Who will be the next IIT idol?

By Brigid Strait

TECHNEWS WRITER

When I arrived at the Bog at ten after seven on Friday, the place was packed. A stranger tried to convince me to sign up for the MC. “You won’t regret it,” he said, “once you see what it’s like unless you get up there.” True. But that doesn’t change the fact that I can’t carry a tune in a bucket. So here’s my view from the audience.

First of all, congratulations to all of you who sang. Y’all were bally. Surprisingly, you were also all pretty good. I heard country, rock, pop, jazz, and several other genres. I’m definitely looking forward to hearing Round II, which will be next Friday at 7 p.m. in the common areas with Tom, Nick, Aya, Joe, Elizabeth, Lawrence, Michaela, Bonnie, Robert, and Johna.

After the show I caught up with two of the judges and asked them for their advice. Fabio, whose day job is in the Office of Student Life, recommended that contestants engage the audience. Both he and Robin (from the Campus and Conference Centers, specifically in charge of the Bog) suggest that presenters list music, both to give them confidence and to make the audience shut up a little. Frank, the MC, spent most of his time telling the crowd to pipe down. Robin commented that Top 10 are all very talented. “It’ll be a stiff competition, and I hope many people show up.”

For me, the best moment of the night was when Frank the MC got up on stage and announced, “Charlie here said there was no way he was getting on stage tonight. Well, I have Charlie’s keys.” No way he was getting on stage tonight. Well, I have Charlie’s keys. “There was a solid chunk as the keys hit the floor. So that’s how that’s going to go.”

And yes, Charlie did step onstage to grab his keys at the end of the night, but not before they were stepped on a few times.

After sitting through three hours of Round I, here are my tips for all of you. Please note that following my advice will probably not help much. Also, despite what I’ve said, braving the judges really won’t do any good. Although it doesn’t hurt to try.

A 9-minute song is entertaining for your audience. Yes, even if you’re good. Sing “Freebird” if you must, but wear red. That way it’ll match the rotten tomatoes the audience chucks at you.

• I know the mic is germ-infested at made of green kryptonite, but if you’re not within millimeters of it then WE CAN’T HEAR YOU.

• Don’t worry if you’ve had a few too many pitchers of liquid courage. Just pick a rowdy, well-known song and shout it. If you don’t, they’ll find you when she’s sitting in the front row with her new beau. That’s just awkward.

• For a guaranteed 7 out of 7 from Robin, sing something by Bon Jovi.

• Sing a love song and direct it to the nearest judge. Stare into their eyes as you sing. If it helps you personalize the lyrics a bit. Examples include:

  • “Hey There Fabio”
  • “Sweet Wendy”
  • “I’ve Just Met A Girl Named Robin”

• Winning entry “Man in the Commons” by Sahar Ashrafi

SWEet Winter Wonderland

By Katie Lazicki

If you have walked by the south entrance of the MTCC recently, you might have noticed some original snow structures covering the south lawn. These structures are the result of the Snow Sculpture Building Contest that took place during the Society of Women Engineer’s first annual Winter Carnival Membership Drive, supervised by SAE. On Friday afternoon, students braved the cold on the south lawn to enjoy hot cider and cookies, along with the company of fellow engineering students.

Some participants endured the frigid temperatures long enough to participate in the contest, competing for a $25 Visa gift card. Instead of just snowmen (or snowwomen), the judges encouraged participants to think creatively in building their structures. From a cute snow turtle to an ornate snow chapel, the snow’s hard-to-pack quality did not deter the contestants from working to the best of their abilities.

Some entries were really outside of the box, such as the abstract “Blank Expanse of Snow.” Others were more literal in “leaving their mark,” like the snow angel wearing pants. My personal favorite snow sculpture, dubbed “The Accidental Rockstar,” was more functional than abstract “Blank Expanse of Snow.” Others were more literal working to the best of their abilities.

Fabio Buffa along with many others entertain the crowd in the first round of IIT Idol (See page 6 for more).

