

TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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Shimer College, SCDI co-sponsor Negro Baseball League lecture

Shireen Gul
 COPY EDITOR

David Shiner, Professor of Humanities and the History of Ideas at Shimer College, presented a historical overview on the Negro Baseball League this past Thursday. This event was organized by IIT's Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and Shimer College in Galvin Library, Cherry Room.

Shiner started the presentation by giving a brief introduction about baseball history, especially Black baseball history. "The Sox have a well-deserved reputation for preserving the memories of the Black players and teams that were pioneers of the modern game, going back to the founding of the team in 1900 with the birth of the American League," Shiner said. "The Sox were generous in permitting use of its parks—South Side Grounds from 1900 to 1910, and later their longtime home field, Comiskey Park—to Black teams."

Shiner was really excited to share his knowledge with the audience. He was wearing

a great Negro League replica jersey and also had some of them on display. "Back in 1908 the [White] Sox hired a Black man, William Buckner, to be the team's trainer. He held the job for most of the time until his retirement in 1933, when he became the first African-American to draw a pension from a major league club," Shiner said about the replica. "That was very very unusual in those days. So in honor of the Sox, I've included a Sox cap with the Negro League caps."

Baseball was played in the United States, in some form, as early as 200 years ago, and many of us might know a lot about the formation and codification of the rules from about the 1840s on, but we don't know a lot about the beginnings of Black baseball. The earliest currently-known written record of two teams of Black men playing baseball is from Brooklyn in 1861, and from the outbreak of the Civil War onward we have decent if somewhat sporadic accounts of Black men playing ball, both in segregated and integrated games.

Out of many facts, the one that was really interesting was that baseball was the

sport of choice for men who could play sports of any kind during the Civil War.

"There are records of Union and Confederate armies calling a temporary halt to their hostilities, playing a game of baseball, shaking hands, and then going back to killing each other," said Shiner.

"At the end of the war baseball was being played everywhere. Amateur teams sprang up particularly in the northeast and the Midwest, including Black teams," he added. "One of the Black teams, the Mutuals of Washington D.C., included the two sons of Frederick Douglass, the famous former slave and abolitionist."

After the war, racial integration came slowly and haltingly to the nation, and the same was true of baseball. The audience were really amused when he mentioned that, "The first general baseball organization (not really a league) the original National Association of Base Ball Players, formed in 1867, banned Black athletes. Throughout the 1870s minor leagues were springing up everywhere. Sometimes Blacks were permitted to play in

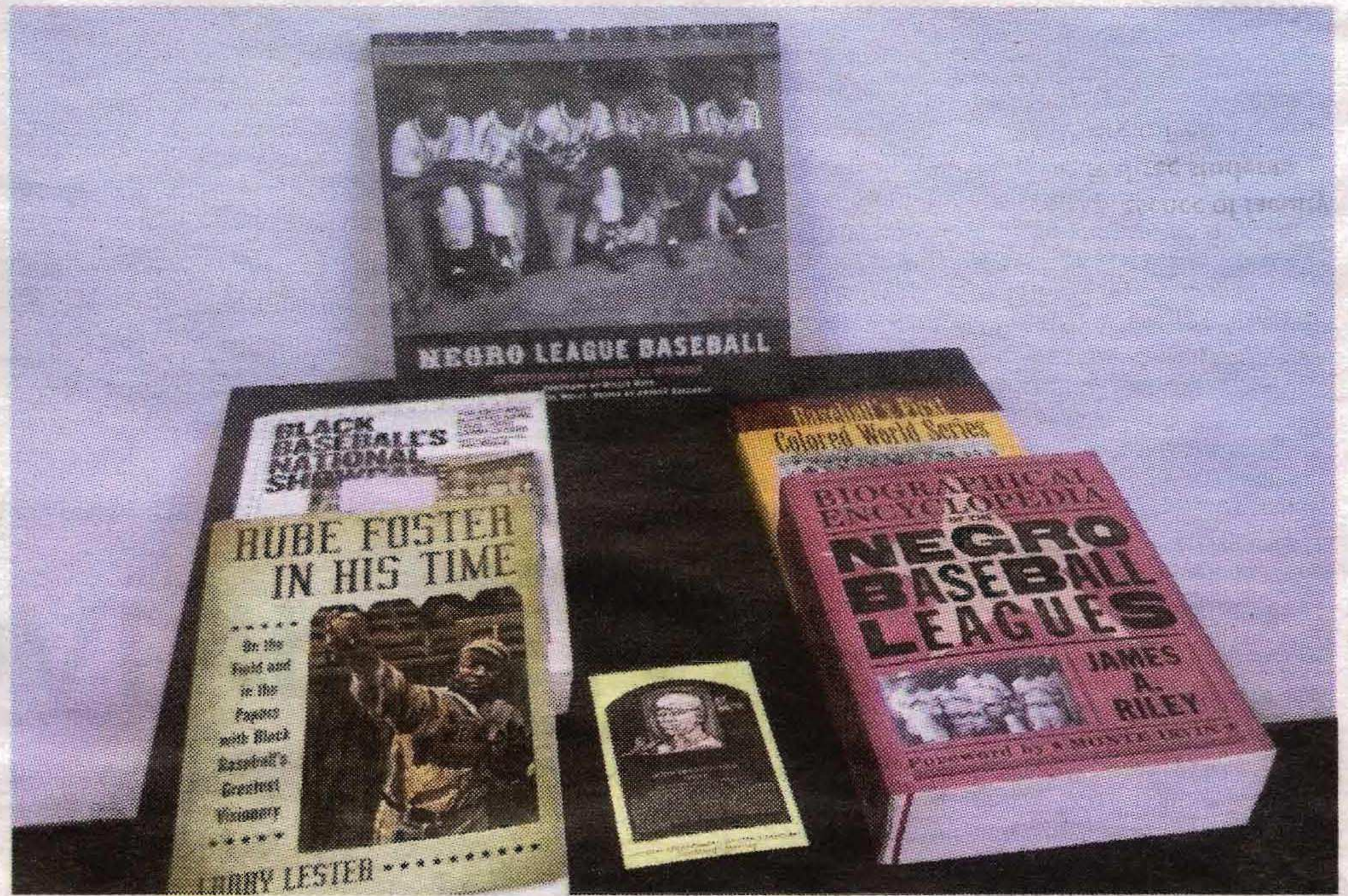
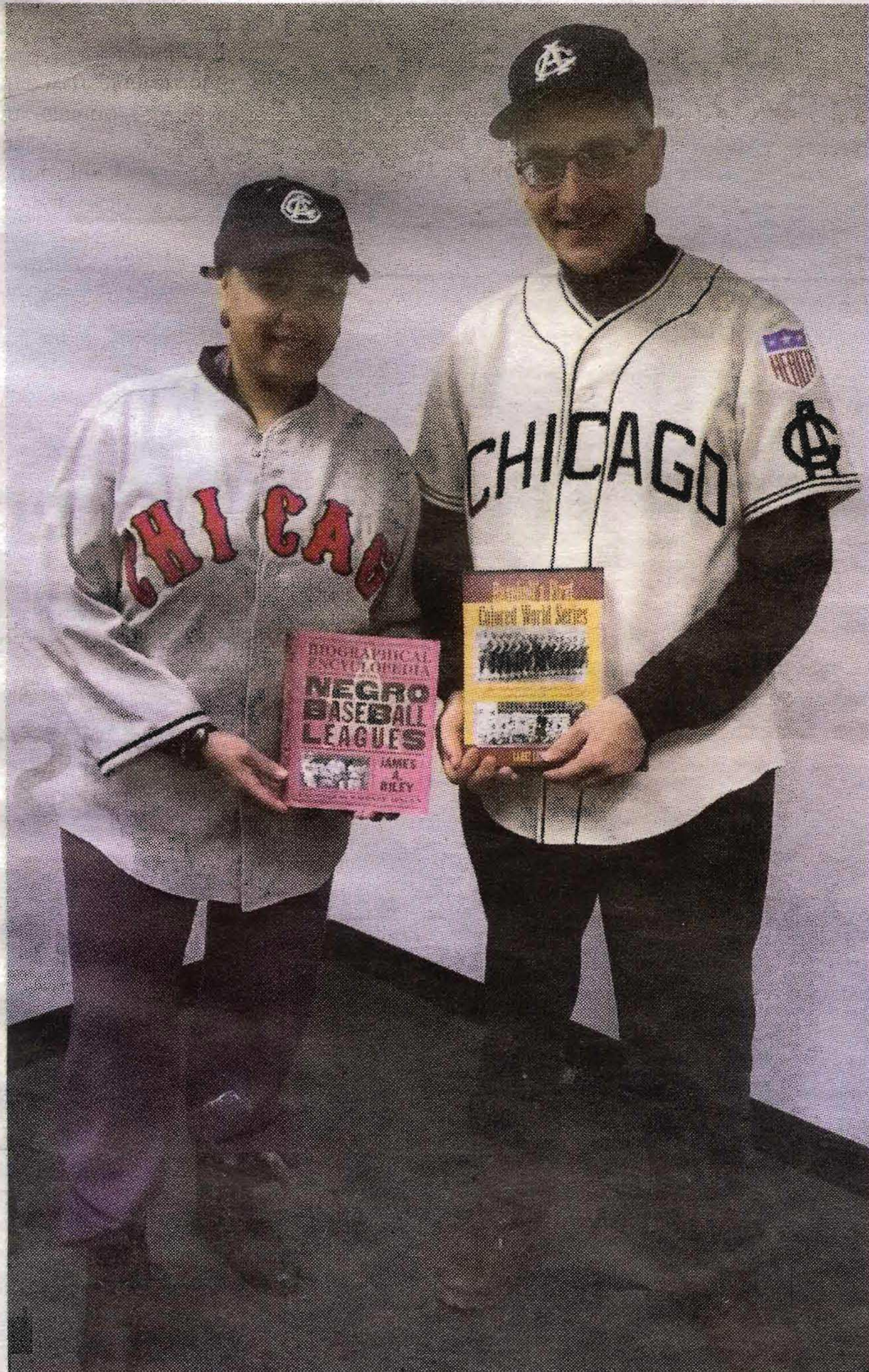
them; mostly they weren't."

