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Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

Real steel: students fight for victory at JSDC

By Allen Baker
TECHNEWS WRITER

The roaring of spectators. The crash of angled steel on Lexan plates. The mixing aromas of sizzling pizza and smoking lithium-polymer batteries. The sharp hiss of pressurized pneumatics.

This is the twenty-fifth annual Jerry Sanders Design Competition. Hosted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and sponsored by Advanced Micro Devices, this contest draws robotics teams from schools all over the Midwest. Among the colleges that regularly attend are both the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign campuses of the University of Illinois, Valparaiso University, and, of course, Illinois Institute of Technology. Just one of many attractions at UIUC's Engineering Open House, the Competition has occurred yearly since 1987, making it one of the oldest robotics competitions in America.

This is where a group of twenty-five IIT students chose to spend the past weekend. Instead of catching up on sleep, studying for impending midterm exams, or toiling away on the local Minecraft server, they instead opted to hole themselves up in an aging basketball court and work unceasingly from dawn until dusk to wring out the last kinks from their precious robots. They did not do it for the chance to skip classes, the generous monetary prizes, or even for the traditional dinner at Chinatown Buffet. They did it to bring honor and glory to their school.

But they also do it for thrills. One who attends JSDC shall witness engineering in its purest form, unbound from sterile laboratories and droning professors. Rather than gazing on from a distant seat in a lecture hall, participants are flung into roiling pits where problems strike robots like thunderbolts and solutions are hashed out with generous amounts of hot glue and zip-ties. Entire source code files are rewritten on the fly and every inch of electrical wiring probed with multimeters.

For IIT's valiant robotics team, Illinois Tech Robotics, these days of chaos are nothing new. Since first joining the competition many years ago, ITR has excelled on the battlefield with its innovative machines. The oldest surviving specimen is the R.M.S. Dick Roslund, which has claimed victory in the arena twice in the past three years.
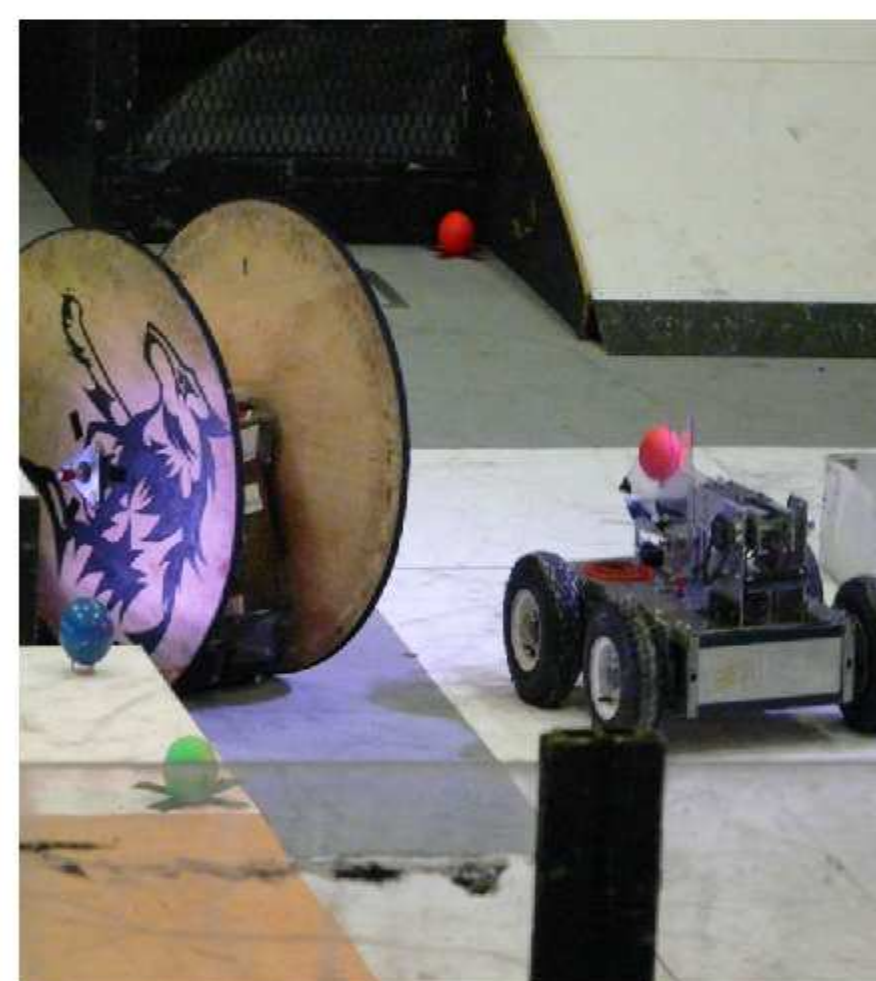
Its stellar performance can be attributed to its mechanum wheels, which allow it to strafe and spin on the spot, and effective manipulators designed to capture and score game pieces with astonishing speed and accuracy. The other members of ITR's lineup for this year's competition included Fenrir, a fearsome two-wheeled beast, Penguin, the only aerial robot in the entire competition, and Reaper, the newest addition to the fleet.

Spectators can always count on ITR to deliver a fantastic show, and this year was no exception. All four robots gave their best in the numerous matches throughout the two days. Roslund tore through all qualifying matches to gain a place in the final match, where it earned fourth place after an especially furious match. During the demolition round that always follows the distribution of prizes, Fenrir spun and smashed into competitors with the force of a thousand suns.

Enticed by the exciting events that "IIT's best kept secret," gets to bear witness to? Do the fires of engineering burn within? Illinois Tech Robotics is always looking for bright and eager minds to bring fresh ideas to the table so they can chew them up and spit them back out. Email them at robotics@iit.edu or visit www.illinoistechrobotics.org for more information.

Photos by Kori Bowns, Ting Wong, & Emilie Woog

**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Guest lecturer, Eric Klinenberg outlines pros, cons of living alone

By Ryan Hynes
A&E EDITOR

The College of Science and Letters recently hosted a guest lecture from New York University Professor of Sociology and Chicago native Eric Klinenberg.

The lecture, "Going Solo", focused on the staggering rise of people living in alone. Klinenberg was first turned on to this idea while writing another book, Heat Wave, in which he profiled the 1995 Chicago heat wave that claimed the lives of roughly 750 people. While conducting his research, he noticed that an overwhelming majority of the victims lived alone, and were not found until several days after their deaths.

Klinenberg never explored the reasons why so many people were living alone when writing Heat Wave. Now, a decade later, he focuses upon that exact issue. Klinenberg claims that "living alone is the biggest social change that we've yet to identify", and makes a convincing argument in support.

Data from the late 1950s and early 1960s shows that living alone was indeed rare, with fewer than ten percent of the population living by themselves. Societal perceptions of single living were also much different 50 years ago.

Most people felt that those who lived alone were immoral, criminal, or some kind of social deviant. Current social trends sharply contrast past sentiments.

Now, 28% of all households are single, and the social stigma associated with it is non-existent. Klinenberg also noted that living alone is a purely urban phenomenon.

Klinberg limited his research to major metropolitan areas across the US and Europe, and found that there is a strong correlation between living in an urban area and living alone. Surprisingly, Chicago is relatively low on the list of US cities, with only 30% of residents living alone. Washington D.C. was the highest, with 48% of all residents living by themselves.

The trend is global as well, and several European countries rank higher than the US in percentage of population living alone. From this, came another interesting discovery. Single living is positively correlated with wealth.

In other words, living by yourself is a luxury. It is more expensive to live alone than with another person, yet still people are willing to pay for the privilege.

Klinenberg postulated that living alone presents an opportunity for a person to truly know themselves, or achieve the Maslowian goal of self-actualization. Another conclusion Klinenberg drew from his research, was that people are not any less social than they were in previous generations, but that because technology has made it easier to socialize with one another, it facilitates single living.

One striking comment was "that we are so interdependent; it enables us to be independent". Klinenerg explores in depth this new phenomenon, as well as some of the finer points of it, such as single living across age groups, in his book "Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone."

Klinenberg's takeaway was that living alone is not something negative that should be condemned, but rather, it is the byproduct of the evolving mores and operations of a modern society, and should be embraced as such.

If you missed Klinenberg's lecture, the College of Science and Letters is sponsoring several guest lecturers, the next of whom will be Gordon Wood. Wood is a Pulitzer Prize winning author and Professor Emeritus at Brown University. Wood will giving the inaugural lecture for the new Benjamin Franklin Project at IIT this Thursday, March 15.
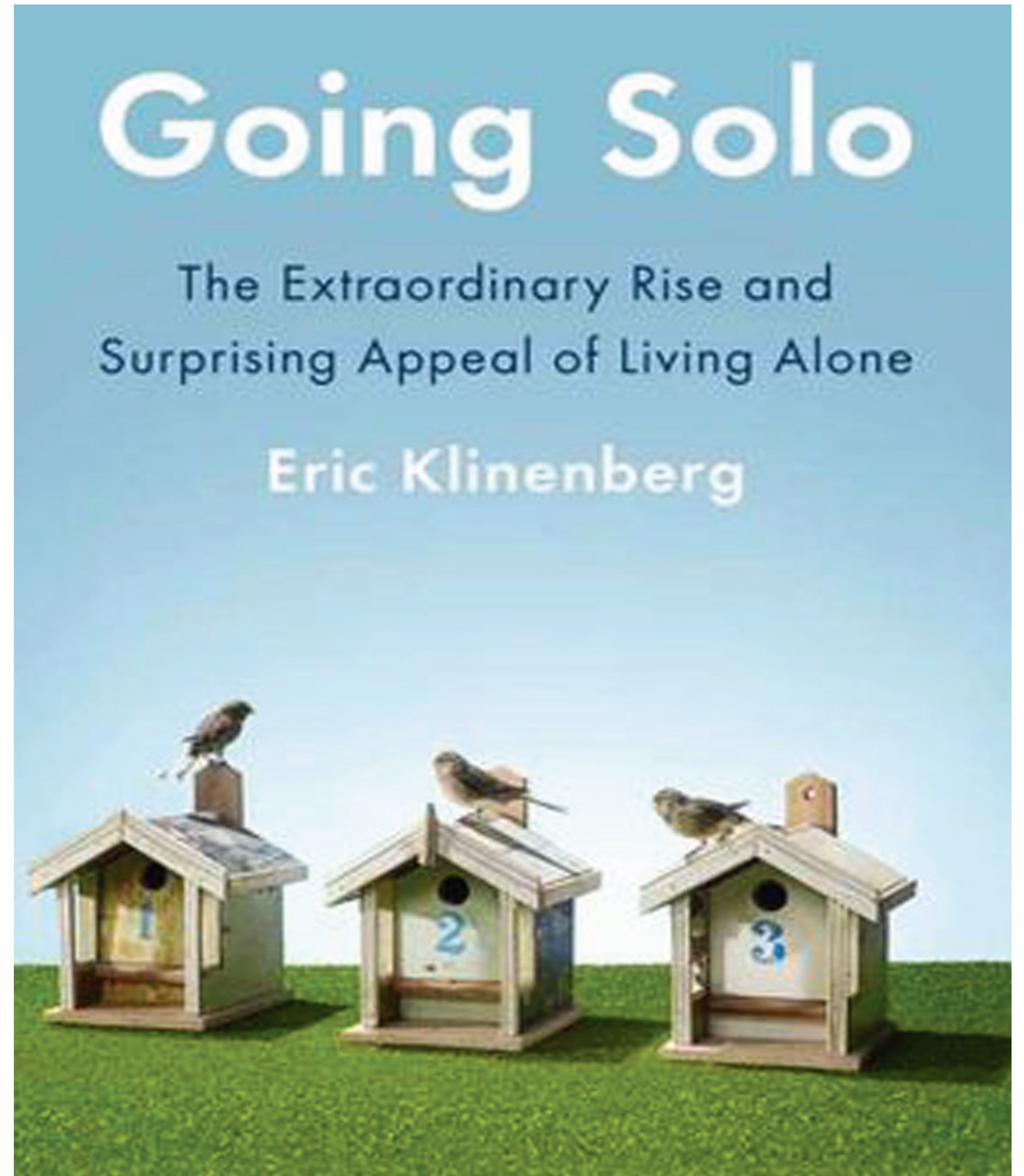

Going Solo

The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone

Eric Klinenberg

Image courtesy of atomicbooks.com

ESW, SGA Planting Party prepares IIT for community garden

By Laura Casas Gurri
STAFF WRITER

Lately it seems that ecology, sustainability and green topics are increasingly starting to get into the spotlight.

We are more conscientious about our planet and our way of life. One direct proof of this is the RecycleMania Challenge in which IIT is involved this month, as highlighted in a previous edition of TechNews. Another example of this is the great initiative that a group of IPRO, Engineers for a Sustainable World (ESW) and the Student Government Association (SGA) have started. They are planning to start a community garden on the Quad, in the vacant lot between Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority and the Triangle Fraternity.

They have the permits, the idea, and the aim to create and run this green project. To complement it, they are going to set up a stand where they will sell the fruits of this garden. A good, healthy product for those who really care about where their food comes from and how has it been grown.

In order to engage students with this initiative and recruit some new volunteers to become part of this new IIT adventure, last Wednesday, March 7, at lunchtime these three associations hosted an event to promote their future garden. They made it in an effective way for students to plant some seeds of their own. It was a planting event on a small scale.

Students could choose a plant, get a planter for it (of course made out of recycled plastic materials), fill it up with soil, plant the seeds and finally add some water. The idea attracted curious eyes and followers of green. If you missed the opportunity to plan your own seed another event will be hosted on Thursday March 29.

This is another chance to become involved in campus life and an excellent way to strengthen ties with the IIT community.

If you want to be part of this exciting new project, or would like more information, contact ESW at eswiit1@gmail.com, or SGA Senator, Billy Bafia, at wbafia@hawk.iit.edu.

Photos by Ed Chiem & Hannah Larson

Facilities supervisor supports on-campus, sustainable measures

By Brock Auerbach-Lynn
TECHNEWS WRITER

Ever wonder how IIT keeps its walkable areas clear of snow in an environmentally friendly fashion? Or how the new composter works? The Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability (OCES) sat down with John Wachowski (JW), Field Operations and Warehouse Supervisor for IIT's Facilities Department, to answer some questions about how recent changes are pushing IIT in a more sustainable direction.

OCES: How have you brought a holistic approach to sustainability in everyday operations?

JW: I approach every task with the idea of reducing waste and improving our environmental, health and safety standards. IIT's trash management is our biggest issue and greatest opportunity. Too much time was being spent on trash can maintenance during our crew's daily routine—the bags were falling apart and workers complained that bins often contained sharp objects that could puncture the skin. So, we decided to replace the bags with dump-able plastic containers [a garbage can within a garbage can] so the crew never have to touch plastic bags/garbage directly. Now, we have fewer safety incidents and it saves our crew 8-11 hours as well as 500+ plastic bags each week.

OCES: How has the grounds crew changed snow removal operations?

JW: When I first started in 2011, there was a good amount of damage due to plowing and salt/snow removal which takes a lot of time and money to repair. I've previously been exposed to a product called Maximum Salt as an alternative to using calcium chloride (traditional rock salt) for snow management. Maximum Salt is a beet juice derivative (made of sugars from beets (farmed using renewable technologies) as well as beet juice combined with salt brine), making it a 100% biodegradable, pre-treatment deicer agent. We simply pre-treat surfaces before any snow falls and let it do its work. Unlike calcium chloride, Maximum Salt reduces snow build-up, resulting in fewer pools of water and thus fewer dirty, wet footprints everywhere—not to mention fewer slipping incidents.

OCES: How does the grounds crew feel about this new product?

JW: They were initially concerned with potential safety concerns, since it's a liquid and much different than traditional rock salt. Many couldn't believe it was just beet juice and how easy it was to use. They previously had a lot of health-related issues with the calcium chloride from breathing it in, getting it on their hands and clothes, etc. The beet juice product is completely washable, doesn't stain and poses no health concerns.

OCES: What's the future for snow removal on IIT grounds?

JW: We're only currently using the Maximum Salt on areas to prevent grass damage, so areas, including parking lots and Wabash Ave. and Federal St., are still using the calcium chloride. We are aiming to get Maximum Salt in larger, bulk quantities for the deicing trucks, so that we can use it on parking lots as well. Right now, it's too costly for the trucks, so we're confined to spreading it manually.

Another snow removal improvement is a winter shift-change. We currently have crews working Sunday through Thursday to cover our entire week's needs. IIT accommodates CPS testing and church services on the weekends, so we pre-treat those areas on Thursdays and re-check on Sunday—preventing unnecessary overtime. Switching to a Sunday start date gives us more time to prepare for the coming work week, instead of rushing to start on Monday mornings.

OCES: IIT recently acquired a composter for which grounds has been the primary caretaker. Is this your first time working with one?

JW: Yes. When we first got the composter, we thought it was just a "food" composter. It actually requires wood and soil to be mixed in as well. Its implementation was a learning experience for all of us. To get the required wood chips, I contacted Brickman, a regular landscaping contractor, who offered us two truckloads, which they would normally have disposed of. We are also using sawdust from the [Materials and] Metals Building. We now put about two-cubic-yards a week towards a productive end, instead of landfilling.

This past summer, we pruned many of IIT's trees, giving us an ample wood supply for the coming composter-season [non-winter weather]. What we need now is a wood chipper, to make our own chips from these branches. Till date, we have saved over twenty 40-yard dumpsters by re-using wood, sawdust and wood chips. Next summer, we'd like to grind our own wood chips. This is consistent with our goal of becoming an internally-sustainable grounds operation. The compost now uses food, wood and saw dust that is all internally acquired and can be used for the proposed student-run vegetable garden.

OCES: What's the schedule of composter operations?

JW: We shut it down over the winter break, as there are no students and no food waste. We also have storage issues, since there is not enough land to store compost on. We tried using bags and leaving them aside, but discovered later that the compost became unusable. We aren't sure exactly why this happened, though we suspect it's due to everything in the compost being completely natural and containing no preservatives.

OCES: What's your compost recipe?

JW: Two parts wood, one part food. A 23-gallon container is used to cover one yard of land. Normally, during a Monday-Friday operation, we use six 23-gallon containers of wood (one of which is top soil we use to darken the compost) and three 23-gallon contains of food (brought in by Sodexo).

OCES: Who determined these measurements?

JW: We did through trial and experience. We weren't given a formula, so we tried various methods to see what worked. There was a learning curve for everyone involved. The grounds crew was adding wood, dirt and pre-consumer food [food disposed of from the kitchen prior to student-handling]. The issues with post-consumer food are the inclusion of non-compostable plastic utensils that can damage the composter. The food students dispose of in the organic slot on the Hawk bins still gets composted, but at the Waste Management site, not on IIT grounds.

We estimate that this year alone, we've saved over $7,000 in dumpster costs and 800-yards of waste. We are hoping to re-invest the money saved into the wood chipper we want. Considering we didn't pay for the composter, we'd say these are good savings. Also, if you consider the wider "gate-to-grave" impact of food disposal, composting substantially reduces IIT's environmental impact.

OCES: What else is in store for IIT grounds?

JW: We hope to take over IIT's flower and plant management and shift to planting more perennials to reduce maintenance and save money. We'd also like to get up-to-speed on the composter, to maximize our time using it. Ideally, we want to take advantage of the mild winter we're having and start composting in March, as opposed to April.

OCES: Anything else you'd like to add?

JW: If students have suggestions, ideas or questions, they can email me at jwachows@iit.edu

OCES would like to thank John Wachowski for taking the time to answer our questions and his entire department for their continued efforts.

FAFSAs turned in on-time, early reap benefits

By IIT Office of Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid would like to encourage students who have not completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2012-13 academic year to do so immediately. The FAFSA is available to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Below are some important tips on FAFSA completion and the importance of finishing a FAFSA promptly.

The priority deadline for FAFSA completion is March 15.

Even if your or your parents' tax return is not completed for 2011, families can use an estimate of their 2011 income to complete the FAFSA. Corrections to the FAFSA can be made later once taxes are filed.

Please note: Missing the March 15 deadline does not guarantee additional coverage.

If your FAFSA is not received by March 15 and you are not eligible for federal or state aid as a result, our office cannot necessarily offer additional assistance. Since some forms of federal and state aid are extremely limited and run out at some point, it is important to always complete the FAFSA soon after it becomes available each year (January 1 for the upcoming year).

Use the IRS data retrieval tool.

Some families who have filed their taxes may also be able to utilize the IRS data retrieval tool on the FAFSA. This tool allows eligible families to pull their tax information directly from the IRS to the FAFSA instead of manually entering each item. This tool became available February 1 from the IRS.

Once we receive your FAFSA, we will put together a financial aid package for you for the 2012-13 year. If any documents are requested by the Department of Education, we will also notify you at that time. Our goal is to avoid changes and last minute delays as much as possible to better serve students and offer award assistance as soon as possible. As always, please feel free to contact the office with any questions at finaid@iit.edu or 312.567.7219.

Colloquia series continue in Applied Math, Physics Departments

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Applied Math Department at IIT hosted two colloquia last week. The first colloquium was organized on Monday, March 5, on "Time Scale of Dynamic Networks" by Ms. Rajmonda Sulo Caceres, PhD candidate in Laboratory for Computational Population Biology at University of Illinois, Chicago. She discussed possible formalizations of the problem of identifying inherent time scales of interactions and presented some initial approaches in solving it, noting the advantages and limitations of these approaches.

Interactions, either of molecules or people, are inherently dynamic, changing with time and context. Interactions have an inherent rhythm, often happening over a range of time scales. Temporal streams of interactions are commonly aggregated into dynamic networks for temporal analysis. Results of this analysis are greatly affected by the resolution at which the original data are aggregated. The mismatch between the inherent temporal scale of the underlying process and that at which the analysis is performed can obscure important insights and lead to wrong conclusions.

In the talk, Ms. Caceres described the challenge of identifying the range of inherent temporal scales of a stream of interactions and of finding the dynamic network representation that matches those scales. At the end, she emphasized that this is a nascent area of research and the goal is to highlight its importance and to establish a computational foundation for further investigations.

Another Math Department colloquium was organized on Wednesday, March 7, the topic being "Treecode - Accelerated Boundary Integral Poisson-Boltzman Solver". The lecture was delivered by Dr. Weihau Geng, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics at University of Alabama.

Starting with topic of solvation, he said how solvation of biomolecules is a challenging problem in computational biophysics. And, models that track explicit solvent molecules are extremely costly, and implicit solvent models based on the Poisson-Boltzmann (PB) equation provide an efficient alternative for computing solvent-solute interactions.

Even so, PB solvers still encounter numerical difficulties stemming from the discontinuous dielectric constant across the molecular surface, the boundary condition at spatial infinity, and the presence of charge singularities representing the biomolecule. To address these issues, Dr. Geng and his research group had developed a linear PB solver employing a well-conditioned boundary integral formulation and GMRES iteration accelerated by a treecode algorithm.

The accuracy and efficiency of the method were assessed for the Kirkwood sphere and a solvated protein (PDB:1A63). Then, they compare numerical results for both the Poisson-Boltzmann and Poisson equations, using the proposed treecode-accelerated boundary integral solver, as well as the mesh-based Adaptive Poisson-Boltzmann (APBS) method. Finally, he found out how the present scheme has the features of relatively simple implementation, efficient memory usage, and straightforward parallelization.

On Thursday, March 8, the Physics Department organized an interesting colloquium on "Geophysics of Fractures". The talk was delivered by Dr. Laura Pyrak-Nolte, Professor, Department of Physics and Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University.

In the talk, she presented experimental data from several experiments that have advanced our understanding of the effect of the relevant length scales that are important for interpreting fracture properties from geophysical measurements. She stated that societal interactions with the subsurface include a range of activities from construction of subsurface infrastructure such as tunnels to the storage of anthropogenic byproducts in subsurface reservoirs.

Common to all such sites are mechanical discontinuities that span scales over several orders of magnitude that are often perturbed by natural and/or induced processes associated with the subsurface project. Dr. Nolte emphasized how basic understanding of the effect of length scales on the interpretation of geophysical data from fractures or fractured systems is required for site characterization and long term monitoring of large-scale subsurface projects.

At the end, she discussed the four different seismic imaging methods in the laboratory to characterize fractures and alteration to fractures through four dynamic processes: the first being wavefront imaging provides images of the isotropy or anisotropy of a medium as well as energy partitioning into converted modes, guided waves and interface waves and focusing by fractures; the second is acoustic-mapping mode (C-scan) provides a detailed map of the variations in sample properties; the third being acoustic-lens mode provides data to determine the role that scattering plays in interpreting seismic data from fractures containing spatially-correlated or uncorrelated aperture distributions; and finally a seismic array mode provides the change in seismic attributes from dynamic processes.

Recyclemania
Ongoing until April 1st

Recyclemania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for colleges. IIT took second place last year amongst our competition. Can we do better this year? It's up to you!

Remember to recycle!

E-Waste Collection
March 14, 15, and 31st
Various Locations

Bring your old computer parts and electronic equipment to collection centers to be recycled and eventually turned into new equipment. Donors are responsible for any files or data on devices!

March 14: 10am-5pm (Main campus)
Drop off in Tower Lobby, HUB, & MTCC

March 15: 12pm-6pm (Downtown)
Drop off in DTC Lobby & 4th floor

March 31: 9am-1pm (Main Campus)
Open to the community
Drop off at Wabash east of MTCC

Earth Hour
March 31st (8-9pm)
South Lawn outside of the MTCC

Engineers for a Sustainable World is promoting IIT students to participate in the worldwide shutting off of lights and electronics in their dorm rooms and apartments at 8pm!

There will be s'mores, hot chocolate and hot apple cider. We will be decorating with candles. There's also an open mic night, so bring instruments if you want! Let's enjoy the night without using electricity!

Office of Campus Energy and Sustainability
campussustainability@iit.edu

Lecture by Nobel Laureate: Prof. Emeritus Jerome Friedman

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

One of the important events of this past week was the talk "Probing the small and large structure of the universe" by Nobel laureate, Professor Jerome Friedman. On Wednesday evening, Illinois Institute of Technology and the MIT Club of Chicago hosted a presentation by Professor Jerome Friedman, 1990 Nobel Laureate in Physics. Jerome Friedman received the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work on the inner structure of protons and neutrons in the atomic nucleus. He also was awarded the W.H.K. Panofsky Prize in 1989 for the experimental discovery of quarks. Prof. Friedman knows Chicago well, having received both his M.A. and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Chicago. He then began his long collaboration with the late Henry Kendall (with whom he shared the Nobel Prize) at Stanford's High Energy Physics Laboratory. Professor Friedman joined the MIT Physics Department in 1960, and served as department head from 1983 to 1988. He served as Director of the MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Science from 1980-83. Prof. Friedman's

talk discussed the discoveries that have already been made, and the challenging questions being addressed as exploration continues.

Dr. Harvey Kahalas, Dean of the IIT Stuart School of Business started off the evening by welcoming Friedman and the audience to the IIT campus. Then, Nicholas Haschka, President of the MIT Club of Chicago spoke on how the alumni at MIT Club are helping to organizing such events. After the series of introductory speeches, Friedman started his short, interesting, and informative talk. Starting from the basics, he asked the audience what they knew about the contents of the universe. He discussed the different contents, i.e., dark energy (we know nothing about it), dark matter (we are trying to create it at accelerators) and atomic matter (research in the 20th century uncovered the structure of atom and the structure of its constituents). Then, he spoke about the great strides that have been made in advancing our understanding of the observable universe's structure, from its outer reaches down to distances shorter than the size of an atom.

Friedman told the audience that great progress has been made in understanding the structure of the universe in the second half

of the 20th century. This has been driven by research in particle physics, probing the very small, and in astrophysics and cosmology, probing the very large. These two domains are closely related in our current theory of the evolution of the universe. In particle physics, new types of accelerators and particle detectors have made possible extensive experimental results, which along with new theoretical developments, have led to the quark model, quantum chromodynamics, and electroweak unification. These form the basis of a remarkably successful theory of elementary particles called the Standard Model. Although its predictions have been confirmed with excellent precision at present accelerator energies, this theory is incomplete and has raised a number of deep questions that need to be addressed in the TeV energy region. Lately, experimental programs searching for answers to these questions have been prepared at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a 14 TeV proton-proton collider at CERN, which began operation in September, 2009. He emphasized that the LHC, the world's largest and most ambitious scientific project, is expected to usher in a new era of discovery.

Friedman also discussed the

Photo by Swasti Khuntia

contribution of MIT in the field of the quark model for which he was awarded the W.H.K. Panofsky Prize. The talk concluded with a huge round of applause. It was followed by a number of interesting queries from audience, autographs and a photo session with Friedman.

MTCC Late Niite excites students

By Ryan Kamphuis
EDITOR IN CHIEF

An event that draws multitudes of students to the McCormick Tribune Campus Center for a night of activities, performances, and food, MTCC Late Niite is quickly becoming an annual tradition at IIT.

Word began spreading and buzz began building for 2012's iteration of Late Niite, dubbed "The Final Frontier," weeks in advance as posters with symbols from popular sci-fi hits like Star Wars, Doctor Who, and Star Trek began to pepper campus. The event took place on the unseasonably warm night of Wednesday, March 7. True to theme, guests were greeted by cardboard cut-outs of characters from various other-worldly movies and TV shows upon entering the MTCC.

People could get pictures with everyone from the eleventh Doctor and his Tardis to the Harry Potter trio. Guests were then able to get various items of Union Board swag and sign up for the raffles that were being held that night. The event began at 9 a.m. to a slow start, as few came early to take advantage of the early activities.

Those who came early flocked to the Auditorium, where the classic 1927 German film Metropolis was showing, and the chess tournament on the bridge. Despite the slow start, more people began to arrive as the live performances kicked off at 10 p.m. with the

improve group Fire in the Bathroom. Although difficult to hear due to the large number of people at Late Niite, the group was still able to entertain many members of the audience.

After Fire in the Bathroom was finished with their performance, self-described "balloon freak" John Cassidy took to the stage for the next hour. Cassidy is a balloon artist who holds multiple Guinness World Records in that field, including the record for Fastest Balloon Sculpture. Cassidy performed a show filled with creating extreme balloon sculptures, magic tricks, comedy, and doing weird things with balloons. Cassidy's finale brought all these elements together, in a trick where Cassidy went inside of a massive balloon attempting to find a card that an audience member selected from a deck. To make the whole situation crazier, the trick also involved firing lawn darts across the room. Cassidy's show was extremely well received by the audience, and many event attendees considered the show to be the highlight of the evening.

Following Cassidy, IIT's A Capella club performed. Each of A Capella's three groups performed a short set comprised of hits from their fall concert and songs that they are preparing for their upcoming annual spring concert. The vast majority of event attendees began to leave the MTCC after A Capella's performance, leaving a small but dedicated audience to

watch the final performance of the night: Dorian Electra. A band comprised of Shimer College students, Dorian Electra played a gritty punk rock set comprised of original tracks and covers. The band was allowed to keep playing when their set was over, and switched over to playing bluesy riffs until they were done for the night.

After finishing for the night, the band talked with their dedicated audience members and newfound fans. As these performances were going on, more arrived at the MTCC to take part in the other activities that were part of the event. A poker tournament in the Pritzker Club was well-attended and the game tables in the central area of the MTCC were being used all night.

Despite the popularity of the live performances, some activities, mainly the dance party in the ballroom, were poorly-attended.
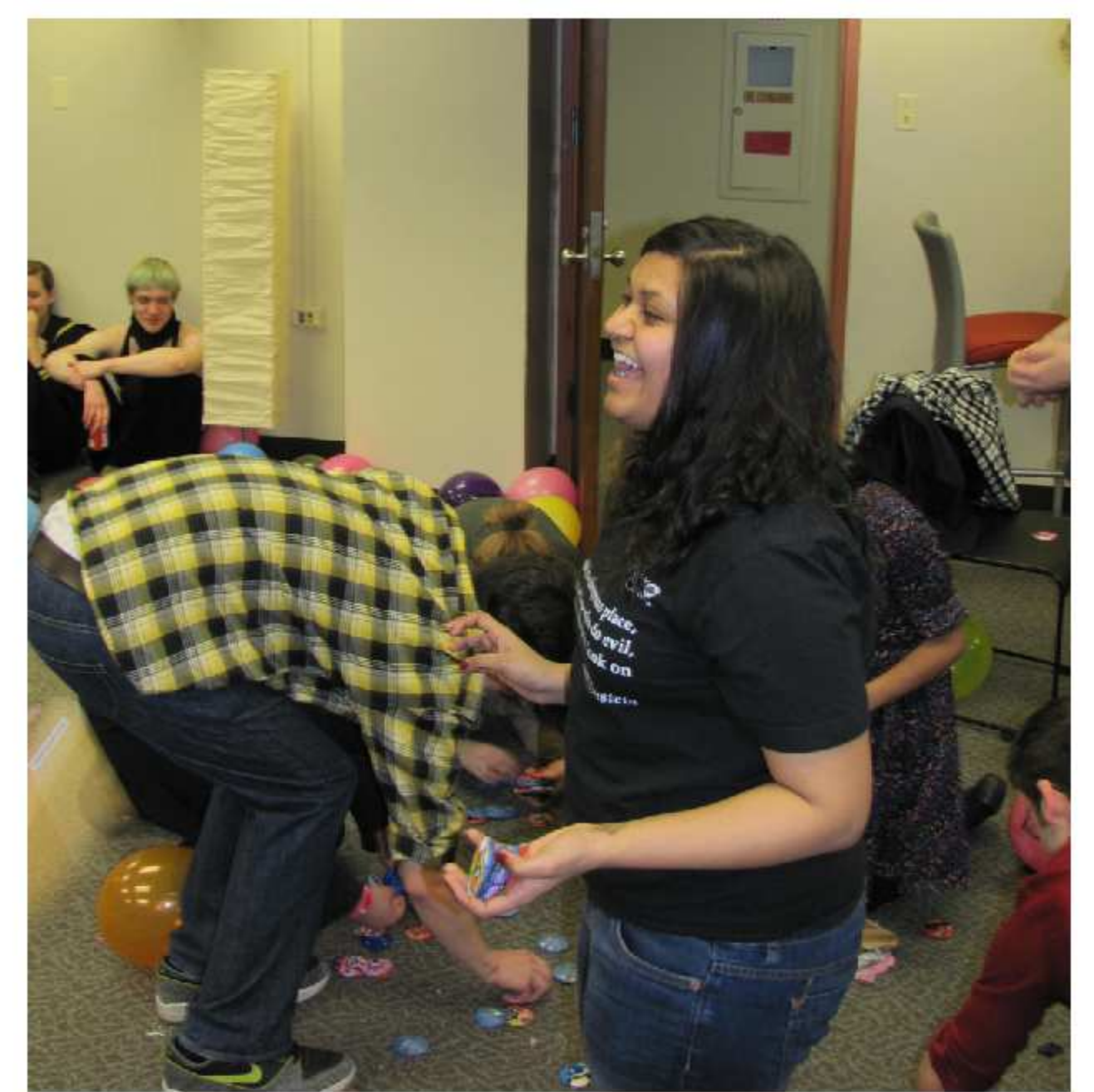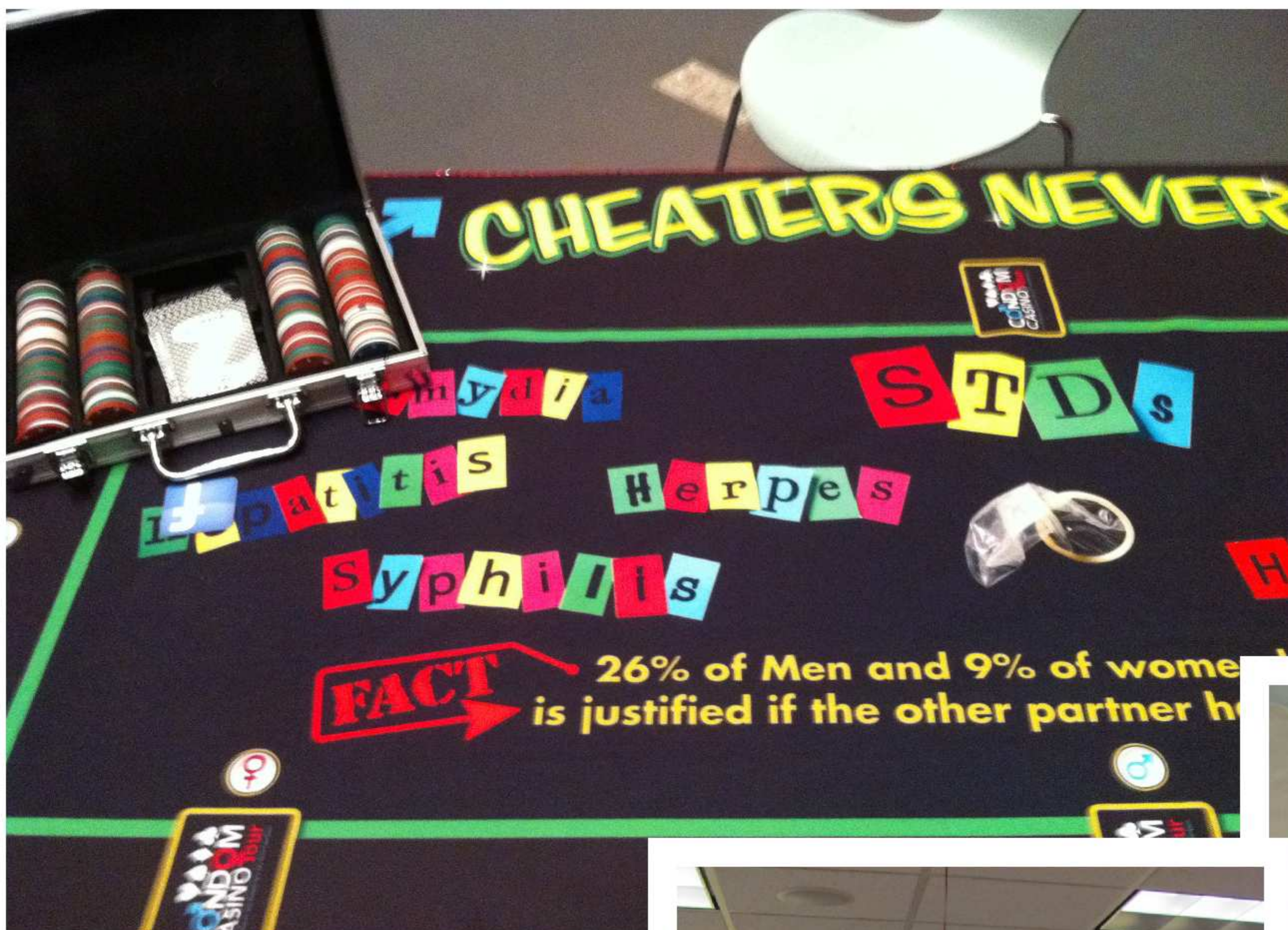
Overall, MTCC Late Niite 2012 seemed to be well received by those who attended. The event did not seem to be as well attended as it had been in past years, but people leaving at the end of the night seemed excited and were talking about the good time they had.

Photos by Ryan Kamphuis

Feminists United enters Sex Week 2012 head-on

Photos by Hannah Larson

Shimer College presents lecture on electronic visualization

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Shimer College organized a guest lecture on "35 Years of Art & Science Collaboration". The lecture was based on Dr. Daniel Sandin's "History of the Electronic Visualization Lab at University of Illinois, Chicago". Dr. Daniel Sandin is an internationally recognized pioneer of electronic art and visualization, and 1964 alumnus of Shimer College. In 1973, he co-founded the Electronic Visualization Lab with Computer Science professor Tom DeFanti. The EVL is an interdisciplinary graduate research laboratory that combines art and computer science, specializing in advanced visualization and networking technologies. It represents the oldest formal collaboration between art and engineering in this country, offering graduate degrees in electronic visualization.

In the talk, Dr. Sandin spoke about the history of the lab and its significant creative, scientific, and pedagogical impact. In 1969, he developed a computer-controlled light and sound environment called Glow Flow at the Smithsonian Institution. By 1973, he developed the Sandin Image Processor, a highly programmable analog computer for processing video images in real time. He then worked with DeFanti to combine the Image Processor with real-time computer graphics and performed visual concerts, the Electronic Visualization Events, with synthesized musical accompaniment. In 1991, Sandin and DeFanti conceived and developed, in collaboration with graduate students, the CAVE Virtual Reality (VR) theatre. The concept of Virtual Reality (VR) is being used on the development of auto-stereo VR displays (i.e., free viewing, no glasses), and on the creation of network-based tele-collaborative VR artworks that involve video camera image materials, rich human interaction and mathematical systems.

The talk was a combination of power point presentations and interesting videos of Dr. Sandin's work. He emphasized how the collaboration between art & science has been essential to the success of computer science and math research at the lab, the production of many art works, and the education of computer science and art students. Dr. Sandin answered queries of students. Overall, it was an interactive and interesting lecture which was enjoyed by the audience.

Images courtesy of evl.uic.edu & omnispace.org

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Tech[nology]News:
Finally, the new iPad arrives

By Swasti Khuntia
LAYOUT EDITOR

Rumors have been flying for weeks about the new iPad 3, even in this publication. And now, it's true. The new iPad was, finally, officially launched last Wednesday at an event in San Francisco, where Apple announced the new tablet to the world, featuring a plethora of new technology and features over the previous version, including a super high-resolution screen.

The iPad 3 has received mixed reviews after its announcement, but with the powerful new display, technologists will be forced to improve their designs to keep up with Apple product users. The third-generation tablet is being called the new iPad and it has features that make it one of the best devices currently available on the market.

The new iPad is initially set to be released in the United States later this month along with ten other countries; 26 additional countries will have access to the new iPad later this year. This product launch has left Apple's followers equal parts ecstatic and disappointed in the new iPad and its included features.

Some of the new iPad's features include a more powerful five-megapixel camera that will deliver clearer photos and videos, a 2048×1536 pixel display that supplies an incredibly high resolution, the new A5X dual-core processor, and an option to upgrade to a 4G version.

These features make the new iPad perfect for online gaming, watching movies or online videos, taking and sharing photos and videos straight from the iPad, reading eBooks, and surfing the internet at even faster speeds. It's also bound to be great for app developers, as the new iPad has better, more powerful software that gives developers more control.

Talking about camera, the new iPad features a five-megapixel iSight camera with advanced optics, a backside illumination sensor, auto-white balance, and face detection for incredible still images. With the new camera, videos will be able to be recorded in 1080p HD. Designed with next-generation wireless technology, the new iPad with Wi-Fi + 4G is able to connect to the new ultra-fast 4G LTE and HSPA+ data networks around the world.

Another disappointment for many enthusiasts is that Siri isn't included, as was predicted by many. The new iPad looks exactly like its predecessor, but the main thing that sets it apart is its powerful Retina display.

However, there are some that are disappointed and frustrated with the lack of improvements and changes from the iPad 2. Some Apple users wanted something completely different from previous versions, but Apple decided to stick with what works and focus on improvements rather than redesigns.

Whether or not you already own a previous version of the iPad, the new iPad is about representing the Apple brand as well as possible and continuing to enhance its technology to make it more user-friendly, powerful, and intensely capable — no matter if you're a student, everyday user, or a business professional.

Image courtesy of yahoo.com

Movie Review:
Secret World of Arietty

By Kyle Pancham
TECHNEWS WRITER

If you're an avid fan of Hayao Miyazaki's work (Princess Mononoke, Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle), then you will definitely love "The Secret World of Arietty". Last week, a couple friends and I went to go see it, and I was under the impression that it would be a Japanese version of the Disney film, "The Borrowers".

In "Arietty", the story follows the life of two key characters. Shawn is a boy with a heart condition who moves to the country to live with his aunt and her housekeeper, Hara. Arietty is a Borrower, a race of tiny people who run around "borrowing" from the humans only when they need supplies. Chief among the Borrower's rules is that they are not to be seen by humans, or else they have to move on to another dwelling and start over.

Coupled with an impressive soundtrack, excellent artwork, and visuals, "The Secret World of Arietty" does indeed have the feel of a Miyazaki film.

After watching the movie, I was greatly impressed with the artwork and the feel of the movie. From the Borrowers perspective, the plants and grass of the backyard transform into a forest, and the house itself is a castle. It definitely has the look and aesthetic found in much of Hiromasa Yonebayashi's artwork (Howl's Moving Castle, Ponyo, and Spirited Away).

Overall I like the story and its underlying meaning about fighting for what you want instead of rolling over and letting the world pass you by. While it might seem a bit out of place, its meaning is nonetheless important to the story and its outcome.

Overall I'd give "The Secret World of Arietty" a four out of five, because it is quite enjoyable and I'd recommend it not only to Miyazaki fans but also to anyone looking for a good time.
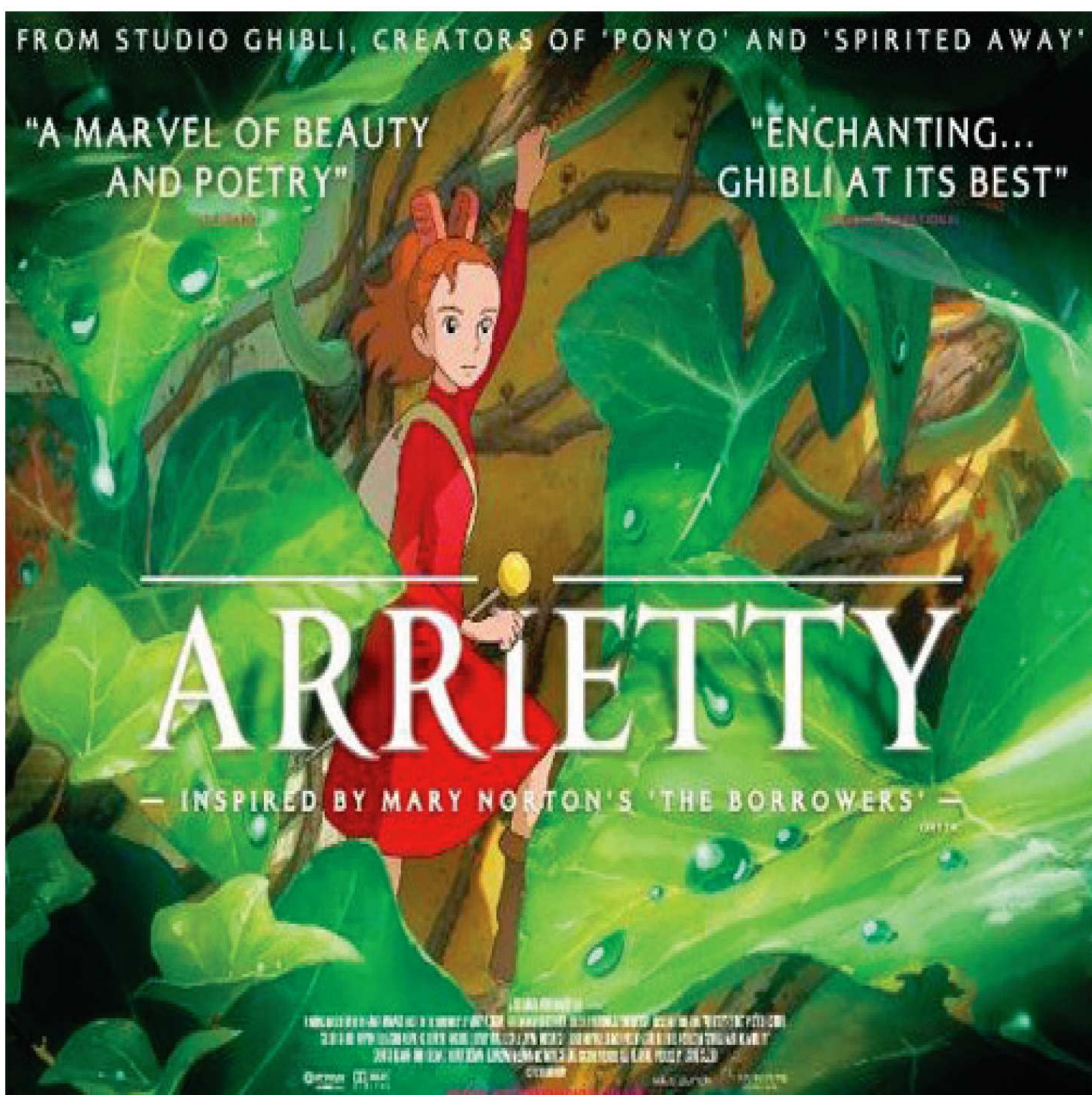
Image courtesy of disneydreaming.com

Wardrobe Basics

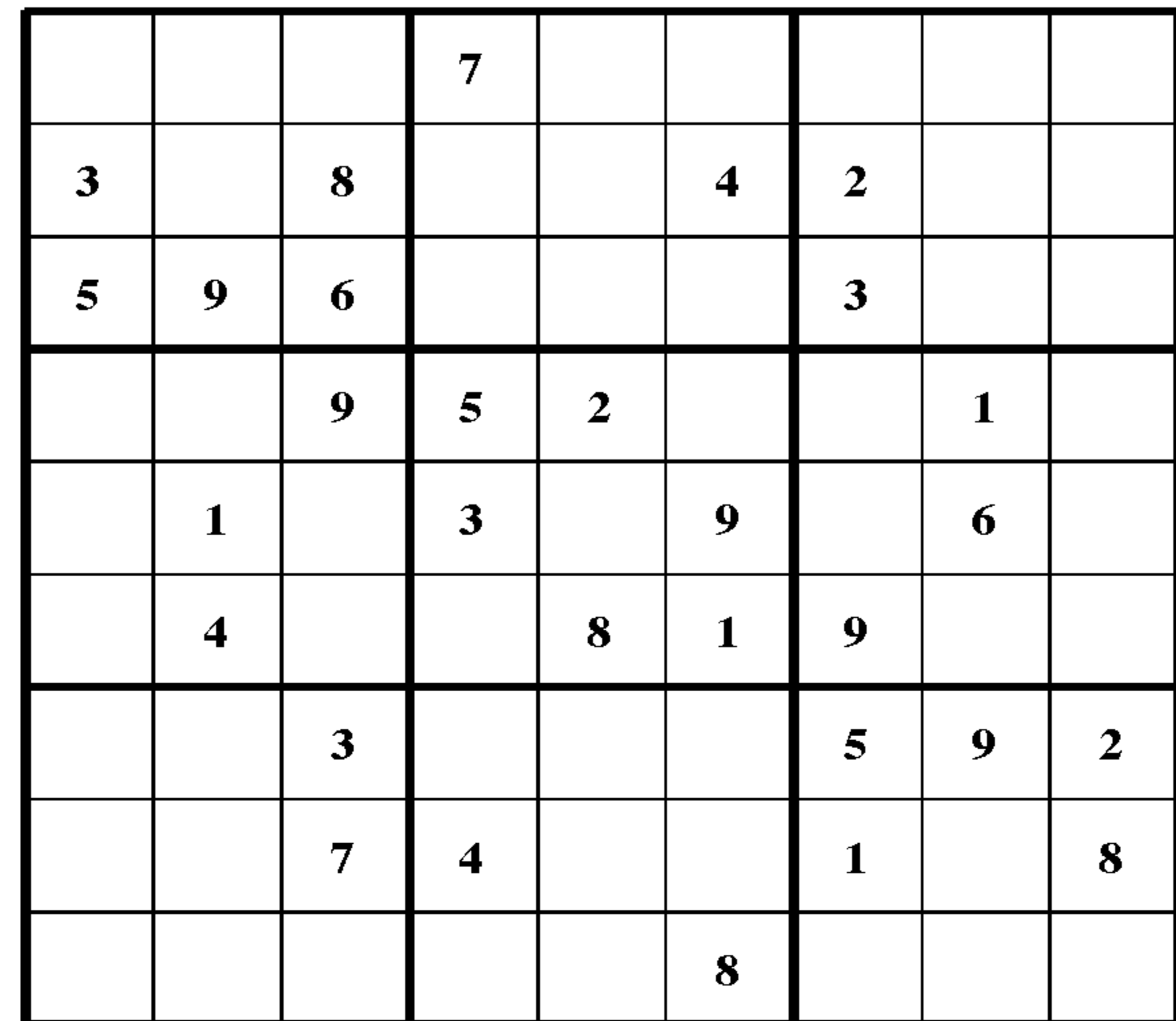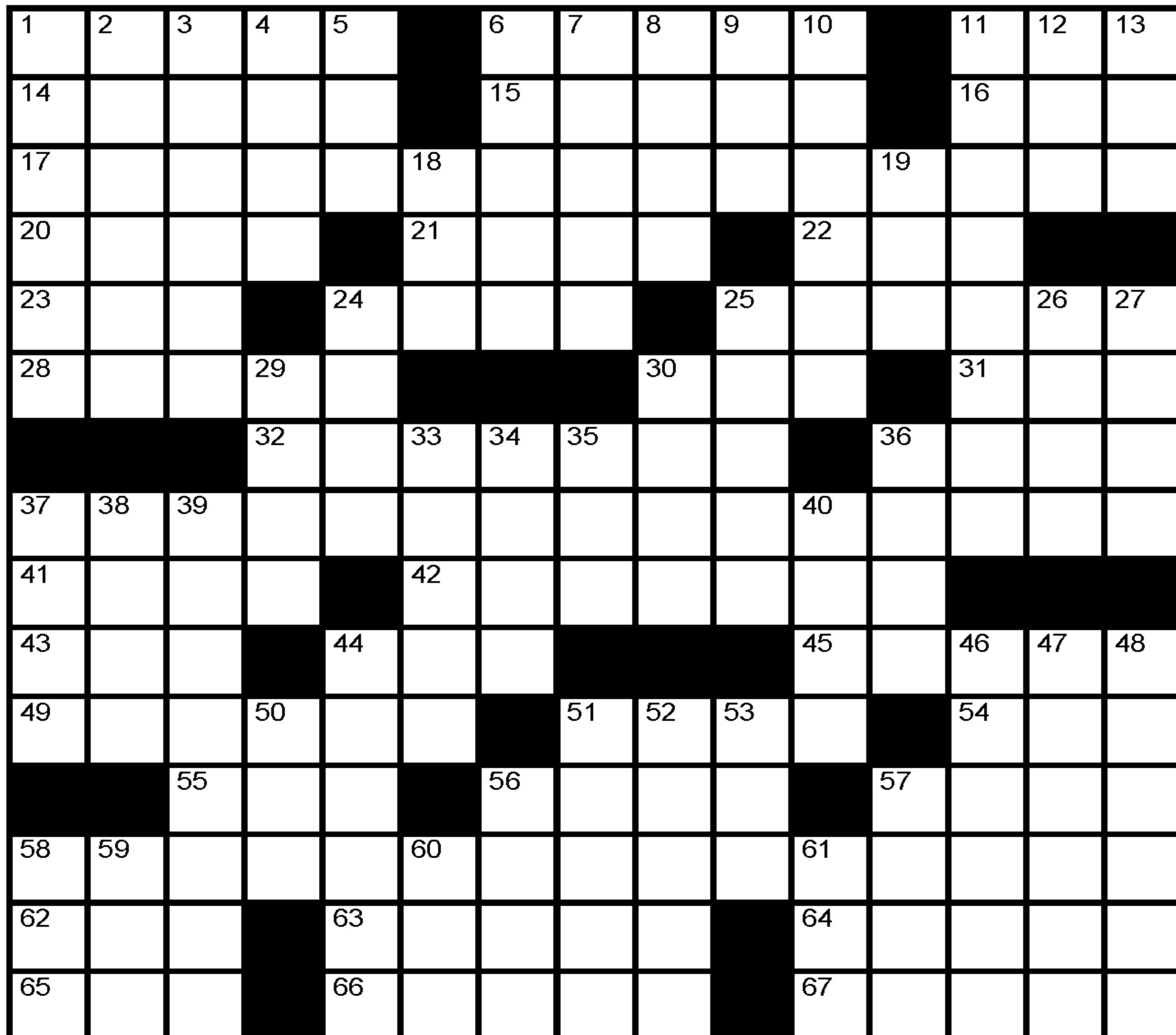**By Myles Mellor and Sally York**

Across

1. Italian beverage
6. Black
11. Calphalon product
14. They were created in 1912
15. Mountaineer's tool
16. ___ Rancho (suburb of Albuquerque)
17. Be in charge
20. Go for
21. Egg
22. Faint
23. Bass, e.g.
24. Castle part
25. Diminutive
28. Turning chisel accompanier
30. N.B.A.'s Unseld
31. Be off base
32. ___ physics
36. Carbamide
37. Fancy frocks
41. Indian tourist site
42. Annoying
43. Debate position
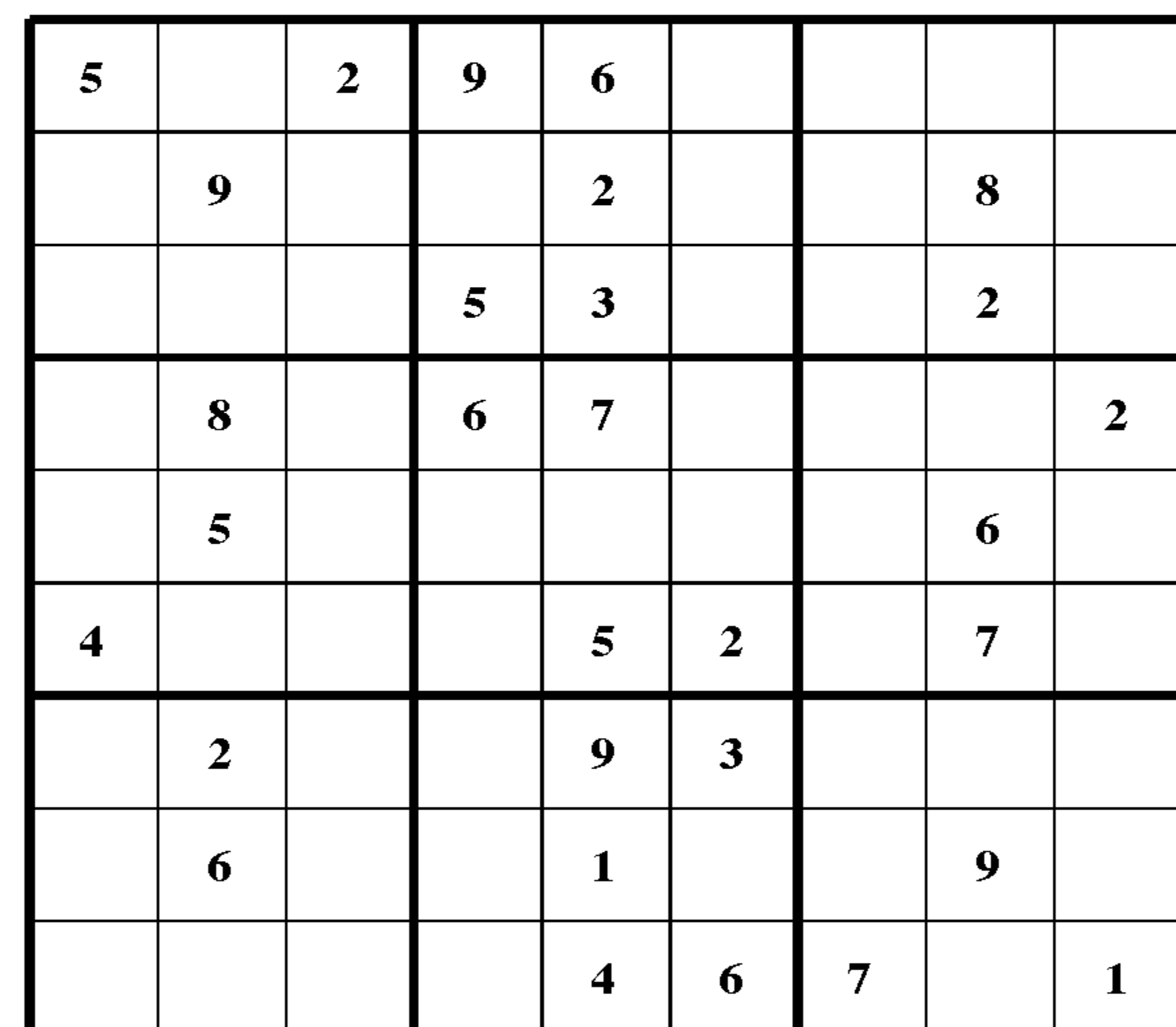44. Ribosomal ___
45. Dummkopf
49. Six-line poem
51. Achievement
54. ___ power
55. Cal. col.
56. Ostrichlike birds
57. Atlas section
58. "Calm down!"
62. Brown, for one
63. Adhesive
64. Bait
65. Pipe joint
66. Gas additive
67. Challenges

Down

1. Lite
2. Interstice
3. Afternoon service
4. Cause for a lawsuit
5. D.C. setting
6. It doesn't hold water
7. Carry on
8. Road shoulder
9. ___-tzu
10. Oozes
11. Chief administrative officers
12. Cause of inflation?
13. Discouraging words
18. Furrow maker
19. Remain unused
24. Set aside
25. California's San ___ Bay
26. Elder, e.g.
27. Pitching stats
29. Maori war dance
30. Rings up?
33. ___ the town
34. 100 kurus
35. Breed
36. Drew on
37. Beanies
38. Beast
39. Ocular problem
40. Discharge
44. Enter again
46. Insect stage
47. Idle
48. Hamlet et al.
50. Call on
51. ___ Thieves
52. Chart holder
53. Old English character
56. Corn dish
57. Atlas stat
58. Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
59. Party time, maybe
60. Buttermilk morsel?
61. Common contraction

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
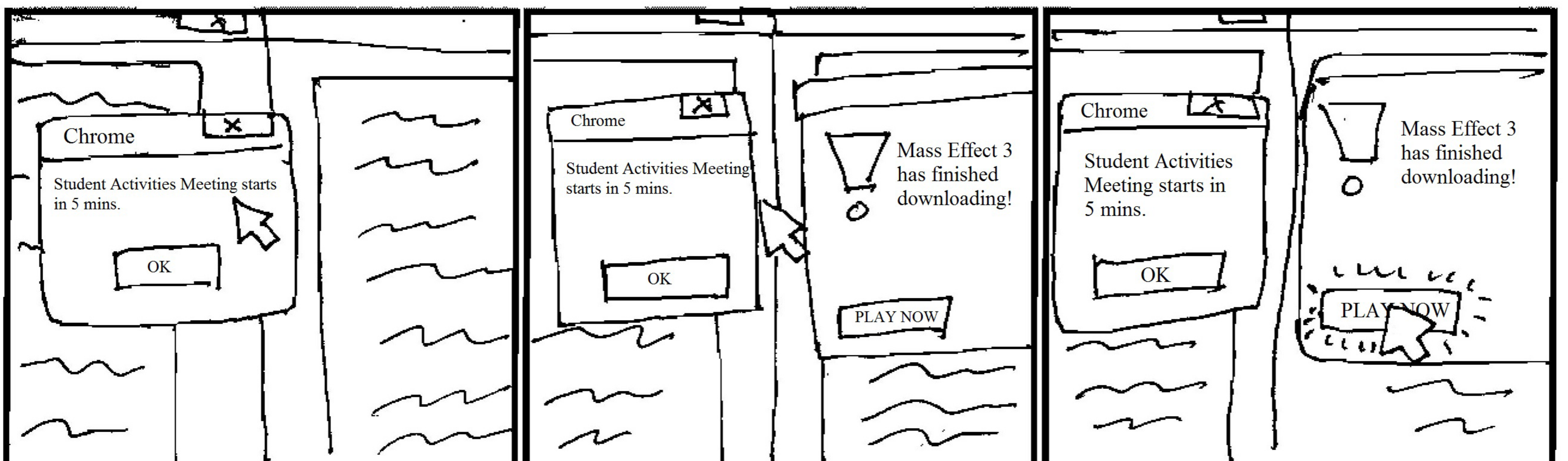
Illinois Tech cycling starts strong

By Ryan Hynes
A&E Editor

Members of IIT's own cycling team competed in their second race of the season last weekend at The University of Missouri in Colombia, Missouri.

The team left Chicago under cover of darkness, and drove 7 hours through the night to make it to the race on time. After only a few hours of sleep, team members Ian Carr, Jeff Bednarz, Ben Siver, Rob Cohen, and Ryan Hynes rolled out and onto the 35 mile road race. The course was very technical, with tight turns, challenging climbs, and intimidating descents designed to challenge even the most experienced riders.

The course also featured a towering ascent, wirth over 1,700 feet of climbing. Team Captain Ian Carr placed 15th in Category C, and Rob Cohen took 12th in Category D. Ben Siver and Ryan Hynes placed 33rd and 26th respectively. There were several serious crashes during the race, one of which took down rider Jeff Bednarz. Fortunately, Jeff was more angry than hurt since the crash ruined his bike, nicknamed "Big Blue".

Despite his injuries, Jeff Bednarz borrowed teammate Ben Siver's bike and rode to an impressive 4th place finish in the individual time trial. Hynes sat out the time trials with a knee injury, leaving the team with only three members instead of the usual four, but after recovering from the grueling individual time trial, Carr, Cohen, and Bednarz rode to 3rd in the team time trial race, earning valuable points for Illinois Tech Cycling.

The race weekend was still a success despite the injuries, and the Illinois tech Cycling Team has established itself as a competitive force in the Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference's Division 2. The team's next race is this weekend at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. After that race, the team will head to Georgia for an intense week of training.

This year looks to be a promising one for Illinois Tech Cycling. The team has used the winter months to train and prepare for the season, and ensure that they are in top form for competitions. For more information on the team, and a complete list of riders, races, and results, visit https://sites.google.com/site/iitcycling/home.

Photos courtesy of Ryan Hynes

Team Selecao wins indoor soccer tournament

By Jennifer Agosto
TECHNEWS WRITER

IIT's Intramurals and Recreation most recent two night event, the Indoor Soccer Tournament, brought in 40+ students on a total of 6 teams. The winning team consisted of captain Okwudiafor Akosa Andrew, Alintah Chuka, Chizara Nwaogwugwu, Reginald Adusei, Jong Massaquoi, Akinade Aderele, and Andre Rovetta. The team, named Selecao, beat the Continental Stars for the win, 5 to 3.

The next events that will be hosted will start up again in April, starting with Basketball on April 5. The Basketball tournament will be a 3 on 3 person match-up with a maximum of 6 people per team. The registration deadline is Wednesday, April 4 at 6 p.m. Registration can be done online at www.illinoistechathletics.com in the Intramurals and Recreation section. This event is open to all IIT, Shimer and Vandercook students. Here is a list of all of the events scheduled so far for the rest of the spring 2012 semester:

Please note that Keating will now be open during spring break. The hours will temporarily be changed and the building will only be open for a limited time of the day. On both Saturday, March 17 and Saturday, March 24 the building hours will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, March 18 it will be closed. The building hours during the week will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, March 19 through Friday, March 23, with the pool being open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. On Sunday, March 25 the facility will resume its normal scheduled building hours.

April:

Basketball Tournament :
Thursday & Friday, April 5 & 6

Raquetball Tournament :
Thursday, April 19

Dodgeball Tournament :
Thursday, April 26

Photos by Jennifer Agosto

Athlete Spotlight :
Phillip Cano

Name: Phillip Cano

Year: Sophomore

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Sport: Track and Field

Event: 400m, 600m, 800m, 1000m

Favorite thing about your sport: TIt's you versus you. That's it.

Pre-race ritual: Before a race, you must prepare mentally. You must visualize yourself being great before it starts. Then when you stand on the starting line and the gun goes off, you are not afraid and are able to believe in yourself.

Tip for being great at your sport: The one thing that holds us back is fear. Fear that you will run out of energy or not run your best. However, great runners don't need to be successful every time, they only need to believe they can win the race.

How did it feel to represent IIT at the NAIA National Track and Field Meet: It was a learning experience because I now know what it takes to be competitive at that level. With smart training, I will return next year and make a statement for our school.

Tuesday, March 13
Photoshop Tutorial Event!
7pm at Seigel Hall 236

Wednesday, March 14
Campus Life Laser Tag
9.30pm at the Quad

Thursday, March 15
ASA Games O' Luck
11am at the MTCC Bridge

Caribbean Exposé
7.30 at Wishnick Hall

Friday, March 16
Power Programming
1pm at MTCC Ephraim Room

Recyclemania!
It's still on!

Visit ub.iit.edu for more...

events calendar events calendar

student union board
illinois institute of technology
contact us: ub@iit.edu
- Event sponsored by Union Board & Student Activities Fund-