

# TechNews

Student newspaper of the Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

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## Washington Award Ceremony honors Bill Nye

**Utsav Gandhi**  
CAMPUS EDITOR

He referenced "Meet the Press" with Marsha Blackburn, and he mentioned the creationism debate two weeks ago. He handed out certificates and trophies to some enterprising young engineers and scientists, encouraged them (especially the women in the audience) to pursue careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.)

He expressed his contempt at those who fudge facts and figures to spread misconceptions and misrepresentations about science ("There are liars, evil liars, and then there are statisticians.")

He reinstated his now well-established position as a spokesperson on climate change, sustainability, evolution and overpopulation. He finished with his trademark declaration that we don't have to produce "less" in the future like many are predicting; we simply need to produce more *with* less.

I'm talking about Bill Nye, the recipient of the 101st Lifetime Contribution Award to STEM, honored by the eminent Chicago Engineering Society, at a glittering ceremony held downtown on Friday, February 21, at the Palmer House Hotel.

IIT's Dean of Engineering, Natacha DePaola, made it possible for the chapter presidents and vice presidents of almost all engineering student organizations at IIT to attend the dinner and ceremony. Representing the Society of Women Engineers, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, the Biomedical Engineering Society, the Society for Automotive Engineers, and the Armour College of Engineering, Undergraduate Student Council among other student groups, were also accompanied by Professors Roberto Cammino (MMAE) Bonnie Haferkamp (BME) and John Kallend (MMAE.)

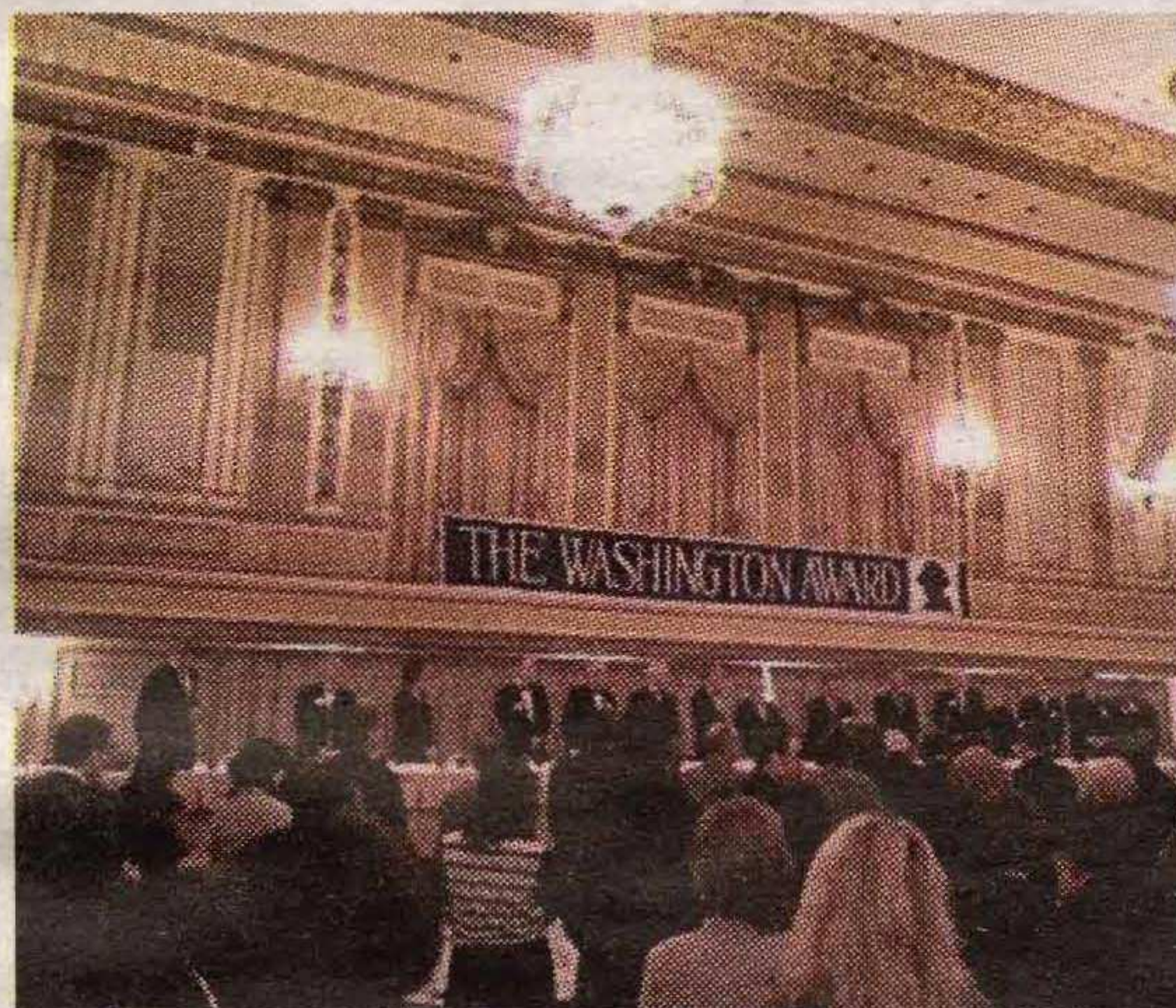
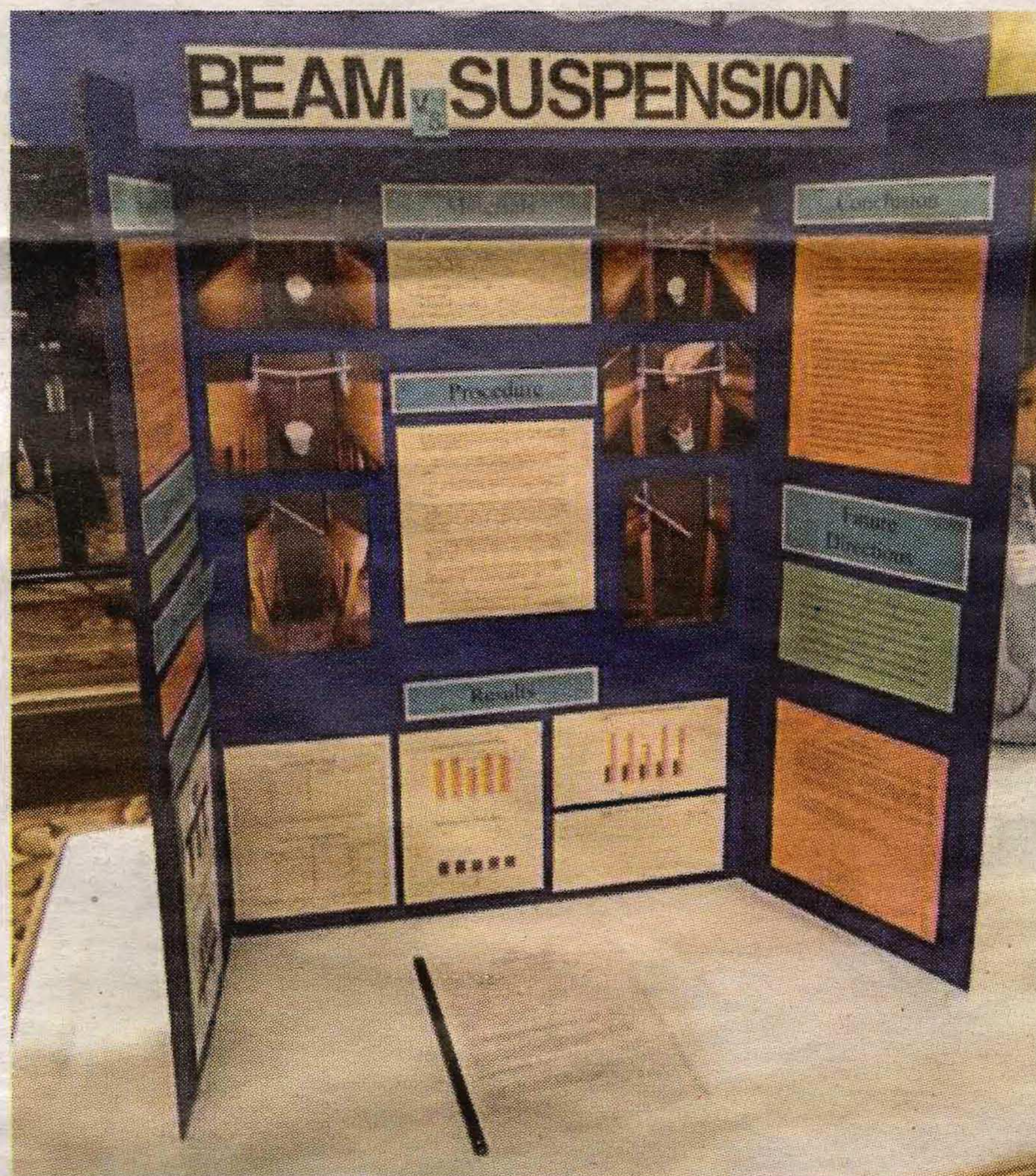
Nye was being honored for helping foster "a scientifically literate society," and helping people "understand and appreciate the scene that makes our world work."

This is one of the most prestigious engineering awards in the country; previous recipients of the Washington Award have included Neil Armstrong, Henry Ford, Orville Wright, Gene Cernan, Herbert Hoover, Dean Kamen, as well as IIT alumnus Martin Cooper and Dr. Kristina Johnson.

