

TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

OPINION	2-3
CAMPUS	3-4
A&E	6
SLIPSTICK	6
SPORTS	7

Children of Uganda Choir visits Keating

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Children of Uganda turned Keating Sports Center into a heavenly place on Friday, January 31.

Those little angels—with their smiling faces and colorful outfits—were spreading positive energy among the audience.

Most of the people in the audience were exhausted coming from their offices, but the moment they saw these kids, they were freshened up. No one could judge from the kids' faces what they have suffered because they were so excited to be here, in the U.S., and to see so many things that they have had never even dreamt of. Their performance was full of energy, and the best thing about it was that they were smiling the whole time.

Robert Kiwanuka is the Artistic Director, and a beneficiary of Children of Uganda (COU) whom hosted the concert. Kiwanuka says that these children were seeing snow for the first time, getting a chance to taste proper food for first time. These words brought tears to everyone's eyes, but the children were still smiling.

COU is a non-profit organization, founded in 1995 in Uganda, to provide education and support to hundreds of young people in need. Their funding is derived primarily from individual child sponsorship, as well as grants and donations.

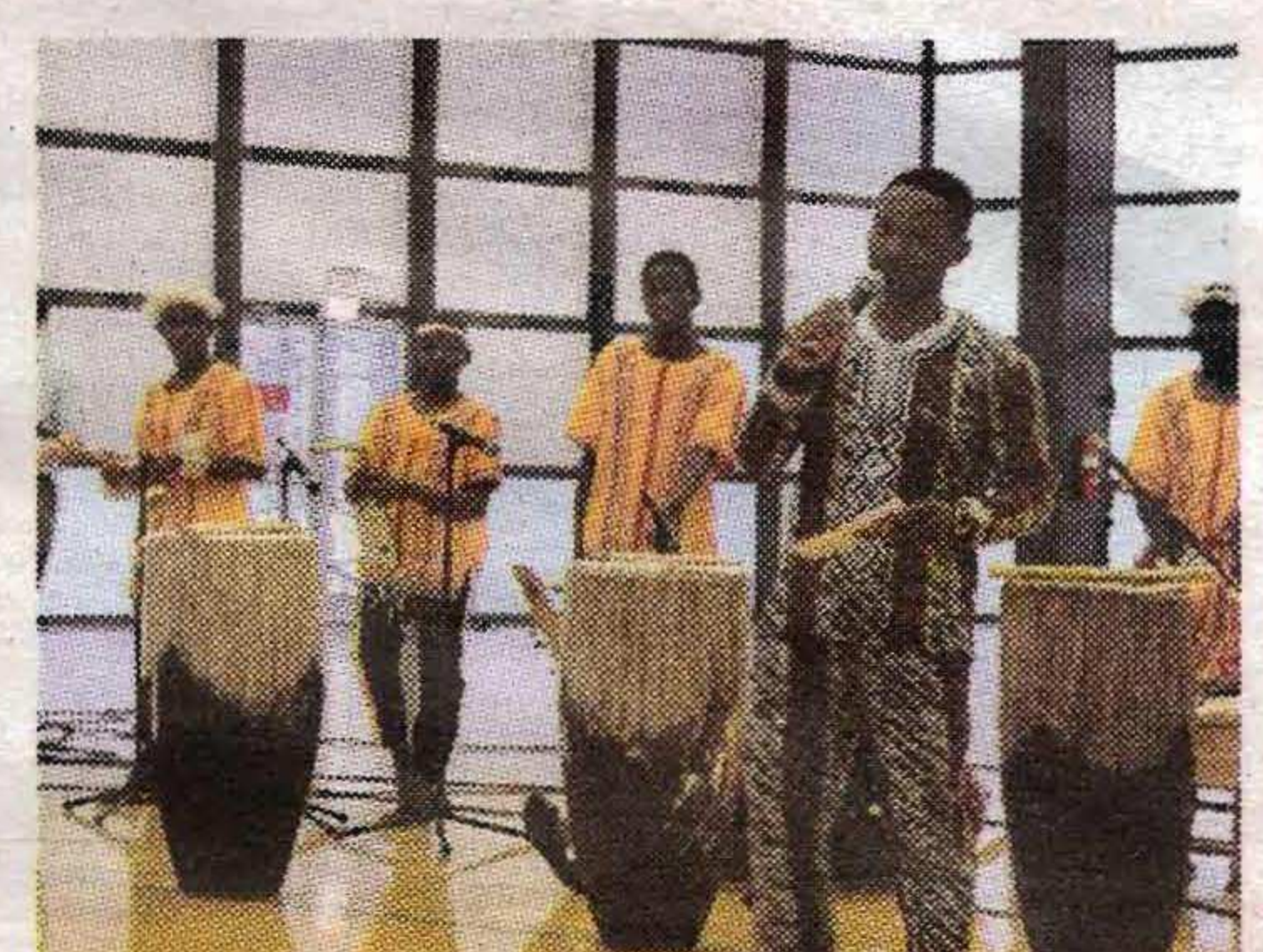
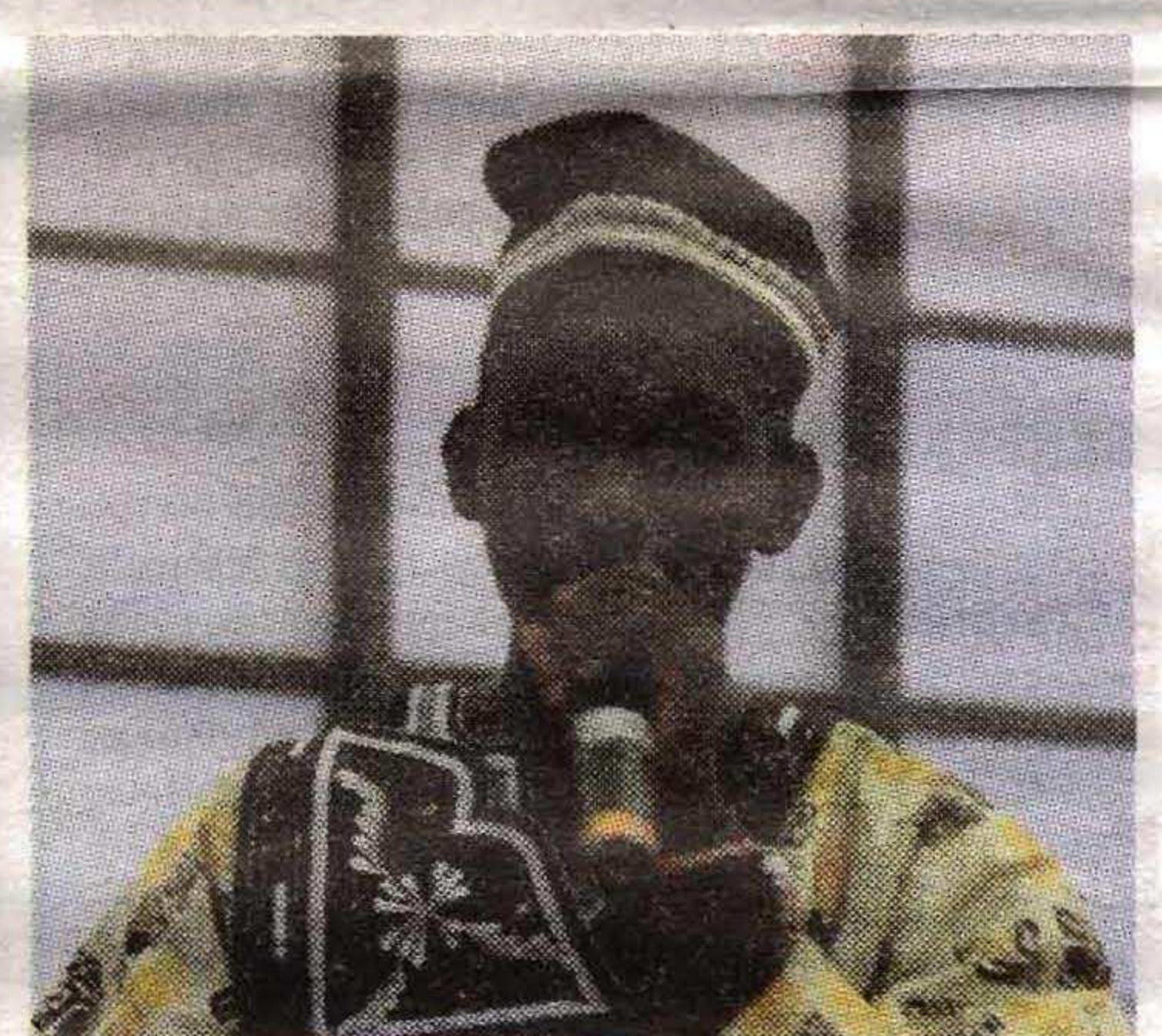
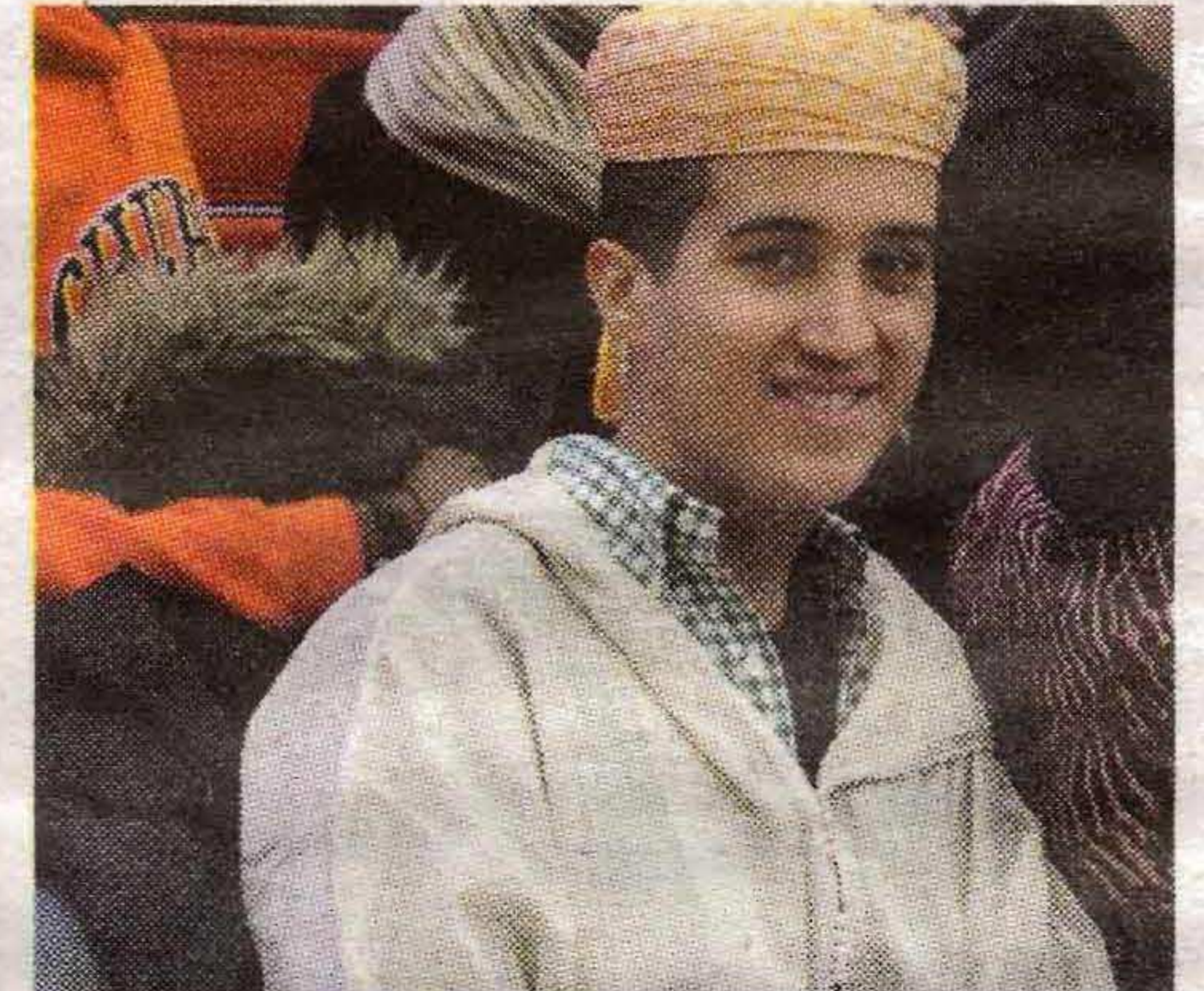
Their mission is to support and empower hundreds of orphans and vulnerable children in Uganda, so they can help them to lead successful and productive lives. Their vision is to make sure that all the children in Uganda can get proper education to become healthy, productive members of their community and assume leadership roles to positively impact Ugandan society.

Helping humanity to raise its bar is one of the best gifts we can give the world and the coming generations. This program can be one of the few steps that we take towards humanity.

It doesn't ask for much—all they want us to do is to save a future. As COU has mentioned on their website, "Even a little goes a long, long way."

Here are a few things that we can do to help this program: \$7 puts a life-saving mosquito net over a child's bed at night, \$12 buys seeds for a family in the empowerment program to start their own home garden, \$28 feeds one child nutritious meals for a full week, \$50 gives a medicine kit to help treat common illnesses (cough, flu, skin rashes, diarrhea, malaria, et cetera) for a woman in the empowerment program and her children, \$82 sponsors a student's education, food and lodging for one month at boarding school, \$140 pays for a performer's visa for Tour of Light so a child can come to the U.S. and share their joy and talent, and \$250 provides industrial training, accommodation, food and transport for a vocational student.

For more information, please visit their website: www.childrenofuganda.org or follow them on Facebook and Twitter under the same name, Children of Uganda.



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Our mission is to promote student discussion and bolster the IIT community by providing a newspaper that is highly accessible, a stalwart of journalistic integrity, and a student forum. TechNews is dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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To place an ad, contact us via email at business@technewsiit.com.

3 mass graves discovered in Pakistan

Shireen Gul

COPY EDITOR

I come from a very educated Baluch family, where I have always been thought to support the right thing and fight for your rights. I have always been taught by my parents, how to be human and to feel the pain of everyone, regardless of this fact that who they are and what they do, but you are a human and you should act like one.

But I wonder what's wrong with my country fellows, what happened to them all of a sudden that they have even forgotten the value of one's life? While scrolling down my news feed, all updates that I get from my country are about human been killed by human over ethnicity or religion. When everything becomes too much, you'll either explode with anger or start crying because you have finally decided that it's all too true.

On January 25, three mass graves were found after one of them was discovered by a shepherd who saw pieces of human bodies and bones. He informed the Levies, a private armed force organized by tribal leaders, and according to Assistant Commissioner, district Khuzdar, Mr. Afzal Supra, Baluchistan, the grave was excavated and 15 bodies were found. As the news of the mass grave spread throughout the district people gathered there and started digging in the nearby area where they found two more mass graves. I don't know what the exact figure is but all I could read with my blurry vision was something around 103 bodies which

were recovered from the graves.

After reading this line I couldn't read further. I was just too scared to do that, because I know the pain of losing a sibling. All I could think of was the family of the missing persons, those who had some hope in their heart that one day their sibling might return. I know for them this world might have come to an end. My heart goes out to all those families who lost their loved ones in these inhumane acts; it changed everything in an instant forever

At that moment, all I could think of was a famous quote by Louis Pasteur, "One does not ask of one who suffers: What is your country and what is your religion? One merely says: You suffer, that is enough for me." I buried my face in my shirt. I was all alone in my room but I felt as if everything in the room sat together and wept. There was no one who could speak to fill the silence. Even if there was anyone I believe that, that moment wasn't about saying something, it was about understanding. It was about being human and sharing in the communion of pain that we so often try to isolate.

Since 2001, Pakistan state security forces have abducted and enforcedly disappeared more than 180 thousand Baloch political activists including teachers, Journalists, doctors and students. Out of these they have received more than 1500 mutilated dead bodies tortured inhumanly and beyond recognition found dumped in desolate areas across Baluchistan. The corpses, most of which were decomposed and beyond recognition, were discovered after a local shepherd reported to security personnel the discovery of bones, body parts and the

possibility of a suspected grave in the area.

Chief Justice Tassaduq Hussain Gilani summoned the Inspector General of Police in Baluchistan and Deputy Commissioner Khuzdar on Saturday February 1, and has ordered them to submit a detailed report on the incident. Baluchistan High Court judge Justice Noor Mohammad Muzkanzai was appointed the head of the commission. According to a statement issued by the Baluchistan's Interior Ministry, the commission would submit its report in a month's time after conducting the investigation. But this is not the first time when a summon was order they did that before too but no result yet.

On behalf of my people, I would like to appeal United Nations human rights commission to appoint a U.N. special rapporteur on Baluch human rights crisis to investigate the human rights abuses Pakistan has committed in Baluchistan on daily basis.

I believe a society that accepts mass killing as norm, indeed is a dead society. It pinches me to accept this bitter truth about my society, everyday dozens are butchered amongst us but it has no effect on our social lives. But today I pledge you all to spare a thought for these unidentified bodies of God knows whose, as you start your life peacefully tomorrow. If that thought provoke you a bit then help people. Sometimes you have to be strong when you feel like giving up, have to fight when you just want to run away. Sometimes it's all you can do just to keep going and in hope of a better future we will keep doing. Help me raise my voice against the violence and help us to bring peace in Pakistan.

Administration decides when to open, close

Jeanne Hartig

IIT VP OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

I followed with great interest, and an occasional twinge of dismay, the many posts on the IIT Admitted Student Facebook Group page about the decision by the University's leadership to stay open for most of last week when Chicago experienced another cold spell. Some students were outraged that the university was "putting them in danger" by not cancelling classes on Monday, January 27. Others called for the disruption of the presidential lecture scheduled for that afternoon since that was likely the "only reason" the university stayed open. Senior administrators were taken to task for their insensitivity. The phrase "lack of transparency" began to circulate in the Facebook threads.

Emotions ran high and civil discourse seemed to hit a new low.

I thought, therefore, it might be helpful for the IIT community to know how weather-related decisions are made. The president makes those decisions with input from both the academic and facilities sides of the IIT house. They are based on weather forecasts and an assessment of how temperatures and wind chills, as well as snowfall, road conditions, and visibility, would affect the ability of faculty, staff, and students to reach campus safely for scheduled classes.

It is a decision based on the best available information. Once made, the decision stands unless new information comes to bear that dictates a change.

In this era of social media, however, it seems that a story really never ends. I have no doubt that there will be more comments

and posts and tweets after this article appears. And some will not accept the explanation given here because it is not what they need or want to hear or believe.

I'd like therefore to suggest that we all remember the following: 1) The IIT community is comprised of adults who have choices; 2) It is always reasonable to assume that decisions are being made by reasonable people based on the best available information; 3) Sometimes things don't go the way we hope they will and; 4) It is not unreasonable to expect below zero temperatures during a Chicago winter.

So moving forward, please know that the expectation is that classes will be held as scheduled unless you are notified otherwise. And that it is indeed time to move forward and focus on what is important—your studies, your learning, and your classwork.

Recitation not useful for all students

Kyle Stanevich

STAFF WRITER

A common thought among Illinois Tech students is the uselessness of recitation. Some students see these sessions as unproductive and a waste of time. While there are students who like these sessions and use them to their fullest, many don't. Maybe a more personalized approach to learning should be attempted, allowing students to skip recitation if it is unneeded.

Certain students just don't need to go to these sessions. Especially in the science classes, the information is presented in many different ways, lecture, lab, homework, textbook readings, and recitation. This repetition of material is useful for some, but there are others who can pick up a topic much quicker and will need less reiteration.

Furthermore, some students have different learning styles, making recitation not an ideal for everyone. Some will learn better from lab time, others from lecture, and some from recitation. When multiple teaching styles are utilized, some students just don't need the repetition to learn effectively. Additionally, recitation is very similar to lecture; however, a

TA is presenting the ideas, often not as clearly or concisely as a professor. TAs can still be useful, but more for miscellaneous questions during office hours.

For many students, recitation time is wasted doing activities other than learning. A typical classroom will have numerous students surfing the web, checking their emails, texting friends, and even doing other homework. Several students might even need to listen to the material, but because they are not motivated to pay attention, they will not learn anything from these sessions. This is not recitation specific, and also happens during boring or repetitive lectures.

A final concern that many students have with recitation is the trouble understanding their T.A.s. Assuming that the students are even paying attention, they will have difficulty comprehending the ideas presented by the T.A. either because of their accent of poor teaching skills. First, this discourages people from paying attention; if you can't understand, just don't listen. Second, important information might be missed, such as due dates or room changes. Finally, others might confuse themselves while attempting to understand what the T.A. was doing. This idea can also be seen on SGA's

VoteBox.

One proposal is to use course evaluations to identify teachers who cannot effectively teach, and then send them to a teaching class. The other idea is to make sure that all teachers at IIT can speak easily understandable English. While both of these ideas are not just specific to recitation—they are geared towards all classes—their ideas can still be applied.

I propose another plan: give students the option to pick what classes will help them learn the material. If a student knows that a recitation session will not help them perform better in the class, they should not be forced to attend recitation. The individual students know how they learn the best, so students should have the freedom to control their schedule. Of course, they are still expected to take the same tests, quizzes, and final as all the other students, and are all still responsible for learning the same material.

Not all recitations are bad, and some T.A.s can be great, but there is a general feeling that the time spent goes to waste. If an individual student has a question, they can email the professor or T.A. at any time or stop into their office hours, recitation is not necessary.

Horror: the lowest form of entertainment, art

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

When it comes to art there is no consensus on its lowest form. Some people are perturbed by the randomness of modern art, disgusted by the commission of advertisements, dismayed by the lack of technical skill of photography, and so on. I've found that the lowest art form is not necessarily something like film or literature, but the entire genre of horror. Absolutes are difficult to pin down and there are exceptional pieces, but horror remains the tag of the greatest collective garbage to pass off as art.

What is art? To define the lowest form of art would require such a starting point.

Art is simply an attempt to create emotion in the viewer. The definition is perhaps too wide ranging in some respects, but is easy enough to defend.

Plays, paintings, even food and advertisements elicit an emotional response to get a message across. Each has its own way of allowing us to cross that threshold from our world to theirs, to feel that something matters.

Of all the emotions artists take aim at, six are universal regardless of creed, race, sex, or religion: happiness, sadness, anger, disgust, surprise, and fear.

Although horror typically uses anger, disgust, sadness and surprise in conjunction with fear to scare you, fear is the uninspired foundation for poor works. With surprise,

at least the artist has to understand when the target audience reaches that level of comfortable complacency so that a shock can be truly effective. Fear can be induced by simply shutting off the lights.

Here is a picture; a young girl awakes alone in a dark windowless room. She fumbles to find the light switch, but there's no power. There is a hallway that extends seemingly forever with many doors on either side. As she walks, she hears what she cannot name: low grumbles, screeches, and a constant drip.

This most basic picture is repeated again and again with un inventive tweaks. It thrives on universal fears that include fear of abandonment, fear of the unknown, fear of failure, and fear of weakness. For example,

in the famous Slenderman video game, you're walking through the woods, it is dark, and your flashlight slowly dies. Paranormal Activity's scare tactics work because of the creepy unknown attacks in the dark.

Exceptions that can create an uncanny feeling beyond the basics are fantastic when you find them, but good luck finding them.

Horror as a genre is based on striking at basic fears. It's equivalent to 'psychics' who use cold readings with a large audience. If you can get just one person to scream, the rest of the audience is easy money.

Delving deeper into the human psyche to hit better emotional pay dirt is difficult, and horror is the cheap and easy route to get there.

Selective anonymity in the real world, online

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

The NSA, Google, Bitcoin, and Anonymous.

Aside from when we kill ourselves in large droves, the internet is the largest topic in the news today. The internet gives you more information than you could ever consume. The internet passes ideas (with or without consent from their originators) faster than the greatest trading routes of times past. Aside from its nonmaterial existence like the floating star child of 2001 and its amassment of information greater than that of the library of Alexandria, the thing that makes the internet

great is selective anonymity. One of the greatest fears people have is ads tracking them, websites watching them, people knowing them. You create your name, your image, and have a chance to change.

In the real world everything you say or do has some amount of permanence to it. It's not to say that the things we create will last forever, but at the very least some amount of time. The oldest structure is nearly 23 thousand years old. Written stories from the Greeks are now some of the most study pieces of literature. This is the problem. In reality, ideas are permanent.

"What happens on the internet stays on the internet." This asinine phrase is only

relevant if what you put on the internet is tied to you.

On the internet you are who you make yourself to be and the beauty of it is you can always make a new you. iluvpancak3s@gmail.com can become sam.rogers@searshc.com. If you make a wrong move you can rethink who you are and remake yourself. If in life you make a wrong step you have to "live with your mistakes." If you earnestly change, your opinions are more informed, better, protected against bias, and better reasoned you can delete your missteps and move forward. In life a reformed felon will always be just that in the eyes of society: a felon. This also forces you not to be more skeptical of the people you

meet of the internet but forces you to better understand they're arguments.

Ultimately what this means is that the internet is the single greatest bearer of progress. There are those that result at the idea of not knowing who people are or who they have been. There will be people who say that their mistakes make them who they are; this is true but your mistakes shouldn't hold you back. Your name is now a piece of capital. Nothing can be held against you, you are impermanence to be judged solely based on a single post then reformed.

You are nothing more than your thoughts and your reason. That's how things should be.

An international student's perspective on State of the Union 2014

Utsav Gandhi

CAMPUS EDITOR

I think the State of the Union should be made essential viewing—the actions of the world's most relevant economy have implications that are simply too wide-ranging.

Coming from countries where heads of state making annual reports or forecasts for public viewing may or may not be a practice, it is always an experience seeing all the media buildup to the speech, all the analytics used to predict the key topics and issues at hand, or even who the special guests of the First Lady are.

Unfortunately, on our campus we don't see as many politically active discussions when compared to other campuses, even though the current SGA President, over her time, has made a sincere effort to spark more civic engagement at IIT. It is worth noting though, that there definitely are students with strong public opinions, and it is always healthy

to initiate conversation and hear different viewpoints.

For the average international student, the State of the Union was more remarkable this year because of the imminent buzz surrounding foreign policy and immigration reform, as well as Obama's reinforcement of the traditional realization of the American dream—working hard and taking responsibility to get ahead.

He also announced the insourcing of jobs from abroad in the high-tech manufacturing/advanced technology industry and six additional research hubs across the country. His emphasis on the removal of costly, needless litigation should be a welcome move for entrepreneurs to set up more businesses, especially if they are immigrants and creating more jobs for Americans.

With the Michigan governor recently announcing that he is seeking visas to lure skilled immigrants to Detroit, international students who wish to stay in America after their

graduation should hope for a more positive scenario than was indicated by the recent outflux of students going back home for more lucrative jobs.

One wishes President Obama would have spent more time elaborating on the energy plans of the country, considering the stringent efforts made by some European countries and Japan, although a \$100 billion investment by businesses in new factories that use natural gas definitely has ramifications on both political and economic relations with countries around the world. He also emphasized high quality early education and redesigning technology in education, and one of the most welcome comments he made was in regards to the national loan debt.

With IIT's Up to Us team making its mark on the national level early in President Clinton's competition, it could not have been a more timely mention of the reforms Obama is trying to push for. The raise of the federal

minimum wage to \$10.10 and health insurance coverage reform were two of the more debate-inducing topics he gave considerable speech time to. Iran's nuclear program, intervention in Syria and the Arab Spring, pulling out of Afghanistan and a nod to nuclear disarmament were some of the foreign policy issues he mentioned. He may have focused on getting things done at home in his address, but he actually dedicated more time to foreign policy issues—at least 15 minutes of a speech that lasted a bit more than an hour—than to other hot topics like immigration, education, and health care.

So, putting aside the all-too-frequent standing ovations and Joe Biden's consistently animated face in the background, the State of the Union was as eloquent and captivating as it could be. "And next week," the President said, "the world will see one expression of that commitment when Team U.S.A. marches the red, white and blue into the Olympic stadium and brings home the gold!"

CAMPUS

IEEE @IIT holds first general body meeting of semester

Jai Sathyanarayanan

TECHNEWS WRITER

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Student Chapter at IIT had its first general body meeting for the spring semester on Wednesday, January 29 in the Siegel Hall Auditorium. Rohit Agarwal, Treasurer of IEEE @ IIT commenced the meeting by introducing the executive board members of IEEE to the students and the committees headed by them. He then spoke about the current projects funded by IEEE and the upcoming tours and events planned for the spring semester. Agarwal also mentioned the benefits of being an IEEE national member.

Eric Tendian, Webmaster of IEEE @ IIT unveiled the newly designed IEEE website. The URL of the website is ieee.iit.edu. It is a major improvement from our old website, and the Webmaster has put in commendable effort to make this possible. Our new website contains all the information about the activities and projects within IEEE @ IIT. Join committees and sign-up for tours using links available on the website.

The guest speaker for the session was Bruce Mueller, Director of Government & Public Safety Research, Motorola Solutions, Inc. who spoke about the vision of the company and its rich history. He showed us a glimpse of the revenue generated by the company in the previous year and the products currently under implementation.

The main focus of his discussion was on the improvement of safety, security and efficiency practices within industries, and the new frontiers in public safety for safer cities. He emphasized that a lot of companies nowadays actively collaborate with IEEE in mentoring professionals.

The current projects funded by IEEE are the Multi-touch Surface, Quadcopter, Guitar Amplifier, and Ardupilot. Students are encouraged to join projects they are interested in. More information related to these projects can be found on the website. IEEE @ IIT is organizing two tours in February. The earliest tour to S&C Electric Company is on Friday, February 7, and the next tour to Roberson and Associates has been scheduled to happen

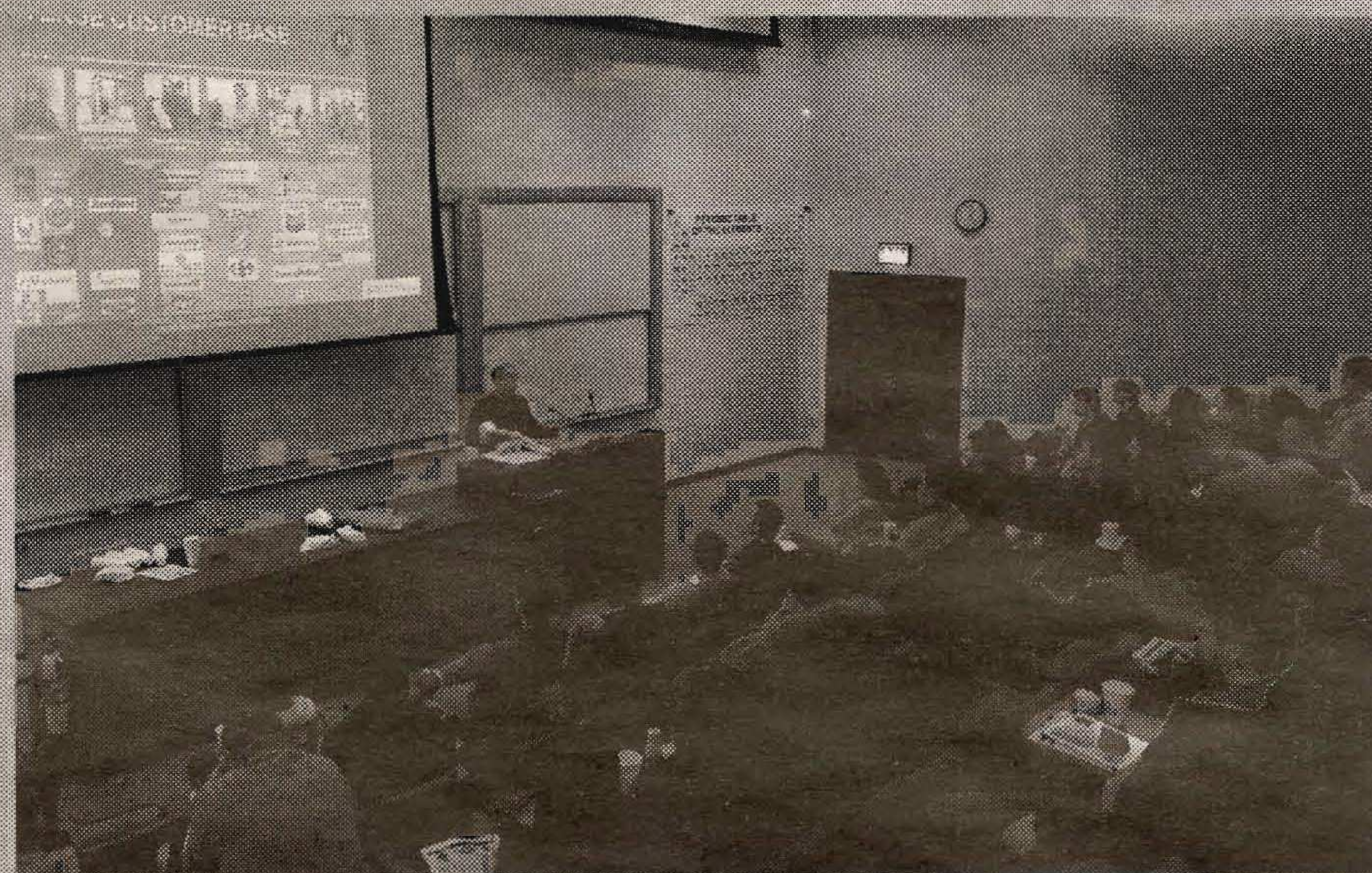


Photo by Jai Sathyanarayanan

on February 19. Students can sign-up for these tours through links on the website which will be made available soon.

The next general body meeting is

planned to be held on February 26, students will be notified about future meetings and events by email and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/IEEEIIT/>.

Student leaders meet with Presidential Lecture Series Speaker

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Braving some frigid temperatures and strong winds, a few student leaders made a trek on the afternoon of Monday, January 27, to the Idea Shop for an exclusive opportunity to meet with Presidential Lecture Series speaker, Dr. Charles Herschel. The series intended to bring leading experts in energy, sustainability, health, innovation, and other areas of societal challenges to Chicago to lend us their views and engage in discussion.

Chairman John Rowe and President John Anderson host the series, with three lecturers each year devoted to a particular theme. With this year's theme being immigration reform, Dr. Hirschman, Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at the University of Washington delivered the second installment of the lecture for this academic year. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on demography, immigration, ethnicity, and comparative social change. He spoke of the



Photo by Utsav Gandhi

contributions of immigrants and their children to American society, and in particular, to the development of the American performing arts, science, and other cultural pursuits.

Before his lecture, he took some time to meet with few student leaders in the Idea Shop for an extremely enlightening and enriching conversation about our stories and backgrounds. The group was a varied mix, typically representative of IIT—culturally diverse, pursuing careers ranging from computer science to ITM to architecture—with incredibly different life stories about how they

came to IIT, but united in their shared spirit of visionary student leadership. First generation Indian and Chinese immigrants, a student of Polish descent, students from Nigeria, India and Syria, as well as a student who has lived in many different countries around the world. In hindsight, it was quite humbling to even realize how far we had all made it and just how much we owe to our parents and educators.

After brief introductions, Dr. Hirschman asked us all a pertinent question, "What do you think it means to be American?" We spoke about poverty, about opportunity, about taking chances, about following your dreams and the platforms this country has traditionally provided millions of individuals. Dr. Hirschman told us about his own humble beginnings in small-town Ohio and how education afforded him plenty of opportunities to pursue his passions and leave his mark. We spoke at length about intercultural exchange of ideas, and how it is important to embrace opportunities to step out of our comfort zone, whether it is tackling fear of the physical

unknown, or taking the time to learn about what is happening in the world around us.

There is some incredible diversity in this world and it is only by asking questions that we can expand our horizons. He mentioned how official authority governs U.S. society less and there is greater emphasis on the strength of the individual to bring about change; there are benefits and costs to this.

Soon enough it was time for the actual lecture, but we realized we had hardly heard from Dr. Hirschman at all—a testament to the incredible stories that our classmates and friends here at IIT have brought with them. He left us with an important message that will probably resonate with most students reading this right now; no matter where we come from, and where we end up going in our lives, we must continue to work hard towards achieving our professional goals. That is the only way the country that has given so much to us will be able to provide the same opportunities for generations to come, and the only way we can march towards progress as a whole.

Chinese New Year Celebration transforms MTCC

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Chinese New Year is the longest and the most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. This year the Chinese year 4712 began on January 31. According to the Chinese horoscope, 2014 is the Year of the Horse. Each year, they give a different animal name to the year according to the horoscope.

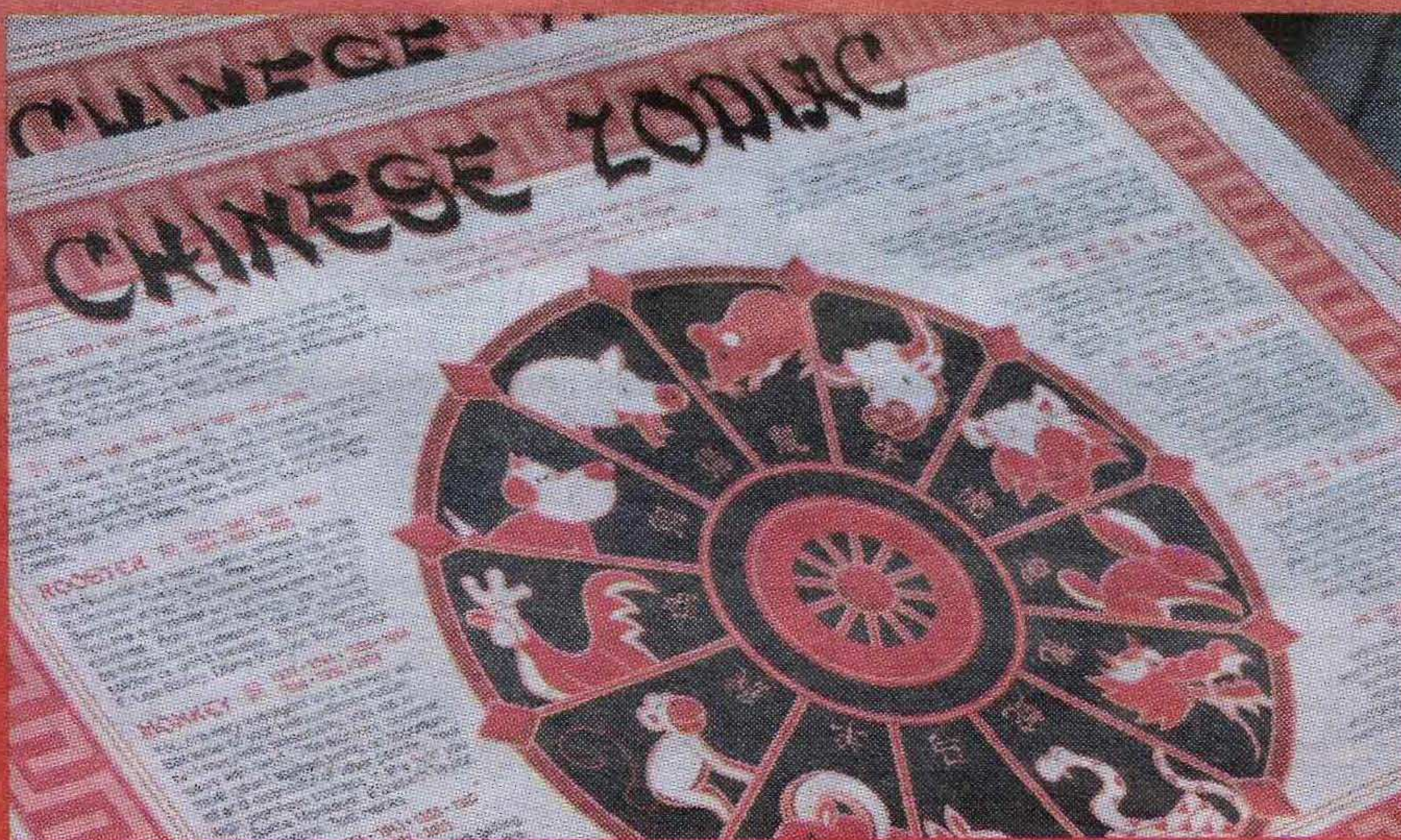
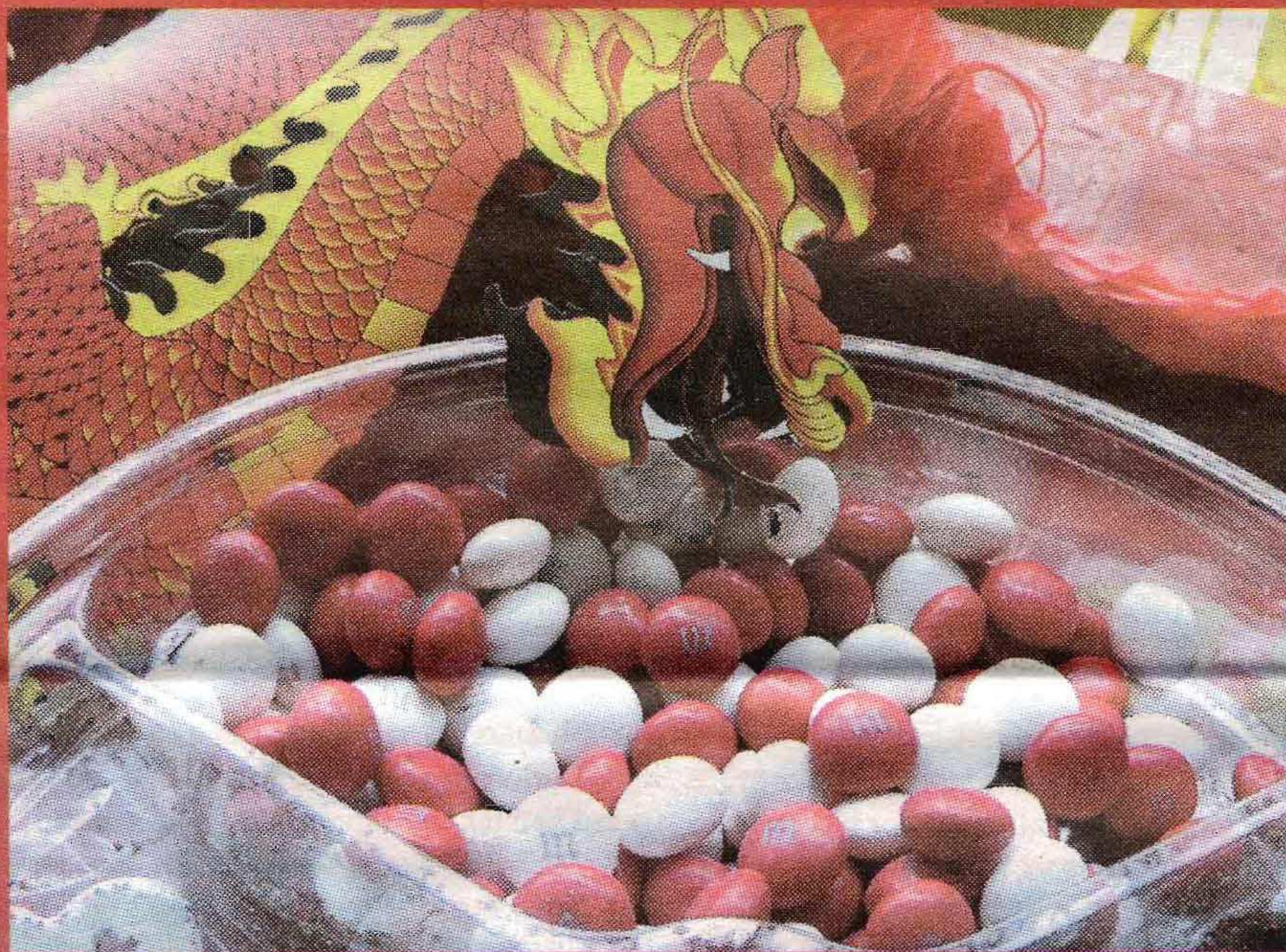
Chinese months are calculated by the lunar calendar, with each month beginning on the darkest day. New Year festivities traditionally start on the first day of the month and continue until the fifteenth, when the moon is brightest. In China, people may take weeks of holiday from work to prepare for and celebrate the New Year.

Student Center of Diversity and Inclusion and Sodexo celebrated Chinese New Year on campus. There was table set on the MTCC bridge, where students were given away free treats such as: New Year crowns, fortune cookies, a horoscope, decoration stuff, chocolate coated pretzels, candies and lots warm hugs and wishes.

The best part was when the Chinese students were sharing their experience with other students of how they celebrated New Year back home and the concept behind the lantern festival. In China, the New Year is a time of family reunion. Family members gather at each other's homes for visits and shared meals, most significantly a feast on New Year's Eve. This is somewhat similar to the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Whereas Sodexo served Chinese food for lunch: shrimp fried rice, tofu fried rice, stir-fried chicken, brown rice, stir-fried beef and fortune cookies. This food was the best food of this semester. What made the environment of the Commons livelier was that all the Chinese students had a big smile on their faces and one could feel their happiness.

A student shared that at Chinese New Year celebrations people prefer wearing red clothes, and give children "lucky money" in red envelopes because they believe that red symbolizes fire, which—according to Chinese legend—can drive away bad luck. It is also said that people in China would light bamboo stalks instead of lanterns because they believed that the crackling flames would frighten evil spirits



THE COMMUTER LOUNGE IS NOW OPEN!

New hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Relax by playing Xbox One, Playstation 3 or 4, Wii, billiards, and ping pong.
Or get some studying done. There is even a refrigerator and microwave for use.



Bog evening hours are Thursday and Friday, 5 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Bowling is open during Bog evening hours.

A graphic of a white human figure standing in the center of a dark blue background. Surrounding the figure are various icons in a lighter blue color, including a lightbulb, a bicycle, a car, a game controller, a shopping cart, a person, a house, and a leaf. The icons are arranged in a circular pattern around the figure.

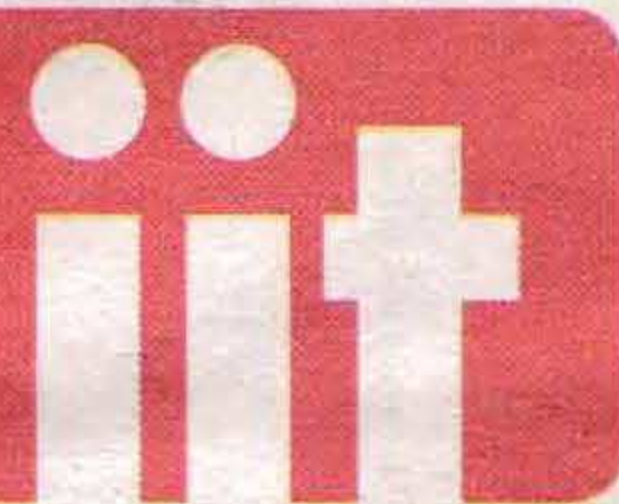
Human Identity and Environmental Challenges

The Psychology of Sustainability with Tim Kasser

12:30 - 2pm
February 14th, 2014
Hermann Hall Expo Center

RSVP: tinyurl.com/IITmaterialism
Questions? Email us: campussustainability@iit.edu

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014



COMMENCEMENT

GRADUATING IIT STUDENTS

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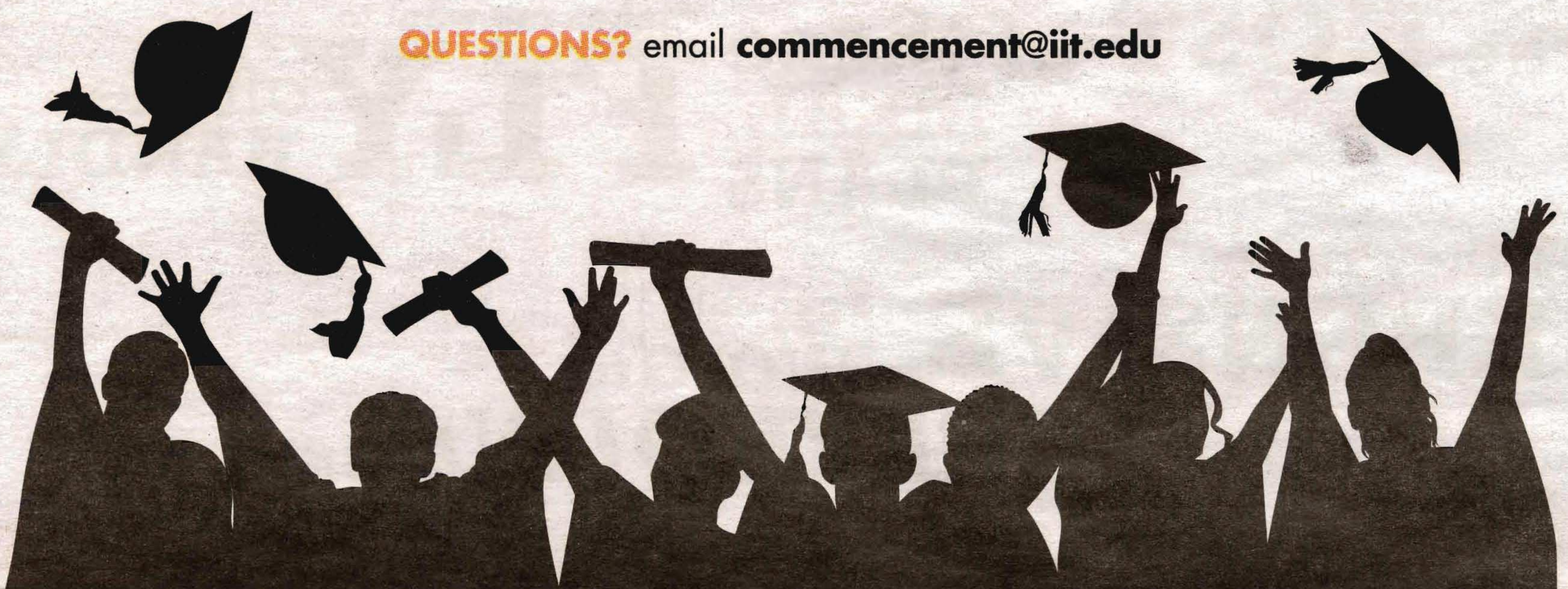
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Experiencing Minecraft bumps, bugs on campus server

Kyle Stanevich
STAFF WRITER

A few years ago, Minecraft was a very popular game, and even to today it is still enjoyed by many. One project that I recently undertook was starting up a Minecraft server on Illinois Tech campus. It has been quite the ride, spending many nights fixing errors and implementing interesting features.

Minecraft grants anyone the ability to build amazing fortresses, fight monsters, find treasure, and explore indefinitely. Almost everyone can find a way to enjoy the game. I started playing it back in the alpha stage, and even then—when it was much simpler than now—I still had tons of fun. It has come quite far since then, implementing many new and cool features. Along with that, enthusiasts have molded the game to add even more features including the moon, mars, more enemies,

special weapons, and so much more. It has also inspired many YouTube channels, merchandise, fan art, and memes.

I recently pieced together a spare desktop for myself and decided to run a Minecraft server on it. With my decent knowledge of computers, I installed Ubuntu and the server files. However, while surfing the Internet many mods caught my eye. The Ruins mod will generate buildings, usually all torn apart and covered with monster spawners. The buildings generated are floating castles, spiraling towers, pirate ships, pyramids, and jungle fortresses. Another one I installed was the Galacticraft mod, allowing players to travel to the moon and mars. This brings many items to the game, requiring large amounts of materials to build even just one rocket. Once on the moon or mars, players have to generate oxygen to survive and fight even harder monsters, including a huge boss in a dungeon hidden far

below the surface. Even cheese can be found while on the moon.

Both of these mods provide hours of fun, but one mod is quite different from the rest, qCraft. This is a quantum physics mod, providing basic analogies for quantum physics ideas. There are three basic block types: observer dependent, quantum, and entangled. Observer dependent blocks can be crafted to take on the look and physics of other standard Minecraft blocks, depending on the direction they are viewed from.

For example, a block can be stone if viewed from the north and then turn into sand if viewed from the west. The quantum block is similar to the observer dependent block, except will turn into a block depending upon the axis viewed from, not just direction. For example, if a block was crafted with dirt in the north and south direction, sand in the west, and gravel in the east, then when viewed from the north or

south it will always be dirt, but if viewed from the east or west, it has a chance of becoming either gravel or sand. The third type, a pair of entangled blocks, can be crafted using two of the same observer dependent or quantum blocks. When one of the pair is viewed, it will take on the block properties according to the observer dependent or quantum blocks that the entangled block was made of. At the same time, the second block in the pair will turn into the same block type as the one being viewed.

This mod has more functionality, but can get very confusing. If you want to experiment with qCraft, or learn more about how the blocks work, head on over to their website qcraft.org. It makes for an exciting way to learn the basics of quantum physics. Also, you are free to join my Minecraft server by connecting to the IP 198.37.24.30. Come help fly to the moon, or build a crazy quantum contraption.

Anticipated 'Hobbit' is unexpected garbage

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

The new Hobbit movies are garbage. The exposition is plodding. The adaptation is haphazard. The central villain is ridiculous. The references to the original Lord of the Rings trilogy are unending. The amount of CGI is unfortunate. Characters are disappointing. The only redeeming quality was a short exchange between Smeagol and Bilbo. I am a Lord of the Rings fan who watches the four-hour extended cut of Return of the King with unending pleasure. Even I was checking my watch about an hour into the Hobbit wondering when the torture would end. I reserved judgment for the second film. The second of the original trilogy was my favorite and—perhaps with set up out of the way—we can get to the real story. At the very least, how could things get worse, after flatling?

Judgment day is here. (Warning: spoilers ahead)

The structure of these movies is a series of fight, flight, and respite. "Oh no, we're captured by goblins, let's kill them. Oh no, there's too many, run away! Oh no, now we're off track and being hunted, now we're sad." Rinse and repeat about 7 times and you've got yourself an awfully predictable movie. This is garbage. Perhaps even worse than that is that it takes 42 minutes and 58 seconds to get to the actual journey in An Unexpected Journey, and the first thing we do is sit down for a campfire story.

The haphazard adaptation is also a pain to sit through. The movie keeps things that are completely unnecessary. If Peter Jackson has enough ability as a director to cut out Tom Bombadil for the originals, he should realize that the Stone Giants are superfluous at best. "But it's in the book!" Ok! It's in the book, so let's try to keep everything, except let's cut the clever dialogue. Bilbo's valiant fight against the spiders is nothing. Riddling with Smaug? We should cut that part, it only

shows the greatest transformation Bilbo has achieved since he left the Shire. Fans of the Hobbit movies are trying to have their cake and eat it too. You can't use the book to justify keeping garbage and then cut great dialogue because it suits you. Re-watching the film in an attempt to find more examples is too simply too draining and unbearable. If you can keep your eyes open, it should be blatant.

Now that we've kept the bad, cut the good, let's add the ugly Azog. The word is written once and only once in the book. Having read the Hobbit, I can understand the need for a central arcing villain. The book is best described as a stitched together series of bedtime stories. There is an ebb and a flow, a triumph every chapter, and no backbone villain. I would argue that it doesn't matter that there isn't a villain. The Hobbit is a story about transformation, courage, and bravery, not of triumph over an evil, but a triumph of self. Instead, what we get is a bunch of angry dwarves and a dopey hobbit being hunted by

a villain who shouldn't exist, with a heavy-handed sprinkle of fart jokes and CGI.

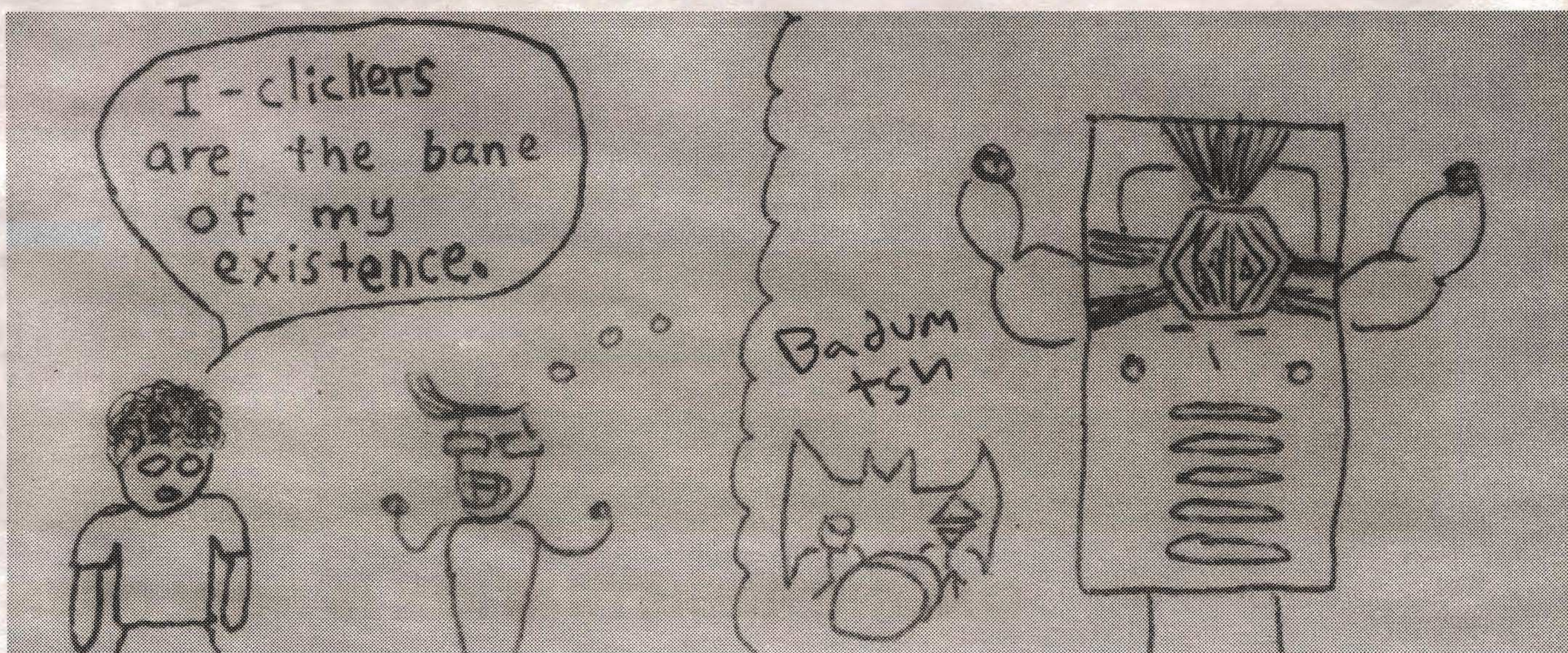
Why on god's Earth is there a budding romance in the second movie? Why does Legolas have a large part in this series? Why have we traded great costuming and beautiful scenery for lackluster CGI? This band of dwarves has less character development than 7 hanging out with Snow White. Why can I see video games and toys blooming out of this movie more than charm and character? Why is Radagast here? Why is he addicted to shrooms and weed? Why is Frodo one of the first characters we see? Why? Why? Why?

Comparing what was done with the original trilogy and this new pile of garbage, I am finally beginning to understand the frustration Star Wars fans felt when Episode I came out. The very man who brought it to the big screen is now trashing a world so perfectly rendered in one movie. The Hobbit couldn't be more disappointing. Final Judgment: Garbage, complete and utter garbage.

SLIPSTICK

Bane of My Existence

Austin Gonzalez & Kyle Stanevich
OPINION EDITOR & STAFF WRITER



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“The COST of these MEAL PLANS makes me want to FLY off the HANDLE, BUT they’re so EXPENSIVE I can only afford to GREYHOUND off the handle...”

Austin Gonzalez & Kyle Stanevich
OPINION EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Premier League sees Merseyside Derby demolition, Gunners fall

Nathan McMahon
SPORTS EDITOR

This week, the Premier League was headlined by the Merseyside Derby featuring Everton and host Liverpool.

It figured to be a tight match, but quickly became a one sided affair. Steven Gerrard started the battering off with a header from a Suarez corner rocketed into the net. Daniel Sturridge then scored two impeccable goals in two minutes to give the Reds a three-goal lead at half. Suarez of course was always

going to get into the mix and did so by the final goal to give Liverpool a 4-0 win over their rivals. Liverpool remains fixed in fourth with 46 points, while Everton sits in sixth with 42 points.

Vital points were lost by Arsenal as they drew to Southampton 2-2. Goals from Giroud and Cazorla puts them at 52 points, and they have dropped to second, while Southampton has struggled recently, and are in ninth with 32 points.

Manchester City has taken over the lead in the table after they smashed Tottenham 5-1 to bring them to 53 points, and put them in

first. Tottenham has struggled to find consistent form, even after a managerial change and with all the talent brought in, but remain in fifth with 43 points.

Chelsea also found things difficult when West Ham came to visit Stamford Bridge. West Ham from the first whistle stuck to their game plan of giving nothing away in the back as they frustrated Chelsea with their park-the-bus style of play. In the end, West Ham came out with a vital point in a 0-0 draw as they attempt to climb out of the relegation zone. Chelsea will be very disappointed in the loss of points when

every point counts at the top of the table if they hope to win the league. Chelsea has 50 points and will look to gain ground on the league leaders next week.

Former Chelsea man, Juan Mata, has recently moved to Manchester United after he struggled to make the Chelsea squad and had an instant impact. Mata provided the assist on the second goal of a 2-0 win over Cardiff City that will a massive lift for United as they have struggled in the league, but now welcome back Robin Van Persie and Wayne Rooney from injury to make a run at it.

NBA All-Stars announced

Gus Alvarez
STAFF WRITER

The NBA All-Star rosters have just been announced and people have voiced their opinions; well, at least when it comes to the reserves picked by NBA coaches across the league.

First, let me give you the starters, in the East: Dwayne Wade (MIA), Kyrie Irving (CLE), LeBron James (MI), Paul George (IND), and Carmelo Anthony (NY).

From the Western Conference we have Stephen Curry (GS), Kobe Bryant (Lal), Kevin Durant (OKC), Kevin Love (MIN), and Blake Griffin (LAC). It's a pretty standard selection apart from the addition of Steph Curry who has been shooting in all cylinders

for the Warriors. Also it is important to note that Kobe is injured so there will be a replacement picked for him on a later date.

What got people a bit riled up, were the reserve selections. They are, respectively: John Wall (WAS), DeMar DeRozan (TOR), Roy Hibbert (IND), Chris Bosh (MIN), Joe Johnson (BKN), and Joakim Noah from Chi City.

In the West they are: Chris Paul (LAC), James Harden (HOU), Damian Lillard (POR), Tony Parker (SA), Dwight Howard (HOU), and LaMarcus Aldrige (POR).

At first you look at this and it probably looks fine, but that fact is that there are so many other players across the league that got snubbed out of the team for some players that comparatively underperformed. Sure,

these guys deserve their spots due to their hard work, but the like of players like Goran Deagic (who has posted better stats than Lillard across the board with a much less talented team), and Lance Stephenson, who is arguably the league's most improved player, and the key to Indiana's Championship run this season, goes seemingly unnoticed by the coaches.

The inclusion of DeRozan is great for Toronto but anyone can see that the guy excelling in Drake's and J-Beibs hometown (ugh...) is Kyle Lowry.

One clear mistake to the list is the addition of Joe Johnson from the Nets. Averaging 15.7 points per game, below the league average in efficiency, and arguably overpaid, this pick is something one must simply shake their heads at.

The biggest snub out of this line up is Anthony Davis. It is blatantly obvious that the West is packed with superstar talent but it is simple, Davis has been a monster this season. He's one of the best players right now across the league and getting better every game. Check out these stats: 20.4 points, 10.4 rebounds, 1.5 steals, 3.3 blocks.

Clearly not an All-Star am I right? Not to mention he is 20 years old. An easy argument can be made that he should be included over Howard or the two stars from Portland and the only thing that could have hurt his selection is the ugly record the Pelicans hold in New Orleans. Perhaps he could be included instead of Kobe or Paul due to injury. In other news, Derrick Rose started jogging on the treadmill. See Red.

Track season returns with high stakes

Phillip Cano
TECHNEWS WRITER

"Track is back!"

That's what the Illinois Tech Varsity Track and Field Teams say as they continue to prepare for their first meet of the season. For the past three weeks, the Scarlet Hawks have been working hard in their pre-season practices. Not

to mention, many of them practiced on their own or with partners during winter break in order to stay ahead of the competition. It is vital to stay-disciplined as a track and field athlete because when the stakes are high, the end results could come down to a camera-finish lean in a race or one more inch in a shot put throw.

So far IIT's Head Coach Calin Hantau, and Assistant Coach Raul Botezan, have

assembled a strong unit of student athletes who are looking physically fit and mentally ready for the start of the new indoor track and field season. This Saturday both men's and women's teams will travel to University of Chicago to compete in the Windy City Invitational.

Don't worry, the teams will not be competing outside in all this snow, they will have the grand Henry Crown Field House to

perform in. It's a special feeling to put on a jersey with IIT displayed across your chest and be able to represent one of the greatest universities in Chicago and in the nation. If you see your fellow Scarlet Hawks on campus this week, make sure to cheer them on because the support is much appreciated.

Track is definitely back!



Saturday, February 8

Men's Basketball

vs. Robert Morris University-Springfield

@ Keating Sports Center

3 p.m.

Monday February 10

Women's Basketball

vs. Mounty Mary College

@ Keating Sports Center

7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11

Men's Basketball

@ Lincoln Christian College

7 p.m.

Men & Women's Track & Field

Windy City Invitational

@ University of Chicago

11 a.m.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

University Calendar

February 3rd - February 9th

Monday Feb 3rd

General Body Meeting
BSU
Wishnick Hall
12:50pm - 1:40pm
7:00pm-9:00pm


Tuesday Feb 4th

General Body Meeting
USA
E1 242
12:45pm - 1:45pm


Wednesday Feb 5th

Lego Catapult Contest
MTCC Bridge
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Thursday Feb 6th

General Body Meeting
 Union Board
E1 Auditorium
1:00pm - 1:40pm

Rocky's Tip Night
IIT ASB
Rocky's Bar and Grill
8pm-2:00am

Bog Birthday Bash
UB - Bog Events
 The Bog
9:00pm -12:00pm

Friday Feb 7th

Weekly Meeting
JFAS
Idea Shop
2:30pm - 6:00pm

Lock in
ASB - Bog Events
 The Bog
10:00pm - 12:30am

UPCOMING Union Board Events

Lego Catapult Contest
February 6th
MTCC Bridge 1:00pm

Second City
Ticket Sale
Mid-February

Sweet and Sour
Banquet Hour
February 19th
MTCC Bridge 1:00pm

Phantom of the Opera
Ticket Sale
Mid-February

UPCOMING Campus Events

Greek Week
April 6th-13th

Have an event that should
be included on this list?
email us at ub@iit.edu

LEGO

**Catapult
Contest**

When : 5th February 2014
Where : MTCC Bridge
Time : 1pm to 2pm

Build the best
Catapult and win
great prizes!

MTCC Late Niite
February 21st

Spring Formal
Coming in April
Want to get involved with
planning Spring Formal?
Come to UB's General Body
Meetings to learn how.

Union Board Office Hours:

Impact	- Thurs 2:00-4:00pm
Bog	- Mon 3:30 - 5:30pm
Traditions	- Wed 5-6 pm, Thurs 10-11 am
Scarlet Fever	- Thurs 10-11 am, Fri 11:30-12:30pm
President	- Thurs 11:30am-12:30pm, Fri 11:30am-12:30pm

Union Board meetings
are every thursday at 1pm
in the E1 Auditorium.
All committees all at once.

University Calendar
Sponsored by Union Board



If you have any questions email us at ub@iit.edu