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TechNews

Student newspaper of Illinois Institute of Technology since 1928

Undocumented students come out of 'Shadows'

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Part of an incredibly important and attention-grabbing movement happening across Illinois and around the country left its mark on the IIT campus this past week in the midst of a busy Wednesday afternoon, as students and staff gathered at the MTCC Welcome Center. Some students were wearing black t-shirts and holding a banner; a crowd was gathering and there was some strong media presence in the area too. This was the first "Coming Out of the Shadows at IIT" event, as the Undocumented Students and Allies (USA) at IIT went on to share their stories of struggle and persistence as they navigated their personal and academic lives amidst a culture that was inherently unsupportive of them, in a space where they felt constantly reminded to stay silent about a part of their identity.

Daniel Garcia, a recent graduate from the MMAE Department, was the first to share his story. He referenced the founders of IIT and how they would have liked IIT to have student representation from all backgrounds. He spoke of the two years he spent here in the shadows, fearful of revealing his true identity, navigating unaffordable tuition increases amidst commuting five hours daily and surviving on $1 hot dogs. He also spoke of his struggles post-graduation, wherein even a prestigious engineering degree from a four-year college as well as work and research experience at other institutions like Harvard has not led to much professional advancement. You can read about his story in greater detail at http://app.fwd.us/stories/394

Another student to share her story was 1st year BME major Egle Malinauskaite, who spoke of her journey from Lithuania, via Canada, into the US, and what the "old American dream" really means to her now; how she was strongly patriotic for the star-spangled banner and the Pledge of Allegiance and would like to claim her unalienable right to pursue her dreams of becoming a volunteer, a leader, a doctor. Does a lack of an SSN make her any less of an American? She loves the same music, the same movies, the same TV shows that anyone else does—so she asks, why do we have these borders? Education has been her solace, her escape, her way of getting to where she wants to be. As a Camras and Leadership Academy scholar, as an undergraduate research participant, commuter and quite frankly one of the most genuinely involved freshmen students IIT has seen in recent times, Malinauskaite left the audience with a sterling reminder of how a steadfast vision and unswerving dedication can get you across even the most insurmountable obstacles. You can read more about her story at http://app.fwd.us/stories/391.

Sunny Patel, 4th year Aerospace Engineering student, originally from India has moved across the United States since the age of three. He credited much of his safety and sanity to his parents, and how they kept their children out of any uncomfortable situations. Today, Patel is grateful that his status of "deferred action" allows him to stay actively involved on campus. He is an employee of the Office of Sustainability, board member of the Indian Students Association and the President of the Armour College of Engineering Student Council, among other commitments. He said that his immigration status is a major hurdle towards his dream job of being able to take others into space, as jobs within his field of aerospace engineering require at least a permanent residency. You can read more about his story at http://app.fwd.us/stories/392

Antonio Guttierez (http://www.iyjl.org/antoniocomingout/), said, "One of the biggest challenges came 6 months after graduating from IIT in 2012 with an Architecture degree. I found myself in a nightmare. I had been working in an architecture firm for more than a year with a great salary. I was living on my own in one of the best neighborhoods for a young, gay professional in the city," when suddenly his life changed because of his immigration status. Today, he is actively involved with the Immigrant Youth Justice League, and hopes that IIT as an institution can provide more support for individuals like him.

The stories shared were of high-impact, brave, passionate, eye opening and called out to be heard. One wishes that administration will take note and respond to their pleas for institutional support.

National Coming Out of the Shadows started in Chicago, Illinois on March 10, 2010 (iyjl.org/comingout) when undocumented youth declared they were "undocumented and unafraid" at Federal Plaza, opposite the Immigration Services building. Around the country, other undocumented youth did the same, sometimes escalating to civil disobedience in support of immigrant rights. Support them as they declare, "#weareIIT", that they are no longer in the shadows, and that they are no longer afraid! Support their efforts by making a donation at http://bit.do/supportusa. Also, check out the website created especially for this event at http://comingoutiit.splashthat.com/.

Photos by Jesus Garcia

Give thanks to IIT institutions

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

Another academic year is about to end and we have been blessed with so many new friends, new events, new professors, new mentors, new summer internships, some were lucky to get new jobs and the luckiest one got their degree.

This is the perfect time to reflect over your academic year and count the blessings. This is the time when we can see our failures as another chance to learn and our successes as another chance to prove ourselves. This is the time when you should thank your mentors, friends, professors and family for their outmost concern through the journey.

I know all of us are getting crazy as our finals week is almost here and we have so much to do. You might be thinking "who has time to do this?" but trust me it won't take more than 10 minutes. All you have to do is that when you need a break from your studies, you can write a thank you note for someone who helped you to come through this academic year. It could be anyone; it can be the person at Global Grounds who made a coffee for you that helped you stay awake during your lecture, it can be the lady at The Commons counter who welcomed you with a smiling face when you had a bad day, it could be your professor who gave you another chance to do an assignment in which you didn't score well, or it can even be the library, which is open 24/7 for us so we can survive through our finals.

This will not only make them feel better, but will also make you feel better because you did something good, not for your sake, but for others.

These days, our lives have become so busy and cruel that we usually forget to thank people around us, and, above all, we forget to thank God for his utmost blessings over us. Everyone around us is going through some hard time and your one thank you note might make their day and if you thank God for his blessings, then you might feel more satisfied than you felt ever before.

Apart from this, you might want to thank the Office of Campus Life, Union Board, and the Student Center for Diversity and Inclusion for arranging so many awesome and fun events on campus, for letting us take out some time from our busy lives and enjoy them for a moment, and for our most favorite thing, free food.

Last but not least, you might want to thank our awesome student newspaper organization TechNews for bringing the best and latest news on campus and making sure that our voices are being heard.

If you want to thank anyone and need some help in that then please feel free to send an email to scdi@iit.edu and we will get back to you with some awesome ideas as soon as possible. In the end, best of luck on your finals and I am sure we will rock it.

Tales from the Victory Lap:
First-generation graduates face different challenges

William Syvongsa & Miriam Schmid
TECHNEWS WRITERS

Being a first generation college student is a challenge that is often overlooked in higher education. However, before we graduate, we would like to share a little about our stories, our journeys, and our challenges as first-generation college students.

Will: As I'm helping my brother traverse his college admission process, I was reminded of how difficult the process is. You have to narrow a list of colleges down, you have to pick a major, you have to apply for financial aid, you have to figure out where you are going to live, you have to figure out if you will need a job during college, you have to pick classes, and the list continues. My brother is fortunate he can ask me for help; I didn't have much support from my parents. It's not that my parents didn't care, they did. The language barrier became a huge hurdle that we all had to overcome together. I felt like I was playing a game of telephone: interpret this e-mail and explain to my parents in their language what I needed from them. This experience helped me grow a lot, so I have to actively remind myself to not do everything for my brother so that he can learn as well.

