

TechNews

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928

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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.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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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Restaruant Review: Sodexo services objectionable

Kyle Stanevich
BUSINESS MANAGER

When you go to Sodexo, you do not expect to have gourmet food or the atmosphere of a five-star restaurant, just food that you can live off of. IIT's Sodexo, does not even meet that expectation.

The first problem is that there are too few choices. There are always consistent options, pizza, burgers, hot dogs, and cereal, but this is not enough to live off of. Even these choices have their drawbacks, like the buns of the burgers being stale or the pizza being too oily and salty.

The other options students have are the sandwich line, vegetarian option, international cuisine, and the entrée option. The vegetarian options are not diverse enough. Rice, sweet potatoes, and variations on eggplant become boring very quickly. I am not a vegetarian, but many friends of mine are, and they always complain about how few vegetarian or vegan choices there are at Sodexo. The entrée section usually has some meat, potatoes, and vegetables, but half the time the meat is overcooked and dried out, especially when there is chicken. The vegetables at the entrée line are usually on the other side of the spectrum, undercooked and crispy, not soft like cooked vegetables should be. If I wanted crispy veggies, I would eat from the salad bar instead.

The international line is generally good, but not everyone likes all the international food options. That leaves just one option left, the sandwich line. The sandwiches are fine, but it is a sandwich, something I could have made at home very easily, and much cheaper than entering into IIT's Sodexo-run Commons. I could even stop off at Jimmy Johns or Subway and get a filling sub sandwich for less money

than Sodexo, while still being just as quick and convenient as going to the Commons.

This brings up the next big problem, cost. IIT forces students to buy a meal plan, but at more than \$8 per meal for the 19 plus plan and \$10 per meal for the 14 plus plan, this is not a good deal for the students. It is quite easy for a person to live off of \$5 a day by making their own food, less than the cost for just one Sodexo meal. IIT should allow students to opt out of a meal plan to save them money. We all know that college costs a lot, so by doing this IIT will help students avoid future school debts. This issue was brought up briefly during the president and provost forum, and has been a topic of discussion many other times. The response is always the same. Some students are not able to feed themselves; therefore, we have mandatory Sodexo meal plans.

However, there are hundreds of students on campus that can feed themselves and are responsible enough to buy their own food. The incoming inexperienced freshmen should not be the reason to force everyone to buy a meal plan. If there is an incoming student that does not know how to cook, then it should be obvious to them or their parents that they need to buy a Sodexo meal plan.

IIT could even include some informational literature in the packets for incoming students so that they and their parents can better decide whether or not to pay for one of these plans. Even if students know how to cook for themselves, some will still buy meal plans, either for the convenience, or because they do not have the time to cook every day.

Sodexo will still make money off students without meal plans since every so often they will stop into a Sodexo location on campus, whether it is for convenience, good

prices, excellent food, or just for a quick snack after class.

What makes Sodexo so different than any other restaurant? In traditional high school, students are not forced to buy meal plans; they have the option to bring their own lunch. Outside of academic life, restaurants are not making to buy their food, let alone forcing anyone to buy a subscription to their food. Sodexo essentially has a stranglehold around the students, squeezing out all the money they can. If they are worried about students not buying meals, then they need to analyze what is wrong with the services they are offering, and figure out how they can make their customers happy so they will use their services again. That is fundamental economics. The monopoly Sodexo has over IIT students should be put to a stop by making meal plans optional.

At the prices Sodexo is charging, we the students should get better overall quality. Sometimes, typically during the weekend, they run out of very basic foods like ketchup, milk, sodas, cereal, salad dressing, granola, and many more. Why are we paying so much if basic problems like this are always happening? Maybe Sodexo should run out of bad food and replace it with good food. But even this will not make Sodexo good. There need to be major changes to the current food system at IIT before I—and many other students—will be okay with Sodexo.

Sodexo (Commons)

3201 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60616

Scale (1-10): usually meh, sometimes eh
Cost: way too much

Oddities: no ice cream machine, very limited hours
dining.iit.edu

'I Am Malala' proves inspiring, relatable, terrific

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

IIT Office of Spiritual Life and Services Learning, hosted a book club for "I Am Malala" during The Women's History month. In Malala's honor, they also launched their book drive to benefit Open Books, a Chicago-based award-winning nonprofit that operates an extraordinary bookstore, provides community programs, and mobilizes passionate volunteers to promote literacy in Chicago and beyond.

