

## TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF  
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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 a dedicated to the belief that a strong campus newspaper is essential to a strong campus community.

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## SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsiit.com.

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Sochi 2014 highlights  
Gay Rights MovementBlagovesta 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.