudly showing off its motto: "I drink, therefore I am").

The coffee shop has Wi-Fi, which makes this a great place to go do homework (and maybe get inspired by some of the great minds hanging from the walls). Café Descartes is highly recommended for the philosopher in everyone.

*Coffee Club is the perfect break from the mundane and a great way to see the little places you might miss out on otherwise. So if you want to join in, just email [iitcoffeeclub@gmail.com](mailto:iitcoffeeclub@gmail.com) to be added to their mailing list. Or even easier, just show up at 11 a.m. at the MTCC, next to Global Grounds on a Saturday or Sunday, and tag along with the group of people you see, onto the next coffee adventure..*

Photo courtesy Harshita Iyer





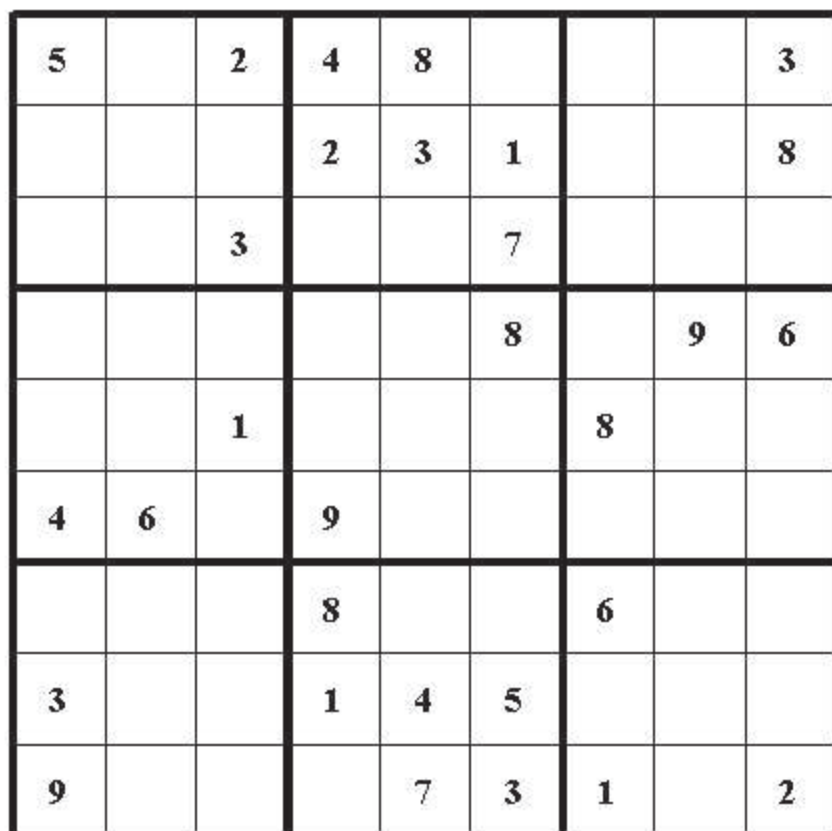
**PIQUANT PARADE**  
BY MYLES MELLOR AND SALLY YORK

- Across**
- Shoreline protector
  - Flipper's constellation?
  - Long Island \_\_\_
  - Noble head topper
  - Piquant parade
  - Congratulations, of a sort
  - Money substitute
  - Bristle
  - Direction (var.)
  - Jackman or Grant
  - Japanese icebreaker
  - Military scouting
  - Author, White Feather
  - Back talk
  - "\_\_\_ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
  - Italian monks
  - Sitting pols
  - Piquant parade
  - "\_\_\_ di Stasio," French film
  - Thickness measures

- "Fantasy Island" prop
- Short order, for short
- \_\_\_ Tower
- Not just trim
- Exec
- "Your majesty"
- Take orders
- "Oh, my aching head!," e.g.
- Drenched
- Wiehl of FOX News
- Piquant parade
- Changing of lean to elan, e.g.
- Cyber user
- Strain
- Go-getters

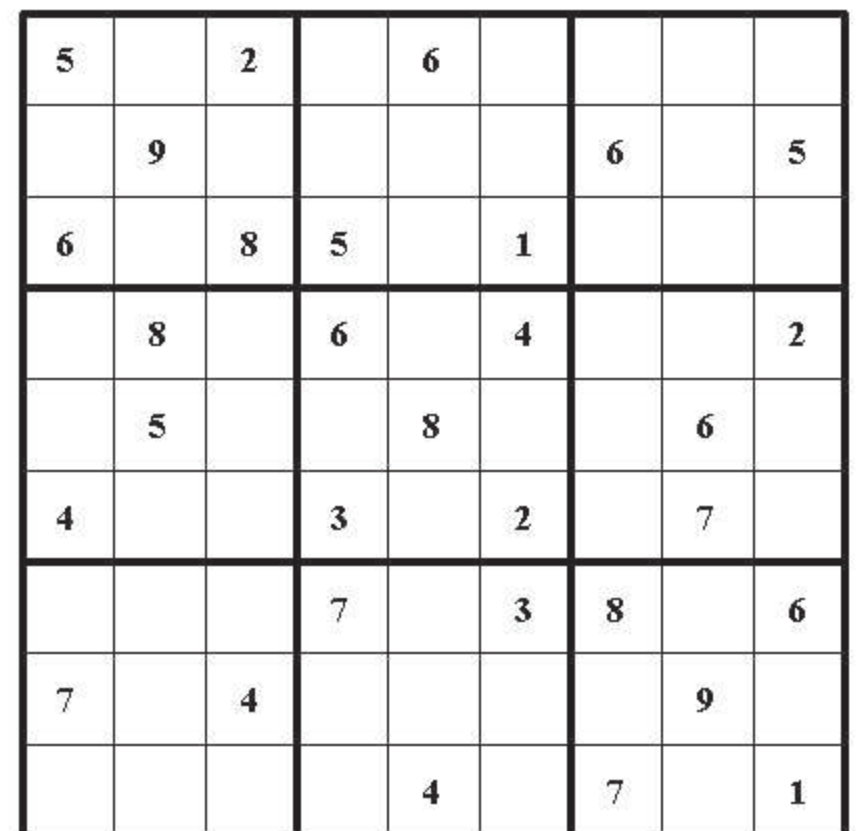
- Putting off
- His "4" was retired
- Myst character
- Encodes
- Haute couture
- Heroin, slangily
- Cathedral recess
- Colon cleaner
- \_\_\_ Europe
- Man and Casino
- Brightly colored seed cover
- Title-tattles
- Shed light on
- \_\_\_ Review
- TV series, 1991-95
- Weapon storer
- About 1% of the atmosphere
- On fire
- Certain angler
- Green teas
- It takes two to do it....
- "Snowy" bird
- Novelist Jones
- Legendary Tibetan
- Video maker, for short
- He played a robot on TV
- Pronged spear

- Down**
- \_\_\_ Roo
  - Cooling-off period
  - Ulcer type
  - Certain computer file
  - Rash goddesses
  - Roost
  - DeLuise
  - Assayers' stuff
  - Derby prize
  - Turkey part



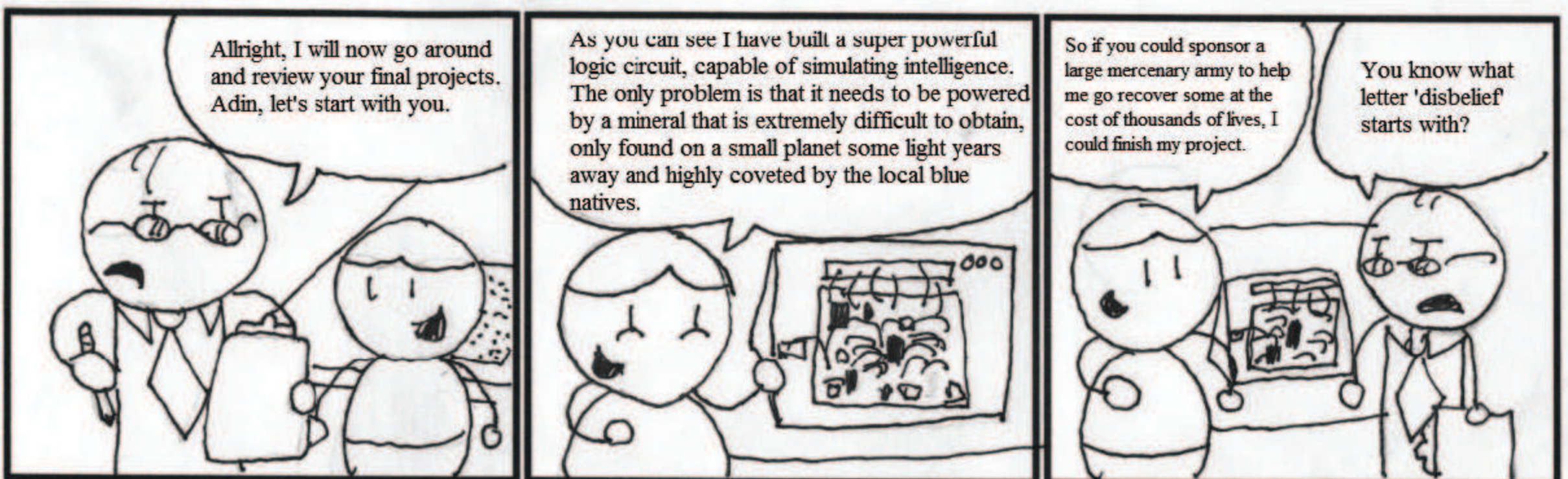
**数独**

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."  
*Source: Wikipedia*



**The First Day of the Rest of My Life**

By Adin Goings  
ART EDITOR



## Men's head soccer coach prospectives look promising

By Graeme Port  
SPORTS EDITOR

The head Men's Soccer coach's position at IIT is still vacant, one month after the program's former head coach, Denis Hamlett, left the university for the Vancouver Whitecaps of the MLS.

On Wednesday, the head Women's Soccer coach, Marc Colwell, commented that "there have been a lot of qualified candidates interested in the head men's soccer coach position.

The process is moving forward rapidly and we should have someone in place in the coming weeks." Whomever takes on the position will also be working in conjunction with the head of Intramurals and Recreation, Jason Neal, in an assistant director role for that office.

Colwell also advised that in the interim, prospective student athletes should contact himself at mcolwell@iit.edu, as he is the person currently overseeing both programs at this time.



**Friday, February 18th**  
Men's & Women's  
Swimming & Diving  
Liberal Arts Conference Meet @  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa


## Master of Science in Financial Engineering

at the University of Illinois

### Information Session Tuesday, February 15

4:30-5:30pm  
Illini Center, 200 S. Wacker, Chicago  
Orange & Blue Room

Meet the MSFE Director and learn about the program curriculum, application procedures, and in-state scholarship opportunities. Refreshments will be available.

 College of Business  
College of Engineering

[www.msfe.illinois.edu](http://www.msfe.illinois.edu)



## Intramural class schedule Get physical with IIT's fitness classes

By Graeme Port  
SPORTS EDITOR

### Mondays

*Intro to Strength*

When?: 8pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center

Instructor: Jason Neal

*Tai Chi*

When?: 9pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 3

Instructor: Paul Channic

### Tuesdays

*Yoga*

When?: 1pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 3

Instructor: Helen Lee

*Yoga*

When?: 7:30pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Courts 3 & 4

Instructors: Katrina Ryan & Natasha Holbert

*Intro to Strength*

When?: 8pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center

Instructor: Jason Neal

*Plyometrics*

When?: 9pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, North Gym Court 2

Instructor: Tony Saddy

### Wednesdays

*Tai Chi*

When?: 1pm

Where? Keating Sports Center, North Gym

Instructor: Paul Channic

*Pilates*

When?: 5:30pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 3

Instructor: Mandy Work

*Intro Strength*

When?: 8pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center

Instructor: Jason Neal

### Thursdays

*Cardio Kickboxing*

When?: 12:50pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 3

Instructor: Suzanne Ko

*Yoga*

When?: 5:30pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 1

Instructor: Katrina Ryan

*Argentine Tango Dancing*

When?: 7:30pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center, Racquetball Court 1

Instructors: Karen Ma & Eric Ma

*Intro to Strength*

When?: 8pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center

Instructor: Jason Neal

### Fridays

*Intro to Strength*

When?: 1pm

Where?: Keating Sports Center

Instructor: Jason Neal

*Salsa Dancing*

When?: 6pm

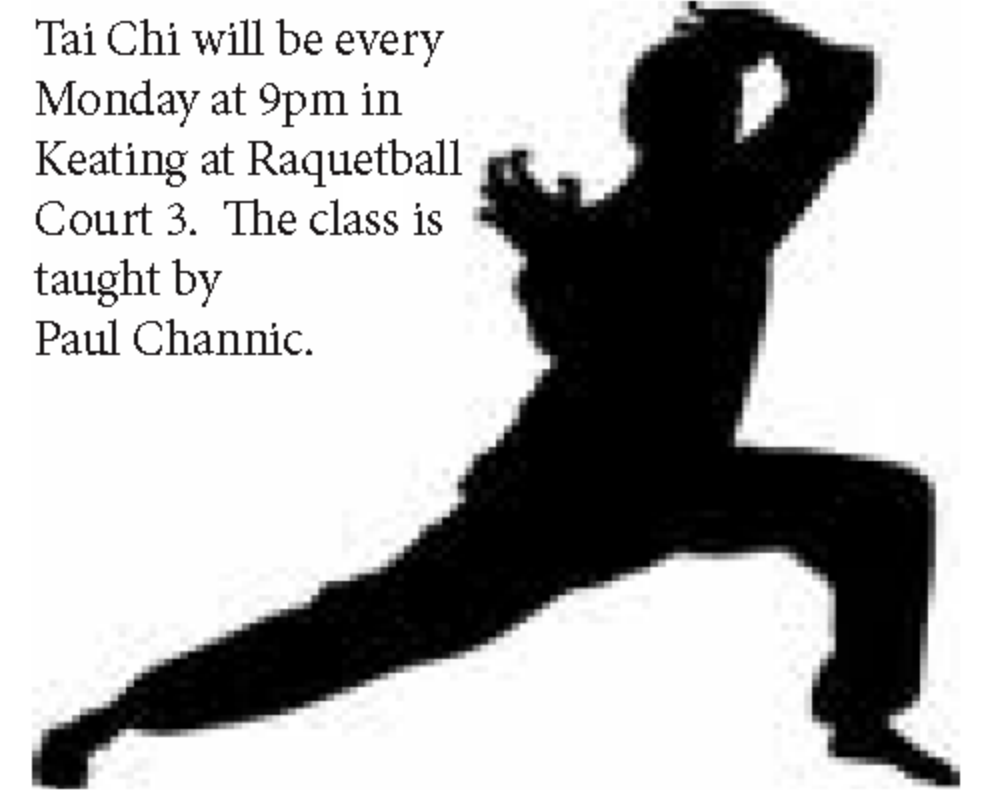
Where?: Hermann Hall in Hermann Lounge Room 105

Instructor: El Caobo

Classes are free for all current students, and \$5 for faculty, staff, and alumni

## MONDAY

Tai Chi will be every Monday at 9pm in Keating at Racquetball Court 3. The class is taught by Paul Channic.



## TUESDAY



Yoga occurs on Tuesdays & Thursdays at varying times. The classes are taught by Natasha Holbert, Helen Lee, & Katrina Ryan.

## WEDNESDAY



Beginner level strength training classes are offered Monday through Friday. John & John Neal teach these classes.

## THURSDAY



Cardio Kickboxing happens on Thursday. The class is taught by Suzanne Ko.

## FRIDAY



Salsa Dancing classes happen on Friday, while Argentine Tango classes occur on Thursday.