Miriam: When I receive my diploma on May 17, I will become the first member of my family to obtain a Bachelor's degree. Actually, my younger brother will also be receiving a Bachelor's in Physics from UIUC on the same day, so I suppose I have to share that distinction. Regardless, as a first-generation college student, the road to graduation at IIT has been challenging, confusing, and rewarding.

Because neither of my parents pursued a college education (in fact, my father did not graduate from high school), they do not support my decision to pursue college. So in addition to navigating the college system, I had to find ways to financially support myself at IIT. Finding loans, applying for scholarships, and paying for housing was a constant concern every semester. While this has been a huge challenge opportunities like working on campus, becoming an RA, and the Leadership Academy Scholarship has helped ease the financial stress.

As graduation nears and I continue my job search, I wish more than anything that my parents understood what I am currently experiencing.

The emotional support and advice that classmates' parents are providing during the job searching process reminds me that I am navigating uncharted waters for my family.

As I hear friends talk to parents about moving to new cities, accepting job offers, and finding new places to live, I wish more than anything that my parents could provide me their advice and experiences on graduating from college.

As a freshman, I had no understanding of what college would be like. I had no idea how I was going to make it through to graduation. All I knew was that I had an awesome opportunity, and I was going to take advantage of every opportunity.

As my younger siblings enter college, I know have so many experiences and pieces of advice to share with them. When they graduate from college, I will be there to lend an ear, offer advice, and support them as they join the new generation of my family with college educations.

Lack of Public Safety assistance a disappointment to students

Shireen Gul
COPY EDITOR

It has been quite a while since I have started to live on campus and have been hearing about many incidents that are taking place near campus. I have always been one of those people who would avoid going out late at night, especially since having moved to Chicago; I avoid moving around campus after sunset.

After spending a few months here, one of my friends suggested that I should ask Public Safety to escort me back to MSV during late hours. I felt this was a good idea since they are here to protect us, and that's what public safety is for. But on the contrary, I was so wrong.

I am not a person who complains a lot, particularly with the administration and authorities because most of the time they help us as much as they can. But this particular incident really bothered me, and prompted me to speak up and bring it to everyone's notice.

It was last weekend when we had a party at The Bog and few of my friends were visiting. They live at Lake Meadows, not far from campus. Before moving ahead, let me mention that these friends are also IIT students but have avoided parties at The Bog because they feared to walk back alone during late hours. I suggested that they come to this party and ask public safety to drop us back home.

They came to The Bog and enjoyed the party and soon it was time to go back home. Since we organized the party, we had to remove all the decorations and then leave. After that was done, at around 2 a.m., we called Public Safety for a ride back home. They didn't attend the call. Later, when they did, they said that they had only one car, which was currently at Crown Hall due to some issue. When asked when they will become available, they replied saying maybe an hour. We told them that we were four girls and couldn't go back alone, asking them to try and do something, but he only had the same answer. After waiting for 30 minutes, we called them again and we got the same reply.

I asked them why he was saying that there was only one car available when there are actually many cars for Public Safety. The officer had no answer for this and we hung up the call. We ended up waking up some of our guy friends and asked them to walk us home.

Now, my question is very simple and straightforward. What is Public Safety doing here on campus? I understand they are here to protect us and many times they have proved this. Nowadays, whenever I or a few of my friends call them they just give excuses. I understand sometimes we all have bad days, but it's not always. What if something would have happened to us the other night? Who would be responsible for this? Ourselves, IIT, or Public Safety? These parties on campus are arranged for us to attend them, but this is what we get in reply when we come out of our studious schedule.

I have always been reading complaints about Public Safety on the IIT undergraduate page on Facebook and I never wrote any. But now I think I should have not waited for my turn to come out and speak. This is a humble request to IIT and especially to Public Safety to please escort us during late hours. We are here to study and our parents depend on you all to help us when we ask for it. Everyone's life is precious and Public Safety should know better about the crime rate here and should be helping students.

MAD holds second iOS development seminar

Sijia Wu
LAYOUT EDITOR

The second iOS application development seminar, held by MAD (Mobile App Development), brought a good turnout on Friday, April 18.

It was led by Professor Michael Saelee from the Computer Science department, and required no previous experience with iOS application development, so anyone interested was welcome to join.

The seminar was held in Stuart Building 108, a lab equipped with fully functioning Macs, so there was no need for students to bring their own laptops. The seminar walked all participants through the creation of a complete messaging application.

Using the platform Parse, and the Objective-C language, Professor Saelee showcased the whole process of building a mobile application and explained each step as the participants typed along.

He also answered all the questions come up from the audience and made sure no one was left behind, by checking and fixing errors for the students. Eventually, every participant was able to build their own functional application and push their messages to the cloud. It was a valuable hands-on development experience for everyone who came.

Alex Wall, president of Mobile App Development and a third year Electrical Engineering student at IIT, organized this event and facilitated the entire process

by fixing nonfunctional code written by participants with his excellent troubleshooting skills. "This was our second IOS Seminar, and it was a success. Professor Michael Saelee is an outstanding professor and from what we've heard, the participants couldn't agree more," concluded Alex after the seminar. He also mentioned that next semester the organization is planning on improving the format in which they teach appplication development technique as well as offering more resources and speakers.

Mobile App Development, a new student organization started in February, 2014 by Alex Wall and a few other enthusiastic coders and designers, has the purpose of preparing and exposing members to the many aspects of mobile application development by providing educational speak-

ers, events and seminars and practicing the knowledge gained through developing programs with real-world applications.

So far the club has had two IOS seminars and a gaming tournament co-held with the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM). The club also has biweekly general body meetings, in which students discuss about current progress in ongoing projects and learn about upcoming events.

Currently, Mobile App Development is selling T-shirts and accepting donations to raise money for necessary equipment and future events, like an iPad for testing, food for events, seminar speakers and much more.

Please contact the club at illinoistechmad@gmail.com for more information.

SGA banquet celebrates successes, looks to future

Kori Bowns
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With a new Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Board elected, now is a time for SGA to reflect on its past year and look to its future. Last Friday evening in the Hermann Hall Expo, SGA hosted their yearly banquet, inviting several student leaders and administrators on campus to join them in recognizing the continuing efforts of the organization as they march forward into another academic year.

After a delicious dinner catered

by Sodexo, outgoing SGA President Rani Shah opened with a few remarks, explaining that SGA would like to thank all of the students and staff members who helped make SGA possible. Each outgoing executive board member of SGA then joined Rani on stage in sequence, and congratulated several members of their committees by acknowledging the contributions they made to campus and rewarding them with a certificate. SGA's Office of Campus Life Advisor, Ryan Miller, was also thanked for his assistance to the organization with a bouquet of flowers and roaring round of

applause.

Following dessert, Shah had a few closing remarks regarding her involvement in SGA during her time at IIT. "One of my goals this year was really corny, but I think it was very important," Shah said. "I wanted people to come out of SGA this year with friendships they wouldn't have made otherwise. . . One of the most important things we have coming out of SGA are the memories." She continued, "That's what this organization is about; it's about doing things you're passionate about with your friends and trying to solve a problem

because if you don't try, your chance of success is nothing."

Newly elected SGA President, Akinade Aderle, also had a few closing remarks. He expressed his thanks for the actions of several members of SGA and for others who supported him as he grew within SGA. Aderle finished off the night by sharing how thankful he is to be in a position where he can help students have their voices heard, and he expressed his enthusiasm as he looks forward to the coming academic year with the new SGA Executive Board.

IPRO 338 participates in NECA Challenge

Charles Rivas
TECHNEWS WRITER

Dr. Tomal's IPRO 338 will be competing in ELECTRI International and the National Electrical Contracting Association's (NECA) 5th annual Green Energy Challenge! The challenge asks NECA chapter members to design a retrofit to improve energy efficiency for a Student Union Building. Our building of choice was the famous McCormick Tribune Campus Center located directly under the steel tube.

Constructed in 2003, the MTCC was built in order to accommodate student activities for the Illinois Institute of Technology and Shimer College. The building was designed by famous Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas, who was chosen through a competition held in 1997 through 1998. The Center carries important architectural significance due to its relationship with Mies Van Der Rohe's vision, as it is the first planned addition to Mies' grand design of

the campus.

The Campus Center itself directly connects to one of Mies' buildings called The Commons. Much of Rem Koolhaas' design was influenced by satellite images of the site. Koolhaas noticed paths in the grass that had been made by students, which ended up defining the circulation inside and outside the building. Today, the MTCC has become

central for student activities and as a representation of the university itself.

The next part of our challenge was to conduct an energy audit of the power and lighting systems within the building. The results from the audit were very surprising. We found that the MTCC is anything but energy efficient. Although it is a newer building, it needs some updating. After our

audit, we were able to find the major flaws within the MTCC.

To fix these flaws, we designed an energy retrofit for power and lighting systems. Along with those retrofits, we plan to add in a more efficient sub-metering system and even have plans to use solar energy. With our proposed plan we can save $75,000 annually in just lighting retrofits alone.

To get a more in-depth look at our IPRO's work, come by our booth during IPRO day - Friday, April 25 2014. Look for IPRO 497-338 - Developing Insights for Energy Efficiency Improvement. This IPRO is led by Professor Daniel Tomal and Team Leader Ivan Jose, the Power Team consists of Yoon Chye Lee, Ye Tian, Xuehai Shao, Yuanbin Wang and Yanyan Jiang.

The HVAC Team consists of Briana Villagrana, Abbas Palgharwala, Soonen Ahua and Abhiroop Chattapadhyay. The Lighting Team consists of Sima Mustaklem, Yiyun Fan, Fengrui Yang and Ming Chen.

Image courtesy of Charles Rivas

IIT honors game changers at 68th Annual Alumni Awards

Usha Subramanian
MANAGER, ADVANCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

The winners for the 2014 Alumni Awards, a tradition since 1946, have been chosen. This year's award ceremony will honor 11 outstanding individuals; 10 exceptional alumni and one extraordinary civic leader who are entrepreneurs and leaders in their businesses and communities.

The Alumni Medal goes to Robert A. Cornog (MET '61), the highest honor bestowed by the IIT Alumni Association. The Alumni Medal honors distinguished service to the university by alumni who have displayed the qualities of the Collens Merit Award, Alumni Service Award, and Professional Achievement Award.

Alumni Service will be awarded to Adrian R. Nemcek (EE '70). This award honors an individual who demonstrates continuous, selfless commitment to and

devoted enthusiasm for the university through his or her involvement in varied areas of the university including, but not limited to: recruitment, support, service, and leadership.

The Collens Merit Award which honors an individual nominated for their university staff or faculty for their outstanding commitment to the future of IIT through philanthropic contributions paired with involvement in his or her gift will go to Edward R. Bedrosian (CE '54).

The Galvin Award will go to Caryl Pucci Rettaliata. This award was established to honor non-alumni for their leadership and dedication to IIT and was named for Robert W. Galvin, a non-alumnus chairman of the IIT Board of Trustees. The Galvin Award recognizes an individual whose service, leadership, and philanthropy have significantly advanced the university. Recipients are nominated by university staff or faculty.