The vision of Chicagoland Engineers Week is to "stimulate junior and senior high school students to consider careers in engineering, especially through hands-on school projects, highlight the contributions of engineers to the well-being of society, especially in Chicagoland." Engineers work behind the scenes to help improve the quality of life in our communities. Their work isn't always visible, but we count on them for a number of different services. Last year hundreds of middle to high school aged students participated in a variety of mathematics and science programs/competitions.

Fifty of the top achievers get to attend the Chicagoland Engineering Awards Benefit where they will get the opportunity to rub elbows with esteemed engineers, as well as receive awards and the accolades of hundreds of teachers, parents and other students at the gathering.

At the end of the day, it was Bill Nye's inspiring charisma that made the evening all



Photos by Jose Gibaja

the more memorable. Reminiscent of his public appearance at IIT about a year ago, (at what remains a standout attendance event our cam-

pus has ever seen) his trademark jokes and witty remarks have definitely inspired us to "... dare I say it? Change the world!"

## IIT hosts first HPV Awareness Campaign for Women's History Month

**Netiya Shiner**  
TECHNEWS WRITER

Did you know that, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) HPV (human papillomavirus) is so common that nearly all sexually active people can expect to contract it sometime in their life?

However, in 2006, the Federal Drug and Food Administration approved the HPV vaccine for use in the prevention of HPV, the sexually transmitted infection (STI) that is the leading cause of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is now available at healthcare providers throughout the nation (including IIT's own Student Health and Wellness Center) for women aged 9 to 26, and men aged 11 to 26.

According to Planned Parenthood, the vaccine prevents against four strains of HPV, two of which cause 70 percent of all cases of cervical cancer, while the other two can lead to genital warts.

The American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Planned Parenthood all support ensuring that young people get vaccinated against HPV.

Because HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer, getting vaccinated against HPV truly saves lives. Recently the HPV vaccine has been made available to many more Americans through the Affordable Care Act, which ensures that many preventative services, such as birth control and pap smears, be offered to insured Americans at no cost.

Due to the vital importance of vaccinating teens and young adults against HPV, IIT is hosting its first ever HPV Awareness Campaign this March.

Sponsored by IIT Women's Services and Planned Parenthood, this HPV Awareness Campaign will be a week of action centered around getting students information about HPV and the HPV vaccine. The week long campaign will be composed of three smaller events, which are being run by student volunteers.

On Monday, March 3, students will be posting flyers around campus with facts about HPV to generate interest in the subject.

That same Wednesday, March 5, we will be stationed at a table in the MTCC (by Global Grounds) where we will be passing out information and talking to students about HPV and the HPV vaccine.

Friday, March 7, students will be stationed around campus passing out condoms and fact sheets containing specific information about how to get vaccinated against HPV, such as which healthcare providers around the city offer the vaccine, and the cost of the vaccine at various providers.

We hope that you will be able to attend the event, and for more information do not hesitate to email Netiya Shiner at [Netiya.Shiner@gmail.com](mailto:Netiya.Shiner@gmail.com).



# TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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### MISSION STATEMENT

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.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

TechNews is written, managed, and edited by the students of, and funded in part by, Illinois Institute of Technology. The material herein does not necessarily reflect the opinions of Illinois Institute of Technology or the editors, staff, and advisor of TechNews. There will be no censorship of TechNews publication by the faculty or staff of IIT. Sole authority and responsibility for publication and adherence to the values set forth in this policy rests with the TechNews staff. This paper seeks to bring together the various segments of the Illinois Tech community and strives through balance and content to achieve a position of respect and excellence. TechNews strives for professionalism with due respect to the intellectual values of the university and its community. All material submitted becomes the property of TechNews, and is subject to any editorial decisions deemed necessary.

### 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.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The editors reserve the right to determine if submitted material meets TechNews' policy and standards. For more information about our editorial standards, please email assteditor@technewsiit.com.

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Letters to the editor may be submitted by anyone, but are subject to review by the Editor-in-Chief. All letters-to-the-editor become the property of TechNews upon submission. TechNews does not accept or publish anonymous letters or stories.

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### LOCAL & NATIONAL ADVERTISERS

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

## Nye @ Washington Awards Ceremony:

# Bill Nye: Just a regular 'Science Guy'

**Austin Gonzalez**

OPINION EDITOR

I love Bill Nye "The Science Guy." Who doesn't? He's got a handful of Emmys, shows, and patents. His love and passion for science and discovery are clear and inspiring. He's incredibly charismatic and I wish I could just listen to the stories he tells. Meeting him in person was something different. Hero worship happens because we all want to see (and only see) the greatness in people, and when they continue to astound us we can't help but think they will never cease to astound us. In person Nye is a bit of a different person.

As soon as Nye walked into the room I recognized him and felt excitement. Here's a guy

who is the embodiment of the belief in progress, that working together we can change the world without a doubt.

Quickly the bubble of photographers and fans grew and he was almost unreachable.

In pictures, he's smiling and as happy as ever but as soon as the cameras were down, he just looked forlorn and disappointed. He was like a poodle in a tutu being paraded around. He would make these off-putting expressions when someone fumbled with their camera or was in his way. You could hear him mumbling, "hold the camera higher, your fingers are in the way of the range-finder, come on now, this isn't that hard," when people were taking pictures with him.

He just looked tired. Maybe he was

disappointed in his recent resurgences in the spotlight. Nothing has changed about him from when "The Science Guy" first started, but because of two highly publicized debates, now everyone wants his picture again.

Maybe he is just a geek who isn't comfortable with pageantry (you could certainly see that too.) Coming away from the night so many people were talking about what an amazing human being he is, how deserving he is of our attention, but no one was introspective.

I think he wants people not to love him but to love science and have a passion for curiosity and learning. There's more to Bill Nye than his public face and sometimes it wears a little thin. We all need to take up the causes he champions rather than the champion himself.

## Hipsters: Composites of contradictions, culture

**Austin Gonzalez**

OPINION EDITOR

Hipsters were, and perhaps still are, a vehemently despised group to pop in and out of the spotlight. I think this is because they've stolen cultural capital and just made a mess of what everyone holds near and dear.

Cultural capital is the idea that you can use elements of a community's specific culture to gain status.

As computer nerds, you have programmed your own games and servers, as a trekkie, you've memorized the dialogue of the entire original series, as an anime aficionado, you've written your own fan fiction, and each of these things you are proud of and shows your dedication to the cause.

Hipsters on the other hand pick and choose things that they like. Lumberjack beard and an ironic dolphin tattoo? Go for it. Grunge

jeans, dark ambient music, and a food truck Koolickles (Kool-Aid pickles.) Don't knock it till you've tried it.

Hipsters are a big mess of contradictions and they are hated because they are seen as stealing culture without earning it. They choose things because they like them, worse yet if they like them ironically, and refuse to accept the rest of the culture that comes with it.

But I think hipsters got everything right.

Hipsters are the evolution of culture in a global society. They take the things they like and combine them to make a wholly unique experience. They are a change in the idea that culture is from some heritage and must be preserved in its purest form.

People get stuck in their community echo chambers where what's cool just gets echoed back and forth reverberating without

meaning. Purposefully choosing to do things that aren't "mainstream" for the sake of being different is kind of lame, but choosing to go against the grain of what's in popular culture increases visibility of lesser known brands and artists.

It causes me to think about why I choose to listen to what I do instead of looking harder for something lesser known, but closer to perfection.

A sort of Stockholm Syndrome of popular culture can entrap people; after being surrounded by a trend at every turn, you can't help but become complacent with it or join the movement that hates it. Just go and pick out the things you like.

"We have to stop consuming our culture, we have to create culture. Don't watch TV, don't read magazines, don't even listen to NPR, create your own road show... You're giving it all away!" -Terence McKenna.

campus@technewsiit.com

UTSAV GANDHI

**CAMPUS**

## IEEE@IIT welcomes Microsoft rep at next meeting, celebrates successful trip to Roberson & Associates

**Vijai Baskar**

TECHNEWS WRITER

The Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEEE) at IIT organized a tour to Roberson & Associates on February 19.

The host Dennis Roberson, gave a detailed tour into his organization which deals with providing services in the areas of Radio Frequency (RF) spectrum management, RF measurement and analysis, and technology management.

The research is headed by Roger Peterson, M.S., Ph.D in Multi user-error correction coding, also life fellow of IEEE. Peterson has also worked for Motorola and Bell labs prior to working at Roberson & Associates. He is the co-author of the book "Introduction to Spread Spectrum Communication," which is used as the primary reference tool for research in spread spectrum. The tour also included a walk-through of the labs and devices used in their research.

Currently, they are working on providing solutions to spectrum availability, spectrum use efficiency and various other spectrum needs for companies such as T-Mobile, Globalstar and the Department of Defense. As part of this project, data about spectrum usage in the Chicago area is being gathered for further analysis. For more details about the company, visit

www.robersonandassociates.com.

The next event for the month will be the IEEE general body meeting to be held on February 26 during the lunch session in the Siegel Hall Auditorium. It is an opportunity for students to know more about IEEE's activities and upcoming events.