Alderman Dowell to visit IIT Campus

By Carlie Colburn

TECHNEWS WRITER

For a few readers this may sound like a pretty neat thing, the opportunity to hear from, meet with, and question one of the most important politicians for constituents in the IIT-Bronzeville area. For many however, this seems to be a confusing topic. Many people I have spoken with about this upcoming event wonder not only who an Alderman is but also why they are important political figures in this time in which the media seems to only buzz with news of big name national political positions. While there are big name national politicians in important, when it comes to many of the policies and laws that help or annoy us the most in our everyday lives, state and local politicians often play a larger role than many of us realize.

To start with, an Alderman is basically a city council person. For most Chicago and Illinois natives this term is inherent, but even coming to the school as a political science major, from Minnesota the term admittedly baffled me throughout my first few pages of political reading on the city. The concept is relatively the same throughout most major American cities, they are divided into districts or wards represented by a city council person or alderman on the City Council or Board of Aldermen respectively. The city of Chicago contains 50 wards, the boundaries of which are redistricted by an allegedly fair committee every 10 years, based ideally only on evening out significant changes in city population. IIT is in Chicago’s 3rd Ward, which covers much of the Near South Side, including Bronzeville, the South Loop, and parts of Wentworth Garden, Fuller Park and Back of the Yard.

The 3rd ward elected Alderman Pat Dowell in April of 2006, over the well-known, 23 year incumbent, Dorothy Tillman. Prior to serving as Alderman, Dowell worked as an urban planner for the Chicago Planning Department and the University of Chicago. In a debate against her opponent Dowell in April 2007 expressed her frustration with the way things were run in the ward saying simply “it’s filthy”, but noting optimistically that “we have a tremendous need for economic development”. As Alderman she is able to exercise influence in key issues in the city such minimum wage, tax policy, and economic development.

With IIT being both the largest private employer and educator in the area, the student, faculty, and administration voters on the campus have a lot to contribute, gain and potentially lose from negligence with regards to the politics of the local community. Knowing this the SGA, led strongly by President Saagar Patel, has worked hard to bring the Alderman to the main campus to explain her unique position in the community, IIT’s role in local politics, and answer whatever questions you may have about either of these complementary roles.

With the help of OMSS, IIT External Affairs, and the Office of Community Affairs the 3rd Ward Alderman has been able to start the semester strong with this unique political event. In the first week of Black History Month, Alderman Dowell may also offer unique insight into the role of the predominantly Black third ward voters.

The event called Local Politics: IIT and the 3rd Ward will take place this Thursday, February 5th, from 7pm until 9pm in the Main Dining Room in the Pritzker Club. At 7pm until around 7:30 there will be light food served, as well as a great opportunity to mix and mingle with the IIT community including some staff, faculty, administrators, and Professors. At around 7:30 IIT Professor Dr. William Grimsnash, who in my belief and experiences may just know everything there is to know about Chicago politics, will speak and introduce the Alderman. Alderman Dowell is set to speak at about 8pm, and answer questions until 9pm. It is my sincere hope that the IIT community, especially the student body, will greet Ms. Dowell warmly with a large showing at this Thursday’s event!
Dear SexTech,

The other day my mother was visiting and I wanted to show her a video I had saved off of youtube. Upon browsing to my video folder I noticed a new folder that I was unfamiliar with. My interests peaked, I decided to side track for a moment to examine its contents. Inside I found hundreds of video files all marked with some sort of numerical nomenclature. As thumbnail view was turned off, I decided to play one to figure out what was going on. To my horror and dismay I was greeted by the sound of a horse braying followed by images of what could only be described as a battering ram being shoved up the backside of some helpless and unsuspecting, large breasted, young women. Terrified, my mother fled the room screaming. Though I realized immediately that my roommate had most likely downloaded the files earlier in the week when borrowing my computer I could not convince my mom to listen to my explanation. So my question to you is how do I get my mother to listen to me, and do I bring up this somewhat unorthodox choice of pornography with my roommate? Normally I would not bring up my roommates fetishes with him, however having such a strong interest in horse porn warrants an intervention.