The International Award of Merit will go to Dhongchai Lamsam (M.S. IE '70), whose achievements have strengthened IIT's reputation on an international scale.
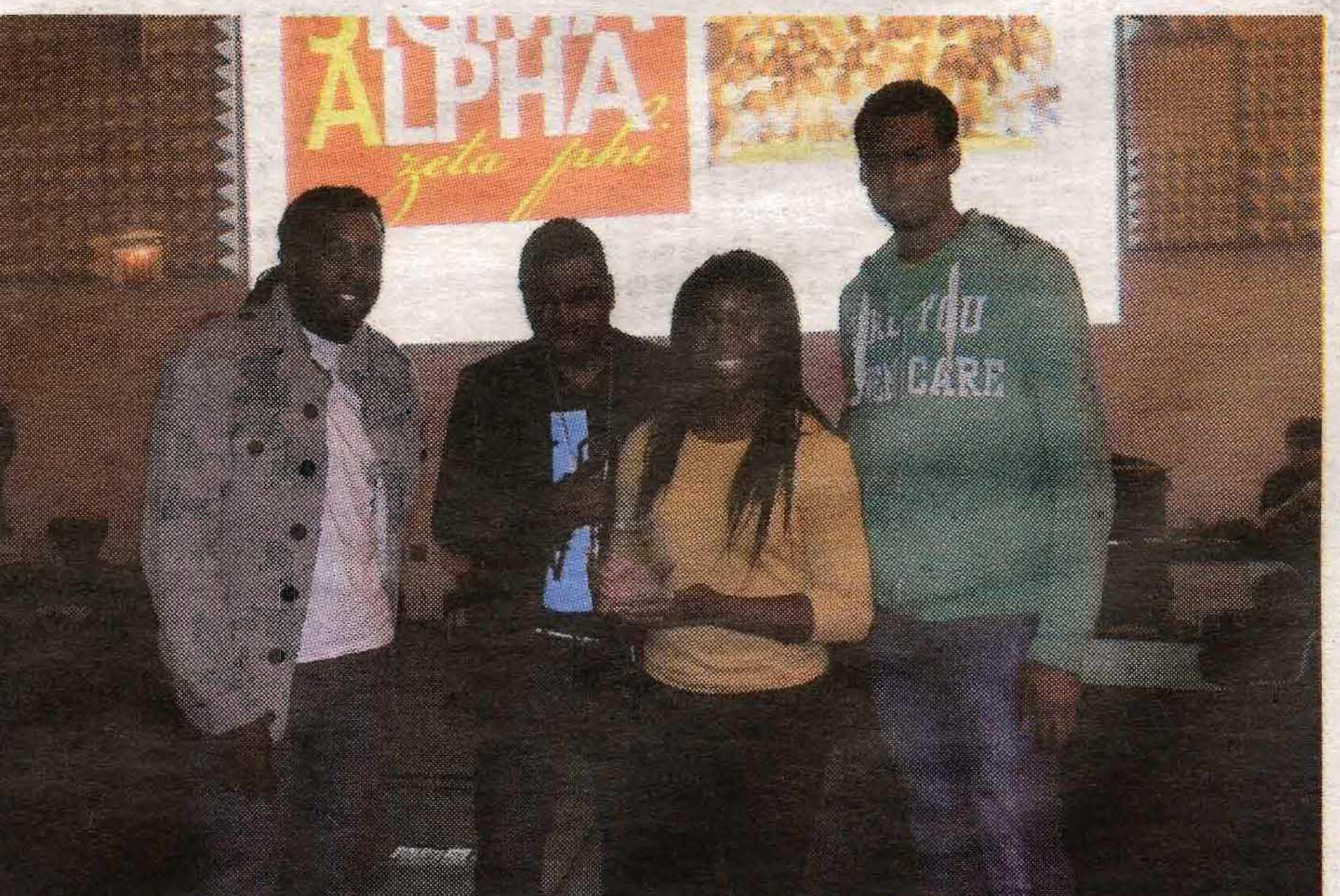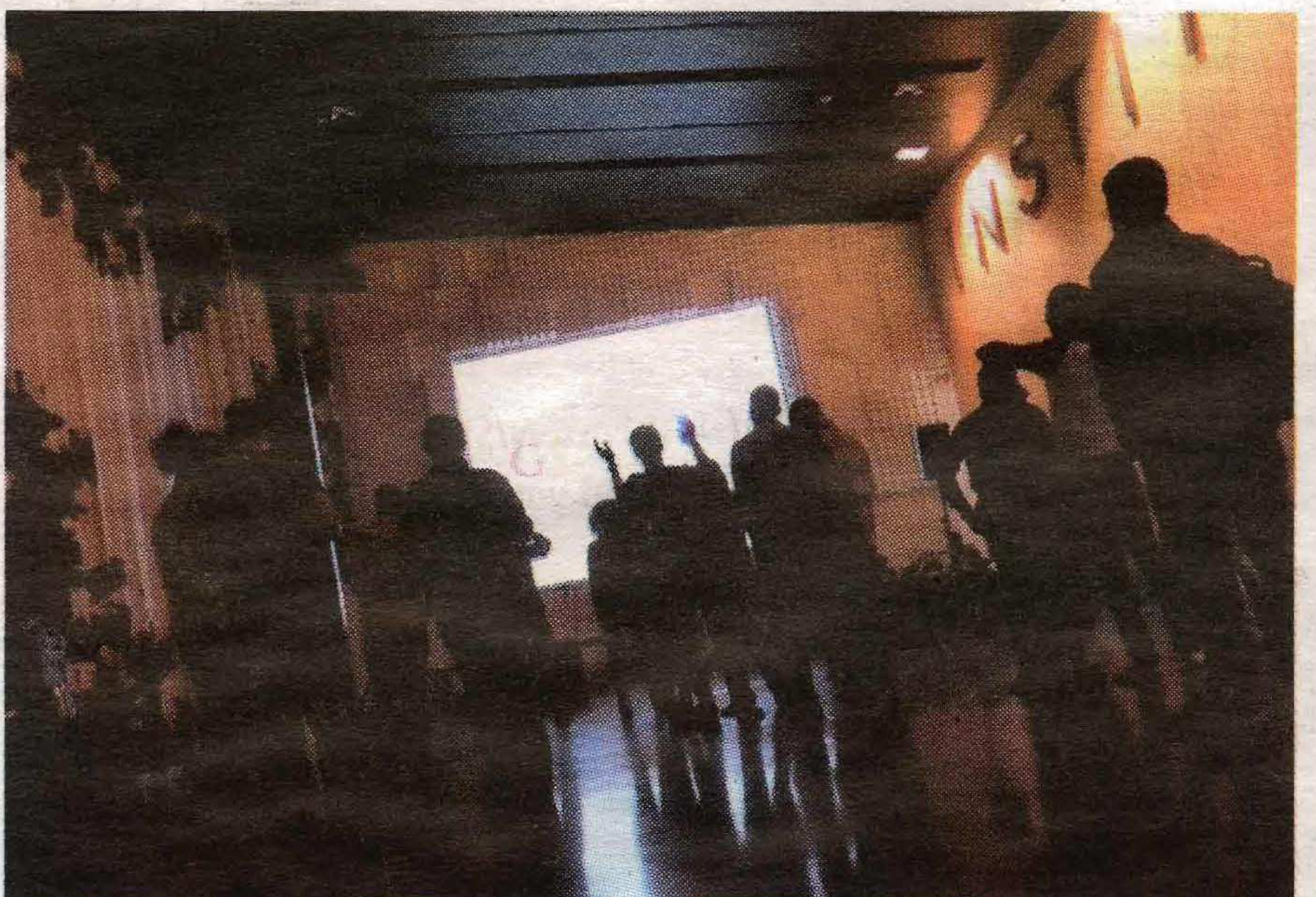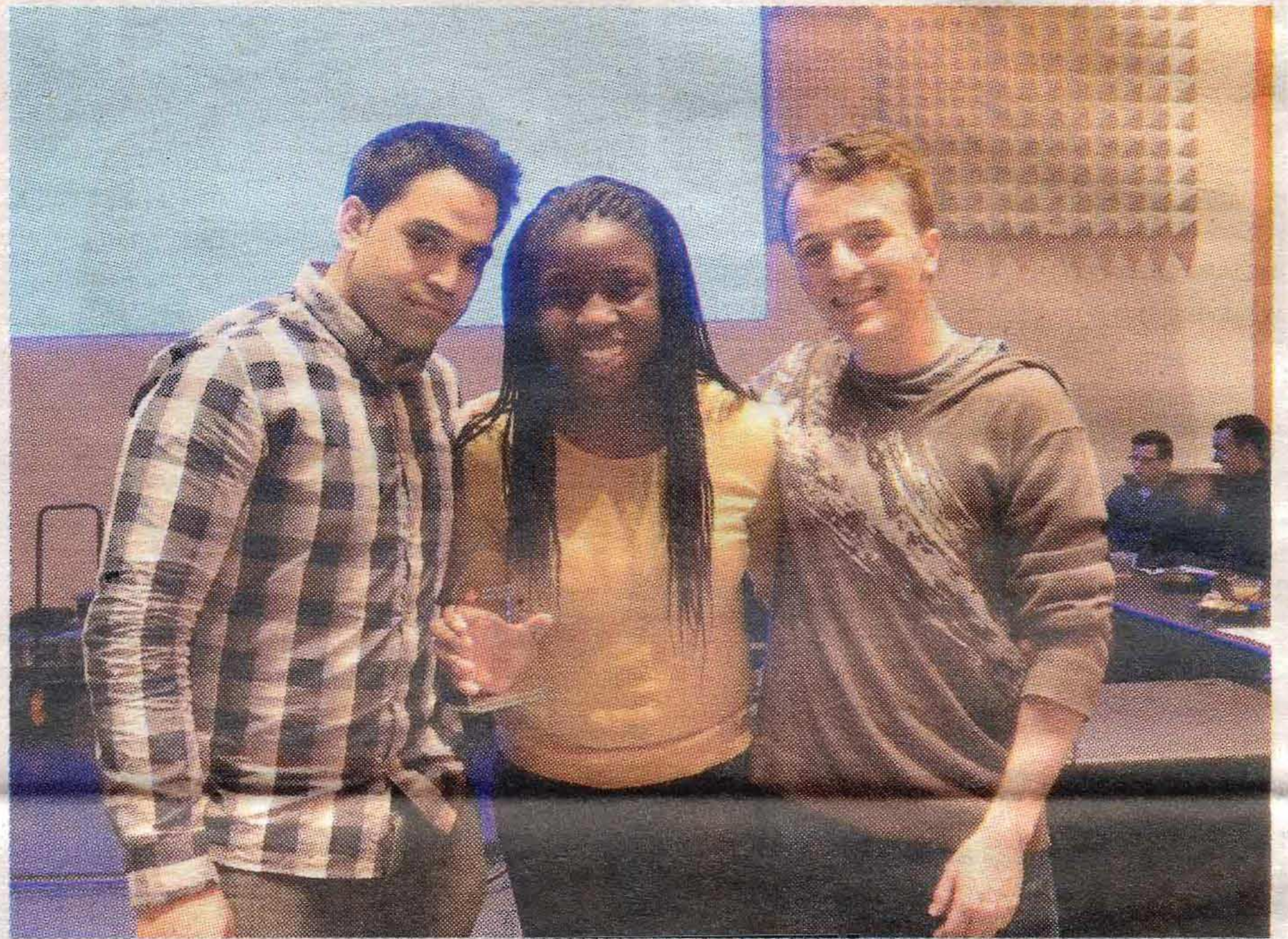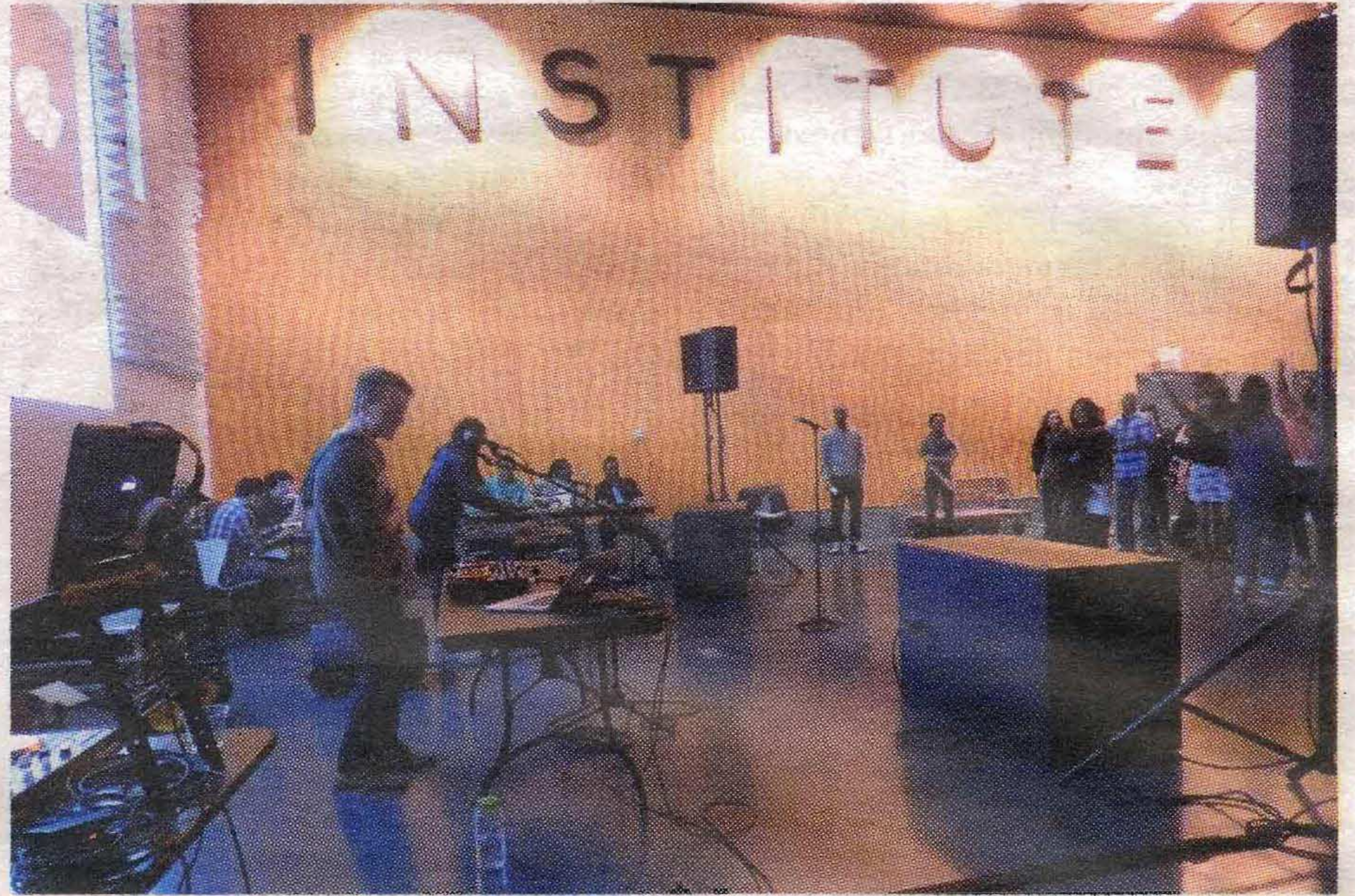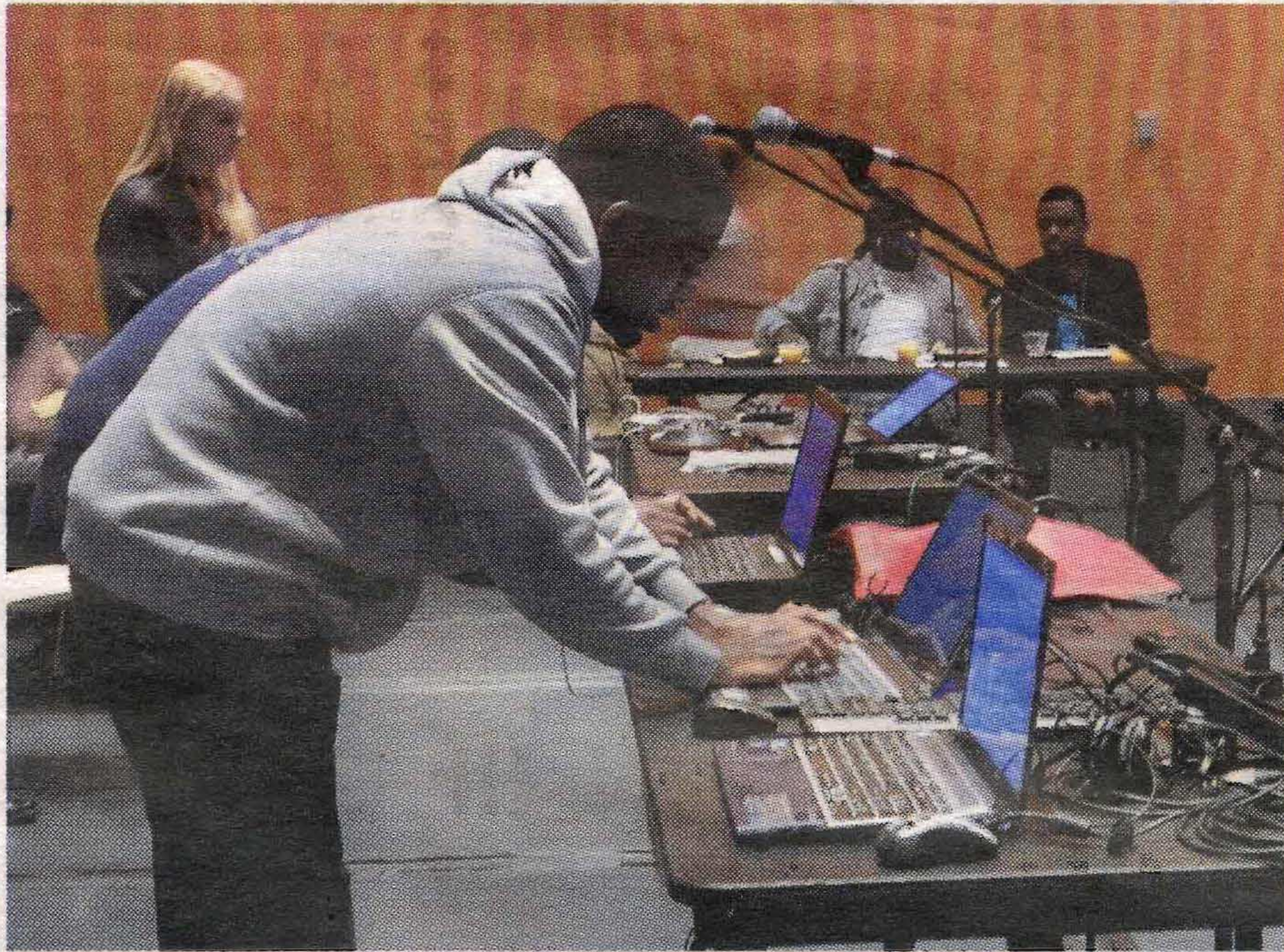
The Lifetime Achievement Award will go to Pedro L. Rustan Jr. (EE '70, M.S. '70). This award is bestowed posthumously on an individual who has recently passed away and who, during his or her life, achieved personal success, made an outstanding contribution to his or her chosen field of endeavor, and achieved recognition by his or her colleagues.

The Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna Award will go to Tarek A. Fadel (LAW '03) and Donna G. Heidkamp (M.S. FMT '99). This award honors individuals aged 40 or younger who have advanced rapidly over the course of their career and displayed significant achievement in areas of leadership and professional success.

The Professional Achievement Award will go to Kenneth B. Josephson (M.S. DSGN '60), Herbert S. Levinson (CE '49) and Sarabjit S. Randhava (M.S. CHE '66, Ph.D. '70) who are being honored for outstanding achievement in their professional field. This award honors alumni whose achievements have brought distinction to themselves as well as credit to the university. The recipients have achieved such great success as recognized by any or all of the following qualities - membership in peer-elected professional organizations marking the highest level of achievement in a given industry, industry awards and special recognitions received and leadership positions held.

To learn more about the award winners the site alumni.iit.edu/awards can be visited and the live streaming of the awards presentation can be viewed at iit.edu/live on Friday, April 25th at 11:30 a.m.

Red Cross DJ Competition

IIT First-Year Students and Graduating Students (Seniors)

$50 **BEST BUY**

Want to win a $50 Best Buy® gift card?

☐ DISAGREE
☐ AGREE
✗ STRONGLY AGREE

TIME IS RUNNING OUT
TAKE THE SURVEY!

IIT is participating in the **National Survey of Student Engagement** (NSSE). Check your email for a message from NSSE containing your survey invitation.

➤ ● 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**.