## Swimming and diving team prepare for championship meet

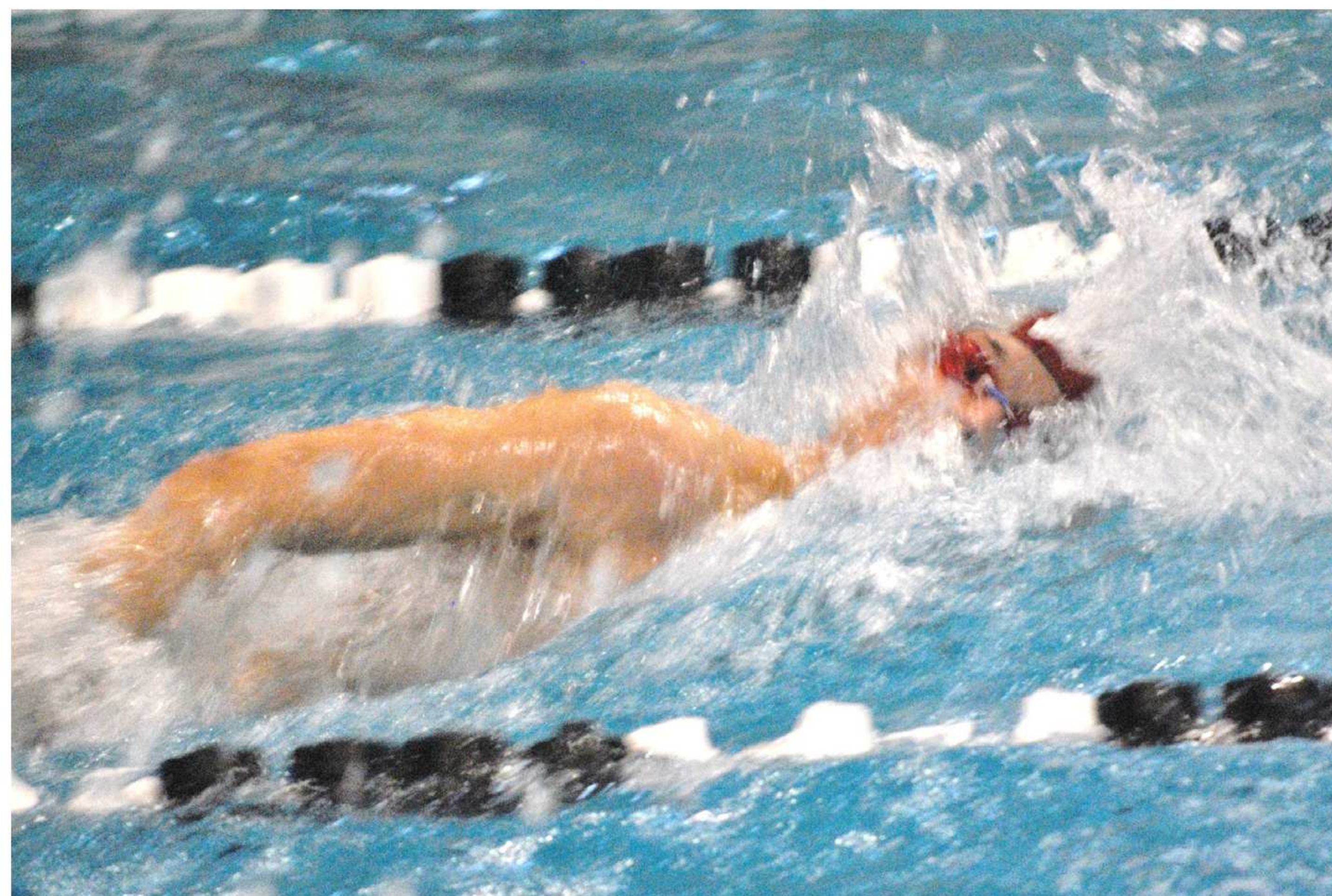
By **Melanie Koto**  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend the Scarlet Hawks Swimming and Diving team will travel to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the Liberal Arts Championship swimming and diving meet. This meet is the last meet the team will compete in prior to the National Championship meet spanning March 2nd-5th, and thus is the last chance for many of the swimmers and divers to qualify for the National meet. Qualifying for the National meet means that the swimmer, or diver, performs to a certain level- for the swimmers, each event has a 'cut time', which is a standard time that the swimmer must swim faster than to qualify. For divers, it's similar, but there is a certain score that they have to beat in order to qualify.

Currently going into the Conference meet, the team already has 4 women and 11 men qualified from the team. Both teams also have 5 relays (the maximum number of relays in the meet) qualified. However, there are still more events and more swimmers that can be added to the Nationals roster, and many will be striving to make the cuts this weekend.