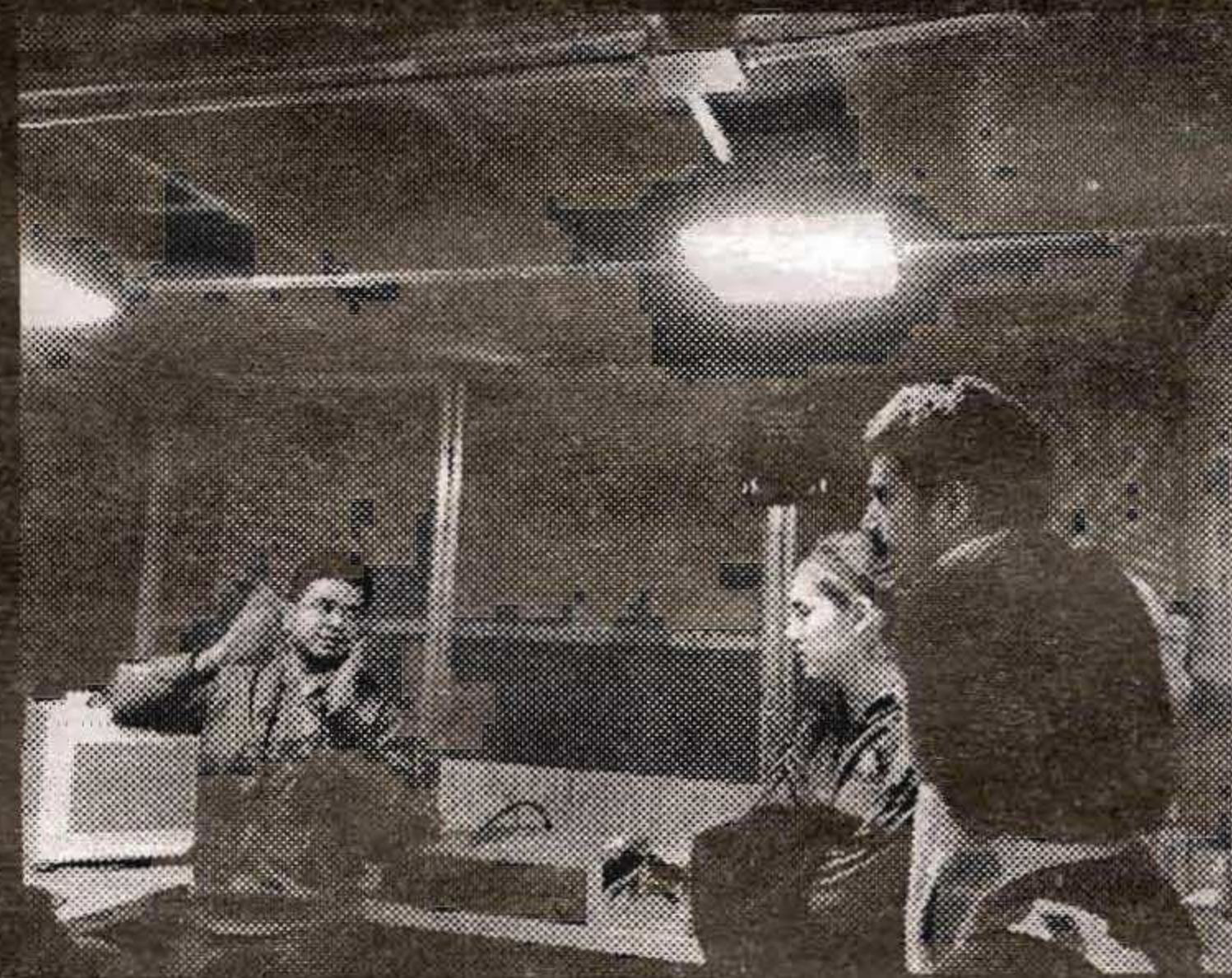
Martin Schray from Microsoft will be the guest speaker for the meeting. He will be speaking about the various new technologies Microsoft is working on, career opportunities within the company and take questions from students.

As always, lunch will be provided.

Dave Collins, Academic Field Sales Engineer from National Instruments will be conducting a workshop in late March that includes a demonstration of current products, talks about possible career opportunities and how to use their products. Stay tuned with IEEE for further updates on this event.

The month of February saw many interested students sign-up for committees under various executive board positions.

Students are still encouraged to join committees and projects if they are willing to contribute towards IEEE and be a part of its activities and events. More information on how to come aboard is available on the website www.ieee.iit.edu.



Photos by Vijai Baskar



# ASB Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser has surprise participant

**Utsav Gandhi & William Syvongsa**  
CAMPUS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) has had a lot of fundraisers this academic year to raise money for the 25 students and four staff members traveling to West Virginia during the upcoming spring break.

The team would like to thank the rest of the IIT community for helping us raise funds for volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

This year, ASB has seen successful spaghetti lunches, letter writing campaigns, Rocky's Tip-Matching Nights, a BOG event, Singing Valentines and the Taste of IIT, besides other fundraisers.

These events have helped the team achieve not just financial self-support, but also given the members valuable skills in team building, logistical coordination and financial/communication matters.

Fundraising is never an easy task, especially in a college environment, but

with the most successful fundraising season in history, the team has proven that good coordination, communication and a solid group effort can achieve any given goal-oriented task.

As the President and Vice President of Fundraising respectively, the authors really appreciate how, as a community we help each other when it comes to our hobbies and passions.

We would also like to take this opportunity to talk to you about one of our bigger remaining fundraisers as we close off the season before final logistical preparations. Our goal is to help the next ASB team to start off strongly, just as our team did.

We are planning our annual Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser for February 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the MTCC Bridge.

Pie-in-the-Face is an event where staff, faculty, and student volunteers can get "pied" in the face (it's actually whipped cream, but the feeling and impact are just the same); one pie for \$3 or two pies for \$5.

In the past, staff members from the Office of Campus Life, Residence and Greek Life, and Athletics have volunteered to get pied, as well as former Student Government Association and Union Board presidents.

This year the participant list is impressive; some important members on campus have volunteered to get pied throughout the day: Eric Bugby, swim coach; Tayyab Arshad, Academic Resource Center Director; Professor Sally Laurent-Muehleisen from the Physics Department; Sarah Wright, Event Services Coordinator.

All day, Ken Smith from the Career Management Center will offer to be pied. At 12 p.m., the Director of Residence and Greek Life, Betsi Pinkus-Huizenga, will be on the bridge for half an hour. At 2 p.m., the President of the university himself, John Anderson, will be on the bridge for half an hour.

ASB has done its best to gather a unique group of people to be pied. So come on down and take part in the festivities!

If you would like to get involved with ASB this academic year, but missed out on team recruitment, we are partnering up for the first time with the Office of Service Learning and an external organization called Architecture for Humanity, to provide an exclusive opportunity for a similar project right here in Chicago.

This project, similar to the traditional spring build, will run for three days, March 19 to 21, during business hours at the Architecture for Humanity site.

For those looking to apply for future Alternative Spring Break trips, this is a fantastic opportunity to get some preliminary exposure.

We are looking for volunteers from all fields of study, class years, levels of experience and even previous volunteer/construction involvement.

Stay tuned for more details, because sign-up spots are limited. Email [asb.iit@gmail.com](mailto:asb.iit@gmail.com), [gandhi@hawk.iit.edu](mailto:gandhi@hawk.iit.edu) or [lmeyer2@iit.edu](mailto:lmeyer2@iit.edu) for more details.

# Presidential Scholars launch original blog

**Shireen Gul**  
COPY EDITOR

Illinois Institute of Technology is a home-away-from-home for many international students. We leave our homes and families and come so far for the journey of knowledge, for a better future.

We must thank IIT for all they do to make us feel at home. But have we ever thought that there might be students who come here to get a good education, but due to financial constraints, can't make it?

Someone else thought about it and made this dream come true for almost 200 transfer students.

According to the Undergraduate Admissions Department's website, the Presidential Scholarship was "inspired by a series of conversations with Chancellor Cheryl Hyman (IIT, CS 1996) of the City Colleges of Chicago and the presidents of the City Colleges of Chicago, in 2010 Illinois Institute of Technology announced a major new scholarship and educational outreach initiative—the Presidential Scholarship. Through this initiative, IIT is determined to substantially redefine pipeline initiatives in the science, engineering, architecture, technology, business and human science fields.

Collaborating institutions and

organizations are committed to serve as a catalyst to support students toward their goals, to conduct undergraduate research and earn advanced professional and academic degrees. Scholars in turn are asked to significantly engage with their K-12 and community college communities to encourage and empower others towards educational success."

For those who haven't already heard about the Presidential Scholarship and the scholars on campus, this is a good time to get to know them, and see how they become a part of this cohort, and how they are contributing to their communities.

Let's take a look at how this scholarship came into being. It was early 2010, when Cheryl L. Hyman became the Chancellor of City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) and she saw that there were many deserving transfer students, who didn't have enough financial support for universities like IIT. The CCC, along with IIT, wanted to make an award for transfer students, while mindful that the award should be an initiative that includes community outreach, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) as well as educational outreach.

At the same time, Gerald Doyle, Vice Provost of Student Access, Success, and Diversity Initiatives, connected with Dr. Carl Mack of National Society for Black

Engineers (NSBE.) Mack has been visiting the Caribbean, especially the island of St. Lucia, and found that some of the most talented students he met belonged to St. Lucia. Therefore, he wanted to make sure those deserving students get a good place in a good institute.

Dr. Mack, met Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton (one of the most inspirational people this writer has come across in her lifetime) at a conference in Toronto and shared his dream and they—together with others who shared their vision—made their dream come alive.

The first batch of Presidential Scholars arrived on campus in Fall 2010, which was focused on CCC and St. Lucia and transfer students from City of Chicago (26 students from City of Chicago and 28 from St. Lucia.) Later, they expanded their wings and now there are students from Pakistan, Jordan, Malaysia, and Syria, among others.

By this spring semester, there will be six cycles of Presidential Scholars and several have graduated as well. Many of whom are making a difference in their communities. That is what the Presidential Scholarship is about: "doing at least one good thing a year."

Recently, the scholars started their own blog. The blog is open to submissions and ideas from all current and former Presidential Scholars, as well as all the other students on campus.

The main goal of this blog is to gather everyone's reflections on the IIT experience, not only as students, but as people from many different viewpoints and walks of life.

How has IIT and the scholarship affected you? What challenges have you faced as a student? What advice would you offer your successors? What are your goals for the future, and how have they been served by your experience at IIT? Have a funny, inspiring, or thought-provoking anecdote you'd like to share? Feel free to contact us in order to contribute to the blog.

The choice of subject is entirely up to you. We also have a guest writer section, in which we have contributors from around the globe. Another interesting section is of faculty and staff, who will soon be contributing content for the blog.

If you have an essay idea, but need some guidance or encouragement, feel free to pitch a suggestion and we'll offer whatever feedback we can. If you have a piece ready to go, fire away!

Undergrads should direct inquiries and submissions to Shireen Gul at [sgul1@hawk.iit.edu](mailto:sgul1@hawk.iit.edu); alumni can reach Wilson David Work at [wwork@hawk.iit.edu](mailto:wwork@hawk.iit.edu).

For more information, please visit our blog and don't forget to follow us on [www.presidentialblogatiit.wordpress.com](http://www.presidentialblogatiit.wordpress.com)

