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## B-Cycle brings bike sharing to IIT



By Stacy Economy  
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT has been given the opportunity to be the first university in the City of Chicago to have a B-Cycle station on its campus. Chicago B-cycle is the first in-city bike sharing program where self-service bike rental stations, or B-stations, are located throughout various neighborhoods. Users are able to pick up one of the bikes at any B-station in the city and drop it off at any other (or the same) B-station. The B-cycle bike is specially designed to fit all types of people, short and tall, with an easy-to-use adjustable seat post. There is also a basket on the front to store your belongings while riding. Fenders, skirt guards, and chain guards are all designed to keep your clothes clean, along with automatic lights for safe riding at night.

Biking in Chicago has greatly increased in the past few years. Around the IIT campus there are more bikes than there are spaces in bike racks. There are still, however, many students wary of bringing their bikes to school because of past theft. B-cycle provides a bike free of worry; as soon as the bike is returned to its B-station it is in the city's possession. This program allows students to take a ride to the grocery store or along the lakefront for a few hours, return the bike when finished, worry free.

While B-cycle provides a sense of con-

venience, it also encourages sustainability. Two-wheeling ranks as the most energy efficient form of travel and exercise. Even walking spends about three times as much energy per pound. While the automobile has given the twentieth-century humans unprecedented mobility, it has come at a cost to the environment. Today, cars dominate transportation systems in North America, but their own usefulness has caused cars to crowd themselves to a standstill. Public transportation such as buses and trains produce less pollution than solo driving, but at the lack of door-to-door convenience. Bicycles are by far not only one of the most convenient forms of transportation, but also the most sustainable.

The implementation of B-cycle at IIT presents a great advantage and sustainable statement for our campus. With IIT's Sustainability Plan underway, this bike-sharing program will serve as a great step in making IIT one of the most sustainable campuses in the nation. With support from the student body, ganGreen, Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability (OCES), and Campus and Conference Center (CCC) have brought this program to IIT. There will be two stations of twenty-five bikes each on campus in March for a one-year trial period. A highly subsidized annual fee with unlimited rentals in two hour increments will be available for IIT students, faculty, and staff.

For more information on B-cycle, please visit [www.chicago.bcycle.com](http://www.chicago.bcycle.com). If you have any questions or concerns, please send an email to [gan-green\\_group@iit.edu](mailto:gan-green_group@iit.edu)

(Photo by Andrew Duval)

## Mayoral candidates tackle women's, LGBT issues

By Karl Rybaltowski  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On Tuesday, February 15, Chicago-Kent's Richard B. Ogilvie Auditorium played host to a mayoral forum on violence against women, girls and LGBTQ people. Moderated by WBEZ's Alison Cuddy, and attended by four of the six current mayoral candidates, the event drew a sizable crowd and shed some light on issues of sexual violence and domestic abuse. Though the candidates may not have seemed entirely comfortable with some of the subject matter, the forum nonetheless meant a welcome focus on these two groups.

The mayoral forum was organized and co-hosted by Rape Victim Advocates, Center on Halsted, the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, the Chicago Foundation for Women, and the Chicago Metropolitan Area Battered Women's Network. Four candidates were present: Carol Moseley Braun,

William Walls III, Patricia Van Pelt Watkins, and Miguel del Valle. Gery Chico and Rahm Emanuel both cited prior commitments, with Emanuel in the middle of his "50 wards in 50 hours" campaign event. Prior to the debate, questions for the candidates were accepted via e-mail - no live questions were allowed during the debate.

After opening comments from Dean Krentz of Chicago-Kent, Alison Cuddy of WBEZ, and one of the representatives of the co-hosting groups, the three initial candidates (del Valle showed up a few minutes late) made their opening statements and the debate began in earnest. While all of the candidates addressed the issue of violence against women - whether domestic or otherwise - more or less head-on, only del Valle seemed to have any comfort directly discussing LGBTQ issues. Race and class fractures in Chicago were popular analogies for the candidates when answering questions on LGBTQ matters. The debate not only covered the candidates' law enforcement plans for

dealing with violence against women and LGBTQ people, but also addressed direct issues of city programs and spending on preventing such violence.

One of the more lively moments of the debate came when Walls, describing an action plan for city government, used the term "unusual lifestyles." When pressed on the words by the moderator, he explained the term as applying to "people who don't work standard 9-to-5 jobs... panhandlers, or squeegee guys on the street" to dissatisfied groans from the audience.

While the debate itself may not have been conclusive for the candidates, it offered Chicago-Kent the chance to showcase itself as involved in contemporary social issues, as well as the prestige of hosting a high-profile event such as a mayoral forum.

Clockwise from top left: Miguel del Valle, William "Dock" Walls III, Patricia Van Pelt Watkins, and Carol Moseley Braun.

(Photo courtesy ourcampaigns.net)



## Student Technology Survey: Win dinner and tickets to The Second City!

By Office of Technology Services

It's that time of year again--the 7th Annual Student Technology Survey conducted by the Office of Technology Services (OTS) is here!

Your input is very important in shaping the priorities and direction of technology at IIT. The results of last year's survey helped OTS to prioritize improvements such as upgrading the wireless network on IIT's Main Campus to Wireless N for enhanced speed and security, and transitioning IIT email accounts to a Gmail platform to enhance storage and utility for students.

Each person who completes the survey will be eligible to enter the prize drawing for a chance to win one of three prize packages consisting of 2 tickets to a show at The Second City and a \$75 gift card for dinner at any Lettuce Entertain You restaurant.

All individual responses will be kept confidential; however the collective results will be made public in a future TechNews article.

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or comments about the survey process, please direct them to [techsurvey@iit.edu](mailto:techsurvey@iit.edu).