Thanks,
In the Saddle Sam

Dear SexTech,

As far as your roommate is concerned, I’m sure threatening to turn him in to the ASPCA for supporting animal abusers will scare him enough into keeping his porn to himself. But, simply putting a password on your computer may be an easier way. Explaining the situation to your mother is an easy one also. Just catch her when she is helpless and unsuspecting, and run your huge long explanation down her so fast she doesn’t have time to say, “stop.” She will most likely find your explanation very satisfying.

Sincerely,
SexTech

Dear SexTech,

You know the saying around IIT, “The odds are good but the goods are odd”? I’m what some around campus might call odd goods. I’m what you might call a sexual deviant. I like animals, so I came across this video and hey, what the heck.

OK with that, and I’m not getting my hopes up. Who’s got time for a girlfriend, anyhow? As a result, I play a lot of trombone solos, if you catch my drift, and I’m getting pretty good at it, too. Recently, though, I’ve become interested in expanding my boundaries. So I’ll cut straight to the chase; what can you offer me about autoceleb? How can I get started? Am I gonna end up like that guy from Clerks?

Thanks,
Downtown Dan

Dear Dan,

I don’t think you’ll end up like the guy from Clerks – fight or flight will kick in well before that – but you might need to get in shape a little bit before trying it out. Autoceleb can be a stimulating experience, to be sure, but it’s not without its risks, as there’s a lot of muscles you can pull in the process. The first step, then, would be to start doing some sit-ups, curls, or whatever you want to do that’ll work out your abs. Do a lot of stretches, too. You don’t want to throw out your back just because you’ve been rubbing yourself the wrong way.

Got it? The next step is to find a position that works for you. You’re best bet, if you’re like the average male, will be the bathroom – ideally when you don’t actually have to go. Straddle the edge of the toilet while fully erect and lean forward while manually directing the member skyward. Most men should be able to at least touch the tip of the member with some effort – but don’t strain yourself too much, there’s still a lot of pain to be had if you overextend yourself. Also, don’t try to use momentum to your advantage! The more forces that are pushing your body where it doesn’t want to go, the bigger the risk you might end up seriously injuring yourself. If you really want to be safe, lay a pillow where your head might land if you end up turning yourself over. Perhaps the best side-effect of dedicating oneself to autoceleb? The abdominal exercise might get you a few choice ladies.

Be safe,
SexTech

Note: the information dispensed in SexTech is for entertainment purposes only and should not be attempted at home.
Recent changes, the future of the Food Committee, and the infamous reputation of Sodexo

By Seth Thomas

TECHNEWS WRITER

No one can debate that the United States is facing one of the most serious economic situations seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s. While we students are, for the most part, jovially isolated from the situation, the faculty and staff of this university are strongly feeling its effects. As a result, you have likely noticed some changes around the campus. Throughout the campus’ dining locations, you should have seen a more intelligent mix of products – better to serve you while keeping costs in check.

In the Commons Cafeteria, many labor saving techniques have been employed. I have been asked, “Why doesn’t Sodexo love us anymore? They don’t serve us any longer!” As a means to spend money where it is most suitable, several stations have been converted to self-serve: the Grill and Entree stations most notably. The Deli has moved behind the counter next to the main entrance. Fortunately for us, the Soup Bar has returned across from the Salad Bar. Students looking for a quick warm fix should head there! In addition, a greater effort is being made to label products correctly and soon nutritional information will be available for all foods.

In Center Court, you should have noticed by now the four large LCD TVs prominently placed above the hot food line. These TVs will serve primarily as menus with up-to-date information regarding what is available, prices, etc. They can also be used to display campus programming. No longer will hundreds of dollars be spent to make the well-mounted menu boards, which have failed to successfully compete with the LCD standards. Since the change in management, these problems have disappeared because of the improved technology.

The column states that, “given Sodexo’s history of treatment of student workers at the cafla, the students are not counting on [Being rehired this spring].” The student workers are back at the cafla. Unfortunately, the seemingly laugable is that Global Grounds was not even open for business between December 13 and January 13. It could be called a “temporary layoff” or not, but these students would have been out of work anyway. They would still be struggling to pay for rent and food that month, not to mention Christmas presents.

Where am I going with this? If you have an issue with Sodexo and the way the food committee is handling it, you are very likely to receive an “Enjoy to” by the airline travel wouldn’t be in the list. I mean capable of providing me with enjoyment, all the things that I could think of as being airline woman took her piece of my boarding pass and returned it to the ticketing office. As a general mode of greeting, it could continue to bother me.

We could agree to “enjoy” implicitly means something like “I hope you have some meaning in every context. We have other greetings such as “good luck,” which is of context-free. It could be “good luck” or “good luck on the exam,” which I’ll be glad when it’s over. Often the meaning is clear in context, but even if it weren’t, it can still stand alone as a greeting. I don’t think “enjoy” stands up to that test, what if I was just about to embark on a difficult exam, which I’ll be glad when done, but will fly from enjoy it while it happens. One way it could be context-free is if it automatically meant “enjoy your life.” True, some people’s lives ke never be enjoyable, but they should nevertheless try to “enjoy” and it would not be incorrect for someone to say “I wish you another under any circumstances.” The question arises though that not should qualifier be part of the greeting (“your dinner”) is a sign of the times. That economy of every kind, including speech, is the way go. I mean what exactly are we supposed to enjoy? As a general mode of greeting, it could have some meaning in every context. We have other greetings such as “good luck,” which is of context-free. It could be “good luck” or “good luck on the exam,” which I’ll be glad when it’s over. Often the meaning is clear in context, but even if it weren’t, it can still stand alone as a greeting.
Majesty of creation: Is something out there?

By Hannah Rosenthal

It was past midnight as my fingers stumbled over the keys of my phone to dial my boyfriend’s phone number. He answered with a cheery hello but quickly recognized from 200 miles away that I was upset. In less than five minutes we were talking via Skype and I was bawling my eyes out. “How do you know He’s real? How do you know?” I screamed through my tears. It was a question that had often crossed my mind growing up, and somehow had come back to haunt me despite all of my years of research. How do we know God is real? What if the Bible is just a book that people wrote centuries ago to inspire others to live moral lives?

My boyfriend pointed me to creation. Could I accept that humans came to exist without God? Can’t I accept that my very life and environment is the result of microorganisms heating and cooling in just the right way without an intelligent designer in charge? I see beauty and order and I will not claim to be, but I understand intelligent design. An author composes letters of the alphabet in such a way to create a book: a machinist the parts of a car; a quilter the fabric squares of a blanket. These items are made by men and women trained in their field to make something else. The letters of a book do not make the book, the parts do not amalgamate into a car, and the cloth segments do not simply become the quilt.

It is widely accepted that mankind did not invent the Earth or humankind, considering to this day that we cannot by our own natural means invent people and we have no idea how to make more. So how did humanity begin? Do we accept the Big Bang theory? We accept that something as complex as the Earth comes from nothing. How could this be if everything else traces your seed, comes from something? Why do we often rule out intelligent design as an option for the creation of the universe? Who should we praise when we stand amazed at snowflakes, sceneries, Mankind? God!

The Bible says that the mysteries of the natural world leave us without excuse for ignoring Him. In Romans 1:20 the Apostle Paul wrote, “For since the creation of the world his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” What does that mean to a twenty-two year old college student who loves hiking through the mountains but does not have a relationship with the God who made them? He is without excuse. The majority of the world around him is reflecting a very intelligent God, the God who invented science.

The more I study of science, the more I see the fingerprints of someone who is not human. Though the Bible contradicts vertical evolution, which is most easily recognized as the theory that mankind evolved from monkeys, I believe in horizontal evolution, meaning God made the world and mankind is still actively molding His creation. As any student of architecture knows, a project is never done. God is a pastor, poet, and architect who is actively at work! I have never seen two identical snowflakes, eyeballs, or people, the sunrises look different every time I rise to watch, volcanoes are still forming, islands keep their fans in exactly the same places. Is this more evidence? Can these things be calculated? Is this evidence of a God still molding the world around us? The world He once made?

The Psalmist was enamored by the beauty of God as revealed through creation.

“Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and storms, winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and every wild thing that moves, you birds in flight, all winged creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.” (Psalm 148:7-13)

As I reflected on the majesty of God’s creation, my faith began to be renewed. Doubt once again strengthened my faith; some powerful, supernatural force really is out there. Yes, one big question remained. How did I know that the God who made the world is the God of the Bible? And why worship Him?