▼ ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

C S A
COMMUTER STUDENT ASSOCIATION
Finals Week Stress Relief 2014
Funded by SAF

Check it Out

Good Luck as you begin preparing for exams!

April 28   Monday
BRAIN FOOD Lobby of E1
Start off with some healthy snacking! 12:50pm - 1:45pm

Tuesday   April 29
Siegel Hall Auditorium **GENERAL BODY MEETING**
12:50pm - 1:45pm *A recap of the semester - lunch provided.*

April 30   Wednesday
SPORTS DAY Keating Sports Center Gym
A fun afternoon of sport, with refreshments! 3:00pm - 6:00pm

Thursday   May 1
BOWLING NIGHT The Bog
Join your fellow commuters in a game of bowling! 5:00pm - 7:00pm

Visit http://bit.ly/csa-iit for additional information and to sign up to our email list.
Facebook: fb.me/iit.csa / Twitter: @csa_iit / Email: commuter.students.iit@gmail.com

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Student Organization Re-Registration begins on HawkLink on Monday, April 28!

Things needed:
1. Current Constitution
2. Name of President, Treasurer, & Faculty/Staff Advisor
3. Names of at least 10 members (but you should put everyone in)

Go Bananas!
Save Energy!
April 7-25

CAMPUS **CONSERVATION** NATIONALS 2014

HawkLink
▼ ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Acer Chromebook: modern hardware, useless software

Kyle Stanevich
BUSINESS MANAGER

I have never owned my own laptop. In high school, I rented laptops from our IT department, and for my first semester of IIT, I relied on my modded Nexus 7 tablet. However, after seeing the Acer C720 Chromebook on sale for $170, I decided it was time to take the plunge and buy a laptop.

The Acer C720 Chromebook is an excellent laptop with all the modern features that we have come to love. It has a non-glare 720p screen, USB 3.0, a solid state drive, Bluetooth 4.0, a Haswell based CPU, and HDMI out. Best of all, it boots up in a matter of seconds, and has a battery that will have juice to spare after a day of heavy use. While this sounds like the perfect machine, what they say is true; "If it sounds too good, it probably is."

There is one major problem with this laptop, Chrome OS.

While this operating system is not totally bad, it lacks a lot of features that other operating systems provided. It was limited to only chrome and any extensions that could be

Image courtesy of arstechnica.com

added to chrome. Chrome OS provides basic computer operations: web browsing, checking email, typing documents, and listening to music, but not much more. To get around this problem, I installed a variant of Ubuntu on my laptop. There are no features that I am missing with Ubuntu over Chrome OS.

I still have chrome installed, therefore I could do everything that I could do before, but now I can play games, like Skyrim and Portal, edit photos and videos, run Mathematica, and have more control that before. When running Chrome OS on this laptop, I was able to get eight to nine hours of mild use, but with all the optimizations I have enabled in Ubuntu, I can now get upward of 12 hours of battery. I usually only charge it on the weekend, and just continue to use it during the week with no problems. Plus, I can now connect remotely to my desktop and use it just like a Windows 7 laptop.

There are a few minor problems, like the plastic feel of the construction and no Ethernet port, but this is to be expected from a thin, lightweight laptop. With the addition of a case, and a USB to Ethernet adaptor, both of these problems are solved. The only other complaint is the slow processor and 2GB of ram. Most modern laptops have better specifications that this, but at normal use these flaws are never really seen.

For the price of this laptop, there is nothing that can beat it. It is powerful, lightweight, lasts all day, and even looks great, and if Chrome OS isn't for you, just install Ubuntu and get ready to be amazed. If you are looking for a new laptop and do not need loads of power, I would recommend the Acer C720 Chromebook, the best laptop under $200.

Mechanical keyboards for the win!

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

A buddy of mine recently got a mechanical keyboard. If you haven't heard about the latest rage from hipsters and gamers, mechanical keyboards are gaining popularity every day. Mechanical keyboards are fairly rare these days, unless you know one of these self-proclaimed keyboard snobs. Mechanical keyboards are much heavier and more expensive to produce. A good mechanical keyboard will run you over $300 in some cases whereas a membrane keyboard can be found for free in just about every dumpster. I figured, heck, why not give the two a comparison while doing what I love most, writing an article for TechNews.

Mechanical keyboards are the exact opposite of something new. These guys have been around for as long as computers and their clickity-clackity is the iconic audible trope we all recognize. As the name suggests, they use mechanical switches which when actuated send a signal to computer. Membrane keyboards on the other hand are a more recent adaption and utilize little rubber domes in place of springs and sliding mechanisms. It really doesn't seem like there's much of a difference between the two styles except that mechanical keyboards are old fashioned, noisy, heavy, and tremendously expensive. It seems like no contest, but mechanical keyboards will win you over with their peculiarities.

Proponents of the mechanical keyboard say that everything is wrong with the membrane keyboard. You can type faster on a mechanical keyboard thanks to shorter presses and easier actuation. For those who type for hours on end, mechanical keyboards can reduce fatigue as they require less effort to register each key. Furthermore, you can fine tune the gram weights of the keys to perfectly match your typing style. Some mechanical keyboards even have the benefit of not bottoming out. "Bottoming out" is a practice where you hit the back plate of keyboard in order to register a key, with mechanical keyboards this isn't necessary as the actuation is incredibly clear with a tactile and audible click. Mechanical keyboards have been shown to reduce typing errors, although it is not fully understood why this is. Some complain about the noise, but it's something that you can get used to that is easily mitigated. There are several types of switches, each possessing different attributes as far as tactile feedback, noise, and even actuation points. Brown switches have an actuation point halfway down a full press making it possible (with some skill) to register a "double tap" with incredible speed. So when you get your first mechanical keyboard, you'll realize that while there are many keyboards out there, this one is yours.

I've used the Black Widow Ultimate, a gaming mechanical keyboard, and a standard Dell membrane keyboard to type this article and I have to say that the mechanical keyboard is simply more fun to type on. The "experience of typing" sounds pompous, but it really is one of those things you'll miss without a side-by-side comparison. The clicking, rather than serving as a nuisance, helps to create a sort of rhythm in my typing. It's also
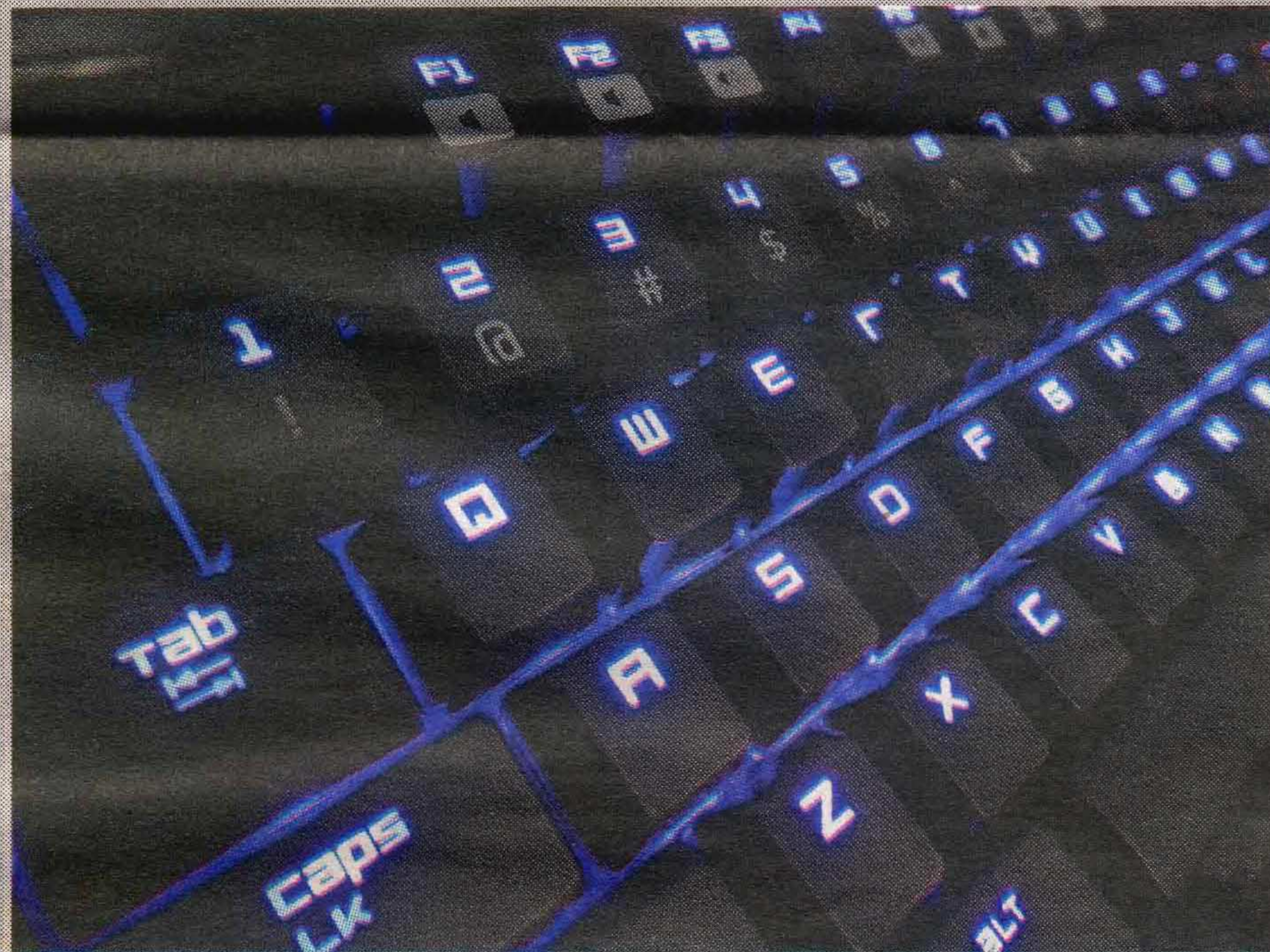
very clear when a key has been pressed and it feels like I can use less force. The membrane keyboard feels understandably slow and mushy in comparison. The mush is what really gets me; it just feels disappointing. I don't know if I can justify buying a $100 used keyboard, but typing the latter part of this article (after switching back to the mechanical) has been a bit of drag in comparison to the crisp feeling I got with the mechanical.

A membrane keyboard will always have its place. Chiclet-style keyboards found in laptops simply aren't made to be mechanical keyboards and in terms of portability membranes can weigh just a few ounces as compared to a few pounds of a mechanical keyboard. If you're looking for the better typing experience, a mechanical keyboard is without a doubt the way to go. If you're an average Joe, it's difficult to justify spending so much on a piece of equipment you can usually get for free. Really, it isn't something you'll notice is significantly better, but once you switch to real switches, you can't go back.

Image courtesy of www.techpowerup.com

Monday, April 21	Sunday, April 27	Friday, May 2
Baseball	Baseball	Baseball
vs. Purdue University-North Central	@ Purdue University-Calumet	vs. Maranatha Baptist Bible College
1 p.m., Ed Glancy Field	*11 a.m.*	Donation NIght for St. James Food Pantry
Games 1 & 2	Games 1 & 2	*3 p.m., Ed Glancy Field*
Friday, April 25	Sunday, April 27	Saturday, May 3
Men & Women's Track & Field	Baseball	Baseball
Twilight Invitational @ Benedictine	@ Purdue University-Calumet	vs. Maranatha Baptist Bible College
University	*11 a.m.*	*1 p.m., U.S. Cellular Field,*
3:30 p.m.	Games 1 & 2	*Home of the Chicago White Sox*
Saturday, April 26	Wednesday, April 30	Friday, May 9
Baseball	Baseball	Women's & Men's Track & Field
@ Maranatha Baptist Bible College	vs. Calvin College	Dr. Keeler Invite @ North Central College
4 p.m.	*1 p.m., Ed Glancy Field*	*Time: TBA*
Games 1 & 2	Games 1 & 2	

SUDOKU
easy   hard

Easy

9	7				5			
	6			1	4			
			5	8				
8			3				7	9
6								4
5	4				1			8
			4	7				
			5	8			6	
		2				3	7	

Hard

9	1			8				
		9		4				7
8		5		2	1			
						9		8
	3	1				6	4	
6		9						
	6	3				2		4
3			4		9			
			5				7	9

Spot All Five Differences!

Union Board Office Hours:

Impact	- Friday 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Bog	- Thursday 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Traditions	- Mondays 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Scarlet Fever	- Wednesday 11:30am - 2:30pm
President	- Thursday 3:00pm - 4:00pm

Union Board

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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday April 22nd
Food Truck FestiviITies
11:00am - 2:00pm
Wabash St. Outside MSV

Thursday April 24th
Latino Night
9:00-1:00am
The Bog

Friday April 25th
UB Game
7:00-9:00pm
The Bog

Thursday May 1st
"Leadership Academy Social"
5:00-7:00pm
The Bog

CSA Bowling Social
5:00-7:00pm
The Bog

Cinco de Mayo Celebration
8:00-10:00pm
The Bog