A&E Racing Team Looking for Sponsors

By Abhishek Gundugurti
TECHNEWS WRITER

The Formula Hybrid competition is heating up. Illinois Institute of Technology’s entry into the 2007 SAE Formula Hybrid competition, Team ACE (Armour College of Engineering) is stepping up its game and giving it 110% commitment. Even Valentine’s Day brought more commitment and ‘love’ for winning the competition.

Team ACE is working on building two cars for the competition. Both cars have two different systems. One system is called a series hybrid. As the name implies, the system works with a gasoline-engine and electric generator-motor system in combination. Both the systems power the propulsion of the car. The second system is a parallel hybrid. This system works by being powered by both the electric motor and gasoline-ICE in parallel. Each car has one of the above mentioned systems. The first car was built directly at the drawing board.

Well, as we are a tech school, we are better than a drawing board. Few of the team members were proficient in software called Pro-E. The chassis was designed and sent to the manufacturers to build professionally. The manufacturers to build professionally. The chassis was designed and sent to the manufacturers to build professionally. The manufacturers to build professionally. The chassis was designed and sent to the manufacturers to build professionally. The manufacturers to build professionally. The chassis was designed and sent to the manufacturers to build professionally.

The electrical team has been working on obtaining the correct batteries, transformers, converters and control units. Their main task is to control the flow of power from the batteries which are part of the car. Next, they are also generating the power required for the electric motor to power the propulsion of the wheels.

This power is supplied by the set of batteries which are part of the car. Next, they are also control the flow of power from the batteries to the motor based on the velocity of the car, required acceleration and the power being supplied by the ICE. This will be implemented using a Digital Signal Processor.

Of course, the main aspect of this article is to highlight the fact that the team, team ACE is looking for major sponsors. They have developed a sponsorship drive which aims to reach out to sponsors and request generous donations for the car-building and competition. In return, each of the sponsors will get tons of publicity and advertisements on the team’s car(s). Also, the drive who will be wearing a racing suit will have sponsor’s logo on the suit and helmet. This kind of sponsorship is usually also followed in the real racing circuits like NASCAR Formula 1, etc. If you know someone who would like to sponsor an amount of money, anywhere from 1000 dollars, to over 25000 dollars, you can ask them to contact the team leader Sanj Wirsingam or Abhishek Gundugurti. Look for details on http://formulahybrid.iit.edu

There will be regular updates and advertisements in TechNews on the Formula Hybrid competition and TEAM ACE’s progress.

Summer in Poland
Join Comarch, IIT, and AGH for an Internship in Krakow

By Smit Bavishi
TECHNEWS WRITER

Comarch, a global IT company, is sponsoring a comprehensive, 6-week summer internship program for IIT students in Krakow, Poland. The program will pay a stipend of $800 per month and a travel co-payment of $1000 per student. Comarch will provide housing accommodations for student interns in Krakow. Twelve IIT students will work with 12 students from AGH - International School of Technology in interdisciplinary teams to complete projects in one of two tracks:

1) Wireless Internet Service Providers
The goal of this track is to prepare a business evaluation, design, and fast-prototype functionality that might in the future provide added value to an existing but immature product.

2) Small Loyalty Product
The goal of this track is the development of a small customer loyalty system or module for large loyalty system that will increase the attractiveness of Comarch’s Customer Loyalty Solutions offering. The best performing internship teams will receive Comarch-sponsored awards.

Upon completion, promising interns are offered the opportunity to continue their experience with Comarch and have the possibility to join its worldwide offices to work on cutting-edge projects with industry leaders.

Comarch is an aggressively growing global software house and systems integrator with headquarters in Krakow, Poland, and a network of offices in Europe, the United States, Latin America, and the Middle East. Each year Comarch invites about 200 students from multiple countries and cultures to participate in its internship programs.

Krakow is known for its large historical city center, a collection of entrepreneurs, tourists, and artists from all over the world. The bustling metropolitan area, which is the regional economic nucleus, combines the forward-thinking mentality of the academic center of Poland and the innovativeness of one of the emerging high-tech think tanks of Eastern Europe.

This program is also a three-credit IPRO course and is open to sophomore to graduate level students. Enrollment requires the approval of Dr. David Pietraz, the professor for the course. For more information or to apply, stop by the International Center (M4405) or visit http://anabroad.iit.edu/summerprograms.php

Global Warming and You

By Peter Lykos
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

A lecture on Global warming will be given by IIT’s Professors Lykos and Gosz on Friday, 23 February 2007 at 10 AM in the Auditorium of Wishnick Hall. Students are especially invited. IIT’s Union Board is cosponsor of this event and is planning to provide food.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control was released on 2 February 2007. Some 600 scientists from 65 countries contributed to the IPCC Report. Since their third report of five years ago, the IPCC has moved to a position that human activity is quite likely to be the cause of a number of changes in the atmosphere with corresponding negative effects on the earth’s surface.

Lykos and Gosz will share a collection of information that summarizes the current state of affairs and what might be done in the short term to ameliorate the negative consequences of fossil fuel combustion and the release of substantial amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In addition they will summarize the Report of the US Department of Energy Sponsored Workshop held in April of 2005 to develop a research agenda for how we might covert to more useful from the energy we receive from the sun. One estimate has the total energy arriving on earth in one hour from the sun as equal to all the energy produced by humans per year — a huge potential source of useful energy.

The US DOE scenario lays out what the 200 experts convened for their workshop estimated could be accomplished from solar radiation by 2050 and by 2100. The two co-chairs of that Workshop are two of the contributors to a recent issue of SCIENCE (9 February 2007) that carries a 20 article report entitled Sustainability and Energy.

In the short term, many opportunities exist for reducing our use of fossil fuels. For example in Europe and in Japan lifestyles comparable to ours in the US are maintained with half the use of fossil fuels per capita as in the US. In the long term, however, there would need to be a major change in our behavior in order to enjoy a sustainable energy supply without compromising our environment in the process.

Lykos and Gosz invite pairs of IIT students – one from Science and one from Engineering – to take their poster project on the road and to share that information with groups in metro Chicago. That seems to be an outreach service program consistent with IIT being a private institute of technology and with its students being good citizens.
Every week the TechNews editorial staff will choose one photo submitted by a reader to be printed here.

Submit photos for consideration to technewsphotos@gmail.com by Thursday 8pm.

Include your name as you would like it printed.
Include a description that you would like printed with it.
Keep in mind that it will be printed on this page (in black and white).

Contest is open to all IIT students, faculty and staff excluding TechNews editors.

Think Ahead - Act Now  Fall 2007

Applications for the IIT / Rush Medical College Combined Honors Engineering and Medicine Program are available now in the Premed Office E1-116

Deadline is March 19th

Program Description
Illinois Institute of Technology and Rush Medical College offer a joint admission program for motivated and intellectually promising college sophomores preparing to attend medical school upon completion of their undergraduate degree and who intend to become research-oriented physicians. This program is for current IIT sophomores majoring in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, or molecular biochemistry and biophysics, and for students attending other colleges or universities and transferring to IIT after completing their sophomore year.

Students will be admitted to this program the summer between their sophomore and junior years and will complete their undergraduate degree at IIT. As part of this experience they will participate in a year long research project that bridges engineering/science and medicine. Upon admission to Rush Medical College, students will be able to select either a M.D. program, or a M.D./Ph.D. program.

Eligibility
- IIT students who by the end of Spring '06 will have between 48 and 72 credit hours left to meet the requirements for their major and the Premedical Studies minor and will graduate no earlier than Spring '09
- Minimum of an 3.25 cumulative GPA
- Students majoring in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science or molecular biochemistry and biophysics
- Applicants should have successfully completed or be close to completion of courses which include eight semester hours in biology or zoology, eight semester hours in laboratory courses in inorganic and in organic chemistry, and eight semester hours in general physics

This is a highly competitive program with limited space available.
I was down at the Seven Eleven Convenience Store (SECS) located on campus recently to buy a box of Ritz crackers and two small packages of sharp cheddar cheese. I eventually ate these together in an irregular manner. What I expected to be fantastic turned out to be a waste of my time. It is simply because Anna Nicole made us feel less miserable about ourselves. We are so downtrodden and dejected, but at least not as much as Anna Nicole; right? Wrong. Who is to say that degrading someone is better than marrying some old man for money? Why is constant drug abuse worse than overlooking the needs of a homeless man on the streets? Why is modesty in dress more respectable than stripping for money? In reality, even on the cover of Playboy magazine in March of 1992, Anna Nicole Smith was the true "boozer, user, and loser". The woman embroiled in lawsuits, and one of the most awe-inspiring drug abusers of our age. As for her death, I have seen downing one double-shot after another and her hotel room has been compared to the labs of many strange pharmacies. She was a 100% drug addict, why aren't magazines and newspapers giving her an article? No, they are as seen to save the environment. Save some fuel which is depleting fast. They are not built to make noise and be heard. They are supposed to be seen and believed. Not heard to find.

Barbara Prieh, a member of NFB's pedestrian security committee, said no blind person has been killed by a hybrid car but some have reported having near accidents. "It's just a matter of time before people are going to infer and killed and injured," she said. Sure, that's like saying "it's just a matter of time before people start getting killed by guns when you hand them out to children." I mean seriously woman! An electric car. And I am damned sure it will cause a bigger big pile up on highway 67 when there is a high speed accident. So yes, it is safer than other road cars. It's safer because it takes you to where you want to go at a safe speed. And it won't scare the living hell of people by zooming up next to them and giving them a heart attack!

Anyways, people always complain when things change. They can't accept change when things change. They can't accept change because they don't know how it will affect them. And she did. Although I won't try to emulate her best saw fit. She was free to do as she pleased and she did. Without any ethics involved in letting the state run a lottery, I've seen a lot of logic in selling it. Hey, maybe they could use the money to make some smart investment. Just when you thought that people would start loving electric, hybrid and green cars, there comes another group which has another complaint about them. What now you ask? It seems they are too silent, to drive the point. But I am not the same person as everyone else. We are all on the same plane. It's just that some of us are less acceptable in the current environment than others because we exist no universal good or bad, truth or falsehood. Anna Nicole Smith lived her life as she best saw fit. She was free to do as she pleased and she did. Although I won't try to emulate her in my everyday life, I will not shy away from the fact that Anna Nicole Smith died on my birthday!"
In The Limelight: Professor David Venerus

By Disha Doshi
ADVERTISING MANAGER

This week ‘In the Limelight’ has Prof David Venerus, the winner of several excellence awards in teaching. He is a Professor of Chemical Engineering and Associate Chair of Graduate Affairs.

TechNews: Tell us something about your growing up years.

Prof Venerus: I grew up in upstate New York. I was a good student in high school, but had a lot of distractions. I was interested in Chemistry and Physics and my dad has a Ph.D. in nuclear engineer and he greatly influenced me. I got my Bachelor’s in Chemical Engineering from University of Rhode Island (1984) and my M.S (1986) and Ph.D. (1989) from Pennsylvania State University.

TechNews: Did you always want to be associated with academia?

Prof Venerus: No, it was not until I was close to finishing my Ph.D. I have been working in academia for 17 years now. Working in the industry never interested me.

TechNews: What is the best part about being involved with academia?

Prof Venerus: There are two things that I like about being in academia. One - It gives you an opportunity to interact with young people and have a positive effect on them, and secondly you get to do research on things that are interesting to you.

TechNews: What is the one thing you really like about being at IIT?

Prof Venerus: I like the many bright and talented students I have met throughout the course of 17 years at IIT.

TechNews: What is the one change that you think if done can do wonders to IIT?

Prof Venerus: I think if the university’s endowment was increased by a factor of 10, then that would solve many of the problems IIT faces.

TechNews: Your message to the students.

Prof Venerus: This is what my dad always told me. It is simple and I like it. “Work hard and play hard”.

Profile:

Name: David Venerus

Favorite Pastime: I love to wind surf and swim three days a week during lunch time. Currently I am learning to play harmonica. I also enjoy spending time with my two sons.

Movies: Not much into them.

Music: My IPOD currently has Rolling Stones and Shakira on it.

If not a chemical engineer: A wind surfing instructor.

Driving force: I like to challenge myself and to see if I can improve as a teacher and in my research.

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WIN a NIGHT on the TOWN

Take the IIT Student Technology Survey and register to win one of three “Night on the Town” packages to be awarded.

Each Package Includes:

★ 2 tickets to Blue Man Group at the Briar Street Theatre
★ A $75 gift certificate to any Lettuce Entertain You Restaurant (For locations visit: http://www.leye.com)

Check your IIT email for the survey link

Sponsored by TechNews and the Office of Technology Services

If you would like to contribute to the Campus News Section or would like to see something else in it

Contact Jide
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CAMPUS

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iit today
http://www.iit.edu/publications/iittoday/

SGA Senator Spotlight: Caitlin Joy Hubbard

By Brandon Lloyd
WEBSERVER EDITOR

"The best learning takes place outside of class. Get involved and get to know your teachers and TAs. We don't go to school to get a degree; we go to school so we can get away from home and act wild and crazy. Just kidding! But remember, you will only be at this stage in your life once, make the most of it!"

Every week, the Student Government Association Executive Board selects one of its outstanding senators to be in the Senate Spotlight. This week's pick is Caitlin Hubbard, a freshman studying molecular biochemistry and biophysics. She represents the students of the College of Science and Letters. Many of her peers describe her as dedicated, dependable, and hard-working. She stands out as an active member of both the Academic Affairs and Student Life committees of SGA. She is a senator because she believes in the importance of student representation in the policies and activities that take place at her school. She believes that it's SGA's job to listen to her fellow students and to work to improve campus life for them.

If you're looking for involvement in the Academic Affairs Committee and Student Life Committee, Caitlin plans trips to museums and the planetarium, works to promote undergraduate research, and presents SGA in various "ITP" classes. She has also worked on the "what do you want" campaign, going to students and listening to some of the concerns and issues that they have.

Caitlin is also active in Air Force ROTC, Honors Medical Society, and undergraduate research. She serves as the Secretary of Campus Crusade for Christ and Treasurer for Arnold Air Society. After graduation, she aspires to become a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force.

[University Calendar]

• Student Workshop - Getting a Job: The First Minute
  Tues., Feb. 20 @ 12:45 p.m. MTCC Ballroom

• SAE Engineers Week: NASA astronaut Robert Satcher Jr
  Tues., Feb. 20 @ 5 - 8 p.m. MTCC Ballroom & Auditorium

• Architecture Pre-Seminar: Design Systems
  Tues., Feb. 20 @ 6:30 p.m. Crown Hall, Lower Core

• Workshop: Keys to Job Fair Success
  Wed., Feb. 21 @ 3:30 p.m. Galvin Library Group Study Room (next to CMC)

• Ash Wednesday Mass
  Wed., Feb. 21 @ 12:30 - 1:40 p.m. MTCC Auditorium

• Seeking Cultural Heritage Through Study Abroad:
  Negotiating Identity Issues of African-Americans
  Thurs., Feb. 22 @ 12:30 - 2 p.m. MTCC Auditorium

• Global Warming: A perspective from a scientist and an engineer
  Fri., Feb. 23 @ 10 a.m. Wishnick Hall, Room 113

• Humanities Colloquium
  Fri., Feb. 23 @ 2 - 5 p.m. Siegel Hall 218

• Entrepreneurship Academy Networking Dinner
  Fri., February 23 @ 7 - 9 p.m. Goose Island Brewery

• DuPage Area Engineers Week Expo
  http://rice.iit.edu/engineersweek
  Sat., Feb. 24 @ 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Rice Campus

• CCM Open House
  Sat., Feb. 24 @ 6 - 8 p.m. Curr Chapel (Godbox)

• Career Fair Next Week

  Graduating soon? Looking for a job? The Career Management Center is hosting the Spring 2007 Career Fair on Feb. 22 from 12-5 p.m. in Hermann Hall.

  Participating employers include:
  • Underwriters Laboratories
  • Siemens Medical Solutions
  • Northrop Grumman
  • Kenny Construction
  • Affiliated Engineers
  • Sargent & Lundy
  • And many, many more!

  All students and alumni are encouraged to attend. Requirements for entry are:
  • Your IIT Student ID to attend free of charge (Cost for non-IIT students is $10)
  • Plenty of resumes (Please have these checked by CMC staff prior to the fair)
  • Personal business cards (Create 250 for free at VistaPrint) including your name, future degree or title that you are pursuing, and three characteristics that you want the employer to remember about you.
  • Business attire
  • Neat and clean appearance (Body, Breath, Hair & Clothing)
  • Avoid excessive jewelry, cologne, or perfumes

  Get a head start by attending the “Getting a Job: The First Minute” workshop on Feb. 20 or one of two “Keys to Job Fair Success” workshops on Feb 19 or Feb 21.

  • Nominate an Excellent Teacher

  The Provost’s Office is now accepting nominations for the Excellence in Teaching Award and the Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award.

  • The University Excellence in Teaching Award honors a faculty member from across the faculty representing Armour College of Engineering, the College of Architecture, the College of Science and Letters the Institute of Design, the Institute of Psychology and the College of Science and Letters.

  • The Biology Faculty Undergraduate Teaching Award honors a faculty member whose teaching load consists of at least 50 percent freshman students.

  Do you have a professor who has mentored you and/or other students, helping you make the most of your educational experience? Are you a freshman who has found this first year easier because of the efforts of an excellent teacher? If you know a professor or instructor who goes the extra mile to help students, contact Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Mike Gosz at goz@mcs.iit.edu to nominate him/her.

  Professor John Kallend (kallend@iit.edu) will chair the review committee for these awards. The nomination deadline is March 12, and student recommendations are only part of the process, so contact Professor Gosz as soon as possible to have your favorite teacher recognized.

  • Job Openings at WITF Radio

  WITF is looking for students to fill open positions listed below. If you are interested, please e-mail the station manager at witt@iit.edu.

  • Assistant Station Manager

  This position handles day-to-day operations of the station, including:
  • Answering emails from DJs.
  • Setting up and running WITF events.
  • Candidates must be honest and willing to ask questions. The Assistant Station Manager is there to get things done. This position is also next in line to run the station, so a freshman or sophomore is preferred, but upperclassmen will be considered.

  • Program Director

  This position handles new DJ requests, coordinates training, manages program logs, and arranges the DJ schedule.

  • Equipment Manager

  This position is responsible for the non-computer equipment at WITF, including the transmitter, board, turn tables, and cd players. Candidates will preferably be familiar with these kinds of audio equipment, but candidates willing to learn will be considered.

  • IT Director

  This position handles the computers at WITF. These include the studio machine, automation system, web server, and streamer. Experience with Linux is required. ACS or CPE major is preferred.

  The positions above are those essential to running the station, but many more are available (public relations, event planning, etc.). If you are interested in participating in campus radio but don’t think any of the above positions suit you, email WITF, witt@iit.edu. You may also nominate others you feel would be interested.

  • Barracuda Anti-spam Tool Selected for IIT Email

  Based on performance and user feedback, OTS has selected Barracuda as the new anti-spam and anti-virus tool for the university email system. We received an overwhelming response from the IIT community during our evaluation of several anti-spam tools. The most frequent feedback was that users want to control the messages that are filtered before reaching their email inbox.

  The overall volume of email spam has increased significantly over the past year and filtering these messages is necessary to protect the technology resources of our institution. OTS believes the Barracuda Anti-spam and virus tool effectively meets the needs of the IIT community.

  Barracuda will be installed during the weekly OTS maintenance window at 9:30 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2007. Individual quarantine inboxes will not be available until the system has been fully installed.

  Your personal settings from the Barracuda test period have been imported in to the production Barracuda system so your login information will be the same. You can access your quarantine inbox two ways:
  1) Click on the quarantine inbox URL in your daily “Spam Quarantine Reminder” e-mail
  2) Go to http://spamblock.iit.edu:8000 and enter your previous login information:

  Username: Your full IIT E-mail address (example@iit.edu)

  Password: Your previous Barracuda password

  If you do not remember your password go to http://spamblock.iit.edu:8000, enter your full IIT e-mail address (username@iit.edu) and your username and click "create new password" and a new password will be sent to you.

  To view instructions in managing your Barracuda quarantine inbox please go to OTS Support through myIIT or http://support.iit.edu and in the “Browse FAQs” pull-down field select “Barracuda Anti-SPAM”. If you have any additional questions or require further assistance, contact the OTS Support Desk (supportdesk@iit.edu or 312.567.3375). We appreciate the support and feedback we received from the IIT community during our evaluation of multiple anti-spam systems and apologize for any disruption or inconvenience this process has caused.

Reach the masses! • Submit your event to the University Calendar and see it in iit today & TechNews

Babajide Oke, Editor
okebaba@iit.edu
Low-dose birth control causes fatal blood clots, research group says

By Lizeth Cazares
THE CALIFORNIA AGGIE (UC-DAVIS)

(U-WIRE) DAVS, Calif. – The public interest organization Public Citizens sent a petition in early February urging the Food and Drug Administration to ban the third-generation low-dose birth control pills. They claim that these new contraceptive pills double the risk of potentially fatal blood clots, or thrombosis, in comparison to other pills.

According to Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizens’ research group, the new type of birth control uses a specific type of progestosterone, desogestrel, which increases the risk of fatal blood clots. In every 100,000 women who take low-estrogen birth control pills, 30 develop blood clots – compared to 15 out of 100,000 women who take the regular-dose birth control pills. While second-generation pills that do not contain desogestrel are still prescribed more often than those that do, approximately 7.5 million prescriptions of these new birth control pills are written each year.

“We estimate that hundreds of women are affected each year,” Wolfe said.

He said since sending the petition last week, Public Citizens’ research group has received calls from three women who developed blood clots and suffered subsequent health problems when taking birth control pills – two of them specifically used the third-generation pills.

“One said that after taking the pills for six months, she developed pain in the chest and rushed to the hospital. She said she was minutes away from dying because [the clot] went into her lungs,” Wolfe said. “She said she wouldn’t have taken the pills if she knew about the increased risk.”

He said the organization urges women to visit the Public Citizens website to learn more and sign the petition. So far, approximately 1,000 women have signed the petition.

Dr. Clara Puak, assistant professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of California-Davis Medical Center, said the estrogen within the pills also increases risks of deep-vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, which may lead to stroke or heart attacks.

Even though there is risk associated with using any type of oral contraceptive, it is not high enough risk to not prescribe them.

“The risk of these things is very, very low, even in higher-dose estrogen pills,” Puak said. “Obviously, we wouldn’t prescribe them with such frequency if they were dangerous to women.

The risk is much smaller than getting into an accident if driving a car, for example.”

Allison Jolda, a fifth-year senior anthropology major at UC Davis, said she has been taking birth control pills for more than two years and has not had any problems.

While she said her doctor informed her of the health risks connected to birth control pills, she is not sure exactly what they are.

“My doctor warned me about them, but it was so long ago I don’t remember,” she said.

Even though people are worried beforehand about the potentially fatal risks and effects, she said she doubts that they would persuade many women from taking any type of birth control pills.

“After hearing the number of women affected, it’s not really that impressive,” Jolda said. “Plus, the benefits are definitely worth it. That’s why I think I decided to take them even after hearing the risks.”

FDA moves to improve drug safety

By Victor Guharoy
TECHNEWS WRITER

An Institute of Medicine panel in September of last year concluded that the years of negligence, mismanagement, inadequate resources, and infighting among staff members, lack of a systemic drug approval and post marketing surveillance process has diluted the effectiveness of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in protecting public health. The panel was commissioned by the FDA to assess the U.S. drug safety system and they recommended twenty five sweeping changes, most of which would require Congressional authorization.

In response to the panel recommendations, the FDA unveiled a series of initiatives to improve patient safety on January 30th ‘07 (www.fda.gov). The agency plans to strengthen improvement and ensure implementation of the review, analysis, medical products surveillance and risk management.

An Institute of Medicine (an umbrella of the prestigous National Academy of Sciences) report came at a critical point after two years of controversy over FDA’s role over the safety of widely used drugs such as pain killers and antidepressants. Concerns about the safety of newly approved drugs have been building for years but they gained national attention when Vioxx was withdrawn from the market in 2004. It was pulled from the market by the manufacturer Merck after a company sponsored study confirmed that patients taking the drug were more likely to suffer heart attacks than those who did not. Despite the manufacturer’s awareness of the serious side effects, the product continued to be in the market before the withdrawal. Some consumer groups dismissed the FDA’s initiatives as too little, too late.

FDA’s response is certainly welcome in emphasizing on the life cycle of a drug product, rather than just the approval process. However, the agency took a pass on two other significant recommendations made by the Institute. One proposed that the agency post drug approval documents on its website and the other one proposed that the drugs, for the first two years after approval, carry a special symbol indicating that they give patients a chance to wait and evaluate the product.

Some of the recommendations would require Congressional approval to finance the proposed initiatives. It is expected that the new Congress and Senate would approve the initiatives soon.

INTERNATIONAL

Internationally renowned AIDS Doctor in China under House Arrest

By Victor Guharoy
TECHNEWS WRITER

Dr. Gao Yaqiu is an internationally renowned AIDS doctor in China. Her outstanding work with AIDS victims in China resulted in many accolades and she was selected to be honored in Washington DC in March by Vital Voices Global Partnership, a nonprofit group whose honorary chairwomen are Senator Hillary Clinton, Democrat of New York and Senator Kay Hutchinson, Republican of Texas (New York Times February 16, 2007).

China has done a great job in recent years acknowledging the once hidden HIV epidemic in China and confronting it openly. International organizations, such as the Clinton Foundation and the Bill Gates Foundation have been welcomed. The government also initiated a free drug program and nationwide public awareness program.

However, the Chinese government is well known for its hostility towards AIDS workers. They do not like AIDS activists, like Dr. Gao. Dr. Gao exposed the practice of tainted blood selling operations that resulted in the HIV epidemic in China in the 1990s. Dr. Gao was detained on February 1, as she was leaving for Beijing to pick up a United States travel visa.

Dr. Gao said, “I want to know who has made the decision. I am 80 years old and what crimes have I committed to deserve this?” Pressure from international organizations and U.S. embassy could not change the government decision.

In fact, Dr. Gao’s involvement in AIDS began in the 1990s when HIV was silently spreading through China. A government endorsed blood selling campaign led to the infection of thousands of farmers. She traveled to many villages providing medical care and increasing public awareness on the disease. She also spoke out against local officials trying to cover up the crisis. Dr. Gao posted AIDS cases on a blog to get public attention and the government was not pleased with that. Various postings accused her of lying and making those cases up. Some bloggers even posted personal insults. It seems like fear of international embarrassment is the motivating factor for stopping Dr. Gao from going to Washington. Dr. Gao commented in a telephone interview “I think my absence at the ceremony will be more influential than me being there”.

If you would like to contribute to the News Section or would like to see something else in it Contact Shravani pasushr@iit.edu

get your TECHNOLOGY on the web
technews.iit.edu

If you would like to contribute to the News Section or would like to see something else in it Contact Shravani pasushr@iit.edu
At the beginning of “Prank the Monkey,” the first book by Sir John Hargrave (not actually knighted, see page 208), he explains the difference between a prank and a practical joke. A prank has an agenda. A prank is a laugh at the expense of The Man. And John knows a few things about The Man.

Hargrave’s repertoire of pranks is broad – he’s done things as simple as harassing corporations via e-mail for sleazy marketing tactics to a full-blown subliminal message at the Super Bowl (if you head over to his website at zug.com, you can find his full detailing of the Super Stunt, in which he spent $40,000 to trick over 2000 fans into thinking they were spelling the word “PRINCE” with custom-made light-up pendants when viewed from the sky – it takes quite a bit to sneak that many boxes into the Super Bowl).

His book consists of 2/3 original, unpublished pranks and about 1/3 of the greatest hits from his website.

His dedication to his craft is remarkable. Through the course of his book, he changes his name twice, runs into trouble with police and security at least four times, and even recounts a story where as a college student he blackmailed the Dean to let him graduate. Indeed, the real joys in the book, are not just the satisfaction when he takes down a target who really, really deserves it (how would you like to see Ashton Kutcher admit he gets punk’d?) but how he always seems to get out of the situations unscathed. Sure, a few of the pranks blow up in his face or don’t go quite right – but there’s always the excitement of how, exactly, he’s gonna get out of this one.

Hargrave states that he has no problem with authority, just with senseless authority. And that, by being a corporate tool himself, he knows the rules and the bureaucracy, and how to turn it around. He knows that with a suit, an ID badge, a bluetooth headset and a clipboard, you can look like you belong anywhere. Or that you can get a secondary credit card on your account with any name on it (he gets one blown up to Publisher’s Clearing House size and sends it to his power company in a particularly inspired prank). Or how easy it is to send rumors all the way to Access Hollywood with nothing but Google and a cell phone.

When I tell friends about the kind of things that John pulls off, they tend to question why he would blow so much time and money on some of the things he does. And it’s simple, really. Beyond the adrenaline rush from the risk, beyond the basic thrill of breaking the rules and being where you shouldn’t, beyond making a fool out of the big guy. At the end of the day, is there anyone else on earth that can lay claim to having dry-humped Bill Gates, receiving fourteen signed photographs of U.N. Delegates signed “Peace Homey,” and receiving three handcrafted jewelry boxes from Charles Manson?

In “Prank the Monkey,” John Hargrave has accomplished a great feat – he’s written a book that makes you wish you were him.
Fox Sports announced last Monday that Joe Girardi, Mark Grace and Eric Karros will serve as analysts for its MLB coverage this season. Girardi was the 2006 National League Manager of the Year, after a playing career that included a stint with the Chicago Cubs. Grace, as everyone knows, played most of his career here in Chicago on the Northside. Girardi and Grace, along with Karros [former player with the Los Angeles Dodgers], will join Fox lead game analyst Tim McCarver in the booth and rotate between the Fox Saturday Baseball Game of the Week pregame show and game coverage.

The NBA banned Tim Hardaway, a Chicago native, from making any more public appearances at its All-Star weekend festivities held in Las Vegas because of anti-gay remarks he made on a radio show last Wednesday. Hardaway, who played in five All-Star games during the 1990s, was already in Las Vegas making a series of public appearances on behalf of the league. But after Hardaway said, “I hate gay people” during the radio interview, NBA Commissioner David Stern took action.

“We removed him from representing us because we didn’t think his comments were consistent with having anything to do with us,” Stern told reporters last Thursday. Hardaway apologized for his comments, which came a week after John Amaechi became the first former NBA player to announce he was gay.

Barry Bonds finally signed his one-year, $15.8 million deal with the San Francisco Giants which ended more than two months of squabbling between Bonds and Giants officials over the language/wording of the contract. The 42-year-old Bonds needs only 22 home runs this upcoming season to break Hank Aaron’s career record of 755.

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