“If we have questions about this article or would like a specific topic regarding Jesus or Christianity to be added to a future article, please e-mail seekingHisSpirit@gmail.com.”

In response to “Problems of Leadership”

By Jape Galveca

When I read the article “On fire for Jesus” in TechNews this week, I was unsurprised to find more God-lovers spouting out their faith. We have lots of them here at IIT. It seems. One thing that struck me about her article, though, was the line “I grew very scared as I realized I did not actually have a relationship with God” seems. I could only think of one possible topic being selected for this full tuition scholarship. That’s a lot better than the lottery, and it’s not based on chance. Rather, as Saelee has indicated, we select people on the basis of their leadership experience and potential.

Saelee has offered many good recommendations for improving our on-line process. We will respond to these actively. If we cannot by some “natural” means invent people, we have no idea how to make more. So how did humanity begin? Do we accept the Big Bang theory? We accept that something as complex as the Earth comes from nothing.

In response, we have not yet created a state of the art on-line application system, though we aspire to do so. In fact, we have developed our website and on-line application process through the efforts and talents of our Leadership Academy scholars, who have contributed their time to this cause for no financial renumeration. Every year, we make upgrades, and Saelee has given us our development agenda for the next few years.

I agree with Saelee’s desire for transparency at HT, as I know does President Anderson and other leaders in our community. I am willing at any time to respond to questions and talk with students about our process at the Leadership Academy. Just give me a call, drop me an email, or stop by my office. Contrary to Saelee’s closing remark in his article, the Leadership Academy email has never received an in-box. That was the only part of his article where he lost me.

Respectfully, as a servant to IIT students, Bruce Fisher

Director, Leadership Academy

In response to “On fire for Jesus”

By Hannah Rosenthal

I read with great interest the recent opinion article submitted by Saelee Harkness. I appreciated his constructive tone and proposed solutions to the opportunities that he identified for improving the Leadership Academy on-line scholarship application system. I also liked the way he started his article with some positive feedback about the Leadership Academy...a servant to IIT students, though we aspire to this cause for no financial renumeration. Every year, we make upgrades, and Saelee has given us our development agenda for the next few years.

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By Paul Spears

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Illustration by Bernat Oliveres Kunzi
**Speaking of IT...**

By Linda Goldstein

* содержимое*

**It's my sixth semester at IT, and I'd like to ramble a little about the changes that I've noticed in this time. For one thing, we appear to be actually getting somewhere with the recycling program.**

**Or, at least, there are very pretty bins now. I'm not worried about where the contents of the bins are going,** as long as they are emptied. However, I have never seen one emptied — but hey, I still have confidence in my school’s recycling program. I've even seen the phrases that contribute to this feeling:

> The phrase, “She is terminally ill” is one of the most outrageous about the commercial: they state in the true formula described above. How, people seemingly are publications for promoting vegetarianism in such a way, involving that the idea is, in fact, a ridiculous method to promote anything. To note, of course, that women are absolutely identical.

Unfortunately, equality is still next to no distance or dignity on the labor front. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov), in 2007, **female full-time wage and labor workers earned 79 percent of the male counterparts.** Moreover, the same report states that “only 9 percent of female professionals were employed in the high-paying computer ($1,229 per week) and engineering ($1,213 per week) fields, compared with 22 percent of their male counterparts,” which is almost 3 times greater.

The fourth is the absolute denial of Mr. Kafka’s culpability against the article, implying that her duties were several phrases that contributed to this feeling:

> "She was given a bad role to play." I wish she would shut up and take an aspirin or eat something else; or “Sit down, crazy lady,” and in my opinion.

The second reason for this response, and for me the most egregious characteristic of the article, is the blatant disregard for basic respect to another human being. There are very few things that an individual can do in a civilized society that warrants comments such as, “She's giving bad advice to PMS.” “I wish she would shut up and take an aspirin or eat something; or “Sit down, crazy lady,” and in my opinion.