Shiner shared with the audiences really interesting facts about the baseball league. He also mentioned the National Baseball Colored League, which was formed in 1887 with teams from eight cities, none of which unfortunately was Chicago. The first known League of Chicago was the Chicago Union Giants, which was founded in 1887.

The knowledge that he shared with his audiences was too much to jolt down in one piece. Overall, the presentation was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The good part of this presentation was the presence of faculty and staff, but there were only three students.

Such events are organized for students, and their presence is really appreciated by everyone around.

If you want to see such events or there are some other events which you would like to see on campus, please feel free to send an email to Lisa Montgomery, who is the director of SCDI at scdi@iit.edu and share your ideas with her. She would really love to cater to your ideas.



Photos by Shireen Gul

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STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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Sochi 2014 highlights Gay Rights Movement

Blagovesta Dimencheva
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Winter Olympic Games started a few weeks ago with a glorious show—probably the most expensive one in the history of the Games that was followed by millions of people all over the world. These Olympics provoked heated debates concerning the choice of country to host the event, including the location, security, and whether the event will be properly organized. Early on in the games however, a new topic of discussion emerged—a topic other than the malfunction of the lights of the Olympic symbol—a topic that nobody saw coming, a topic of controversy—namely the issue of homosexuality in Russia; is it acceptable, is it even legal to openly mention it and to what

degree can this be commented on at these Olympic Games.

Recently, president Putin passed a law prohibiting “the propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations to minors” and the adoption of Russian children in countries that have legalized gay marriage. That measure received an even larger amount of attention than Putin could have ever expected. In fact, it probably turned into the most negatively commented on decision that the President has made so far. Across the world, several anti-Kremlin protests took place, and there is even a list of foreign dignities who are not attending the games. Many progressive countries intentionally chose gay athletes to represent them at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympic Games. Even the top two Olympic leaders—both Sochi Olympic

Organizing Committee President Dmitry Chernyshenko and the International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach referred to that issue, although they didn't mention it specifically.

This was a crucial moment in the Olympic Games, proving that local politics cannot interfere in an international event at the height of the Olympic Games. This statement proved that the Games are a sports festival embracing human diversity, unity, tolerance, goodwill, and excellence. I hope that despite the controversial expectations, the Winter Olympic Games will be a display of great sports skills, beauty, grace and human power; they will unite, make people marvel at what humanity has achieved and provide us with two unforgettable weeks!

Notch blocks Minecraft-inspired film

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

Birth of Man was released recently on Kickstarter for funding and was almost immediately shut down by Notch from Mojang for intellectual property issues.

Birth of Man was going to be a Minecraft inspired movie. Long time video game fan and co-creator of the Freddie Wong YouTube channel, Brandon Laatsch, wanted to create a video game movie in hopes of starting a culture for video game movies similar to what comic books enjoy.

Mojang is the film of the game Minecraft, an extremely popular and award-winning voxel-based game where users create structures and survive in a 3-D realization of an 8-bit world. Notch is the developer who started it all back in 2009. This is the last and first straw that caused me to quit Minecraft indefinitely. Notch is acting counter to what is right, to the spirit of the community, and deserves an award for being a rude and unpleasant man who treats people badly. The reasons for Notch's completely legal embargo remains unclear being summed up simply by a tweet, “We don't allow half a million kickstarters based on our

IP without any deals in place.” Perhaps all will be clear if we examine some basic possibilities.

Money? Like Canada, everyone wants more money and half a million is a lot of it. The only problem is that Notch doesn't want more wealth. In interviews, he has said that being a millionaire is “weird.” So why is this money important to him? Mojang studios have been valued at one billion dollars, so his studio isn't in need of a paltry royalty from an Internet movie.

Does he just want the world to know his legal fiddlestick is worth an extra \$200,000 on the \$600,000 price tag of an indie movie? Thank you for teaching people that it's a cruel world out there and that if you want to have an idea and make it, make sure you add 50% to the cost to cover you in case of legal disputes. Perhaps I over-judged his intelligence and reason, how could I, with poetry such as “I can gauge how wasted I got last night by how far away my clothes are when I wake up; laundry basket, bedroom, next to bed, or still on me.”

One would think the biggest indie game developer would welcome more productive members into their community. As it turns out, Notch is afraid of how amazing his community is. He was working on a new

game in space but quit. He said, “I stopped developing 0x10c because everyone started caring about it before it was even done.” Notch is afraid of failure.

Minecraft is nothing in the same sense that a box of Legos is nothing. Its box graphics are pathetic and its gameplay is uninteresting. When the first alpha released, it had 4 blocks: dirt, sand, water, and stone. Minecraft is nothing without its community. The community is what makes Minecraft amazing. The mods and the servers are what make Minecraft great, not Notch's intellectual property. Notch's fear of using his own intellectual property is stopping progress. He is pathetic. He is sniveling. He deserves nothing.

When EA released a so-called indie bundle, Notch had this to say, “Stop attempting to ruin everything, you bunch of cynical bastards. Indies are saving gaming. EA is methodically destroying it.”

The games ... are good, I'm not questioning them. I'm questioning EA.” Maybe Notch should look at himself to make sure he's not the hero who has become the villain. BAFTA described Notch as “an inspiration for all games developers.” What a ludicrous world we live in.

The universe loves you

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

Watching the Evolution debate last week with Ken Ham and Bill Nye, Ken said something I found interesting to think about; Ken put forth the idea that Moral relativism is on the rise due in part to a rapid adoption of naturalism. Moral relativism is the idea that different cultures have different ideas about what is right and what is wrong; therefore, no objective moral truth is possible. Naturalism is the idea that natural laws guide the progress of time and not the supernatural. I would say that this is a perfectly reasonable idea.

Ethics and morality are a difficult topic to discuss because finding a reasonable definition for the two is problematic enough in its own right. Some believe the two are the same, some purport that ethics is societal and morals are personal, but I believe the best definition is that morals are about what I ought to do and ethics are the reasons I ought to do it. The role religion plays in helping people understand these two, only further complicates matters, but

I'm going to stick with the nice stuff.

One of the things about naturalism is that things work the way they do whether or not I am there to see them. Nature will just keep doing its thing forever. This creates a bunch of questions about why we exist. What is the point of discovery, love, or anything? Things that make sense from our frame of reference may be different for others. The way we define the importance of the existence and the validation of our lives is wholly unique from person to person because it doesn't seem as though there is some grand scheme for morality. No matter what you do and why you do it, time keeps on keeping on. With naturalism, there is always a reason why. And if you keep asking why, you eventually get to the point where you might convince yourself that chemicals and atoms rule and you question your own free will.

In the past, religion played a greater and more definite role in society. The church tells you that the reason you exist is because God made you and God loves you. God tells you to love your neighbor and to give alms and this is

what will make you a good person. It feels much better and is filled with compassion and love. It played a helping hand in creating the rules you lived by and the reasons for those rules. It's reasonable to suspect that as more people learn about a seemingly uncaring universe as opposed to one focused on loving and being loved, they would switch to a belief that allows anything.

I don't think that an uncaring universe is what we live in though. One thought that always bounces around in my head is that we are the universe contemplating it. I care about you and so in some sense the universe cares about you too. I don't agree with the idea that there isn't an objective moral truth and that nobody is ever right or wrong, but simply a function of nature like gravity.

Just as there are universal emotions and expressions, there has to be some universal understanding we all share. The universe isn't something that should bring you down, but rather should fuel your search for even more amazing discovery, whether it's hard-nosed science or squishy ethics and beliefs.

IIT Hunger Banquet back for seconds

Utsav Gandhi & Kendall Granberry

CAMPUS EDITOR & TECHNEWS WRITER

Hunger is more than just famine and is more than just a lack of access to food and nutrition.

This is the underlying principle behind Oxfam International's Hunger Banquet, an event that seeks to communicate to participants the multiple ways that hunger affects the daily experiences of the world's underprivileged.

Many of us in the United States tend to see hunger as a being the result of failures on the part of the individual, but one of the objectives of this event is to expose us to the ways in which hunger results from—and perpetuates—systemic oppression and violence on both national and global scales. Hunger is about power; the world's equality graph is quite badly skewed, and hunger falls somewhere along the line as a consequence of human rights, opportunities being not

accorded in the right proportion, and very little corrective action being carried out about this scenario. Companies and governments control more of the food patterns in today's world than the farmers who grow it or the consumers who eat it. Resource constraints, growing families, gender stereotypes, erratic weather patterns and ethnic conflicts are driving food prices up while record numbers of people go hungry.

Last year's inaugural IIT-hosted event will probably go down as one of the most socially engaging ones we have had the privilege to attend at IIT, thanks in no small part to the work of its organizers.

It was a truly interactive experience that forced us to question what it means to be "underprivileged" and how that conception can and does change according to different economic, environmental, and social contexts. Its power lays in the fact that it demonstrably showed, through narratives and symbols, the ways in which context ultimately determines one's choices and one's

access to resources, not simply one's "drive" or "sense of self."

The event served as a kind of catalyst to promote becoming more interested and involved in community mobilization and organizing. Many people at this school often wonder how they can get involved in activism and social causes and this event does this by bringing together people from different backgrounds, many of whom currently work on issues like hunger specifically in the geopolitical context of Chicago. In this way, it is a great opportunity to meet and engage not only fellow students on these issues, but also active community leaders, serving as a way to galvanize student interests that will direct their social and intellectual pursuits long after their time at IIT. Socially conscious student organizations like Engineers without Borders and Alternative Spring Break are expected to have a large presence at the event.

This year, IIT will once again host a Hunger Banquet on February 26, from 5 to 7 p.m., as part of Social Justice Month, co-

hosted by Engineers without Borders and the Office of Service Learning. As the politics of social justice deal primarily with examining systems of inequality and access to material resources, this event is perfect for anyone interested in observing inequality through the lens of food insecurity. This year's will be an equally informative and eye-opening experience that raises awareness not only of hunger, but of illiteracy, poverty, disease, war and the complex connections that crucially and inevitably link these societal ills.

The event is free for all IIT students, staff and faculty; and you can RSVP at tiny.cc/hbiit14. Without giving too much away, at this interactive event, the place where you sit and the meal that you eat are determined by the luck of the draw—just as in real life some of us are born into relative prosperity and others into poverty. A lively discussion will follow the meal and students will hopefully leave with a better understanding of the world's skewed equality ratio and a renewed drive to help tackle it.

IIT@IEEE planning exciting events for semester

Vijai Baskar

TECHNEWS WRITER

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) at IIT is conducting a tour of Roberson & Associates, a technology and management consulting company on Wednesday, February 19. Vice Provost for Research at IIT, Dennis Roberson, also the CEO of Roberson & Associates will be the host for this tour.

Roberson and Associates, LLC, is a technology and management consulting company serving government and commercial customers that provides services in the areas of Radio Frequency (RF)

spectrum management, RF measurements and analysis, strategy development, and technology management. The organization was founded in 2008 and is composed of a selected group of individuals with corporate and academic backgrounds from Motorola, Bell Labs (AT&T, Telcordia, Lucent, Alcatel-Lucent), IBM, IITRI (now Alion), independent consulting firms, and the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Together the organization has over 350 years of high technology management and technical leadership experience with a strong telecommunications focus.

On Thursday, February 13, the Association for Computing Machinery

(ACM) and IEEE together conducted a Windows 8 app development workshop at IIT. This event witnessed participants developing and publishing Windows phone 8 Apps built on their own ideas. The host, Martin Schray, also works with Microsoft to help developers become interested, engaged and successful in building applications on Microsoft Windows 8, Windows Phone and Windows Azure.

IEEE at IIT is hosting an e-week on February 22. The e-week is a fun, free, family interactive event providing children and adults the opportunity to experience and explore the many fields of science and engineering through interactive displays

and presentations. Five volunteers from the Ardupilot project group will be displaying one of their 10 interesting small projects designed during the work of Ardupilot. They will present a demonstration on how to play music on stepper motors.

There is also an upcoming conference being held by the IEEE region 4 at Chicago. Undergraduate students and IEEE members can participate in this contest.

They are required to submit a technical paper by Thursday, May 1 and present their work on Thursday, June 5. The current project teams are preparing four papers based on their topics. Visit the IEEE website at ieeetech.org for more details.

ae@technewsiit.com

MATTI SCANNELL

A&E

High times at Hancock Tower

Khaleela Zaman

STAFF WRITER

It seems like everyone is always asking if you have been to the Skydeck at the Willis Tower. Has anyone checked out the Hancock Observatory? It is almost like a hidden gem in the city. At the Hancock, students receive a discounted price of \$10 (just tell them you are a student) to go up to the top, while Skydeck admission costs \$19! The Skydeck boasts its glass floor balconies high above the city, but the Hancock actually has a portion of open air space at their Observatory level, called the Skywalk. From 1,000 feet above the Magnificent Mile, you can stand with the wind flowing through your hair as you gaze across the city. Additionally, the Skydeck does not offer a sweeping view of the expanse of Chicago at night like the Hancock.

Open every night until 11 p.m., the 360-degree night views from the Observatory are spectacular. All the light pollution present in the city illuminates the entire area of Chicago in an endless grid of orange-yellow glow. Many of the famous Chicago landmarks are visible from the 94th floor of the Hancock, including Willis Tower, Trump Tower, and Navy Pier's Ferris wheel.

One of the coolest things about visiting the Observatory at night is the ability to watch the lights as they move through the city organism against the black night backdrop. The red lights of vehicles heading north on Lakeshore Drive appeared like red blood cells whilst the white lights of vehicles driving south on Lakeshore Drive looked like white blood cells; Lakeshore Drive like an artery led into the heart of the city and the streets off of

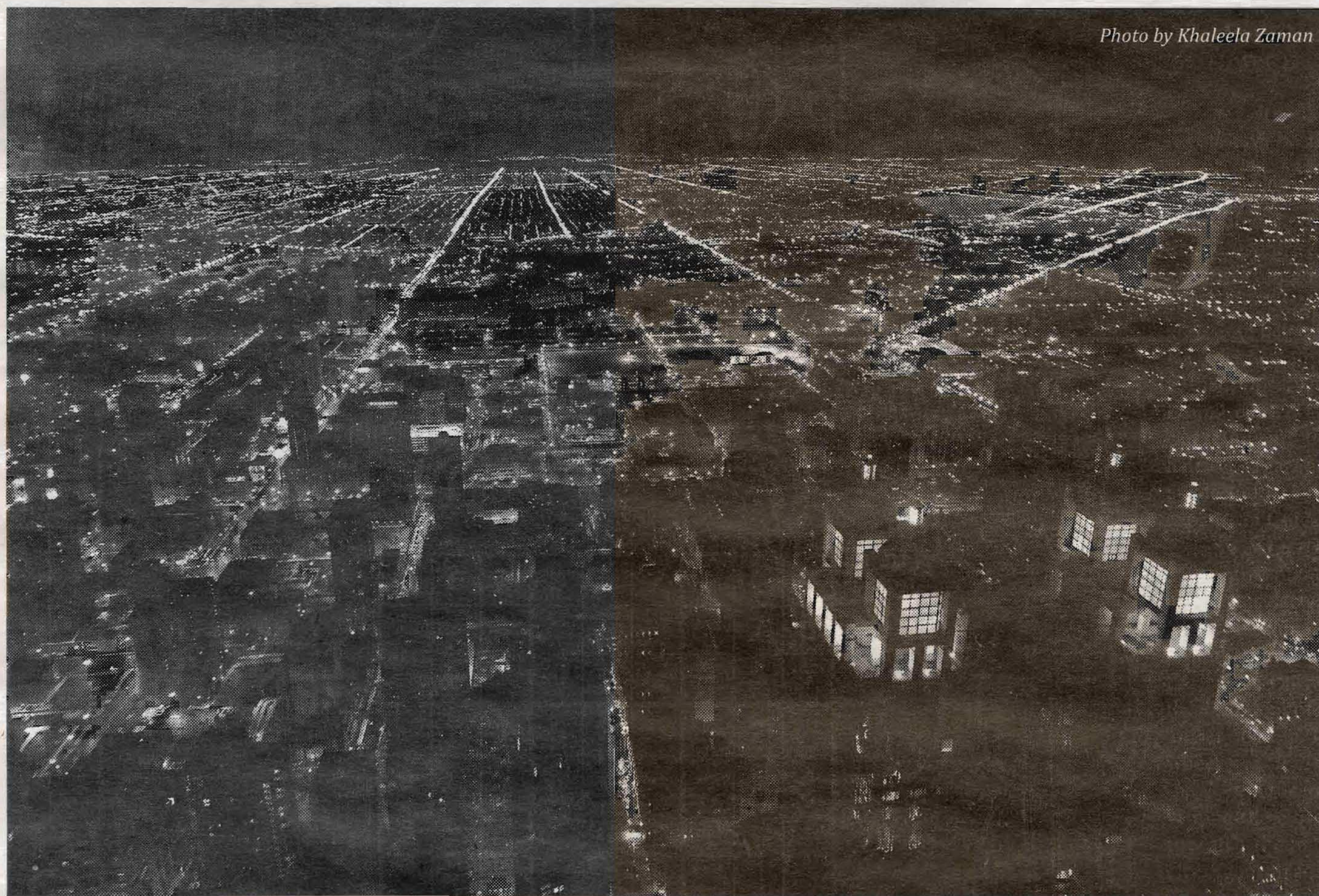


Photo by Khaleela Zaman

Lakeshore like capillaries running through the organization of buildings, or organs, of Downtown Chicago all alter your perception of the city in amazing ways.

To be honest, there is one annoying

aspect about the Observatory at night—the reflection of all the inside lights and human activity in the windows while you are trying to capture a photograph of the outer city. After a while, though, I found this to be eye-opening;

I realized how the people within the confines of the 94th floor of the Hancock are just as much a part of the city fabric as what can be seen outside the window. So next time you have a free night, consider visiting the Hancock Observatory.

CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Media pass proves passé

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

I went to the Chicago Auto Show for the first time this year. I feel that perhaps getting a media pass wasn't the best way to experience the show for the first time. There was a lack of excitement on the floor for the first couple days. Something was missing in the huge space of McCormick Place that was largely empty of people. The auto show is in some ways like a concert; the people around you make it more exciting than if you were to be listening to music or looking at cars by yourself.

The media pass itself wasn't as commanding as I expected it to be; I was able

to register and receive the pass without any problems, but getting on the floor was a struggle. I was stopped and told I wasn't allowed to come in because I didn't have a band. Proudly displaying my media pass, I told her that I was with media.

The interrogation continued, "How'd you get that?" This really just struck me blind. I wanted to say "Oh, you know, I killed a guy and stole it." Luckily, I simply looked at the supervisor, who let us in without any more trouble. This is just one goofy example of what it was like, but the general feeling continued throughout the day. Even the floor representatives were off-putting and cold towards me, as if I didn't deserve to be there,

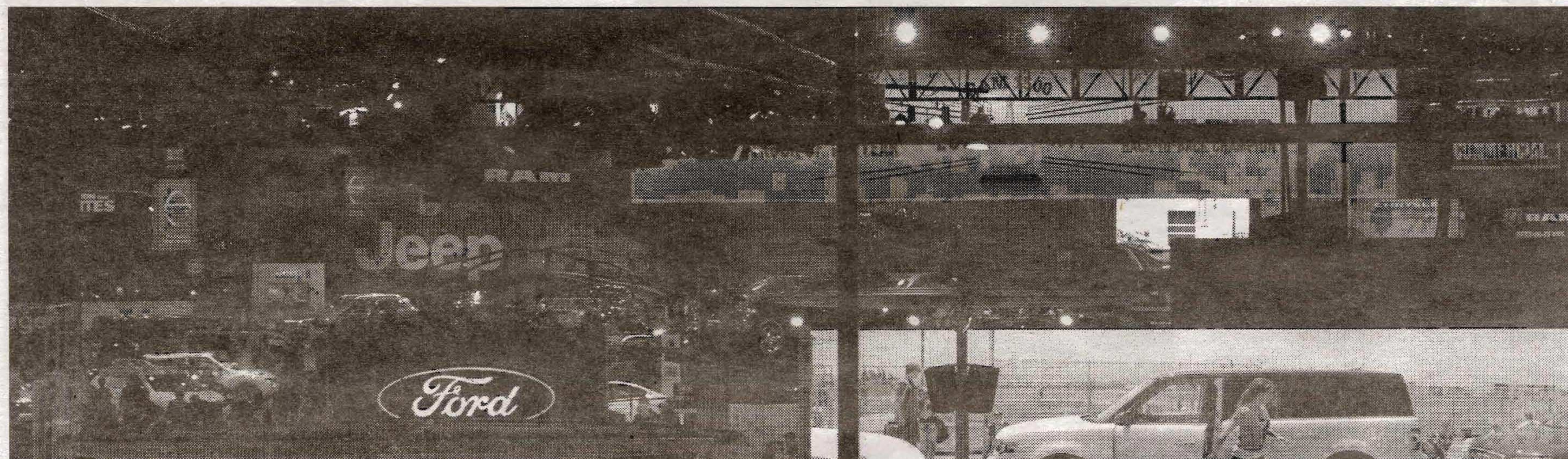
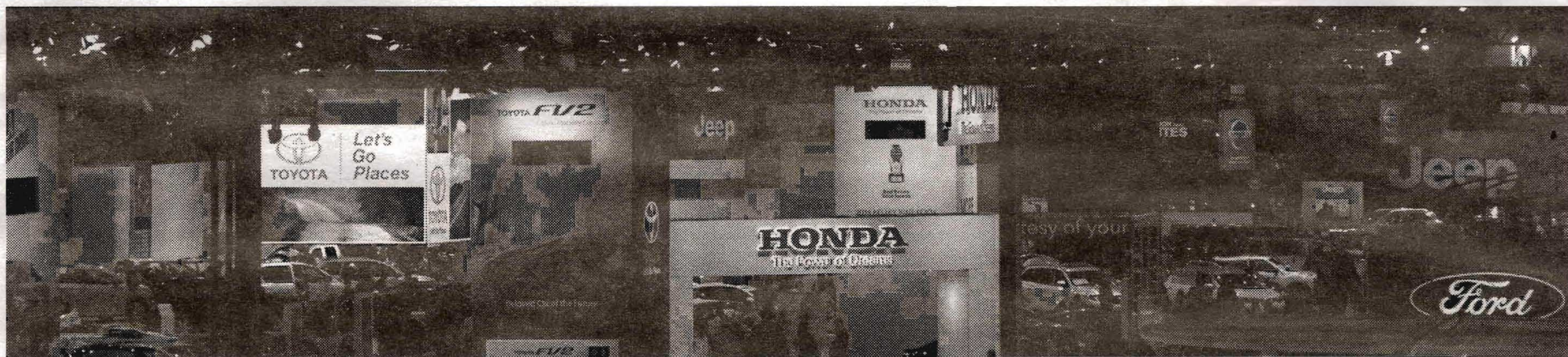
or I wasn't worth their time. I mean, I thought these people were being paid to be nice and talk to people. At the very least, considering how empty it was, if it was me, I'd be grateful to have someone to talk to and show off what's new. I thought I was dressed rather well for the occasion with my suit jacket and fancy camera, but I suppose when compared to the other media agents, most of whom were old, balding, white guys, I appeared like a child trying to sneak around.

The floor itself was dead. It felt sad, pompous, and too huge. I went back with my dad for his birthday on a public day and things just felt more reasonable and alive. There was energy and lights and demonstrations left and

right. Suddenly, my media pass was valuable and people wanted to chat with me about my experience and what I thought of the new models. The lines, of course, were ridiculous and having the opportunity to go on the test track was nice, but I thought the show was about cars, not pinball machines and simulators.

Contrasting how my dad described his first time at the auto show years ago and my experience, it's almost inexplicable. I assumed that preferential status and first look access could only guarantee a better time, but it felt wrong.

I look forward to next year, having my expectations properly aligned, but all in all, media day is largely overrated.



CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Variety of Chrysler, Dodge, Fiat, Jeep, Toyota models on test drive course

Kyle Stanevich
STAFF WRITER

Nowhere else in Chicago do you get the opportunity to test-drive Jeeps off road or burn out in a Charger, except the Chicago Auto Show.

Many companies construct extreme driving condition tracks inside the McCormick Place, giving people the opportunity to experience what it would be like to go off-roading. While these tracks are fun to go on, there are two downsides, the extremely long waits to get on, and the salesman driving the car. This year there were many companies showing off their cars: Dodge, Fiat, Chrysler, Jeep, and Toyota, each with their unique spin on the test-drive.

Back in 2005, Jeep built the first test track in the auto show. After many modifications, their track is now a complex system designed to show off all the off-roading

capabilities of the entire lineup of Jeep vehicles. The main attraction is the steep hill that will put the riders at a vantage point way above the rest of the show. They also simulate bumpy driving terrain by driving over logs, large rocks, and uneven terrain designed to stretch the suspension of the car to its limit.

Years ago, Toyota introduced their own test drive with the Prius. However, this year they changed things up and showed off their SUVs and trucks.

They took the Jeep track design and modified it to fit their needs. The ride starts with a seesaw, using gravity to tilt the track down and drive off. Unfortunately, this was not a free moving piece, but instead controlled with pistons and motors, but equally as fun. Next, there is a large dirt hill, similar to, but not quite as tall or steep as the Jeep hill. The ride concludes with a water hazard to drive

through. At the opening days of the auto show, this worked out great, providing a good simulation of the truck at a boat launch or shallow stream crossing, but as the week went on the water became a problem, turning into a big mud puddle. Toyota, mostly known for their small vehicles, introduced this in marketing focus with this display. Hopefully, their track will improve in years to come to better show off what their trucks are capable of.

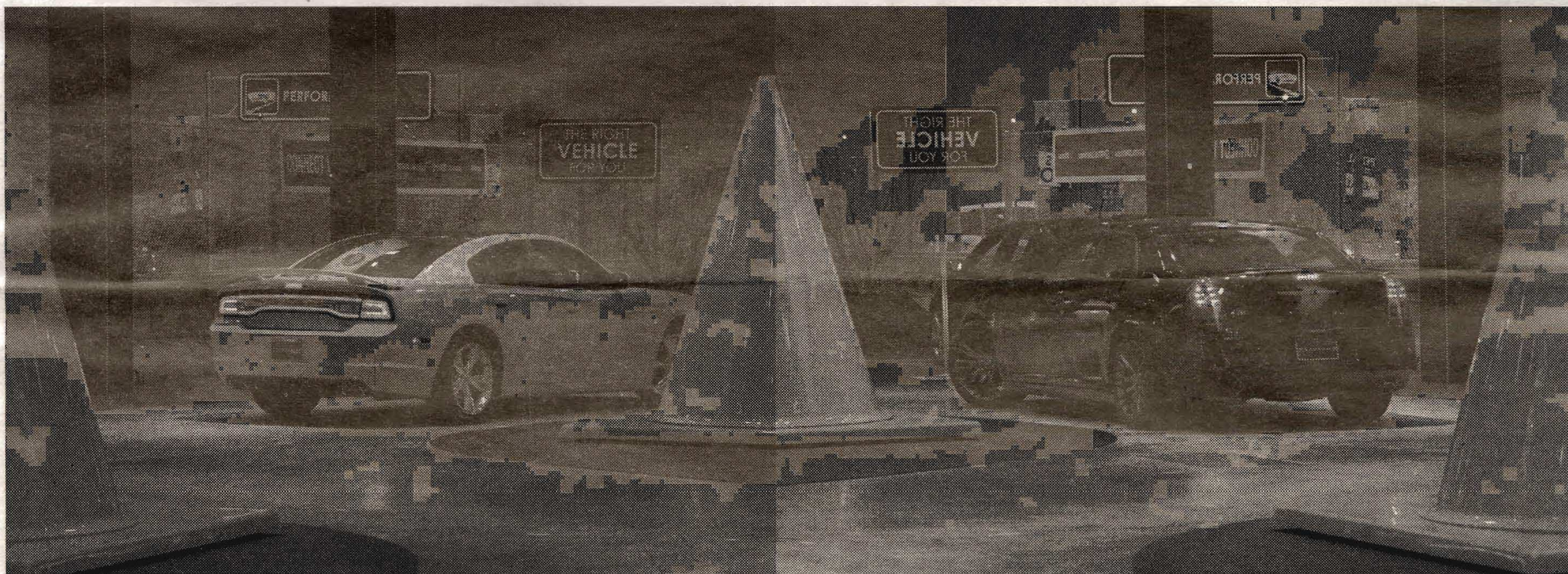
The final indoor test drive track at the Auto Show is a group display with the Dodge Charger, Fiat 500, and Chrysler 300. This is no off-roading track like the other two, but instead a street simulation that includes a tight corner, weaving road, noise isolation test, and an acceleration and breaking straightaway.

While the Charger and Chrysler are enjoyable cars on this track, especially in the acceleration test, the Fiat did not fair too

well. The car is cramped, the noise isolation is not that great, and the acceleration is terrible. A person could probably get better acceleration on a bicycle. The salesman tried his best to explain the advantages of the car, but there was nothing amazing about it except its size making it easy to park.

These test drives are an interesting marketing approach utilized by many car companies at the auto show, but they do not give the rider the chance to really experience the car. For the full effect, go to a dealership and take a car for a spin, that way you do not have a salesman blabbering away the entire time and can actually drive the car in a real world scenario.

Plus, there is not an hour-long wait to ride in a car for all but a few minutes. Jeep and Toyota are doing this right, by bringing an off-roading experience to a city where there is none, and putting a unique spin on an indoor auto show.





Late Nite

-Presents-

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TOURNAMENT

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HAVE QUESTIONS?

Contact the Office of Assessment and HEA Compliance at emmons@iit.edu.



March Forum Waste System Revitalization



Friday, March 7
12:30-2pm
Armour Dining Room

RSVP: tinyurl.com/IITWasteUpdate

Full-time IIT Undergraduate Students: Enter the 49th Annual IIT Writing Contest

All full-time undergraduate students are encouraged to enter the 49th Annual IIT Writing Contest, sponsored by the Humanities Department. You must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours in Spring 2014 to enter.

Prizes in four categories*	First	Second	Third
Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Fiction	\$300	\$200	\$100
Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Nonfiction	\$300	\$200	\$100
Freshman Essay Prize	\$300	\$200	\$100
Mollie Cohen Prize for Poetry	\$300	\$200	\$100

*Prizes will be awarded as Amazon.com gift cards.

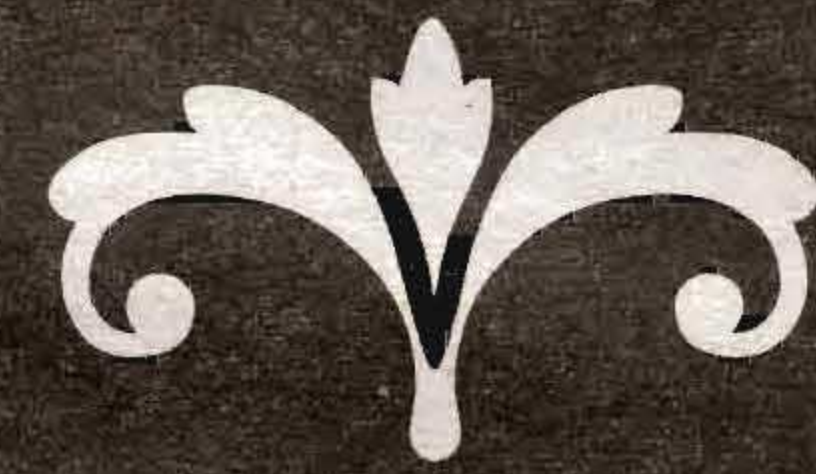
Deadline for all submissions: 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31, 2014.

Winners announced on the Humanities Website: Wednesday, April 16th.
 Reception for all entrants, with awarding of prizes: Wednesday, April 23rd.

For more information, contact us: iitwritingcontest@gmail.com

CONTEST RULES

- Entries may include fiction, poetry, plays, nonfiction (such as essays, reviews, and technical or scientific papers), and essays by freshman. Nonfiction (including essays by freshman) should be readable by an educated person with no special training in the subject of the essay.
- All entries must include an entry form as a cover sheet attached to each entry. Forms are available in 218 Siegel Hall, or you can download the from: bit.ly/1gDIXvw
- All entries must be submitted in duplicate. One should be keyboarded, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 paper. Do not put your name on the paper copy itself or any of its pages. Deliver paper submissions to Susan Mallgrave at the Lewis Department of Humanities, 218 Siegel Hall. The second copy should be submitted as an MS Word .DOC or .DOCX file to iitwritingcontest@gmail.com. The file name should be Lastname.Nonfiction.doc, Lastname.Poetry.doc, Lastname.Fiction.doc, or Lastname.Freshman.doc, depending on the category it is to be entered into.
- You may enter several categories, and you may submit more than one entry in a category. Limit of one prize per category to any one student.
- Entries will not be returned, so keep a copy.
- You are encouraged to submit work that has been the subject of a class assignment, but be sure to send a clean copy, free of any comments, marks, or grades.
- All submitted short stories and plays will be considered for the Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Fiction. Submissions must be limited to no more than 25 double-spaced pages.
- All submitted poems or groups of poems will be considered for the Mollie Cohen Poetry Prize, which seeks to honor the effort to master the art of poetry rather than the exhibition of emotions. You may submit all the poems you wish; however, multiple poems by the same student will be judged as a single entry.
- All submitted nonfiction will be considered for the Edwin H. Lewis Prize for Nonfiction.
- All submitted freshman essays will be considered for the Freshman Essay Prize. Freshman is defined as any student who is in their first year of full-time college enrollment in Spring 2014.
- Authors retain all rights to their works, however the authors grant IIT, the Humanities Department, and TechNews the rights to publish their works for one calendar year, from April 4, 2014 - April 4, 2015.



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CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Mini: Best marque at expo

Kyle Stanevich
STAFF WRITER

Fifty-five years ago, Mini was first dreamt up, responding to a fuel shortage at the time. The goal was to create a compact four-person car that was economic and fuel efficient, but what they got was so much more. The go-kart handling from its wide wheelbase, its iconic look, as well as its passenger space and efficiency skyrocketed it to fame. But it did not stop there. Redesigned by John Cooper, the new Mini was now more powerful than its predecessors, going on to win three Monte Carlo Rally races. After hitting some financial trouble, BMW bought Mini and rejuvenated the iconic car design. Today, their lineup of cars has expanded from the classic Mini Cooper to larger and smaller variants. These stylistic cars were featured at the Chicago Auto Show last week. This article will provide a rundown of the Mini variants and the brand in general.

The original Mini Cooper is the standard model. It is small and fast, infinitely customizable, and maintains the look that their entire lineup follows. The wheels spread out to

each corner of the body, giving it the low go-kart look. The windows form a box on the top, almost completely hiding the bars that connect the roof to the rest of the body. A double sunroof is a common feature on this model and many others. Plus, there is a convertible option for those who enjoy the wind through their hair. On the inside, a large speedometer sits right in the center of the dashboard, with the radio and controls below featuring a row of switches, a throwback to classic British cars.

The Clubman is exactly like the Cooper with an additional 10 inches to the back. This gives the back seat passengers more room and well as more storage space. The car sports a unique three doors, one on the right and two on the left, creating easy access to the back seats. Another variation is the Countryman, an even bigger option, but still keeping with the small sporty look. It resembles more of a SUV but only features two rows of seats. Unlike other Minis, this is the only one that offers four doors. A major option on this car is the four-wheel drive, giving it some off-roading capabilities, but don't expect anything like a Jeep. This certainly offers the most room in a Mini, and plenty of accessories to haul sporting

equipment when needed. The Paceman is a derivative of the Countryman, crossover four seats with two doors instead of four. The main change is the lowered and slanted roof, giving the car a streamlined look while also bringing the center of gravity lower. The disadvantage is that there is less room in the back seat for the passengers. To compensate, Mini installed individual back seats instead of the traditional bench style, giving each passenger their own "lounge" space and seemingly more room.

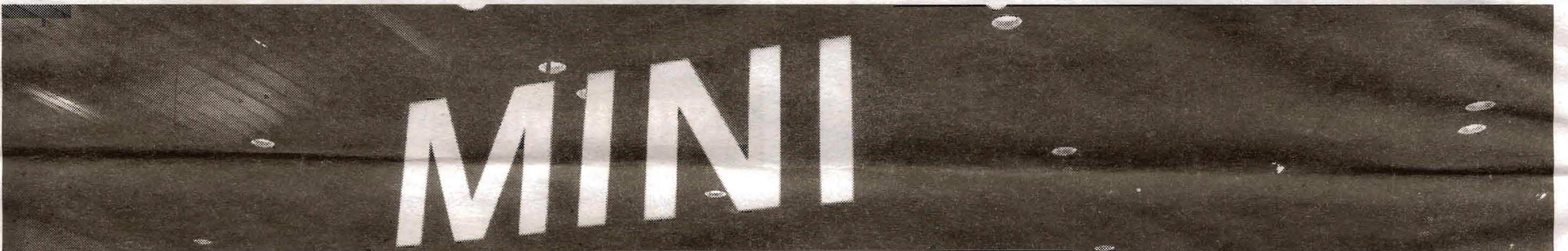
The last Mini variant is the Coupe. Sportiness and speed are emphasized in this one, making it much smaller than any of the other Minis. Deviating from the traditional look, this car is much more rounded on the front and the back, but the interior retains the entire classic Mini style. Although storage space is not something traditionally sought after when buying a sports car, the Coupe offers trunk space better than other competing sports cars, as well as offering a compartment door so extra-long items in the trunk can stick farther forward if needed. One interesting feature of this car is the automatic spoiler that deploys when traveling faster than 50 mph, a nice touch to highlight the sportiness. This one is also available in a

convertible version also known as a Roadster.

Just as the Mini lineup has expanded to many different options, so have the features and technology. One major upgrade is the John Cooper works package, featuring a more powerful engine and higher quality parts than standard. While these engines might not stack up to other sports car engines, the lightweight car bodies give them the edge they need to keep performing. Having the smaller engine also means that the fuel economy is great on all Mine vehicles, offering around 30 mpg. Also offered is an electric Mini, although only available by special order or in certain areas, as electric cars start to grow in popularity, the Mini E will become more widely available.

Minis are an overall amazing car and have an interesting style that makes them stand out from the crowd. While they are great there are two big drawbacks, their size and price. Small size should be expected, after all their name is "Mini." Their base price is not too bad but it is in all the options that their price starts to soar.

For a sporty car with a unique look and an exciting driving experience, Mini is a great option.



CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Compact, green cars popular this year

Kyle Stanevich

STAFF WRITER

Years ago, when gas prices started to skyrocket, the popularity of the SUV declined and was replaced by smaller cars. Other than the economic and environmental advantages of a small car, it is a great fit for people who do not need all the extra space of a truck or SUV. Furthermore, navigating the city and finding convenient parking becomes much easier because of their small size. Others like the look of smaller cars over bulky vehicles. Either way, small cars and green cars have grown in popularity. Many of these cars were shown off at this year's Chicago Auto Show.

There are many options for small cars, but two that really stand out are Fiat and

Smart. Their quirky look makes them initially appealing, but upon further inspection they do not stand up to other competition. Back in 2010, Fiat unveiled their first car in the United States in over 25 years. There was only one model available, the Fiat 500. Since then, they have expanded their options in the United States to include variations of the 500 model. While these cars are suitable for some, there are other options that will provide similar of better features for around the same price. Take for example the Mazda 3. Both of these cars get the same gas millage; however, the Mazda engine gets 54 more horse power. The Mazda has more cargo volume, four doors instead of two, and more passenger space. Plus, both of these cars are the same price, so unless the car has to

be less than 140 inches long, the Mazda seems to be the better option. In test drives of these cars, the Mazda had a sportier feel to it than the Fiat, but the unique look of the Fiat certainly makes it stand out.

The other popular ultra-compact car is the Smart car. This is less expensive than the Fiat, but there are only two seats instead of four. It is a very short car, giving it a unique appearance and a squashed looking front. While a good fit for some, if you can spare a few hundred more you can upgrade to a Ford Fiesta with more cargo room, power, and seating. However, Smart does offer many customizable packages, giving the customer the option to change the look of their car. In California, Smart sells one of the cheapest electric cars on the

market, making it the best option if no more than two people ever need to get around with very little cargo and limited driving range. If this expands to the rest of the states, Smart cars might see a boom in popularity, especially in the cities where electric cars are reasonable to drive.

Fiat and Smart have risen into fame because of their quirky looks and unique marketing approaches, but there always seems to be a better option on the market. The only thing they still have going for them is their extremely short length, however most people do not put restrictions on the length of their car while shopping around. For price, fuel economy, storage space, and power, there are many better choices to choose from.

Scion debuts new look, booth

Kyle Stanevich

STAFF WRITER

Scion has gone through many changes in the past year.

Most of these are done by adding more cars to their lineup and revamping their marketing strategy. This year at the Chicago Auto Show, their booth went through a complete rework. What used to be a darker booth directed toward a younger crowd has now become a professional-looking booth featuring some sportier cars and a more professional staff.

This well-planned change complements their rise in popularity and their new lineup of vehicles, making Scion a

surprising yet serious alternative.

Over the past year, they have had a spike in popularity for many reasons. First, all over Chicago and other major cities, there is a growing number of Scion taxis, able to be spotted anywhere with their boxy shape. Second, what was once marketed at teenagers is now being considered by many more serious car buyers, especially after their joint project with Subaru.

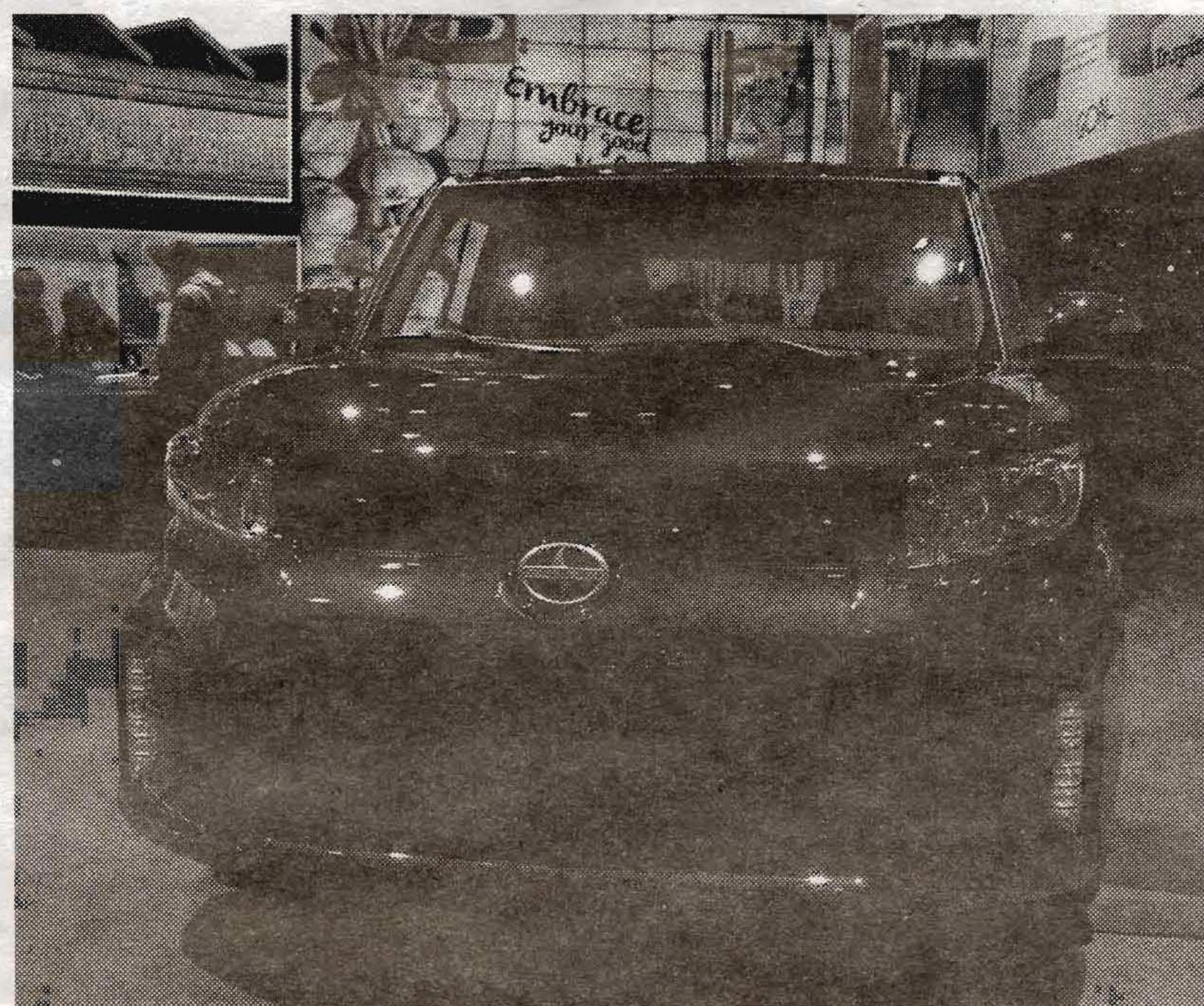
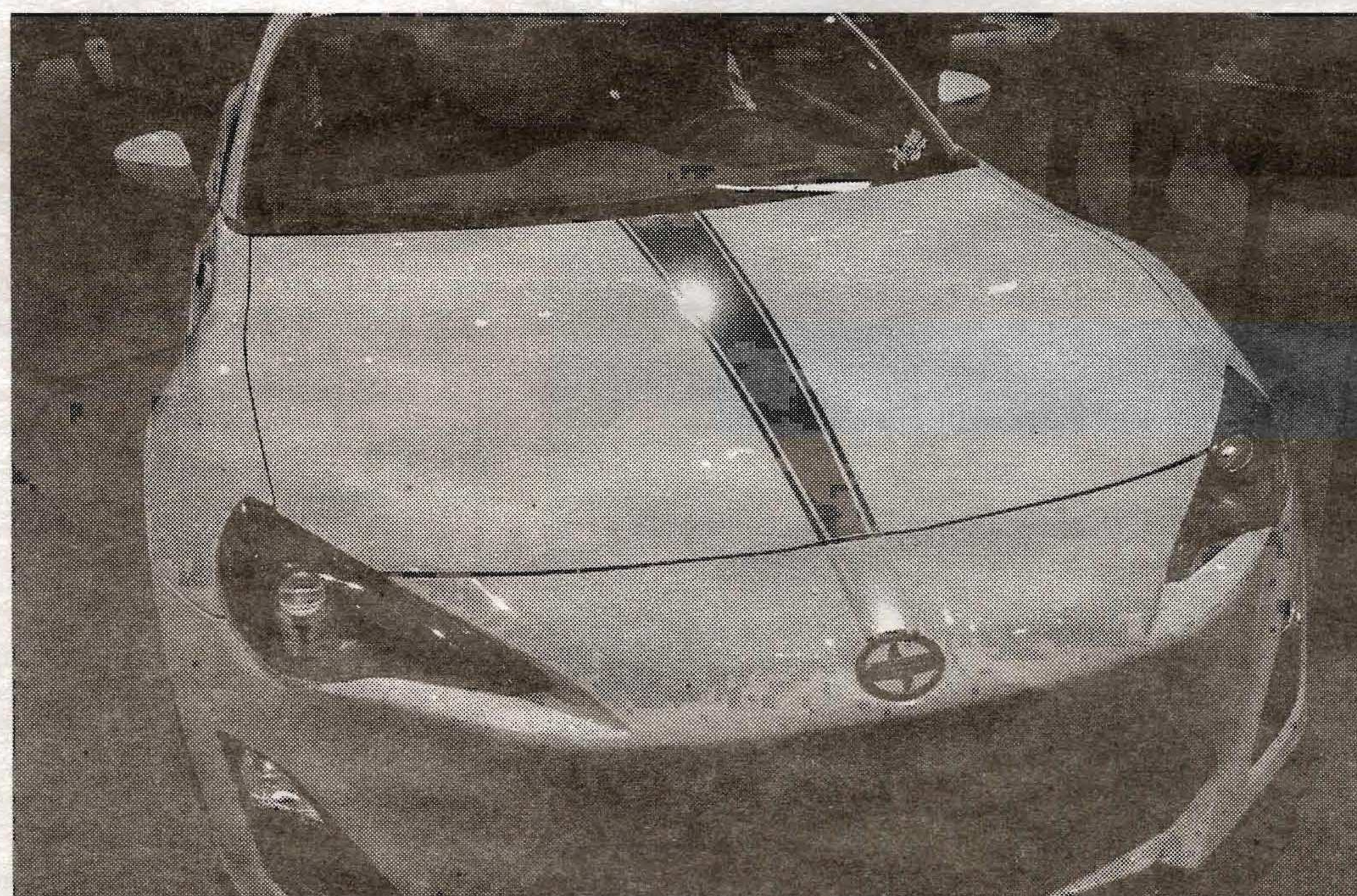
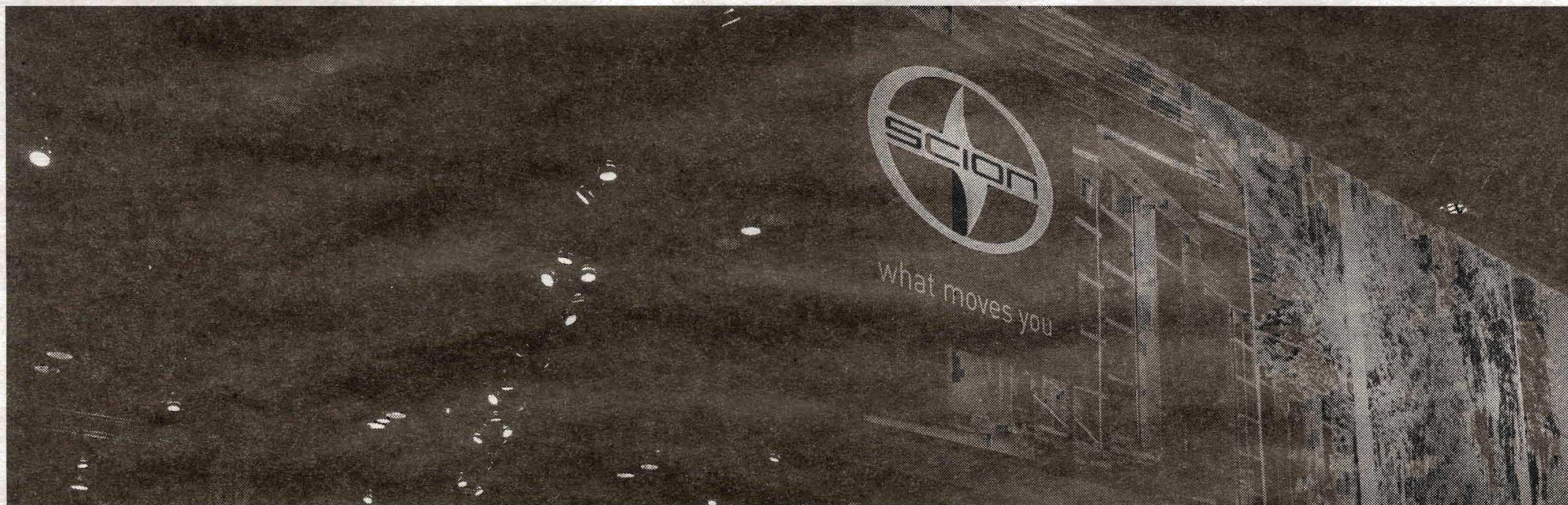
From this project—aimed at reducing development costs for both companies—the Scion FR-S and Subaru BRZ were born. Other than the sporty FR-S, Scion has also added the iQ to their product line, a four-seater ultra-small car resembling a Smart car or Fiat.

Years ago at their booth, Scion had some cool pimped-out cars. One featured a full grill and fridge in the trunk. Another included crazy sound systems and a cool paint job. The square shapes of their vehicles lend them easily to these customizations. While a lot of options still exist, they have scaled back on their tricked-out machines to focus on the larger car buying audience. Plus, their new lineup includes fewer boxy options for those who do not like the old Scion look.

The new FR-S resembles a sports car without an over-exaggerated front. Unlike traditional sports cars, there is not a huge engine in the Scion, not making it very zippy, but still fun to drive. It also includes a back row of seats

that feature very little room, to be expected with any sports car. Unlike most cars nowadays, the dashboard is simple, leaving out complicated touch screen interfaces (although available as an accessory). While there is not too much flash about this car, the \$25,255 price tag makes up for it.

Scion is growing in popularity. Their booth was actually lit up this year to look more professional, as compared to their darker and more hip look years ago. Plus, their staff was some of the nicest this reporter talked to at the car show this year. While I will miss the dark trendy look that Scion used to use, I'm interested to see where they take it next. Be sure to check out their booth at the next Chicago Auto Show.



And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp
ART EDITOR

THREE PANEL BOOKS!

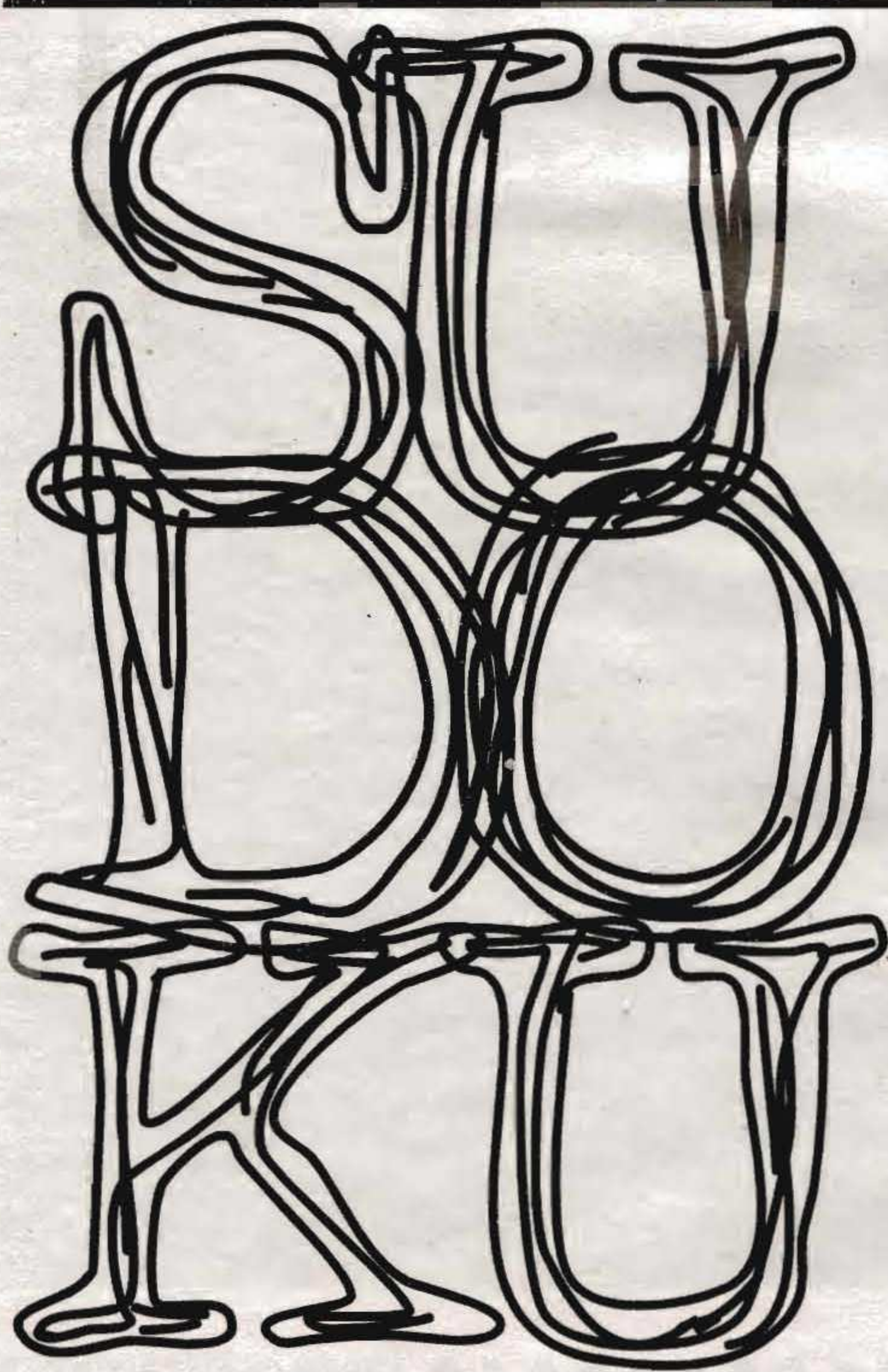
THE DEUS EX MACHINA EDITION

by KEPP

BLEAK HOUSE



THE WAR OF THE WORLDS



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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."



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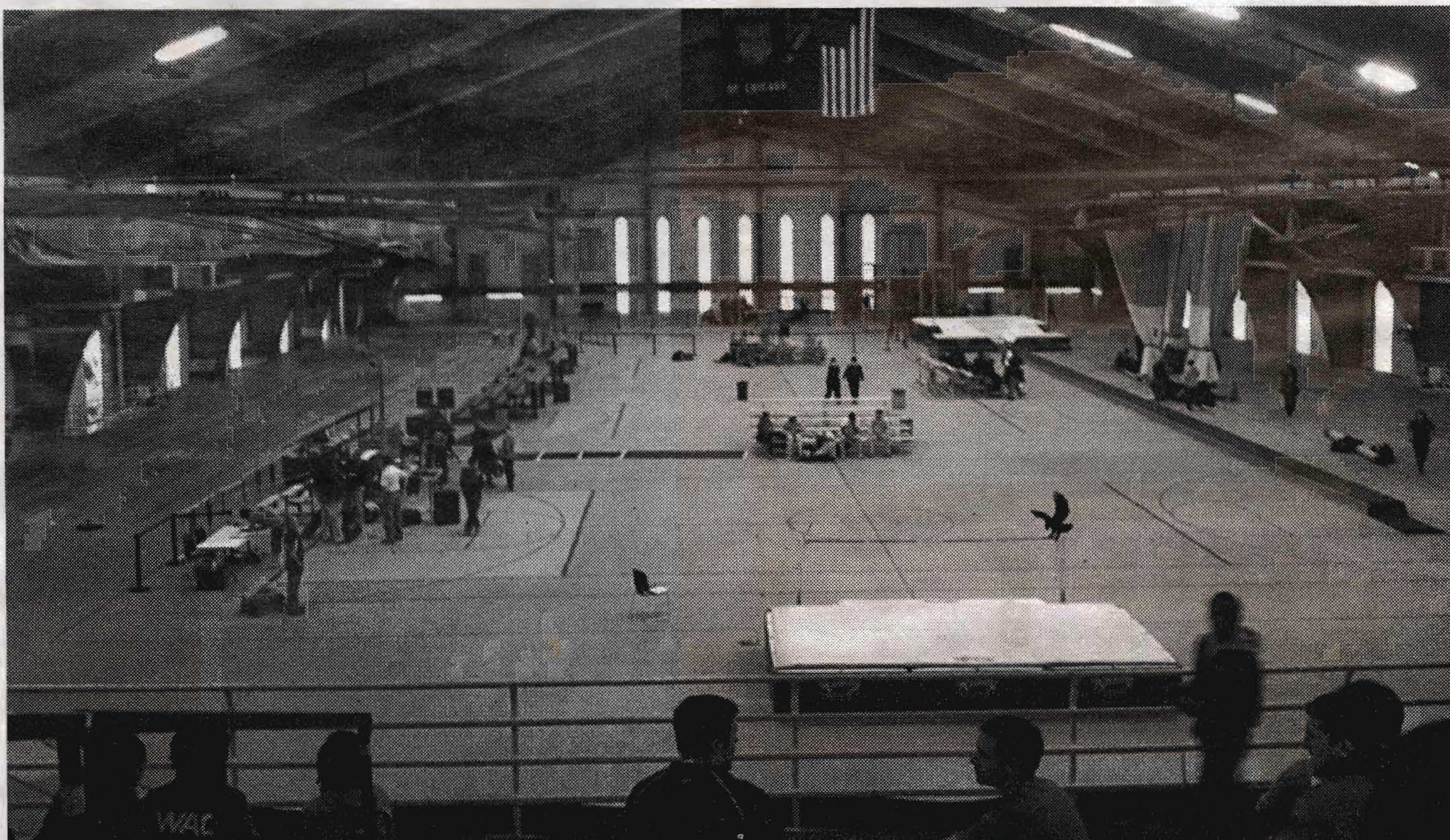
Track and field season opens with 'Windy City Rumble'

Phillip Cano
STAFF WRITER

Which weighs more, a 16 pound bag full of bricks or a 16 pound bag full of feathers? Calculating, calculating. After some initial calculations you might have realized that they both weigh the same. Coincidentally, 16 pounds is the exact amount of weight that Illinois Tech Shot Put Throwers get to launch across a room using only their conditioned muscles and a loud grunt. It's these precise body motions that allow the throwers to successfully catapult a heavy ball through the air, which landed them in the top positions in competitions, I might add.

That's right, indoor track and field season is underway for both Illinois Tech Men and Women Teams, who opened their first meet last weekend with a dominating performance over competing division schools at the "Windy City Rumble" hosted at the University of Chicago. The Scarlet Hawks had some tough opposition, but were able to beat many schools. On the men's side, they outscored nine out of 11 teams and the women outscored five out of 12 teams, such as Robert Morris University, Saint Xavier University, Triton College, Minnesota State, and the Northwestern Track Club.

Both teams are coming together as they continue their training, no matter if there is snow, ice, or rain. It's this mental discipline that allows our programs to be successful.



Head Coach, Calin Hantau stated, "I'm very pleased with the performances we turned in this weekend.

The hard work is paying off and what's

most exciting is the fact that there's room for improvement for the majority of our athletes. It was the first track meet experience for some

of them and I'm looking forward to seeing them develop it throughout the year."

Photo by Phillip Cano

Olympic competition intense in Sochi

Nathan McMahon
SPORTS EDITOR

The 22nd edition of the Winter Olympics is underway in Sochi, Russia where —part from the many flaws in the facilities—the Olympians have not been disappointed in their performances. For America, all eyes were on Shaun White as he went for a third straight gold in the snowboarding half-pipe competition. White struggled through the competition and ended up only in fourth

place while his good friend Iouri Podlachikov took the gold. Regardless of this result, it can still be agreed that White has revolutionized snowboarding and is regarded as one of the all-time greats.

Meanwhile, the speed skating long track has been property of the Netherlands as they have dominated this event. In the 5,000 meters race, the Netherlands swept the competition for all three medals on the men's side and also took gold in the men's 1,000 meter race. This was a race that Chicago native and two-time defending Olympic gold medalist

Shani Davis had been picked to win, but was ultimately disappointed and only placed eighth in the final.

However, in the women's events Americans Kaitlyn Farrington and Kelly Clark took gold and silver respectively to assert American dominance in this event. In figure skating, the first ever team event where it was no surprise, the Russian team took gold behind the legendary pair of Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov.

The American team raised some eyebrows with their performance as they took

bronze.

The hockey competition for both the men and women has begun with both American sides winning their first two games as they shoot for gold. In order to get there, they will have to be victorious over arch rivals Canada who took down the men's team in 2010 at Vancouver to win gold.

At press time Norway has four gold, three silver, and six bronze medals whilst the Netherlands have four gold, three silver, and five bronze medals and the United States have four gold, two silver and six bronze medals.



Tuesday, February 18
Men's Basketball
vs. Maranatha Baptist Bible College
@ Keating Sports Center
7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 19
Women's Basketball
@ Wheaton College
7 p.m.

Saturday, February 22
Men's Basketball
vs. Victory University
Keating Sports Center
3 p.m.

Men's & Women's Track & Field
Margaret Bradley Invite
@ University of Chicag
11.30 a.m.

Women's Basketball
@ Clark University
1 p.m.

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ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

University Calendar

February 17th - February 21st

Monday Feb 17th

US Rep. Bill Foster
Up to Us
MTCC Auditorium
3:30 pm-5:00 pm

General Body Meeting
Black Student Union
Wishnick Hall
12:40 pm & 7:00 pm

Tuesday Feb 18th

Water Quality
Workshop
EWB
Wishnick 116
12:45 - 1:40 pm


Men's Basketball
vs Maranatha Baptist
Bible College
Keating Sports Center
7:00 pm-9:00 pm


Wednesday Feb 19th

Roberson &
Associates Tour
IEEE
Tower 6th Floor
12:45 pm-1:45 pm

Sweet and Sour
Banquet Hour
 Union Board
MTCC Bridge
1:00 pm-1:50 pm


Thursday Feb 20th

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

Game & Trivia Night
UB - ISA & BSU
 The Bog
8:00 pm-12:00 am

Friday Feb 21st

General Body Meeting
Robotics
3424 S State St
7:00 pm

MTCC Late Niite
Down the Rabbit Hole
 MTCC
9:00 pm-2:00 am

UPCOMING Union Board Events

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

Phantom of the Opera
Ticket Sale
tinyurl.com/iifticketsales
February 21st 1:00pm

MTCC Late Niite
February 21st
9:00pm - 2:00am

Second City
Ticket Sale
Mid-March

UPCOMING Campus Events

Greek Week
April 6th-13th

TEDxIIT
April 5th

Relay for Life
April 26th

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

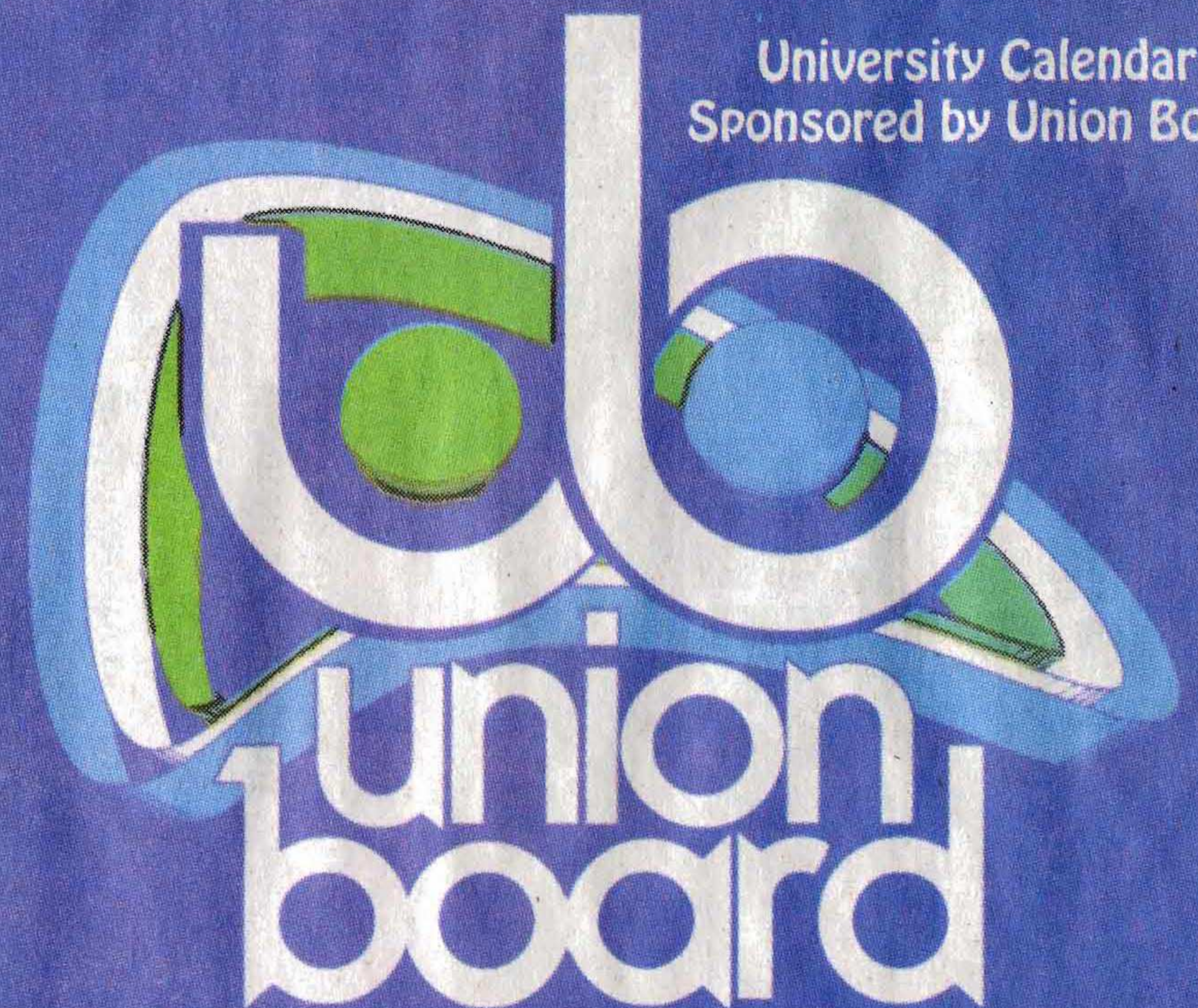
MTCC Late Niite
February 21st
9:00pm - 2:00am

Spring Formal
April 5th

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

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



University Calendar
Sponsored by Union Board

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