Malala Yousafzai, 16, was shot by the Pakistani Taliban, 2012, for lapsing their restrictions in Swat valley on girls' education. She openly campaigned for the reconstruction and reopening of more than 400 schools destroyed and closed down by the Taliban.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan until ousted by a U.S. military invasion ordered by President George W. Bush following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. But its roots are in the remote tribal areas of northwestern Pakistan, where Malala's family is from. Where it can, the Taliban has imposed rules forbidding girls from going to school, listening to music or taking most jobs.

"I Am Malala" is not only the autobiography of a dauntless girl who was shot by the coward Taliban but it also uncover the deep-rooted connections of Pakistani state with fundamentalist Islamists and our so-called social and cultural norms which unfortunately leads us to discrimination against women. The book tells us the story of any other normal Pashtun girl who is intensely agitated by increasing radicalization of the Pakistani society which consequently restrains women's freedoms and access to education. She explains how a young generation of Pakistanis is deeply disconnected from the rest of the world because their biased text books distort history and glorify wars in the name of Islam. Malala offers her unusual sincere opinion and condemnation on several issues which are still considered as forbidden for public debate in Pakistan. The way she has discussed Pakistan's internal policy failures and the army's acceptance, reinforcement and fortification for the Jihadist elements, she has

really distressed the node between the military and the mullah (clergy) in Pakistan.

Unfortunately most Pakistanis have failed to support Malala in her this journey. Where we all should be proud of her, we are finding out ways to disown her. Why is that? That is just because of the way the conservative commentators has presented her image in front of us. Many people in Pakistan were unable to read the book because the Pakistani Taliban have warned bookshops not to sell copies of the book and just in case if they did then they will have to face the consequences. And I believe until and unless you don't read this book you won't know the joy of survival and the pain of being away from you own home. It just feels like a body without his soul.

She was also nominated for 2013 Nobel Peace prize, and if she would have won that, she could have been the youngest-ever Nobel Laureate at age 16. For me Malala is a real life super hero, who is ready to give up everything for the sake of education, not only for herself but for every individual in our country. Being a Pakistani girl and coming from a remote area of Pakistan just like Malala, she has a very especial place in my heart. Not for what she is doing but for how she is doing it.

I can easily related myself with Malala because the relation she shares with her father is the same relation I share with my dad. I personally believe that every human has a duty, a role and a certain function to perform for humanity, for his country and for his people and I always feel that I am lagging behind to play my due role. This I learnt from my father, who taught me the values of fellowship, humanity and hard work. Because of his teachings, I still believe that if we all play our parts in our own communities, towns, villages and cities, one day we will succeed to make this world a better place to live.

Despite the fact that, to be able to read and write is considered a sign of success and prestige in Pakistan but I was not satisfied as I always wished to do something which could have a beneficial and a positive impact on human lives and which could make me internally content.

Though, I belong to one of the remotest part of Pakistan (Baluchistan) but I am still blessed to avail the opportunity to get education. My father actually went against his whole family to educate his daughters, because to him education is the basic necessity. Dreams have no bounds, my parents taught me that, and, that's what made me dream. I am not an intellectual, but, the famous quote by Martin Luther King Jr. "I have a dream..." really changed my life.

Just like Malala I have a dream for my village and people that one day they will also get a chance to taste the sweet fruit of education. I have a dream that one day my country literacy rate will be 100 percent. But my question is that will my fellow being help me to pursue my dream? Will they stand next to me and support me or will I be criticize like Malala too? I was asked during the book club session that after Malala's sacrifice will the parents leave their children to fight for this cause. My answer was maybe not because they fear this thing that their daughters are not Malala and no one will come to rescue to them. And I am giving this statement on this behalf that last June 2013, there was a terrible bomb blast in Sardar Bahdur Khan Women University, Quetta and at least 25 people, including the deputy commissioner of Quetta, 14 students of a women's university and four nurses were killed when a bomb tore through a bus, followed by a suicide attack and a gun-battle in the Bolan Medical College hospital, where the injured students were taken for treatment. The sad part is that the one who survived were not taken care like Malala, because they were not known by many. They were not fighting for the cause of education nor were they writing about their struggle to get educated, they were just any other person who got injured in a blast. But it's not that that I don't respect Malala for whatever she is doing for us. I still hope and wish that one day we all will stand united for one cause and that would be education. I will continue my struggle just like Malala because as she said "I raise my voice not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard."