**IIT Students win at Missouri-Illinois Regional Idea to Product Competition**

By Zach Hench

This semester, four teams of undergraduate IIT students were selected by the Fast Track review board to compete at the regional level of the 2009 Idea to Product (I2P) competition. I2P is an international competition, each year, hundreds of student teams submit unique product ideas in hopes of winning the global competition’s $25,000 top prize. Six of the ten teams who participated in the Fall 2008 IEA Idea Challenge were entered into this year’s regional competition. Four teams were picked to compete:

Automated Sighting Binoculars, Emmanuel Marcha
Music Tablet, Emmanuel Marcha
Odorno and Automated Smart Binoculars came in third place in their respective tracks, earning each team $250. Music Tablet was a second place winner, earning $500. Autocount won the semi-final round in its track moved on to the finals, which were held very early on Saturday morning. As before, each of the four final teams had to give a ten minute presentation, followed by twenty minutes of Q&A – this time with a panel of ten judges.

After delivering a spectacular presentation, entertaining and engaging the judges and the audience, Autocount won first place in the Missouri-Illinois Regional Idea to Product Competition! For their hard work and innovative thinking, the team earned $2,500. Their idea has also been submitted for review by the global competition review board. Should their idea be accepted, they will be invited to the I2P Global Competition, which will be held this November in Austin, Texas.

Overall, the experience was valuable for all teams, helping them gain real world exposure to technological innovation, market awareness, and entrepreneurship. Music Tablet founder Emmanuel Marcha noted that the judges’ feedback was “most helpful for determining the potential future of [his] product.” Or, as the AutoCount team said shortly after winning the competition, “[This is] truly a sense of validation. Isn’t this what every innovator hopes and lives for?”

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**Taste of IIT kicks off spring**

By Brian Kibbe

On Friday, the International Students Organization hosted Taste of IIT as a part of their 33rd “I Feast.” For those of you who somehow avoided the MTEC during lunch time, you missed some of the best food that has graced this campus. Students, Indian Students Association, Latinos involved in Further Education, Black Student Union, and others brought in their favorite food and sold it for anywhere from 50¢ to a few dollars. Self-control was the utmost importance at the Taste. After carefully observing all the options I tasted some glorious samosa, homemade kimchib (Korean sushi), fresh lemonade, and Spanish tuna pie. Not only was the food on the discount, but ISO was selling their I Fest gift card for $2.

I did leave the Taste with a regret though, that I had not practiced expanding my stomach cavity to accommodate more food. I would have had some Indian chicken 65, a churro, some quality Chinese food, and a few dollars. Self-control was the utmost importance at the Taste. Everyone present seemed to be in the mood for some delicious international food. Beware of the I Fest gift card people, they somehow avoided theISO and all the other ethnic student groups.

The event was made possible by the Student Activities Fund, and is a part of a larger celebration of the international diversity that IIT is so lucky to experience. Make sure you look out next year for this fantastic programming that provides an avenue for ethnic pride and mutual appreciation. Enjoy this event everyone take small steps away from obsesing over cultural differences and toward peaceful coexistence.
Thoughts on Christianity

By Eric Skvorc

TechNews Writer

This is a response to Eduardo’s article, “Let’s feed the troll.” I am not sure everyone is bored with the topic of religion, and I know plenty of us love to hear from fellow believers. Fellowship is one of the most important aspects of Christianity, as it brings us together and strengthens our bonds with each other as well as with God. So, I would like to answer some of Eduardo’s questions and explain my reasoning behind the actions of the Christian community.

It was asked, “Why are religious people (normally fervent believers) always trying to convince people to follow their doctrine?” and why they open the “same empty debates” many times over. It is true; missionaries all over the world are spreading God’s word to people every day, trying to reach out to anyone and everyone with willing and open hearts. The reason behind this is the same reason that those missionaries accepted God’s word in the first place: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). God sent his only son to die a painful death, so we would not die an eternal one, and Christians want to share that unconditional love with everyone. And so, our debates are not empty, they are intelligent discussions to let others know what we believe, in a hopefully civil and peaceful manner. We do not need reinforcement from society because what we witness everyday is enough for our faith to remain strong. Yes, all of this is based on faith, but certainly not a “flimsy” one.

Many people think that those with faith, especially in God, are simple-minded or childish. But they are not children, they do believe in something irrational and unfeudal like the Easter bunny or Santa. And those with a child-like faith are the most on-track: a child has complete faith in their parents to protect him, just as we must have complete faith that God will keep us safe from harm and provide for us. In Mark 10:14-15 Jesus says, “Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” I do not know how anyone cannot strongly consider the possibility of God after looking at the color of a Harvest Moon, or the way every single snowflake looks different, or how intricately designed the human body and how it all works. I am convinced that nothing besides an all-powerful being could do that. I know, science “explains it all,” but science is just the thing that we have to use that links these phenomena together, a means by which we try to explain what already is so that we can comprehend. Anyway, this faith has led me to a strong conviction in what I believe, and I love to share that with others.

Sharing God’s word is usually done in a similar fashion everywhere, as Eduardo said, though I would not say we “capture” people, it is a choice. The terms brother and sister are used because that is what we are when we accept Christ, we are united with God as our Father. We become a family, sharing a common faith and “re-birth” as Christians. And just like family, we will always support you, “no matter your weaknesses.” That is not why you should accept Christ, and it certainly does not mean that you do not need to try to improve yourself. Your new Christian family will support you to improve and better yourself, we just do not require that you be perfect in the beginning, or even for that matter. You can certainly be my friend even if you do not accept Christ; I am friends with atheists, agnostics, and people of other faiths. And I am sorry if you think that these friends will not be “true” friends (what does that mean anyway) and that you will not have more than ten, that is unfortunate. I think I have more than ten true friends, but it is best friends, those that I can tell anything to, that I have fewer than ten. Your Christian friends will always be there to help you with your growth in Christ and support you when times are tough.

Finally, I want to straighten out what the Bible says about sex, because it is not to be forbidden or feared. First, in Genesis 1:28 God says to Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it.” Then, in Genesis 2:18&24 it says, “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone... For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.” God meant for men and women to reproduce, but with only their husband or wife. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, “Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of God and are his possession? He bought you for a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.” Sex is not meant to be feared, and is most certainly natural, something that God intended.

So there is my spiel, some of my reasoning and logic behind the Christian faith, but it is just that: faith. My conviction is strong, and grows stronger every day when I continue to see the ways in which God works. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or just want a thoughtful discussion on the topic, I would love to share my faith with you. These are, however, my views on faith in Christ, and fellow believers may differ slightly. I am not sure everyone is bored with the topic of religion, and I know plenty of us love to hear from fellow believers. Fellowship is one of the most important aspects of Christianity, as it brings us together and strengthens our bonds with each other as well as with God. So, I would like to answer some of Eduardo’s questions and explain my reasoning behind the actions of the Christian community.

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When the Western churches switched to a new calendar, the Orthodox churches kept the traditional one. The Orthodox Church celebrates Pascha on the first Sunday after Passover, while the West uses a different cycle to determine the date: it celebrates Easter. This does not correspond with the Orthodox celebration, but more often the feasts are one or more weeks apart.

Traditionally the Pascha service begins shortly before midnight and ends before dawn. We enter the church, not into the night, closely followed by a feast shortly before midnight and continues long into the night, closely followed by a feast afterwards. The clients pay us for the space and generally only use it for large events: meetings, training seminars, and once even a wedding reception. The clients themselves are (for the most part) well-behaved and go about their business as quickly as they can.

The ARC was moved to the HUB last semester. The reasoning behind this was that the tutoring center needed to be bigger in order to accommodate the number of students using it. In my embarrassment I visited the ARC every day to see if there were some important problems, but I went along with the reasoning… perhaps the professionals in charge knew what they were talking about more than I did.

However, after almost two semesters of struggling to figure out the ARC’s fate, we finally decided that moving it from the library was a bad idea. The ARC was given the back of the Expo, which is the large room on the north side of the building. Whereas the ARC, and all the students in it, are located on the north end of the Expo, the ARC’s space is readily sacrificed in favor of the clients. Therefore let us be rid of the ARC. It does not appear to be an appreciable difference in the amount of space afforded. The free space has reduced due to quality problems; the 54-yr-old building means that many apartments have had to be closed, and others are due to be closed after this semester. I wish that IIT valued its students enough to realize that their money was owed before, since it all goes to the same source. I don’t envy the people that create financial structures; everyone always tells them that they’re doing it wrong. At the same time, I wish that IIT valued its students enough to realize that their education is more important than a few TEs’s contracts.

Moreover, wherever a conference is held in the Expo, the space is readily sacrificed in favor of the clients. Since the ARC is located on the north side of the building, the clients pay us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The most glaring mistake in judgment here is that the clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients. The clients paid us for the space and generally only use it for all. However, it means that the students who would have otherwise worked at the “front office” of the ARC, where there are tables and folding chairs, have to relocate themselves to the ARC. The west wing of the ARC has disappeared in favor of the clients.

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Seeking his spirit: what is your Jerusalem?

By Hannah Rosenthal

As told in my previous article, athletic director Lee Hitchen was the first to officially inform the teams of the reasons behind the discontinuation of both the men's and women's varsity basketball programs. However, a mere two months prior would have been late January, which was the very end of the evening, to my relief, the eleven girls had stuck together and Caroline was free to enjoy the activities with a friend by her side.

In the same way that I felt compassion for Caroline and left the girls in my cabin to find her, Jesus longs for each and every person on this campus who does not already know Him. Whether they are currently standing on their tip-toes, scrapping the crowd for Him, or they have buried themselves in a hole and refuse to let anyone help them out, God loves them and yearns for us Christians to love them too.

What is keeping you from looking for them? What is keeping you from loving them? Do you have more important things to do than invest in someone's eternal destiny? Do you assume that you are off the hook because other people are witnessing at IIT? You may have a thousand excuses not to share your hope in Christ, but I challenge you to consider the last words Jesus said to his disciples. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

What is your Jerusalem? Who are the people in your life that God has asked you to love unconditionally and woo to Himself? Write their names down on a slip of paper and post it by your mirror or use it as a bookmark so you are reminded to pray for them. Ask God for opportunities to share your faith with them and be courageous when He provides them!

However, you must be wary not to argue. The Word of the Lord says, "Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." (2 Tim. 2:23-26)

Use your gentle words to share the story of God's Son. For He died for all of mankind, not that we could argue over controversial issues with those who interpret Scriptures differently than us, but that we could live abundantly, free from the chains of sin, testifying to those around us the impactful ways Christ has changed us. Brother or sister, God will use you if you ask Him to. I pray that you will ask, I pray that you will witness.

If you have questions about this article, Jesus, or Christianity, please e-mail seeking.His.spirit@gmail.com

A contradictory decision on varsity basketball

By Courtney Fisher

For those of you who read the last article I wrote for TechNews, you have begun to understand the situation regarding the discontinuation of both the men's and women's varsity basketball programs. However, some new information has been brought to light, and the information we were originally given was followed by a chaotic trail of contradictions.

As told in my previous article, athletic director Lee Hitchen was the first to officially inform the teams of the reasons behind the decision to discontinue basketball as a varsity program at Illinois Institute of Technology. Hitchen informed us that a mere two months ago President Anderson brought up the athletic programs to him. Also he told us that the president specifically brought up basketball, asking about the records and such. However, President Anderson sent a letter to the members of the basketball team and their parents, detailing that last fall Hitchen and himself began discussing the basketball programs and decided to monitor them. Just to clarify, for those of you who don’t know when fall is in the year, it is also known as autumn and lasts from the end of September to the end of December. Lee Hitchen met with the basketball teams on March 25th, which was already spring. Therefore two months prior would have been late January, which is already well into winter. Thus, two minutes into our first official information session, the contradictions began.

In that same meeting, Hitchen told us that the decision was not because of financial concerns, but because President Anderson was becoming unhappy with the team’s annual record. However, in an email sent to the student body, he stated, “This decision is no way reflects negatively on the current players as they have worked very hard to represent IIT with the highest character and sportsmanship. No one can question their effort and commitment.” Then, in the letter that was sent to the basketball players and their parents, Anderson wrote, “…our varsity basketball teams have not been competitive in the ChicagoCand Collegiate Athletic Conference over the past four years.”

It is contradictory to say that a decision does not reflect negatively upon the people involved and that they are making an adequate effort if the decision is based on performance. Also, in the letter we were told that the decision took into account the fact that the intramurals at IIT are not up to the expected standards. President Anderson then wrote, "The combination of these two situations, along with a challenging economic environment, drove this decision. The funds saved from the varsity basketball programs will support enhanced intramural programs and community outreach programs.” I personally wonder why President Anderson continues to blame the economic situation for having a part in his decision. What many of you do not know is that a donor offered President Anderson a contribution of roughly $700,000 to keep the men's and women's varsity basketball teams running for two more years. President Anderson turned the donor down. This money could have kept the varsity basketball programs running at no cost to the school and allowed President Anderson to invest more money into intramurals and other varsity sports as he was planning to do. I do not understand how having a varsity basketball program that operates using no university money is a detriment to the school, even if they have not had a winning record in the past.

One final thing that I want to mention about the letter that was sent to the members of the basketball team is its closing paragraph. Anderson wrote, “We fully acknowledge the hard work by the men and women of our varsity basketball teams, and by the coaches. You have represented IIT well on and off the court, and we are proud of you.” Another contradiction, if the decision was made based on performance and lack of competitiveness, then the president could not possibly believe that the teams represented IIT well. Also if the teams are representing the school well, then why would the president turn down a source of outside funding that would allow the programs to exist without school funding, even if only to exist temporarily?
PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION FOR REPORT BY SHIMER STUDENT OF ANOTHER SHIMER STUDENT SENDING HARASSING EMAILS.

PSD NOTIFIED BY STUDENT THAT LAPTOP COMPUTER LEFT AT LOCATION WAS TAKEN BY UNKNOWN PERSON(S).

PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION FOR REPORT OF STUDENT BANNED FROM LOCATION BEING AT LOCATION.

CHECK OF PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION FOR REPORT OF ELEVATOR NOT WORKING. NO ONE WAS IN THE ELEVATOR AND STUDENT REPORTED TO PSD THAT WALLET WAS TAKEN FROM LOCKER IN THE MEN'S LOCKER ROOM AT LOCATION.

PSD VEHICLE WAS STRUCK BY ANOTHER VEHICLE AT LOCATION. NO DAMAGE TO EITHER VEHICLE. DRIVER OF PSD VEHICLE WAS NOUDED TO PSD.

PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION FOR REPORT OF A TRUCK BACKING INTO A PARKED CAR. NO INJURIES, PROPERTY DAMAGE.

PSD RESPONDED TO LOCATION FOR REPORT OF A學生 BACKING INTO A PARKED CAR. NO INJURIES, PROPERTY DAMAGE.

SUBJECT WAS ESCORTED TO FARR HALL AND ISSUED A BAR NOTICE BY PSD.

DAMAGE ONLY.

Over the past several years the university has made targeted investments in new high efficiency heating systems, new roofing, bathroom renovations, residence hall furniture and the conversion of Gunsaulus Hall to furnished undergraduate and graduate housing.

Despite these major investments, there has been continued deterioration to Cunningham Hall that cannot be remedied through annual maintenance, and will require a major total renovation. In recent years, the 54-year old building has seen great decline in heat delivery systems and an increase in water infiltration. This has resulted in many units being taken off the market and reduced rents for others. Due to continued facility decline, Housing Services will close Cunningham Hall on Friday, July 31, 2009.

All current Cunningham tenants will be offered campus accommodations for 2009-2010 in either Carman Hall or Gunsaulus Hall. Residents were notified of the closure by letter on Thursday, April 16.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Luttig-Konisky, Director of Housing Services, by emailing housing@iit.edu or by calling 312.567.5075.
**CAMPUS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009**

**WISER formula hybrid racecar launch**

By Abhishek Gundugurti
**TECHNEWS WRITER**

IIT’s WISER Formula Hybrid team has announced the official launch ceremony for the two 2009 challengers for the Formula Hybrid International Competition. The team will hold the ceremony in front of the Siegel Hall on Friday, April 24, 2009. The entire IIT community is invited to attend the event.

The sponsors of the team, faculty advisor Dr. Ali Emadi, the student team, and various local news media outlets will be in attendance. The ceremony will begin at 1 pm and starts with a presentation by the team. The ceremony’s main attraction is the unveiling of the two hybrid race cars that the team has been building for the past nine months. The new racer for 2009, “Hammerhawk,” will be unveiled to the public for the first time at this event. It will be joined by its veteran older sisters, “Scarlet Hawk” (last year’s 3rd place finisher), and “Red Rocket” (IIT’s recently-retired hybrid racer), as student drivers take all three cars for a spin down 31st Street.

The team members have been working round-the-clock for the past two weeks to finish and test the cars. They have designed and manufactured most of the car in the SAE garage at IIT. The MMEA department and the machine shop has also been extensively used and the staff has been helpful. For both of this year’s cars, the suspension, steering, and part of the back-end chassis has been made by the team and machined at IIT. The ECE Department and the Grainger Lab has been also used to design, fabricate and test all the electronic devices and circuits – both large and small. The team, much thanks to its platinum sponsor, Wagner Institute of Sustainable Energy Research (WISER), has been able to purchase most of the raw material required for making the cars.

The WISER team is inviting all students, faculty and staff to come attend the event and witness the work done by the team. It is a showcase of the incredible learning experience each of these IIT students have received over the past two semesters, as well as the technical prowess our university has achieved in automotive engineering.

**Take me out to the ball game**

By Melanie Koto
**TECHNEWS WRITER**

Wednesday afternoon I went out to Wrigley Field with a group of friends to watch the Cubs play the Colorado Rockies. Although I am not much of a baseball fan, it was still fun to go to the game with my friends, and I even got to see someone hit a home run (remember, I haven’t watched much baseball). It was even better to go to the game for only two dollars. How, you might ask, did I get these tickets for such a low cost? Well, I bought them from our very own Union Board.

I spoke to Kaleo Pedrina, a member of Union Board and VP of Scarlet Fever, to find out how Union Board works, and how they are able to offer us tickets at low prices. The Union Board at IIT is a group that works in a non-for-profit manner in order to benefit the students. Tickets are sold for baseball games, basketball games, plays, musicals and more. Union Board receives its funding from the student activity fee that students pay as part of their tuition costs. Union Board uses the money they receive from this activity fee to purchase tickets for events, and then they sell the tickets to the students at a more affordable price. The money that Union Board receives from ticket sales goes back into the student activity fund to sponsor more events. Union Board sets up events that will be of most interest to a large number of students. So, if there is an event that Union Board is advertising for, take advantage of the opportunity and go stand in line for those cheap(er) tickets!

**Dancing for dummies**

By Alicia Perez
**TECHNEWS WRITER**

Imagine—the music is turned up, there are people on the dance floor, and everyone is learning how to dance to the beat. ‘What am I talking about? Dancing For Dummies!’ Sponsored by Union Board, Dance101, the Student Activities Fund, and the Campus & Conference Centers, this past Thursday, April 16, a learn-to-dance event was held in the BOG in honor of the Campus & Conference Centers.

The sponsors of the event that Union Board is advertising for, take advantage of the opportunity and go stand in line for those cheap(er) tickets!

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### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

**Stuart School Lunch and Learn**
12:40-1:50 pm, HUB Basement, Trustee Dining Room
Be prepared and ready for your dream job through this program!

**Shimmer College Film Screening**
5:30-7:30 pm, Shimmer College, 3434 S. State.
The consummate Kubrickian exploration of Jundial duality set amidst the chaos of Marine Boot Camp and combat in Vietnam.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

**Musician Ehren Ebage**
9pm, The BOG
Ehren Ebange is a singer/songwriter from Eugene, OR. Ehren has worked for years as a sideman in various projects, including a four-year stint with Justin King.

**African Cultural Night**
7-9:30pm, MTCC Ballroom
A FREE colorful celebration of African Culture. Come and enjoy a night of dance, drama, fashion, music and of course, food from various countries in Africa.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

**The Mousetrap**
8:00pm, HUB Ballroom
A 33rd Street Production. When eight people get stranded in at a guest house in a British countryside, you know someone will end up dead. Shows on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

**Humpies Colloquium: Karl Stolley**
2-4pm, Siegel 218 Conference Room
Karl Stolley (Humanities, IIT) will be presenting a paper titled “Activity Theory and Literacies of Open-Source Digital Production” as part of the Lewis Department of Humanities ongoing colloquium series.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 25

**The BIG Event ‘09!**
8-9:30pm, Spring Concert for the first 200 volunteers! Learn more at iit.edu/big_event!

**The Academy Is... at IIT**
3:00pm, Morton Park
Make sure to bring your student ID with you to gain admittance, and also make sure to bring out $5 donation to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital! Hosted by Union Board.

### Public Safety Incident Reports (Continued from page 5)

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<th>Location</th>
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<th>Case #</th>
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**TechNews Articles Due**
11:59pm, technews.iit.edu
Want an article in the April 28 edition of TechNews? This is your last chance!
Comic book reviews: of mercenaries and batmen

By Erik Johnson

Graphic Novel: Batman: Ego and Other Tails

Let me start by admitting the following: I adore Darwyn Cooke. His artwork has this fantastic look that manages to feel both chic and retro, without being at all tacky or dated. It’s very lush and bold, and creates beautiful worlds that can make the reader smile or cry and totally read anything with Darwyn Cooke’s name on it.

That being said, Ego and Other Tails is a fantastic collection of Batman comics, including Ego, Catwoman: Selina’s Big Score, and a few other shorter stories. Clocking in at 200 pages, this is a pretty long one, and definitely presents the reader with plenty of goodies to enjoy. As soon as I began reading Ego, the title story, I knew I was in for a treat. Ego presents a beautiful and moving take on themes that play a large part in the Batman mythos, particularly the inner conflict between Bruce Wayne and Batman. It brings these two aspects of Bruce to life (no pun intended, read it and see) in a fascinating way. I was left eagerly turning each page, drinking in each beautifully illustrated panel. This is definitely one of my most favorite Batman stories at this point, and I left it wishing Christopher Nolan had approched The Dark Knight in a similar way.

The other large chunk of the graphic novel is unfortunately devoted to Selina’s Big Score, a Corman style Batman film I’ve never been a big fan of Catwoman (who is?), so I was pretty disappointed that such a large part of the book was about this movie. The story isn’t the worst comic I’ve ever read, but it is lacking in some departments—namely Batman—but does have its moments. I felt like it was a little too long for its own good, but whenever I got bored, I just looked at the pretty pictures.

The other stories are all fairly brief, a couple are good, one wasn’t the best. They are all enjoyable (more so than Selina’s Big Score) and worth your time. Also included in the book are a few Batman issue covers that Darwyn Cooke illustrated.

I’d definitely recommend picking this one up, if only for Ego. It’s one of the best Batman stories out there.

Deadpool: Suicide Kings #1

Suicide Kings is the newest Deadpool miniseries (of which there are a surplus of, I suspect it is because of this upcoming appearance in Wolverine: Origins) by Mike Benson. Benson previously wrote the amusing Deadpool one-shot Game of Death. Game of Death was quite fun, and featured some funny little cultural references that I really enjoyed. Suicide Kings is a 5-part miniseries that will feature cameo appearances from a few other Marvel superheroes.

Although few can compare to Joe Kelly’s run writing Deadpool, Mike Benson does a pretty decent job—however, like Daniel Way, he relies on the “Deadpool talking to himself” method of storytelling a little heavily. It’s not bad, it’s just something that takes a bit of getting used to. On the surface, this book starts off like most Deadpool books, and doesn’t seem like it brings anything new to the table. Deadpool gets a job, he kills some dudes, things aren’t all they appear to be and he ends up getting screwed. However, the book closes with some pretty interesting stuff, and features a nice reveal at the end. I’m definitely looking forward to seeing where Benson takes this series.

The artwork is good; Carlo Barberi actually did art for a few earlier Deadpool issues, so it feels very familiar. It sort of has a ‘90s comic feel to it, which, coupled with the vibrancy of color in modern comics, is fairly pleasant to look at. Some of the characters are a bit generic looking, but it’s nothing too terrible.

However, I wouldn’t feel comfortable recommending this to someone that isn’t already a Deadpool fan. Deadpool beginners would be better of checking out trade paperbacks of early Deadpool.

TechNews needs writers!

Interested?

Come to the TechNews writer’s meeting

Wednesday, 1:10pm
TechNews office
MTCC 221
By Kamakshi Palakodety

Mimicking and outperforming nature’s creatures

Do you remember the good old childhood days when nothing seemed impossible? In our dreams we had so many imaginative ideas and thought anything can happen? Well, somewhere down the line as we grow up and come face to face with the real life out there, we lose some of our imagination. Somehow, everything seems impossible again and even the simplest of things seem hard to accomplish.

However, it seems the folks at Festo, still haven’t left their childhood imagination behind. With the kind of discoveries and inventions they have come up with recently, they seem to have harnessed nature itself and made the impossible become possible.

I am talking about their much-acclaimed invention—the AquaPenguin. The AquaPenguin is a robotic penguin which was built as an autonomous underwater vehicle also called as AUV. The AquaPenguin is based on the simple principle of “maximum performance through minimum energy consumption”.

Studies have shown that though most penguins seem to be somewhat clumsy on land, they have an excellent and graceful movement underwater which is the primary source of their food. The AquaPenguin mimics some of the movements of real penguins but it does not limit itself to just that. Technology has found ways to defy nature as the AquaPenguin can perform certain feats, which even a real penguin, is unable to do.

The AquaPenguin is not remotely controlled, nor does it depend on anyone to steer it through. It is perfectly capable of navigating itself through the water, swim forward, swim through narrow spots and even swim backwards! Even a real penguin can’t swim backwards! This flexibility in the wings of the AquaPenguin is the result of steel spring elements. The AquaPenguin’s wings are made up of an elastic matrix of silicon. This matrix embeds the steel springs in itself, which enables the AquaPenguin to maneuver with such ease and twist its wings at certain angles, thereby providing more energy and thrust in the swim, without using up a lot of energy.

The AquaPenguin is smart enough to know when it has reached a dead end in a pool or ocean and is able to avoid such tight spots by steering itself away from the edges. This is possible with the help of 3D SONAR using broadband ultrasound signals which helps the AquaPenguin recognize solid objects and know when to stay away from them. The same technology is used by the AquaPenguin to communicate with other AquaPenguins in its location, similar to how dolphins and whales communicate underwater by making noises.

Even though the AquaPenguin’s wings are made of silicon to give maximum elasticity and flexibility in all directions, its body structure has been designed with a different technology altogether. The AquaPenguin’s torso, which can navigate in all directions, is based on a 3D Fin Ray structure. The foundation of this structure is the tail fin of a fish which can move around in all directions. This design was simulated in 3D and this is the first experiment of its kind to do so. The shoulder joints consist of rotatable bearings which help the AquaPenguin to propagate both forwards and backwards in water.

The AquaPenguin has been designed with a different technology altogether to give maximum elasticity and flexibility in all directions. Its body structure has been designed with a technology that resembles the tail fin of a fish which can move around in all directions. This is the result of simulation in 3D and is the first experiment of its kind to do so. The shoulder joints consist of rotatable bearings which help the AquaPenguin to propagate both forwards and backwards in water.

Unfortunately, it’s in German. So if you know German well enough, then you are in luck. Else, for people like me, there is a pdf guide in English available at http://www.festo.com/cms/de/de/11507.htm, which offers a full description of the AquaPenguin—the concept, the structure, the internal mechanism and what not. It is definitely worth reading. You can also check out the video on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-LHLogMepQ.

By the way, Festo has also developed the AirPenguin. It’s easy to figure out what this one does, but how it does it is more interesting. So check out the website to learn more about this cool technology!
Scarlet Hawks baseball triumph over Trojans

By Melanie Koto

Ed Glancy field was a summer picture Friday afternoon, as the warm weather encouraged fans to come out and watch the Scarlet Hawks play the first game of the series against the Trojans of Trinity International University. With the sun shining and a nice Bar-B-Que set up by Union Board, the atmosphere was perfect for a ballgame.

The game didn't start off in favor of the Hawks, with the Trojans scoring two runs in the second inning. The Hawks responded in the third with one run, but then the game slowed down a bit. In the fifth inning, the Trojans increased their lead with three more runs, and the Hawks added one run of their own, closing the gap a bit. In the bottom of the sixth inning, the score got more exciting. The Hawks put three more runs up on the score board to tie the score of the game. With the bases loaded, Brian Sklena hit a single that brought Eddie Morales and Dustin Reznicek home on an RBI. Kyle Gugelmino then made it to first on an error by the Trojans pitcher, and Ryan Bouck scored the third run of the inning. Unfortunately the Trojans responded with three runs of their own in the seventh, leaving with a final score of 7-8.

Saturday the Scarlet Hawks traveled to Deerfield to play the Trojans on their home field. Even though the scores were close, the Hawks won both games. In the first of the two games, the Trojans scored three runs in the third to take lead of the game. The Hawks put an end to the scoring there, and responded with a run in the sixth, followed by two in the seventh. The Hawks ended the game with two more runs in the ninth to bring the final score of the game to 5-3. The second game was just as close. Both the Hawks and the Trojans put two runs on the score board in the first. Scarlet Hawks then scored three more runs in the second. The Trojans tried to beat our Scarlet Hawks, but in the end the Hawks held onto their lead, leaving with a final score of 5-4. The Scarlet Hawks play at home again at 12 pm on Saturday (4/25) against Robert Morris College. Game statistics for home and away games are posted by Coach Born, and are available on the athletics department’s webpage.

Track and Field sets records

By Rachel Hendricks

IIT’s track and field club started the outdoor season right where they left off from indoor season back in March. At the Ted Haydon Invitational this past weekend the club set several new school records. In unusually nice April weather, the Scarlet Hawk men’s team had an outstanding day posting two new school records.

Freshman Phil Theisen, in his first attempt at the 5000m, ran a personal best of 16:36.84. Two seconds in front of the second place finisher, Theisen encouraged fans to come out and watch the Scarlet Hawk men’s track team.

The Scarlet Hawk women’s team had an outstanding day posting five Illinois Tech records & personal bests. Kenny Murphy running the 800m (-2.5 meters) beat her previous best times by a huge 2.5 seconds.

Cycling Team wins at Marian

By Rachel Hendricks

The Cycling Team added a 2nd place finish, and a win to their already strong season this past weekend, when they headed to Indiana for the Purdue Road Race, and the Marian College Midwest Cycling Classic.

On Saturday, the team went to Purdue, where during her first race ever for the school, Elena Dorr rode aggressively, covered several breakaways, and took 2nd place out of 12 riders in the Women’s Bs. Danny Beissinger rode a strong race, but lost steam in the last five miles and got out-sprinted at the line, coming in 10th out of 40 competitors in the Men’s Bs. Loren Bo and Chase Wolford represented Illinois Tech in the Men’s Cs.

On Sunday, Illinois Tech Cycling dominated Marian College’s Midwest Cycling Classic! Elena Dorr continued her strong performance from the day before, winning four out of four primes (mini-sprint competitions that happen mid race), and finishing 4th place in the race. Danny Beissinger rode a smart race, won a couple primes, and waited for the field sprint (25 riders sprinting at 35 mph for the finish) to cross the finish line half a wheel length before anyone else, and gave Illinois Tech it’s first win in the team’s history! Chase Wolford and Scott Larson both achieved personal bests, with Wolford taking 12th out of 30 in the final sprint of the Men’s Cs.

With just four races left, the cycling team is doing the best its ever done in their four year history. Currently they’re ranked 2nd/16 in Division 2 of the Midwest Collegiate Cycling Conference! What this means, is that as it stands, the team will (for the first time ever) be sending cyclists to the Collegiate National Championships in Fort Collins, Colorado! Things are going well and looking good for the last two race weekends of the season for IIT!