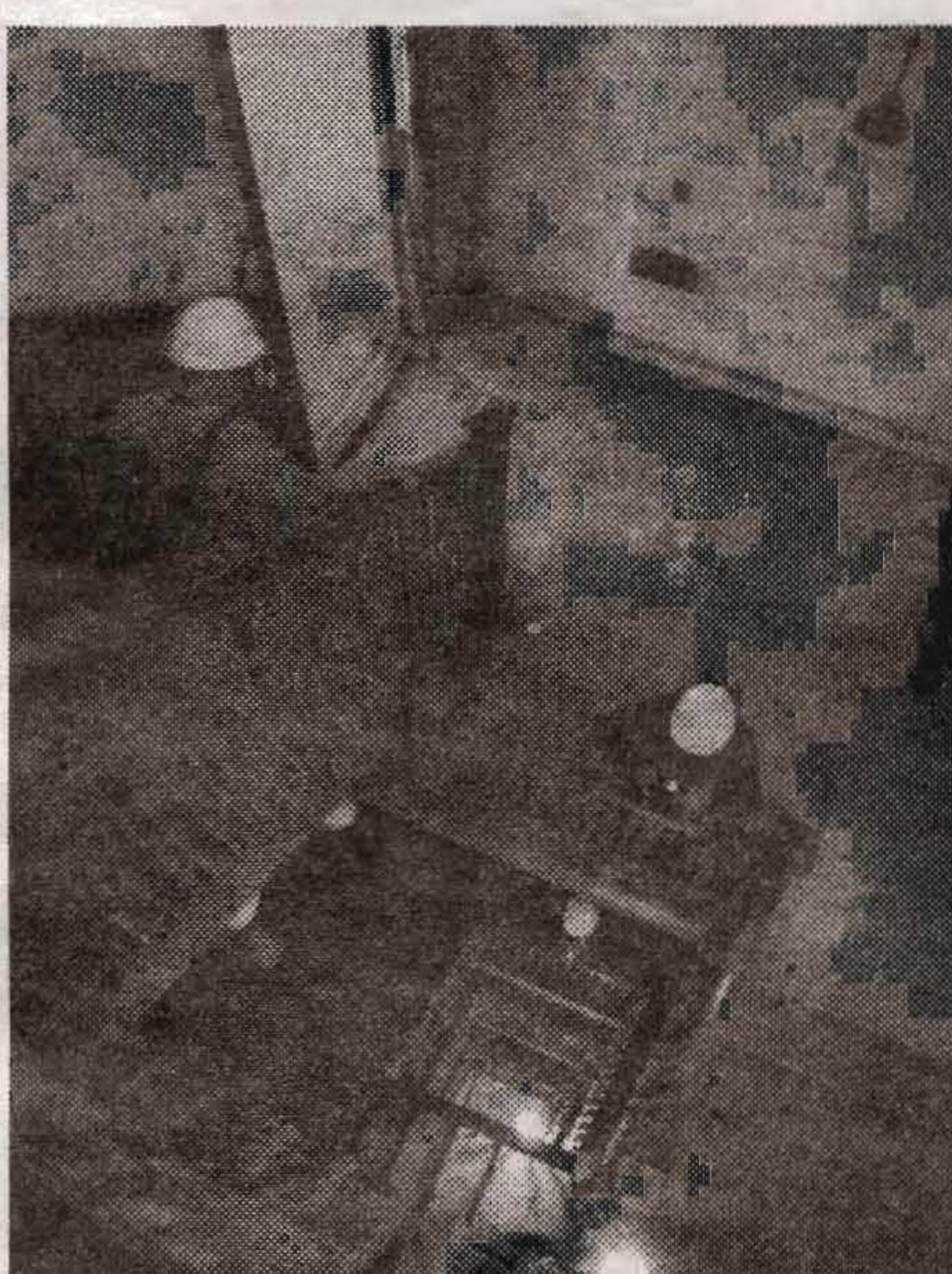
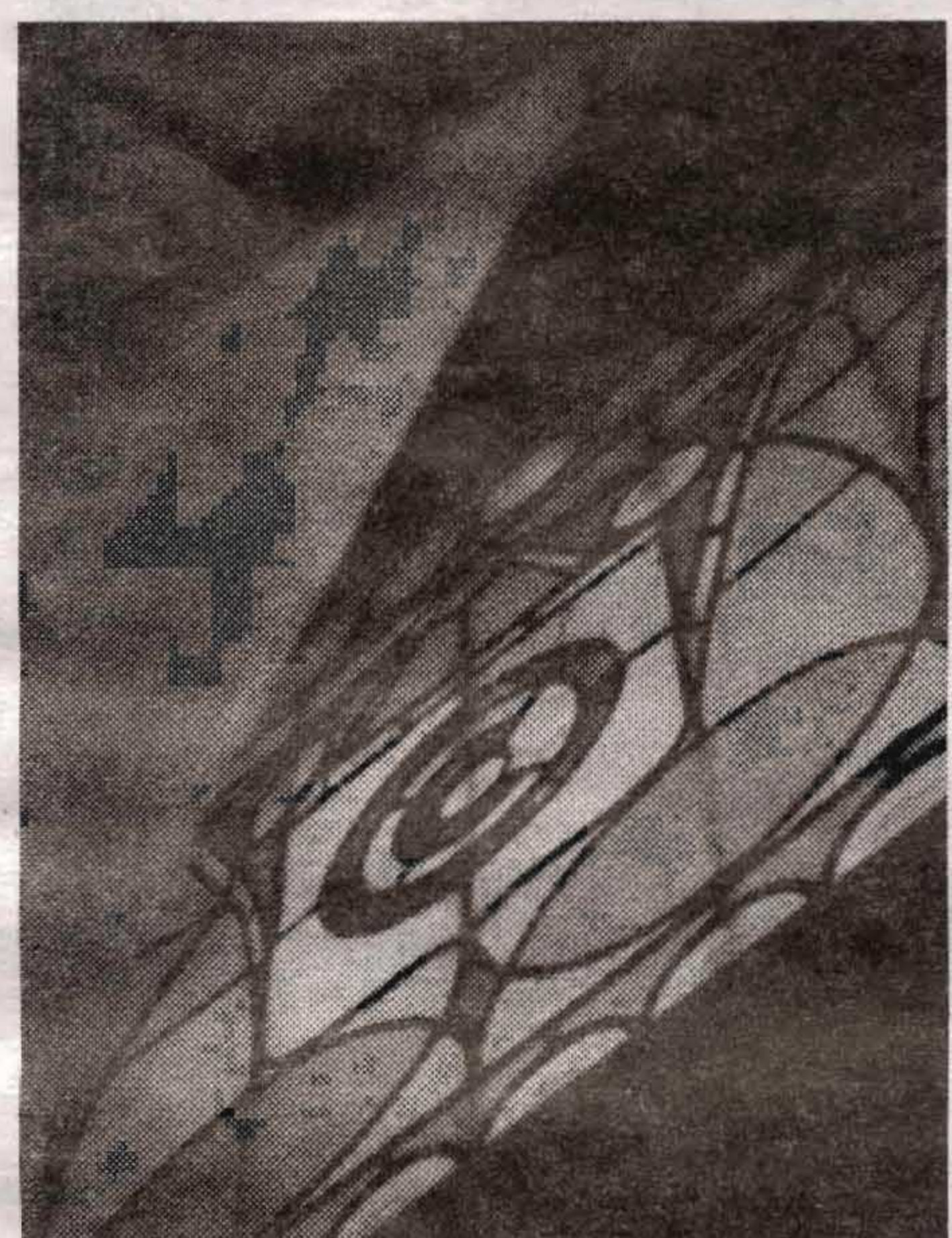
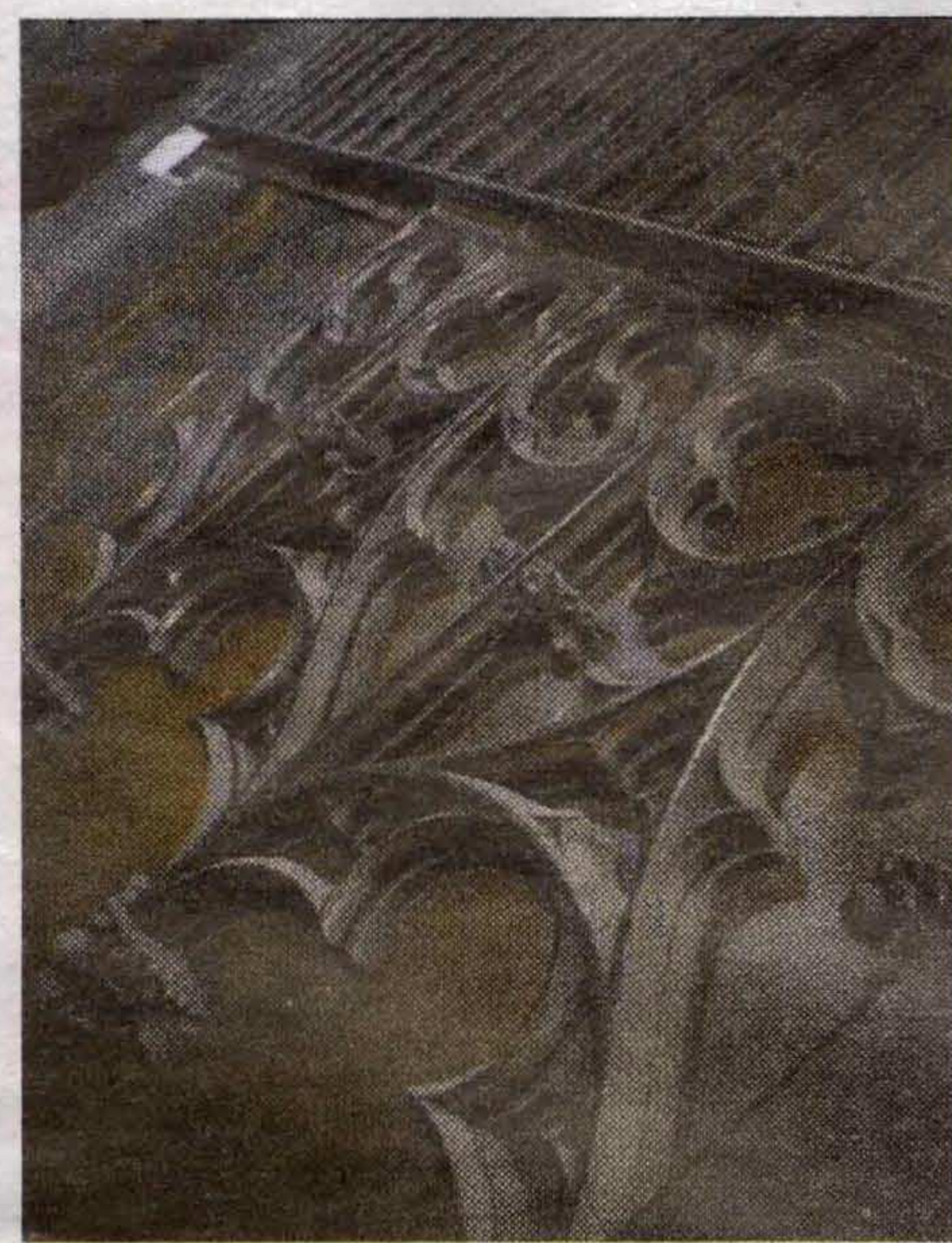
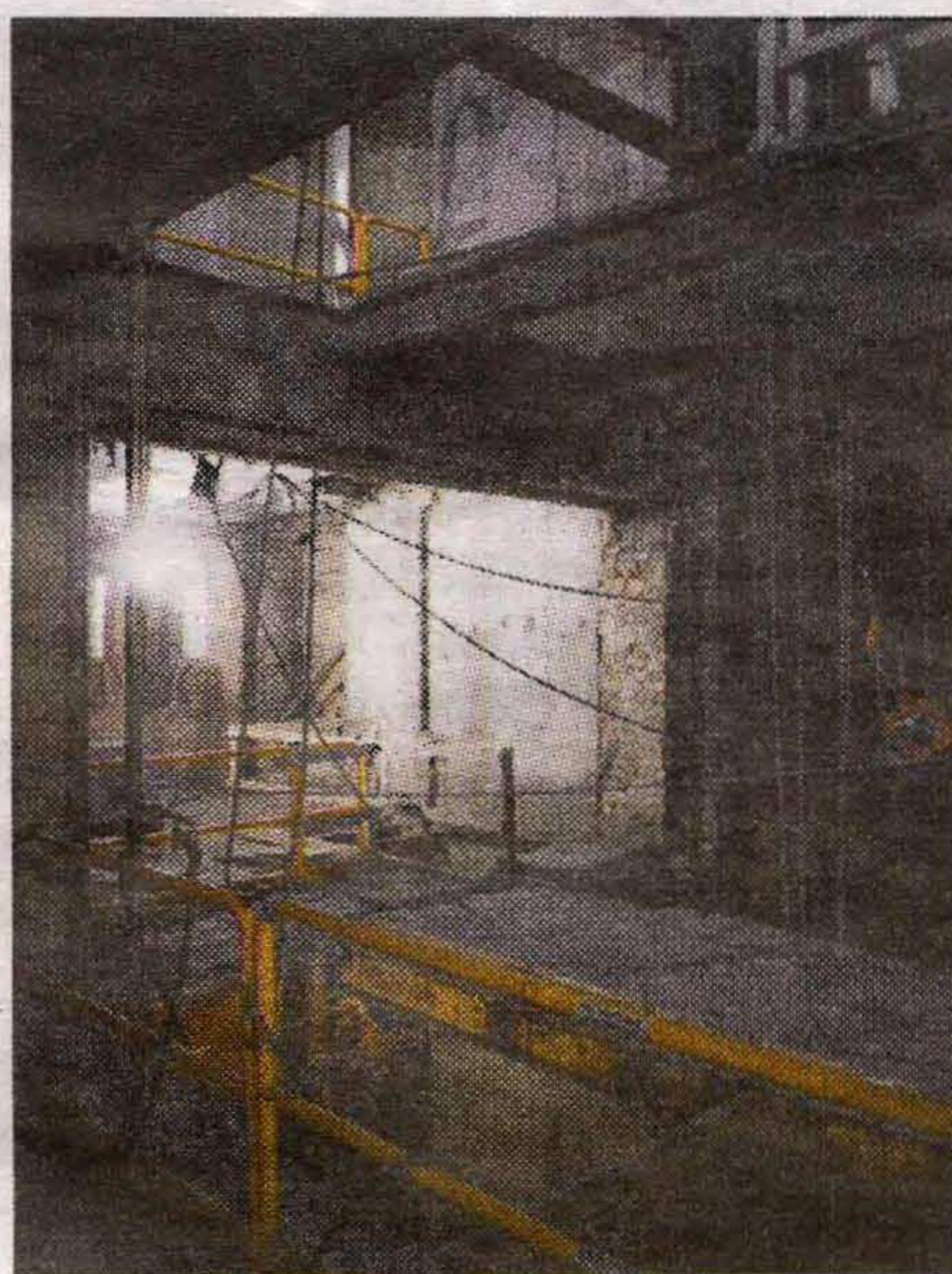
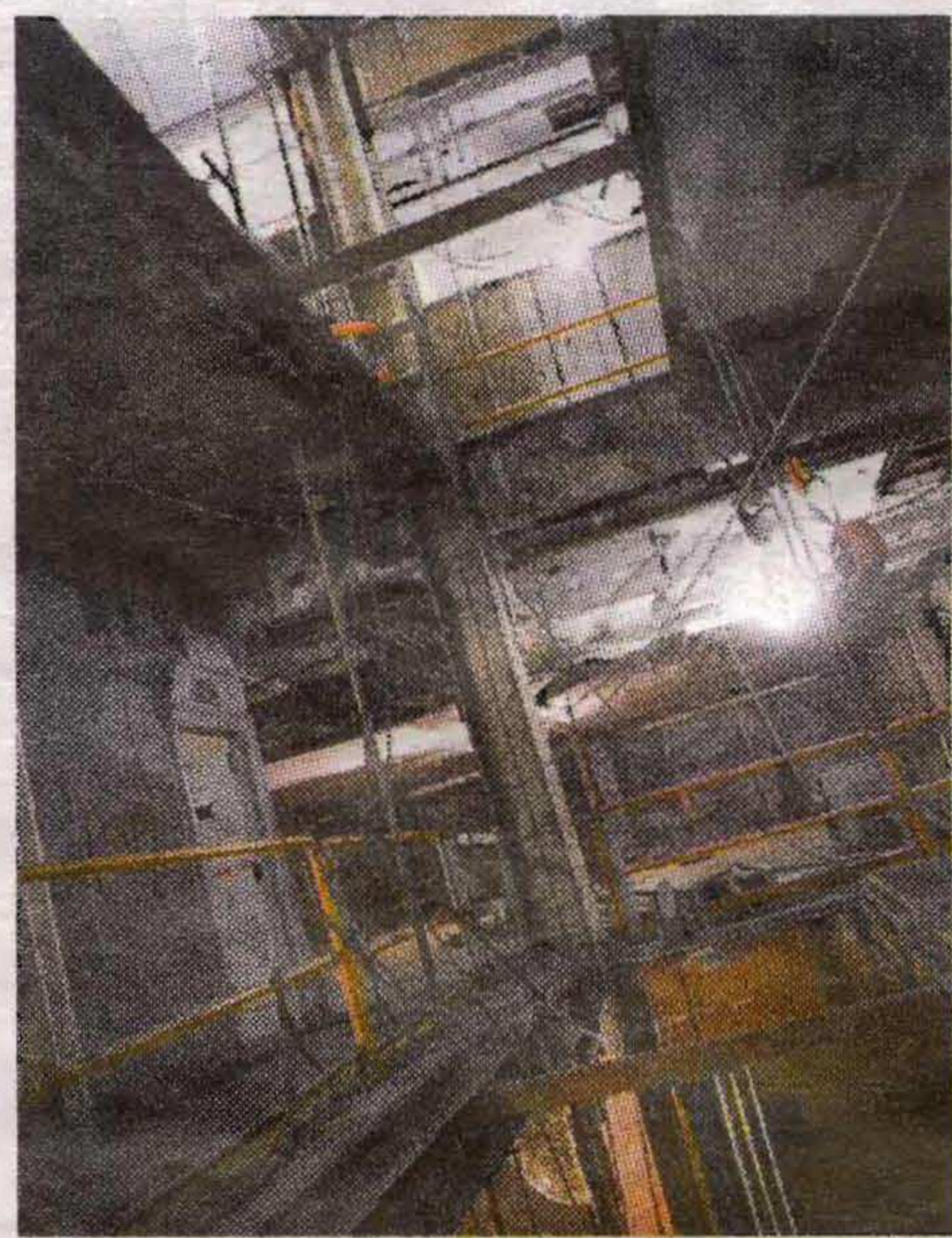
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# LAYOUT EDITORS

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# Renovations @ Chicago Athletic Association



Photos by Nick Caldwell



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
Office of Campus Life

The

**BOG**

at **iit**

**Now Open on Saturday!**  
March 1, March 8, March 29, &  
April 5!

Check out the  
Women's History  
Month Schedule  
for March at:  
[http://tinyurl.com/  
iitWomen2014](http://tinyurl.com/iitWomen2014)

**Save the Date!**  
**Pi Day - March 14**  
**in Campus Life!**





# Waste System Revitalization

Renewed efforts to increase waste diversion on campus and in neighboring communities.



## March Sustainability Forum

Armour Dining Room // March 7th, 2014 // 12:30-2pm  
Lunch included, vegan and gluten free options available

RSVP: [tinyurl.com/IITWasteUpdate](http://tinyurl.com/IITWasteUpdate)

[campussustainability@iit.edu](mailto:campussustainability@iit.edu)

## Full-time IIT Undergraduate Students: Enter the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual IIT Writing Contest

All full-time undergraduate students are encouraged to enter the 49<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>.  
Reception for all entrants, with awarding of prizes: Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

For more information, contact us: [iitwritingcontest@gmail.com](mailto: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 form from: [bit.ly/1gDIXvw](http://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](mailto: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.

# now hiring layout editors

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## IIT First-Year Students and Graduating Students (Seniors)



Want to  
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- ☐ DISAGREE  
☐ AGREE  
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## TAKE THE SURVEY!

IIT is participating in the **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)**.  
You will receive your survey by email from NSSE soon.

Respond by **May 3** for a chance to win one of 12 Best Buy® gift cards!

### We want to hear your feedback about IIT!

Your opinions count and will help IIT to improve academic and social programming at the university.

**HAVE QUESTIONS?**  
Contact the Office of Assessment and HEA Compliance at [emmons@iit.edu](mailto:emmons@iit.edu).

 ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



## Movie Review:

# 'Robocop' reboot crashes

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

How many blood squibs does it take to make an awesome action movie? At least a dump truck's worth apparently. The Robocop reboot debuted recently and this critic was ultimately unsatisfied, but not more so than he was expecting. The Robocop reboot is receiving a lot of negative reviews that may not necessarily be warranted. It was better than a shameless money grab, not any better than the visceral experience of the original. It's essentially Robocop with more killing, less gore, and a sprinkled message about the military industrial complex.

This reboot seemed to have less that tied it to the original, hoping to stave off comparison and reach praise like the Judge Dredd reboot which re-mastered its story. Stylistically, the two movies are worlds apart and I don't think the Robocop story is one that lends itself to this new adaptation. It was a 1980's action movie, gratuitous to an extreme, literally a bloody good time. There's a scene where a rapist gets shot in his goodness for goodness' sake. Robocop just isn't a movie that can be

rebooted into a slapped on political message carrying, PG-13 rated, CGI-fest.

Thematically, I wasn't entertained either. There are all these emotional hits that I just did not care for. The main plot vein is the cliché where future science does something future scientist didn't foresee; the bad guy and future scientist clash over choosing to destroy and be bad or release the technology to be free. I wished the main sequence made sense in the larger view of the movie. The opening and ending sequences are of Samuel Jackson yelling on a talk show about how great it is America can provide safety in the middle east with advanced weaponry (drones no less). I get it. America shouldn't be pointing guns at people. What does this have to do with Robocop?

The original thrived on being gratuitous and satirical. If you want to watch a crazy action flick, there it is. If you want to see a satire about American consumerism it's only ever so thinly veiled. New Robocop felt like it was going through the motions. I was bored with it the whole way through. Is it really too much to ask for a movie with a robot super cop to be cool? I'd buy that for a dollar.

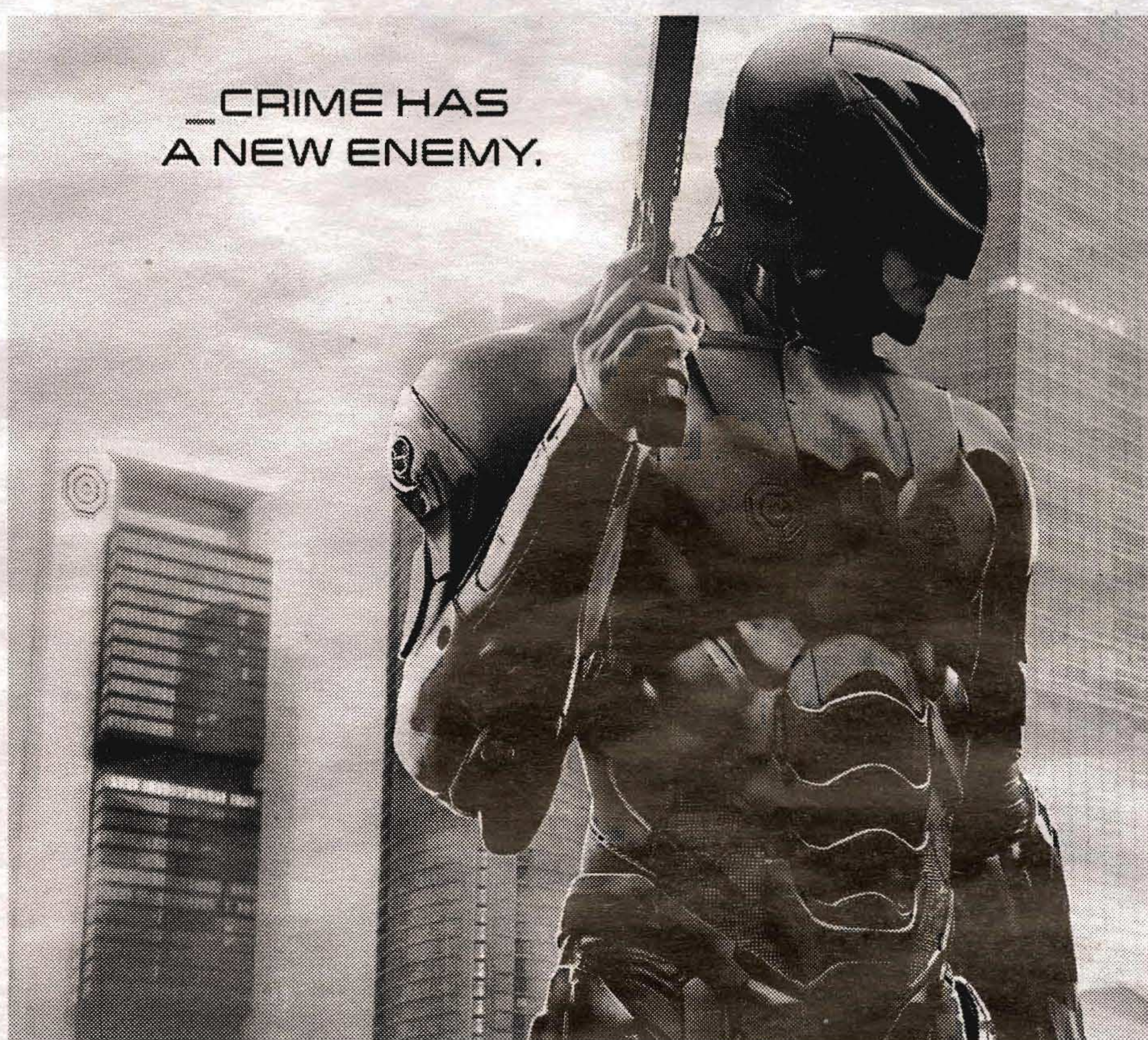


Image courtesy of robocopmovie-2014.com

## Tech[nology]News:

## Pokemon enters online arena

Austin Gonzalez

OPINION EDITOR

Combine the greatest invention of mankind (the Internet), and one of the most prolific cultural icons of my generation, and you get the most interesting social experiment I've had the opportunity to study and participate in.

The set up is simple, run a Lua script to catch commands from the chatroll of a live streaming service and then use those as the inputs for an emulator. Featuring eight buttons (up, down, left, right, A, B, start, and select) and a reaction time of less than 40 seconds. Pokemon is a great candidate for the web to try and play collectively.

Five hundred thirty-five thousand sixty-two unique people from across the world have massed together to try and play a single game of Pokemon together. Our intrepid hero, Red, from the original Pokemon series is being bombarded with 16 commands per second and there is no end in sight. Constantly bumping into walls, falling off ledges, releasing his best Pokemon, consulting the helix fossil and it's never ending wisdom, Red is the embodiment of greatness.

There have been corollaries drawn to the fact that a thousand monkeys on typewriters will surely write Shakespeare, but instead imagine 75 thousand monkeys simultaneously smashing away at a single keyboard trying to write Shakespeare. Twitch plays has raised questions highlighting religion, politics, and whether or not we actually can accomplish anything.

Comparisons to Congress of course have been made, but there is an interesting connect to democracy beyond a bunch of idiots yelling together. There is a running poll on how the live stream about how to make its decisions.

If 75 percent vote anarchy then the inputs are immediately processed and

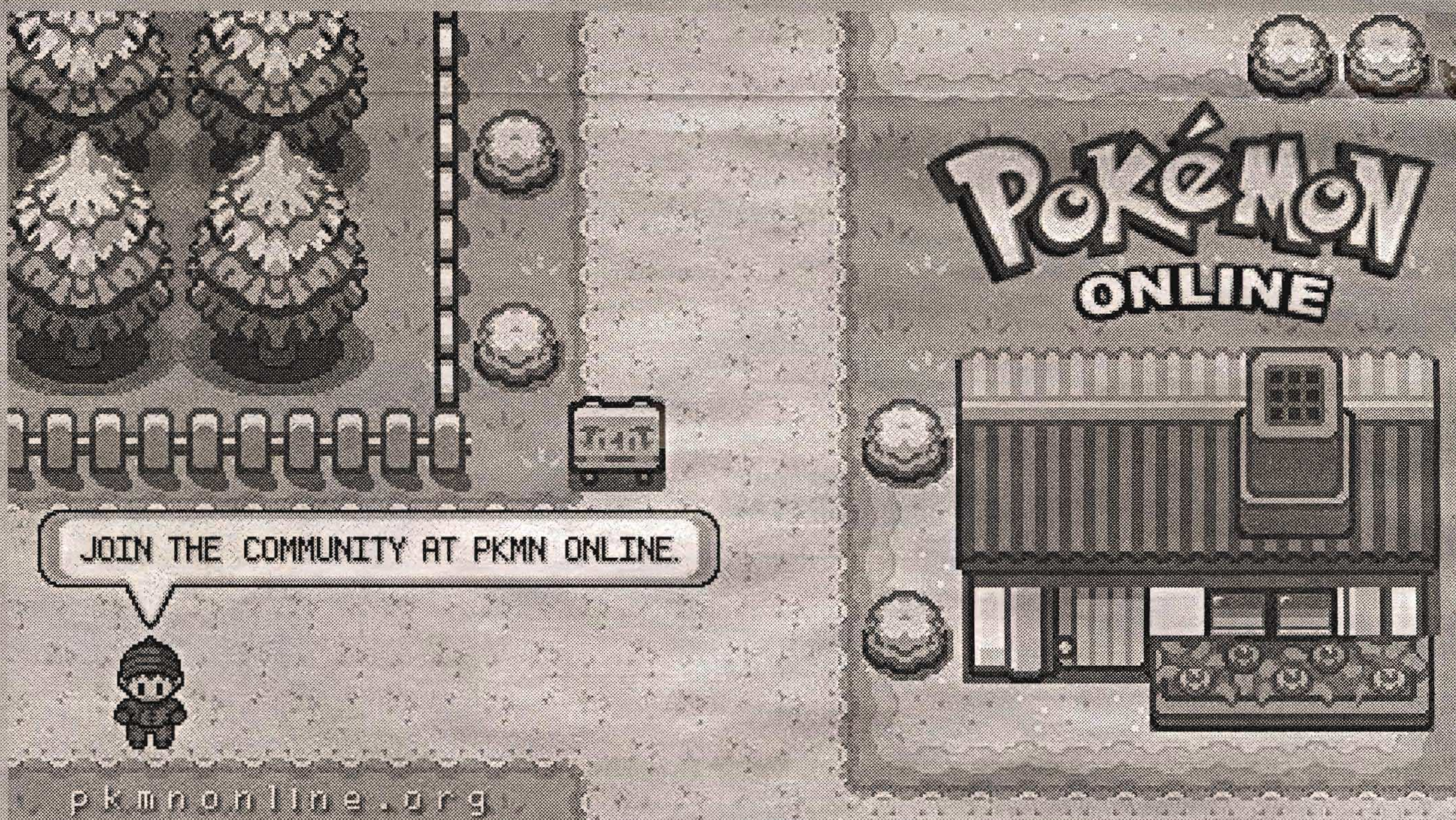


Image courtesy of pkmnonline.org

sent to Red, if 75 percent vote democracy then there is a five second delay where the most popular command is chosen. There is a near even divide of anarchists and the democratic.

The battle between their commands grow ever more complex. What started as start spam has grown into complex chains of commands to ensure that negative progress is made until anarchy is restored.

Democracy is somewhat counter to the original setup, but without it takes 12 hours to pass a trivial obstacle.

Red was making significant progress with the help of Bird Jesus and the helix fossil, near half of the game was completed, when a challenger has appeared. Someone had the idea to set up a side by side competitor with an RNG (Random Number Generator) to see who could beat the game faster (if indeed it was

possible) people or the universe. Surely thousands of people who have played the game countless times, and can collectively create pages of statistical sheets, progress charts, and strategy guides could beat a computer.

It's not so clear. After two days RNG beat two gym leaders; RNG was easily keeping pace with the humans. hilariously, RNG then caught a Magikarp and released its only other Pokemon, Charizard. The human payers aren't much better though, we released two of our best Pokemon whilst trying to put a Flareon in our PC. How is it that our collective butts are being kicked by nothing more than numbers created from cosmic interference? Upon restarting, RNG is now playing Pokemon Crystal, and 101 hours later it has already beaten six out of eight gym leaders on its way to becoming Pokemon master. A task we have reached,

but at hour 234.

What does it all mean? Ultimately, one hundred thousand persons logged on collectively trying to win a game together won't solve any world problems. The greatest thing about it is that despite the inherent madness and the freedom be evil we are making progress.

As trivial as beating a game of Pokemon can be, It shows we are capable of collectively working together towards a common goal.

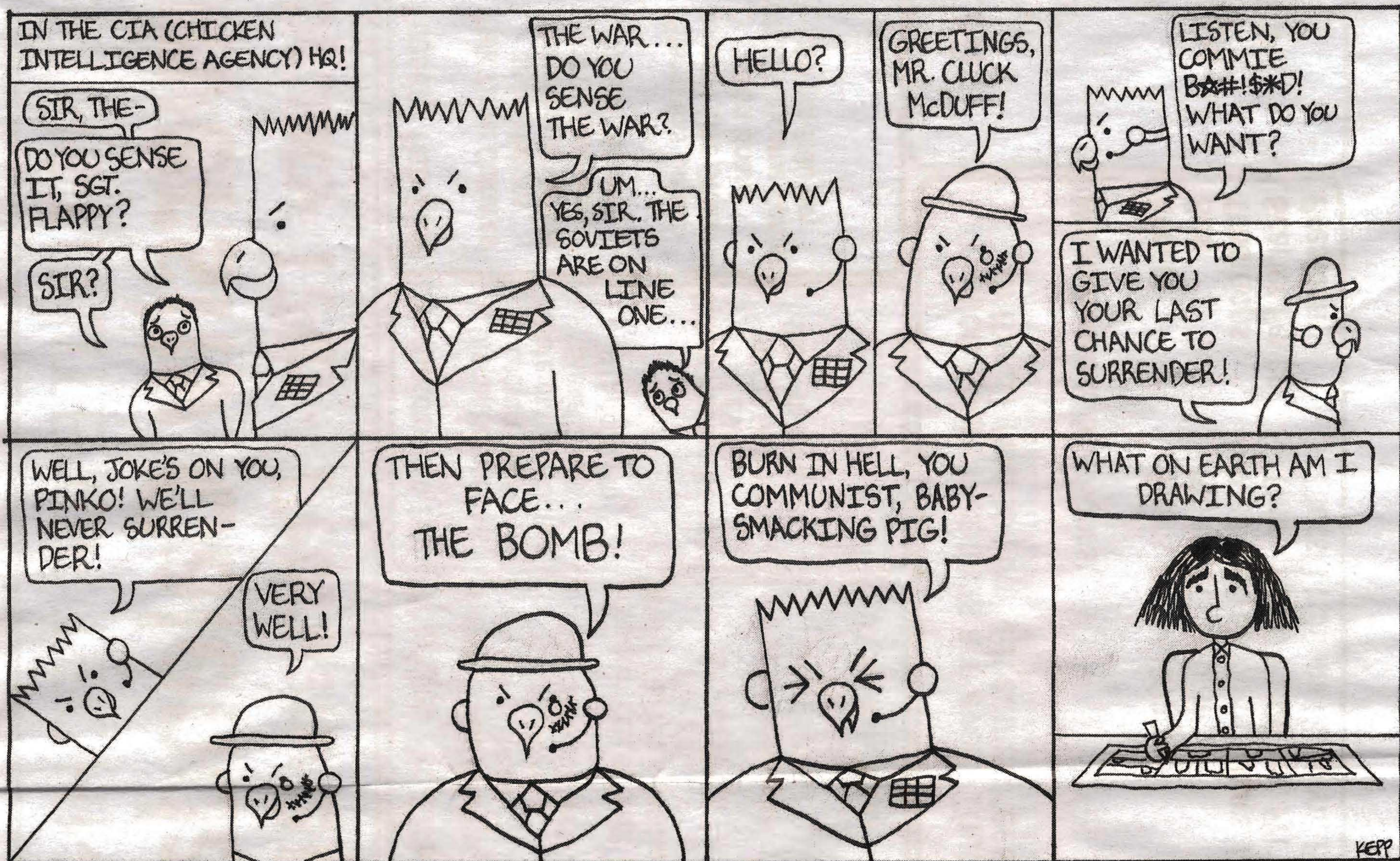
It may take 7.5 million commands before it's clear we can even complete a game that can take as little time as an hour an half to beat, but that doesn't make it any less amazing.

It is possible that dare I say it, we can change the world. I don't know what to make of the fact that an RNG is apparently better at this than us, perhaps the universe is just inherently good at Pokemon.



# And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp  
ART EDITOR



sports@technewsiit.com

NATHAN MCMAHON

## SPORTS

# Curtain call for Sochi 2014 Olympics

Nathan McMahon  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Sochi Winter Olympic Games have provided the world with countless positive and negative headlines over the past two weeks.

Preceding the games and in the early stages were the stories of facilities and venues not ready for Olympic use, which produced many questions on whether or not Russia was ready for this global event. As the games went on, these questions were answered, but

Mother Nature was not on the side of the hosts as warm temperatures continued to cause issues in events such as alpine skiing and the snowboarding events.

This did not prevent many memorable moments from occurring as Ted Ligety performed admirably in his medal performances in alpine skiing for the US. Also, the letdown of Shaun White as he failed to procure a third straight Olympic gold in the snowboard half-pipe will be a moment that will be remembered as an Olympic great ended his

Olympic career with disappointment.

There were also stories that captured the Olympic spirit of competition through passion for the sport as the Jamaican bobsled team admirably represented their tropical country despite coming in last place in their event.

Also, the lone representative from our neighbors to the South, Hubertus von Hohenlohe, represented his country for his love of skiing and to bring awareness of the winter Olympics to the people of Mexico,

and establish national pride in the country's athletes. Of course, the U.S. hockey teams fell victim to Canada yet again as the women lost in the gold medal game and the men falling in the semifinals just continues this continental rivalry as the two nations continue to battle for hockey supremacy.

Overall, these Olympics have been a positive reminder of the pure meaning of competition and the pride of the world's nations in its athletes and their dedication to perfection.



Friday, March 7  
**Men & Women's Track & Field**  
Gill Athletics Final Qualifier  
@ Carthage College  
3:30 p.m.

Saturday March 8  
**Women's Lacrosse**  
vs. Loras College  
3 p.m.

Sunday, March 9  
**Baseball**  
vs. Goshen College

Covelski Stadium, South Bend, IN  
12 p.m.

**Women's Lacrosse**  
vs. Lawrence Technological University  
4 p.m.  
Stuart Field

Tuesday, March 11  
**Women's Lacross**  
@ Benedictine University  
7 p.m.



# ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## University Calendar

### February 17th - February 21st

#### Monday Feb 24th

Access to Water  
Awareness Activity  
EWB  
MTCC Bridge  
12:00 pm-2:00 pm

General Body Meeting  
Red Cross IIT  
LS Auditorium  
1:00pm-2:00 pm

Fourteenth Amendment  
USA  
Tower Auditorium  
4:45 pm-7:00 pm

#### Tuesday Feb 25th

Talk Time: Cultures  
and Religions  
International Center  
MTCC Ballroom  
12:50-1:50 pm

Starhawks Coffee  
Lounge: Lisa Stump  
Union Board  
MTCC Welcome Center  
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

#### Wednesday Feb 26th

Digital Humanities  
Lecture Series:  
State of the Practice  
Siegel 218A  
3:15-5:00 pm

Oxfam Hunger Banquet  
EWB  
MTCC Ballroom  
5:00 pm-7:00 pm

#### Thursday Feb 27th

General Body Meeting  
Union Board  
E1 Auditorium  
12:45pm - 1:30pm

Student Engagement  
Night: Alumni Relations  
The Bog  
5:00-10:00 pm

Korean Pop Night  
with DJ Eva  
The Bog  
10:30 pm-1:00 am

#### Friday Feb 28th

Perlstein Premieres  
Union Board  
Perlstein Auditorium  
6:00 pm & 8:30 pm

Karaoke Night  
with SSU RAs  
Union Board  
The Bog  
9:00 pm-12:00 am

#### UPCOMING Union Board Events

Bog Open for Dinner!  
The Bog  
March 1, 8, 29, April 5  
5:00 pm-1:00 am

Phantom of the Opera  
Broadway in Chicago  
February 26th 7:00pm

Perlstein Premieres  
Thor: The Dark World  
Perlstein Auditorium  
February 28th  
6:00pm & 7:30 pm

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](mailto:ub@iit.edu)

#### RESCHEDULED:

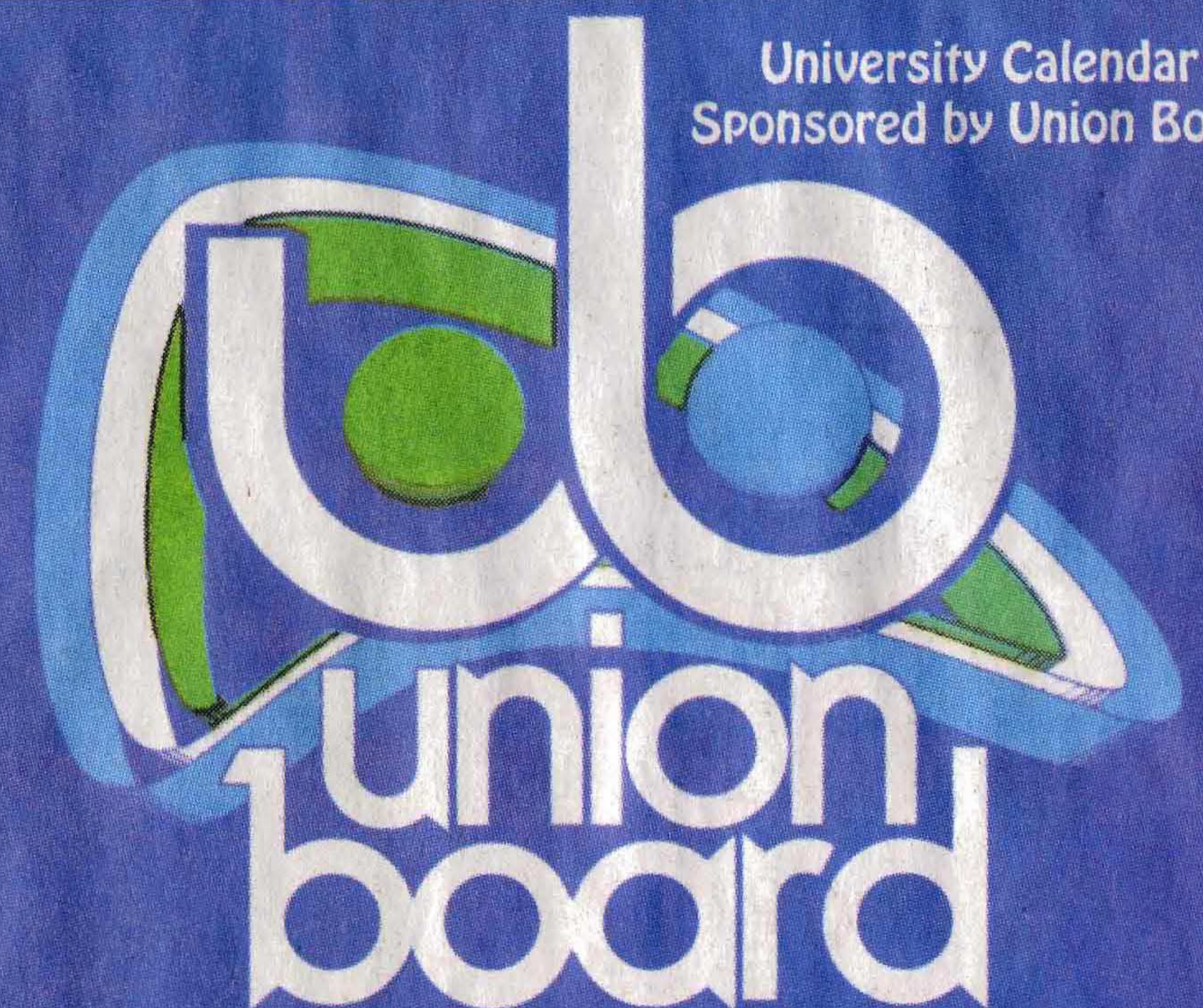
Sweet and Sour  
Banquet Hour  
March 5th  
1:00-2:00 pm

COMING SOON:  
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 5:00-6:00 pm, Thurs 10:00-11:00 am
Scarlet Fever	- Thurs 10:00-11:00 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](mailto:ub@iit.edu)