On February 1st, the NAIA released its fourth round of top times. The list consists of the top 25 times for every event for both the men and women. IIT had several athletes ranked on this list. Sophomore Max Ramming was one of them, currently holding the 2nd place spot in the 100 yard freestyle, the 4th place spot in the 50 yard freestyle, and 13th in the 100 yard breaststroke. Sophomore Ian McNair currently stands as the 2nd spot diver for both the men's 1 meter and 3 meter 11 dive ranking, while senior Jeff Reilly is in 5th and freshman Jefferson West is in 5th on the 1 meter board as well. Freshman Michael Bodzay is currently ranked 21st in the men's 400 yard IM and junior Keiji Holloway is tied for 20th in the men's 100 yard butterfly, and is in the 15th place spot for the 200 yard butterfly. Junior Andrea Zuniga just made it into the listing in the women's 200 yard backstroke with the 25th ranking, and in the men's 200 yard breast sophomore Eric Grunden holds down 20th, while freshman Felipe Bergh is right behind him in 21st. In addition, all five Women's relays hold top 20 spots, while all five Men's relays hold top 10 spots.

Photos by Melanie Koto



## Intro to Strength classes gaining stamina

By **Ashlie Ingold**  
STAFF WRITER

There is a new intramural class being offered at Keating Sports Center. "Intro to Strength" started yesterday, and will continue through May 6th. The class is led by Jason A. Neal, our Director of Intramurals & Recreation, who is also an ACE-Certified Personal Trainer. Held at Keating Sports Center Monday through Thursday at 8pm, and on Friday at 1pm, this class was developed specifically to address the strength needs of the individual participants. Last week, a few members of the Varsity Women's Soccer team were given the opportunity to try this class, and it was well-received.

"Intro to Strength" will teach the foundations of functional strength by showing a participant how to use one's own body as the primary tool in their strength toolbox. A lot of the exercises are simple, like push-ups, lunges, and squats, but they are very effective. The class will also utilize body bars, kettle weights, medicine balls, barbells and dumb-bells to help people meet their strength goals.

Coach Neal, a former track & field and strength athlete, who previously served as the weights and throws coach at Elmhurst College, has been filling that role here at IIT since he started in 2009. In fact, as the Track and Field program steadily moves toward varsity status, he hopes to continue working with the throw-

ers to make the program even more successful and sustainable. "Lifting weights plays a pretty big role in making that happen" he says.

Another of Coach Neal's goals is to build a strength club that will focus on powerlifting, Olympic weight lifting, and bodybuilding. He believes this class will help to identify potential strength athletes, and also help strengthen our varsity athletics program by giving athletes another way to improve their fitness levels so that they will be more competitive in their given sports.

Coach Neal is already working with several students to host a strength event at Keating Sports Center in April. "IIT's Strongest Man and Woman" will be held on April 30th. The winners will be determined by a 5-rep maximum lift, with three attempts allowed by each competitor in the traditional powerlifting events: the Bench Press, the Squat, and the Deadlift. The cumulative weight total will then be divided by the participant's body weight for the final score.

As with all programs offered by the Office of Intramurals & Recreation, the class and the competition are open to students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Illinois Institute of Technology, Shimer, and Vandercook. Track and Field is a club sport during Indoor season, but Outdoor Track and Field will be a varsity sport this year for the first time.

Email intramurals@iit.edu for more information.

Photos courtesy Graeme Port





# University Social Calendar

THURSDAY FEB 17 - 07:00pm @ THE BOG

## ASB BENEFIT NIGHT

COME, HAVE FUN AND HELP US! THERE WILL BE RAFFLES, DATE AUCTION AT 9 PM, KARAOKE BRIBES, AND REC CENTER TOURNEYS!!!

FRIDAY FEB 18 - 12:40pm @ Wishnick Hall 119

## KARMA THEORY LECTURE

LUNCH PROVIDED! SPONSORED BY ORIENTATION TO VEDIC STUDIES

SATURDAY FEB 19 - 03:00pm @ THE BOG

## ASB BOWLING TOURNAMENT

COME DOWN AND BOWL WITH SOME FRIENDS, WIN SOME PRIZES, AND HELP BUILD HOMES FOR PEOPLE IN NEED, ALL AT THE SAME TIME!

Psst! Did you know? Student orgs can put up event info by submitting their events on the UB website! So go for it!

Do you want to know more about upcoming events or how to get involved with UB? Come at our:

### STATE OF THE UNION BOARD MEETING

Tuesday Feb. 15th 1:00pm @ MTCC auditorium  
There is going to be FREE FOOD and PRIZES!!



For more information, scan the code on the right or visit:

<http://ub.iit.edu> or contact us at [ub@iit.edu](mailto:ub@iit.edu)

Follow us on:

