

Bill Nye visits campus

By Ryan Kamphuis
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Every so often, the students of IIT get to rub shoulders with fame. Whether it be with bands like We the Kings and Reel Big Fish, astronomer Phil Plait, or comedians like Nice Peter and Dave Coulier, IIT students are able to meet famous people almost every semester. But this Friday at 7:00 p.m. in the Hermann Hall Auditorium, IIT students will get to meet a celebrity that almost every child of the 90s knows and adores: Bill Nye the Science Guy.

The well-known host of *Bill Nye the Science Guy* that aired on PBS between 1993 and 1998 now travels the globe, advocating for greater scientific literacy and talking about scientific issues such as climate change.

Nye was not always the science advocate that we all know. Nye grew up on the East coast where he attended Cornell University, graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering; this lead to him being hired by Boeing as an engineer. While there, Nye designed a hydraulic resonance tube that is still in use on the 747. While working at Boeing, Nye began to do stand-up comedy. He enjoyed this so much that he eventually left Boeing to pursue comedy full time. This lead to him becoming a writer and performer on the sketch comedy show Almost Live, Seattle's take on Saturday Night Live. While on Almost Live, Nye created the character of "Bill Nye the Science Guy." It quickly became one of the most popular segments on Almost Live.

Nye's success on *Almost Live* led to him creating the TV show he is most well-known for, *Bill Nye the Science Guy*. After the end of that show, Nye went on to create many other shows such as *The Eyes of Nye*, *The 100 Greatest Discoveries*, and *Stuff Happens*.

In preparation for Nye's upcoming

visit to IIT, TechNews had the opportunity to sit down with him and talk about science, his time on *Bill Nye the Science Guy*, and more.

TechNews: You've done a lot of different things in your life. What made you decide to become the Science Guy instead of staying at Boeing or doing stand-up comedy?

Bill Nye: I was working at another, very closely related company at that time in Redmond, Washington. And the people I worked for were very concerned about making a profit every calendar quarter. I thought that was not appropriate when you are working to create complex navigational systems for airplanes. So I made a conscious decision to focus on kids so that the future could be affected. I lived through the Ford Pinto and the Chevy Vega, perhaps the worst of our automotive engineering in many respects, and I was deeply troubled by that, so I set out to change the world!

TN: Many of today's college students first were exposed to Science through *Bill Nye the Science Guy* on PBS. Because of this, many students here at IIT mention you as one of their inspirations to go into science and engineering. Looking back, is this something you anticipated when you were starting out? And how does it feel to know that you helped push so many individuals towards the STEM fields?

Nye: I had a document I gave everyone who came to work on the show, and that says that the first objective of the show was to change the world. And I wasn't kidding, that's really what I hoped to do. And, frankly, I thought it would take many, many years. So we'll see! I say all the time, that I try to get it. I try to understand the effect of the Science Guy show. And I'm not sure I do. So many of you come up to me and thank me for all I do, and it's very gratifying. It feels very great, and I'm hopeful that it continues.

TN: How many bow ties do you own?

Nye: A couple hundred. I'm well into my fifties, and they don't wear out! Once you get

one, they don't fall apart. It's hard to wear out a bow tie. They accumulate, and people give them to you. And you do a job where they give you a custom one, and they all add up. And it's pretty cool! Of all the things to collect, it's a pretty benign collection – they don't take up much room. And now, as you realize, it's become a signature. I can't change it now!

TN: Lately, you have been speaking all over the country and on TV advocating for greater scientific understanding, education, and literacy. What do you think is one of the greatest things threatening this country regarding scientific literacy?

Nye: The systematic denial of climate change. Where very influential and powerful people have, successfully to a large extent, confused us by interchanging, or the modern word everyone likes, conflating, the idea of scientific uncertainty with the idea of skepticism or doubt. When you say "plus or minus three percent", that's not the same as "it doesn't exist" or "it's not a real phenomenon." This is a terrible thing not just for science or scientists or for the U.S., it's a terrible thing for the world. For me, the sooner we can squelch those voices or, better yet, turn them around -- there's no one more passionate about not smoking than someone who has just quit. It would be great if we could get the deniers to become passionate advocates for this. It's very troubling. And now we have Hurricane Sandy, and I hope it really awakens people. The economic impact of Sandy is enormous, let alone the human cost is so enormous. All caused by a hurricane that was, and continues to be, exacerbated by climate change.

TN: What's your favorite scientific principle to share with others?

Nye: Maybe it's that water takes up less room as a liquid than it does as a gas, if you have to pick one, but who doesn't love mass and acceleration? Who doesn't like the second law of thermodynamics? Who doesn't love relativity?

It's hard to pick just one!

TN: Do you have a laboratory in your house?

Nye: Well, I have a workshop and a kitchen, so I have two!

TN: What do you think the most important thing we can do to improve science education in the U.S.?

Nye: We need to get people interested and excited about algebra earlier in school and make sure that everyone gets it. It turns out algebra is this turning point. If you don't embrace algebra, then you have trouble thinking abstractly about all sorts of things. That's where I'd like to apply some pressure. People also need to take time to embrace vectors, and realize that when you change direction you are changing a vector. It's also very important that everyone learn and understand the fundamental theorem of calculus.

TN: What is one piece of advice you would give to the aspiring scientist or engineer?

Nye: Learn to write. Make sure you learn to write succinctly and clearly, and in an interesting way that people want to read. Learning to write is hard, it's work. But put in the hours. That's my advice. You will find that you end up doing so much writing, so much has to be communicated, so much has to be specified, so much has to be spelled out, that those who don't know learn to write well have a lot more trouble getting supporters. It's a lot harder to influence people if you don't write well.

Bill Nye is going to be speaking this Friday, November 9, in the Hermann Hall Auditorium. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and he will be taking the stage at 7:00 p.m.

The event is open to all IIT, Vandercook, and Shimer students. It is important to note that a student ID is required to get in. Nye is a fascinating guy, and his presentation is sure to delight both those who grew up watching his show and those who have never heard of him.

Rock the Vote: Election Day today

Predicted Polls

(via CNN.com at publication)

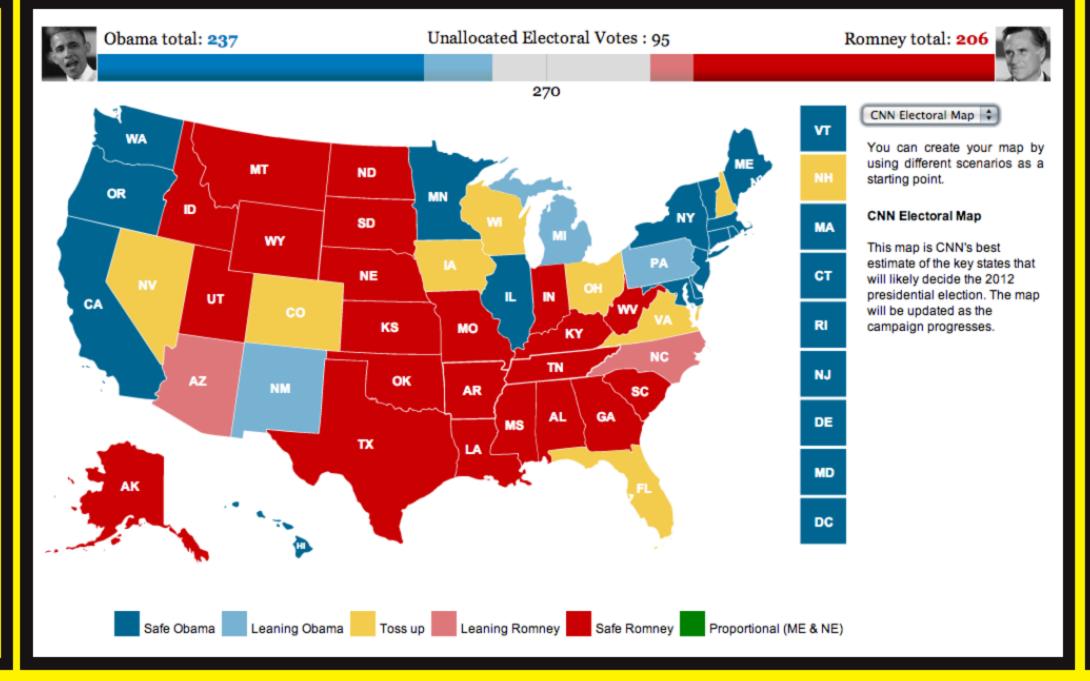
Barack Obama 237

electoral votes

Mitt Romney 206

electoral votes

Unalloted votes: 95
Needed for victory: 270



Polling Place

For students who are registered to vote in Chicago, using their IIT address your polling place is:

Lincoln Perry Senior Building, Community Room 3245 S. Prairie Ave. Chicago IL, 60613

Illinois does not offer on-site registration. You must be registered 27 days prior to an election.

(via Illinois State Board of Elections)

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TechNews Election Coverage

opinion@technewsiit.com

Our writers decide on the important issues, & who they'll vote for

Campaign hot topics include education, women's healthcare

By Shreeyeh Rajan **OPINION EDITOR**

Did anyone watch the Presidential Debate that happened exactly three weeks ago? If not, there are a few points worth highlighting, especially before casting your vote today. This article isn't enough to cover all the topics both candidates spoke about, so I'd like to pinpoint one certain topic that's important to students at IIT: education, specifically higher education.

Education, being a right to every citizen, can be pretty expensive when it comes to paying for your college. First, let's take the liberal point of view. Citing a statement on education that I read from www. barackobama.com.

"By doubling funding for Pell Grants and establishing a college tax credit, President Obama is putting higher education within reach for millions more Americans, "cited the POTUS' campaign website. "Mitt Romney's plan to cut middle-class investments could slash Pell Grants for nearly 9.6 million students, and he would eliminate the President's college tax credit." His suggestion to students worried about paying for college is to "shop around." If I had a choice, I'd be shopping around in Macy's instead of studying Computer Science; just saying. The other objectives Obama wants to implement are rewarding responsible students, keeping good teachers in the classroom, using local solutions to improve schools, providing pathways to good jobs, partnering with states to raise standards and ensuring a good future for our veterans.

Switching to a conservative point

of view, Romney states that four-year colleges are the "heart of our nation's higher education system," according to a statement from www.mittromney.com. "However, a flood of federal dollars is driving up tuition and burdening too many young Americans with substantial debt and too few opportunities. Meanwhile, other models of advanced skills training are becoming ever more important to success in the American economy, and new educational institutions will be required to fill those roles." So, to solve this, Romney's plan is to "strengthen and simplify" the financial aid system, welcome private sector participation instead of pushing it away, replace burdensome regulation with innovation and competition, according to Romney's campaign website.

Other than the higher education issues, Obamacare and women's rights have been the most controversial topics during the campaign. There were some really good points Hannah Larson, TechNews' Assistant Editor, pointed out to me, "Obamacare and women's rights is a huge issue, in my humble opinion. But most people forget that Obamacare is heavily based off of Massachusetts' socialized healthcare that was implemented while Romney was governor. Fun fact, he hasn't been in legit politics in four years, he didn't run for office after his stint as governor ended in 2008. Romney has also flipflopped on his opinions of abortion, and is against providing contraceptive for women through national healthcare."

And let's consider what roles First Lady Michelle Obama and Ann Romney have played in this election. As Larson said it, "Michelle Obama has been campaigning hard for BO, while poor Ann Romney (who

suffers from multiple sclerosis & has had several bouts with cancer) has been tossed around, and her own husband described her as a political tool in that video-taped sponsor's dinner that was leaked to the media. Both Romneys have said that if Mitt loses this election they will back out of politics and focus on their family and Ann's health. Personally, I think that should have happened after his gubernatorial tenure."

Tuesday, November 6, 2012

There's one more topic I want to mention but it has nothing to do with any of the candidates' objectives. Does the word "flip-flopping" ring a bell? So I was watching YouTube videos a few days ago and I came across this interesting video called "Mittv-Mitt.com: The story of two men trapped in one body." It's been a while since I laughed that hard. I mean, who is he? One second ago, he said "I respect and will protect a woman's right to choose," and then the next second he states the complete opposite, "I never really called myself pro-choice."

The one that got me laughing on the floor is when he said, "I believe the world is getting warmer and I believe that humans contribute to that," and then in another instant he claims "my view is: we don't know what's causing climate change on this planet." Interesting as it may seem to another country's citizens, would you like him to be elected as the President of the United States? I wouldn't be surprised if there are a few people who would argue against Romney's notorious flip-flopping, considering that the only thing that both Romney's personalities will agree on, it they both want to be president.

Oh wait, did I say that? No, I didn't.

Undecided voters make significant decisions

By Katie Peters

COPY & LAYOUT EDITOR

One of the most recent YouTube viral videos is of a little red-haired girl named Abigail who has turned splotchy red from crying. The reason why she's crying is the funny part: she complains that she is tired of "Bronco Bama" and "Mitt Romney."

She speaks for a lot of us though; this election season has seemed to drag on forever, and I have to admit I'm glad it's almost over.

However, after attending the Social Sciences lecture last week, "A Debate on the Power of the President: How Much is Too Much?" I finally began to see the significance about this election. During the debate, Professor William Howell brought up an excellent point: "Has the American presidency been designed to work in the post-industrial age?"

While I do believe that the presidential candidates are appealing to the

masses on specific issues, we don't seem to be looking at the candidates as our future presidents who have an entire branch of our government to them. Yes, some people do look at the candidates and think, "Oh, Obama has lead our country for the last four years and could continue to make a difference in the next four," or "Romney has a great new chance to lead, and could make a needed change in our country."

Due to human nature, however, I argue that as voters we are finding it easier to tear down one candidate rather than support the other. What kind of representation are we asking for then? Instead of looking for someone who doesn't disagree with us on specific issues that may not even be addressed during a term, we should be working together as a nation to find what is right for us.

As an undecided voter, I have struggled since the beginning of the election to choose which candidate matches my personal beliefs most; I have discovered that there is not a perfect answer, and each candidate has ideals I both agree and disagree with.

How then, am I going to pick? How can any of us, who are inherently unique and passionate in our views, be a deciding factor in our country's fate? It is a hard question, and "with great power comes great responsibility," but remember this: it is a privilege, though maybe a terrible privilege at that. Today, we are all a part of the future of our country for the next four years, and no one will ever be completely right.

As a united and free country, we should stand together for the next four years and take responsibility for what happens, instead of wasting our energy on tearing the opposing viewpoints down.

Let's work on refining what America needs, rather than what Americans want, so we can build a stronger nation.

Congratulations on voting today, now let's see what we can do with our actions.

Nokia sponsored Hackathon challenges students to create apps, promotes teamwork, presentation skills

campus@technewsiit.com

By Kristal Copeland **COPY EDITOR**

How do you create something in 24 hours? You go to Hackathon! Saturday, October 20, Monkeybars held a Nokia sponsored Hackathon in the IdeaShop. Before the actual event, most people were intimidated by the idea of 24 hours of straight hacking, but going to the events leading up to the big day seemed to calm a few nerves. I was only able to go to the last event, where I met Andy and Adrian, we quickly formed a team, because we had no idea what any of us were doing, and frankly I was terrified. At the end, we decided what we were

going to create and headed to our respective homes to prepare for the big day. On Saturday, most teams arrived early and a few who needed extra members recruited some of the people who were not in teams, we recruited Ramsey and we called ourselves Level Up! After our potential application, Monkeybars informed us of the community fridge they would be housing some much needed caffeine and water, for which everyone was thankful and took full advantage.

After finally sitting and beginning to work, many saw the first unfortunate problem - the Internet on one side of the IdeaShop was flaky. Many teams spoke of how you could only

get a connection for about 10 minutes before being kicked off, on all 4 or 5 possible wifi connections. Three hours later, my team actually moved to use the Macs when we realized the Internet worked perfectly fine on that side of the room! We got to work, and after a while Monkeybars brought out some rather delicious food, whereas I was expecting the same old pizza, and would continue to do so throughout the night.

My team did not want to spend too much time eating and not enough programming, so most of the times food was brought out; we simply ate it while programming.

During this time, we were all forced to learn things we had not previously learned or seen for a very long time. Adrian and Ramsey had to learn Android development, I had to become much more competent at graphic design, and Andy - who had a bit of experience from a while back - did the vast majority of all the programming.

CAMPUS

Around 06:00, we were all feeling the stretch, but we team did not give up. We were all constantly trying to find more and more to do so that we could have our project completed within the 24 hours (which was slightly extended due to a late start). I took a very short nap that

somehow revitalized me, and when Ramsey was done creating his modules, he also took a short nap. Andy was unfortunately the one tasked with the challenge of putting all of our code together and making it work, which was no simple matter. Near the end, Andy got it all working and we prepared to give our presentation. I took charge of preparing the key points we needed to cover, and our team worked out who would say what and when. Since there was only 5 minutes, we knew we had to be quick, but luckily we were second to last in the order.

We saw the other teams' projects and were intimidated yet again with such ideas as a plane that could be controlled via phone movement, a much more efficient way of reporting errors to the right places on campus, an on-the-cloud application that could control and check the status of your garage door from anywhere in the world, and an application that makes it easier to find events happening at IIT.

Many teams unfortunately went over time, so we vowed to be as concise as possible while sticking to our most important information. After we went, quite a lot of people really liked our application, and we went home feeling very excited to even have recognition of our hard work.

Monday, October 29th was Demo Day at TechNexus, where we had to give our presentations again in front of a few companies looking for potential employers Zebra, Gogo, and Coyote. 'The winners have already been picked, we told ourselves in a vain effort to keep from being anxious.

After the presentations, the companies were very excited to talk to the different groups, and we were awarded second place overall! All in all it was a very productive two days and I am extremely glad I got the courage to go in the first place.

A s a n attendee who enjoyed the entire experience and will be returning next time, I thank Monkeybars, Nokia, TechNexus, and the Nerdery, as well as my teammates Andy, Adrian and Ramsey, for making my silly spreadsheet a reality, this would not have been possible without all of you.

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Greek Council builds new picnic tables for the Quad

campus@technewsiit.com

By Dan Zweig STAFF WRITER

On Sunday, October 28, the Greek Council hosted "Build-a-Bench" where members of the Greek community volunteered their time to assemble picnic tables from a lumber pile provided by SAF. By planning for weeks, and collaborating between different VPs and chairs of the Greek Council, the organization was able to provide the materials and time for students to come out and help build new picnic tables for the Quad and community garden. Two weeks beforehand the wood order had gone out; one week after that the org drove to Home Depot for two pick-ups, and the day before the event was spent cutting wood to the right lengths. After a Saturday afternoon spent preparing lumber and hours of assembling on Sunday, the community now has 2 new picnic tables, a 6' and a 10' for the quad. More are expected to come the following week as Greek organizations come out to build and paint their picnic tables.

If the school preferred, the Greek community could build some for the university as well, to place strategically around campus for our school's community use. Organizations could build them and paint them with their respective names, logos, and slogans; advertising for the org and providing meeting places for students to exchange ideas and relax away from their study. Realizing IIT's red tape; however, this may never occur, as one would have to talk to too many people to get something placed somewhere and approved by the right people.

Sunday was a beautiful day for carpentry and many students were out enjoying one of the last warm days of Fall, playing football or walking dogs. The participation at the event was not stellar, but perhaps that is because IIT students are swamped with midterms, trips home, or enjoying somewhere offcampus for the weekend.

As for Greek Council, the organization continues to commit to a philanthropic community, including a clothes drive launched 10/29 and a blood drive in conjunction with IIT Service Learning 11/28. All of these events are planned by the Council for the Greeks and the entire school body, and are a fraction of the events that the entire Greek community plans, from volunteering at Chicago events like the Hot Chocolate 5k, to fundraising for chapter philanthropies. If you know of more events by the Greeks or want to know about more events from the Greeks contact service@iitgreek.com or visit Emma in the Office of Residence and Greek Life.



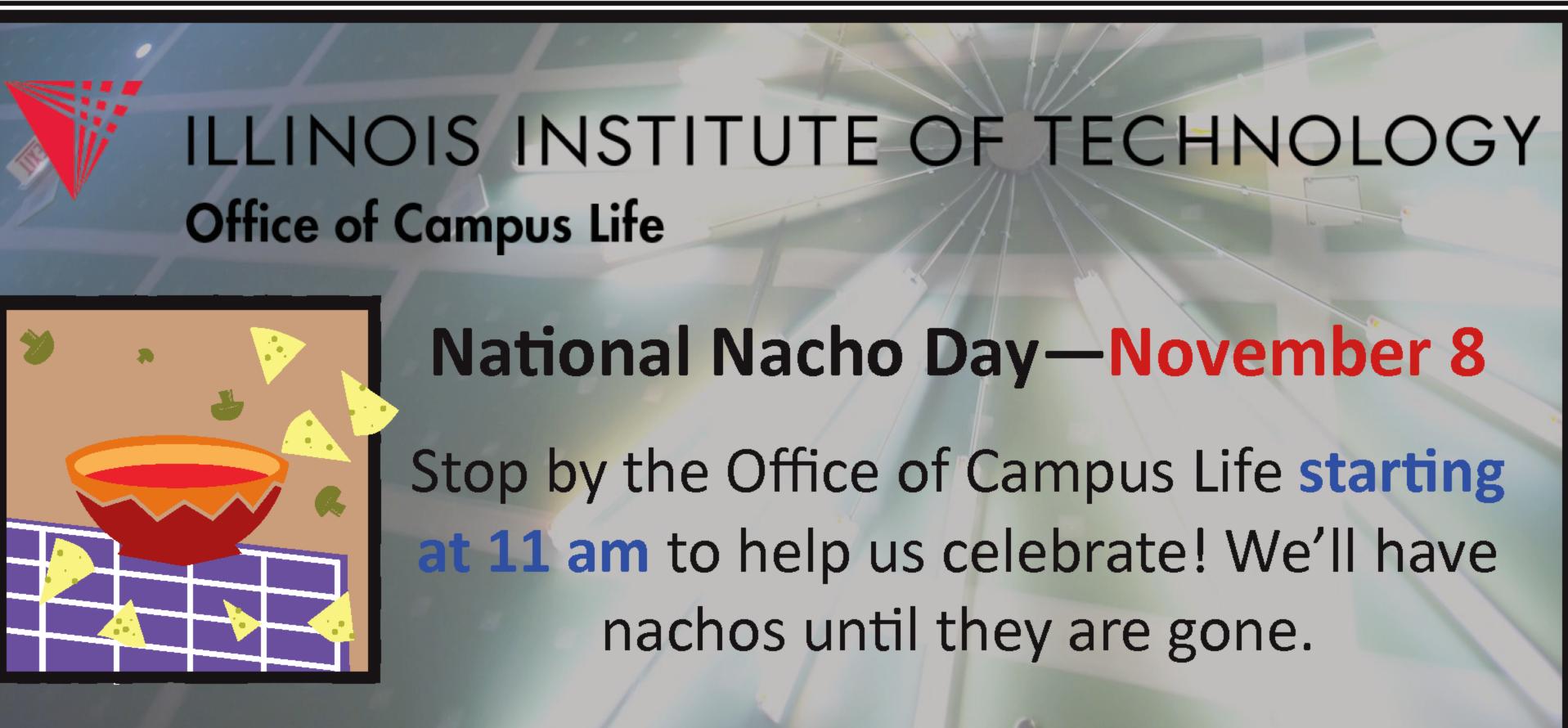




Photos by Utsav Gandhi







Bill Nye is coming to IIT's Campus!

WHEN

Friday, November 9 @ 7 pm

WHERE

Hermann Hall Auditorium

WHY

faculty, staff, and students

It's Bill Nye, The Science Guy!

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Single-use batteries are no longer considered household hazardous waste and are safe to landfill - they were once made with mercury but that was discontinued as of 1997. The City of Chicago has discontinued their battery recycling program. Rechargeable batteries on the other hand still contain materials that are hazardous if landfilled and should be collected and recycled separately.

Due to this change, we're updating the battery recycling bins on campus. You can now throw away your normal alkaline batteries in the trash. There is currently a bin set up in Galvin Library near the stairs where you can throw away all rechargeable batteries. Those include batteries from: Cell phones, electric shavers, electric toothbrushes..basically anything you would plug in to reuse.

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Taste of IIT

MTCC Bridge | 12pm - 3pm

Indulge in some tasty treats sold by student groups representing their home countries and cultures.

Tuesday, November 6

ISO Presents Flags and Face-Painting MTCC Bridge | 12pm - 2pm

Show your pride in your home country, study abroad host destination, or own cultural heritage! Get your face painted on the MTCC Bridge with the flag or cultural symbols of your choice.

IIT Turk Presents "Love in Another Language" Film Wishnick Auditorium | 7:30pm

Join the IIT Turk student organization for a film that has been celebrated at the recent Chicago Turkish Festival: "Love in Another Language."

Wednesday, November 7

ISO Presents Cultural Museum MTCC Bridge | 12pm - 2pm

Peruse the magnificent displays on the MTCC Bridge, in which IIT's own international students will display treasures from their countries in various booths. View literature, art, clothing, and more from around the world.

ISO Presents "Games People Play" Location TBD | 2pm - 4pm

Are you tired of the same old games? Join ISO to learn a new favorite, or share your own less-known game with others!

Sodexo Presents "Mexican Cooking Class" Pritzker Club | 6pm - 9pm

Join Sodexo for a cooking class, so you can learn to explore fantastic Mexican flavors at home!

Thursday, November 8

Language Crash Course - French and German Wishnick Hall Rooms 115 and 116 | 12:30pm - 2pm Join the ICenter and Berlitz in the Language Crash Courses! You'll learn the basics of either French or German -- while eating pizza and having fun!

I-Fest

Hermann Hall Auditorium | 7:30 pm

Students will show off the local dance, music, poetry, and culture of their home countries!

Friday, November 9

Vedic Vision Society Meditation

Hermann Hall Lounge | 12pm – 3pm

Join the Vedic Vision Society for a session of meditation!

Saturday, November 10

Field Trip to the Bahai Temple | Wilmette, IL.

Join us in a visit to one of the seven Bahai temples in the world to learn more about the people, their culture, their faith, and their architecturally gorgeous temple in Wilmette. We will be traveling by bus, so sign-up before space is gone!

JFAS Anime Marathon

MSV - McCormick Lounge | Saturday & Sunday 6pm Spend some time with the Japanese Film and Animation Society and learning about the Godfathers of Anime!

Critical Mass brings city cyclists together

By Dan Zweig

STAFF WRITER

On Friday, a friend and I jumped on our recently refurbished bicycles and headed north from IIT towards Daley Plaza to participate in Critical Mass. Critical Mass is where cyclists from Chicago get together on the last Friday of every month and ride on a different route through the city as a mass. This inevitably blocks traffic for minutes at a time as the group travels collectively through green lights, even after they turn red. We just caught the group as they passed near Monroe and State, and joined in the mass.

The group rides together through the city at a comfortable pace, waving to cars and pedestrians, yelling "Happy Friday" to everyone who they see. Bikers come out in support with their radical interpretations of bikes, from the oldest looking bikes to the newest, and this Friday they were in costume for Halloween. The route took everyone out of downtown and through Bridgeport, out 35th to Western and up to McKinley and Little Village. At a point we pulled over to see the mayhem, as we had been keeping up mostly with the front of the mass, and saw minutes of bikers pass by, some with tandems, some with kids in carts pulled behind them, a few bikes that were two bike frames welded one on top of the other, there was a handful of skateboarders and long-boarders, a paddleboat reinterpreted as a bike boat, vintage bikes, road bikes, mountain bikes, and small bikes that you think could never



make it a mile. Costumes included a Duff Beer 6-pack, robots, werewolves, vampires, bananas, and anything else you would see at a Halloween event in Chicago.

The plan was to travel through these various Southwestern neighborhoods and end at a bike shop, where a celebration and fundraiser was going to be held. It was approximately 12 miles. When the mass arrived - I estimated 2,000 bikers - the bike shop was closed with a sign that read "Party cancelled by order of Chicago Police Department." In a few minutes the mass was together again heading back for downtown.

The idea behind Critical Mass can be interpreted by many different people as many different things; my interpretation is to take away the cars' control of the city and give it back to people. It is an exciting collaboration of thousands of bikers who can get together on a Friday night and enjoy themselves, while raising awareness

of bicyclists and passively lobbying for better treatment of bikers as well as better infrastructure for the city. Chicago Critical Mass has been doing this every month for 15 years, demonstrating one last venue where anyone can meet up and have a good time, without dependence on cars and without spending any money.

Even if you cannot participate next time, or the next after that, I think it would be well worth it to take time just to go and watch the mass ride downtown. This is an experience no IIT students should miss in their brief collegiate experience.



Images courtesy of Dan Zweig

Movie Review: 'Wreck-It Ralph' smashing success

By Katie Peters

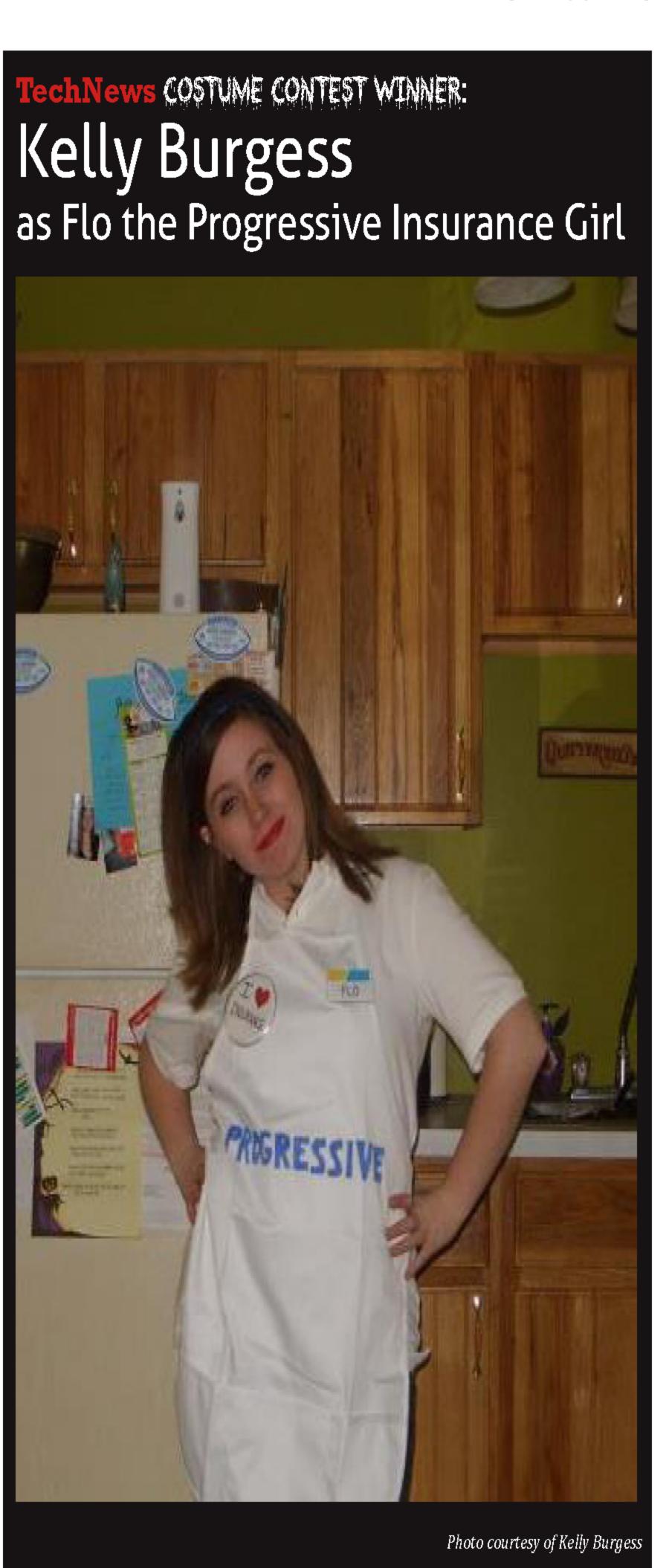
COPY & LAYOUT EDITOR

We will never be too old for animated movies. Well, okay, there are some movies we are too old to watch, but this is not true of the newest Walt Disney Animation Studios movie, Wreck-It-Ralph. The movie is about a video game character that no longer wants to be a bad guy, and so travels to different video games to prove himself as a hero. It was more geared towards our generation than the 5-year-olds in the theater who outnumbered us 50 to 1. There were appearances from old favorites from the video games we played when we were younger including Sonic, Bowser, Pacman, and an awesome spoof of Call of Duty. Just watching the movie dragged out the nostalgia and made me enjoy it that much more.

movie was heartwarming and funny. Sarcasm from video game characters abounded, and I left the theater wishing I had access to a Nintendo 64 or old-fashioned arcade. The characters were well developed and you easily become attached to them as the movie progressed. One of the best parts of the movie was that it was not a remake of a movie or book, and was able to function on its own plot without the ending being ruined. Yes, it was an animated movie, and yes, it had not reached the PG-13 or R rating that most college students feel that they are required to watch, but it was definitely a worthwhile movie to buy an AMC Gold Pass for at the Welcome Desk. Plus, it would also be an extremely fun movie to dress up for (Pacman ghost costume, anyone?) and would be an easy way to confuse a lot of third graders. Looking for something to do this weekend? Definitely take the time to go see this movie, and be prepared for another Disney hit!



Image courtesy of thedreadpirateguy.com



Election Coverage:

Which sports teams do your candidates support?

By Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

Unless you have been living under a very large rock for the past year, you will undoubtedly be aware that millions of Americans will be heading to polling stations across the nation to vote in the Presidential Election today. You may be well-versed in each candidate's opinions on a variety of matters, including foreign relations, healthcare reform and social issues. What you may not know, however, are the sports teams your favored candidate backs? Incumbent Barack Obama is fa-

mously a huge basketball fan. Having overseen the development of a new basketball court on the White House's South Lawn in 2009, the President reportedly competes against a number of ex-professional and college level athletes regularly.

Owing to his vast amount of time spent in Chicago, from his early days as a community organizer in the Southside to his time spent as United States Senator for Illinois, Obama is a big fan of the Chicago Bulls. Earlier this year he promised the Chicago Tribune that he would attend the finals if the Bulls were victorious in their playoff matches, and has since stated that a seventh Bulls' national champion-ship "will happen" while he is in office.

With regards to NFL, Obama has noted a soft spot for Chicago's Bears, but admitted to being a Pittsburgh Steelers fan as a young boy growing up in Hawaii. The President has also regularly been spotted wearing a Chicago White Sox hat, which he sported while throwing the ceremonial first pitch at the 2009 All-Star game.

Republican challenger Mitt Romney admits to always being a big fan of the New England Patriots, which is unsurprising due to his affiliation with Massachusetts, where he was governor between 2003 and 2007. The Pats chairman Robert Kraft, however, has contributed to President Obama's reelection campaign and Romney would perhaps be better advised

to support the New York Jets. Their owner, Woody Johnson has help fund Romney's campaign and famously claimed he would prefer a Romney victory to the Jets ending their season with a winning record.

In terms of baseball, Romney also appears to favor the team from the Greater Boston area, having previously shown support for the Boston Red Sox.

When President Obama sarcastically "thanked" the Boston Red Sox during summer for the trade of infielder Kevin Youkilis to the White Sox, the Romney Camp responded negatively, lauding Obama for his "taunting" and "mocking" of Red Sox fans.

Women's volleyball season ends, team prepares for future

By Roma Mirutenko
STAFF WRITER

Last Thursday the Illinois Tech Women's Volleyball Team ended this season with a loss to St. Xavier University.

Before that Thursdays game, the Scarlet Hawks played a competitive battle with Roosevelt University. Tech won the first match 25-20, but lost the next three 19-25, 34-36, 24-26. Tech fought hard but could not finish. Juniors Kate Kendall and Roma Mirutenko along with Sophomore Taylor Duman all finished with 12 kills while Senior Rebecca Bograd finished with 4 aces.

The match against St. Xavier was the last time the three Seniors, Rebecca Bograd, Mariska Vandenbergh, and Samandy Fulgence would play as Scarlet Hawks. The match was lost in 3 sets, 18-25, 22-25, 15-25, but the Hawks fought the whole time. Duman finished with 12 kills while Kendall finished with 9.

This season the Scarlet Hawks were faced with many obstacles from injuries, to a simple inability to finish.

Overall the Scarlet Hawks finished with a record of 11-23. They are not discouraged, however, and are looking forward to the spring season and their chance to prove that they are not just a mediocre team.

Looking at the team stats for the season it was evident to see that there were many team standouts.

Kendall finished the season with 371 kills while Duman finished with 305. Bograd finished with a total of 808 assists bringing her career total to 3664 assists. Junior Brittany Mead finished with 541 digs while Sophomore Shea Manley finished with 36 aces.

Premier League Review: Liverpool trails Newcastle by 6 points

By Nathan McMahon STAFF WRITER

The Premier League was back in action this weekend with many big games. Manchester United moved into the top spot with a 2-1 win over Arsenal. Goals by Robin Van Persie and Patrice Evra sealed the three points for the Reds even with a penalty miss by Wayne Rooney. Jack Wilshere received a red card minutes after Evra's goal to put Arsenal down a man for the rest of a match.

Santi Carzola scored deep into extra time for Arsenal. Arsenal now has 15 points on the season while United now has moved into the top spot with 24 points.

League leader for most of the season,

Chelsea, could only manage a draw against a resilient Swansea City side in a 1-1 result. Chelsea's goal came from Victor Moses while Pablo scored for Swansea. Swansea now has 12 points, but the big story is Chelsea now sit second with 23 points.

The other frontrunner Manchester City was also unable to keep pace with United when they drew 0-0 with a strong West Ham United side. City now has 22 points so far while West Ham continues to impress with 15 points.

Fulham managed to pick up a point off a last minute goal by Steve Sidwell in a 2-2 draw with Everton. The other Fulham goal came from a Tim Howard own goal just minutes into the game. Everton looked the stron-

ger side with a pair of goals by Marouane Fellaini. Everton now has 17 points and a position in the top four of the table while Fulham sits just below them with 15 points.

Norwich City topped Stoke City 1-0 off a goal by Bradley Johnson. Norwich has 10 points just above Stoke who has 9 points this season.

Aston Villa got three points in their 1-0 win over Sunderland. Aston Villa's goal came from Gabriel Agbonlahor. Villa now has 9 points to draw even with Sunderland on the table that also has 9 points.

Wigan Athletic had an especially strong performance this weekend in their 1-0 win over Tottenham. Wigan's goal came from Ben Watson to give them three points and bring them to 11 points on the season while Spurs has 17 points. Queens Park Rangers and Reading drew 1-1 in a battle to get out of the bottom three.

Reading got their goal from Kaspars Gorkss while QPR got a goal Djibirl Cisse for the equalizing goal. Reading now has 5 points with QPR just behind them with 4 points while both sides continue to struggle in the bottom three.

Liverpool gained a massive point this weekend in a 1-1 draw with Newcastle. The Magpies got their goal from Yohan Cabaye, but Luis Suarez brought it even for Liverpool.

Liverpool now has 11 points on the season while Newcastle has 17 now.

Men's soccer loses final match of season

Photos by Liam Barrett



By Liam Barrett STAFF WRITER

IIT traveled to Saint Xavier in their much anticipated playoff game against their conference rivals. The scarlet hawks started strongly and put high pressure on the home sides' back line, which led to them creating a number of good chances without being able to break the deadlock.

Against the run of play, Saint Xavier took the lead after IIT failed to deal with a deep cross to their back post, leaving the

Xavier forward free to put the ball away unopposed. Things quickly went from bad to worse just 5 minutes later when a long throw was once again not dealt with and the home side was left with an easy finish to double their advantage.

Shortly after the half hour mark, IIT managed to pull a much-needed goal back when senior forward Liam Barrett curled home a free kick for his 17th goal of the season, which gave the hawks a noticeable lift. The visitors dominated the remainder of the half, however, the elusive equalizing goal

never materialized and IIT went into half

time 2-1 down.

The second half started much like the first, it finished with IIT pushing forward and creating a number of good chances. On the hour mark, senior Ciaran Kohli-Lynch broke free from the Saint Xavier back four and let loose with a fearsome strike that crashed against the post and unfortunately failed to land to any of the IIT players following in on the shot.

Any hopes of getting back into the game were put to bed when Saint Xavier were

gifted a goal from close range before Kohli-Lynch was sent off, leaving the hawks down to ten men. As the clock ran down, the home side was able to capitalize on their one-man advantage and scored another goal from a set piece, leaving the hawks 4-1 down and heading for defeat.

The final score line of 4-1 most definitely flattered the home side, although the result was probably a fair one on a night where IIT was unable to defend their goal with the resilience and focus shown by their opposition.