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The past week has marked the start of several weeks of intense robot design and fabrication for the Illinois Tech robotics team. This year the team is participating in two competitions, the renowned Jerry Sanders Design Competition (JSDC) and the fully autonomous ION Lawnmower Competition. Both pose unique engineering challenges and learning opportunities for the team including designing a manipulator of delicate, air-filled balloons for JSDC and a potentially complex decision-making algorithm to integrate a wide range of sensor data to control the autonomous lawn mower. There are opportunities for students of all majors, humanities included. As new students found at last Friday’s meeting, club members are more than willing to teach and help new members and there are plenty of opportunities for hands-on experience. For the rest of this article I offer a look into one of our weekly meetings.

After our weekly team update meeting and welcoming all of the new club members, students broke out into groups to work on the various ongoing projects. Working on the JSDC challenge, team members came up with several unique balloon manipulator designs ranging from suction, magnetism and static electricity to grabbers and a scooping drum. Not surprisingly, the most innovative designers are those who are relatively new to the team, bringing new perspectives and approaches to tackling these challenges. After initial concepts with Legos and on the whiteboard, students are putting their ideas to paper (or CAD) and at our next Friday meeting they will begin to make full-scale prototypes to test and demonstrate various design concepts.

The ION team faces a different set of challenges. The mechanical group spent their time getting their hands dirty grinding lawnmower housing and frame in preparation for its date with the painter. The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) has generously offered to paint the ION and JSDC robots to match the candy apple red of their Formula Hybrid Vehicle. This not only leads to a pair of snazzy robots, it should also stave off the oxidation of the steel chassis of both robots, particularly important for the lawnmower which should compete outdoors. While the mechanical team was busy making sparks, their programming counterparts spent the evening developing data acquisition code to communicate with the wide array of sensors that the ION robot will rely on for navigation. By the end of the night, working sensor arrays were mounted on servos and taking data in response to hardware interrupts. It was no small feat and now the accelerometers, gyroscopes and sonar sensors are in working order. The group will continue to improve the existing program and will also be working on a laser range finder and electronic compass to round out the sensory input. This sort of hardware-software integration is the core of every major robotics project.

It’s been a busy week and there’s plenty more to do! If you’re interested in any of the projects here or in learning about robotics through some intense, hands-on experience, please visit our website at www.iit.edu/~robotics or email robotics@iit.edu. Fresh ideas are always welcome and please don’t be intimidated by these projects, above all else, we’re here to teach and learn about robots together!
University Calendar

**Tuesday, February 3**

**CMC Workshop: Getting a Job - Creating a Quality Resume**
2-3pm, CMC, Galvin Library
A resume is often a candidate’s first opportunity to make an impression on an employer. A quality resume can be the difference between getting an interview and getting passed over. At this workshop you will learn the fundamentals of creating a resume that will impress employers and hopefully lead to employment.

**CMC Workshop: Getting a Job - Working a Career Fair**
3-4pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Need help working a career fair? Have no idea where to start or even what kind of questions to ask? How about what to even wear? Come to this informational session that will help prepare you for what to expect and how to behave at a career fair.

**Wednesday, February 4**

**TechNews Writers Meeting**
1:10pm, TechNews office (MTCC221)
Want to write about something? Have a gripe about the issue? Need to take some photos? Need to get paid? Come to the Writer’s meeting!

**CMC Workshop: Resume Critique Sessions**
2:30-4:30 pm, CMC, Galvin Library
After brainstorming and creating a basic resume, and before going to the Career Fair, come to the CMC to get your resume critiqued by a Career Advisor.

**Student Organization 101**
12:45pm, MTCC Ballroom
Part of the new “Hawk-Eye Workshops”, learn the basic principles behind operating a student organization on campus and how to run a successful program.

**Thursday, February 5**

**IIT and the Community**
7-9pm, Pritzker Club Main Dining Room (MTCC)
Alderman Pat Dowell of the Third Ward, and Dr. William Grimshaw of IIT’s Political Science department, will speak about IIT’s involvement in the community.

**BOG’s 2nd Anniversary Party**
5pm-1am, The BOG
Come celebrate The BOG’s second anniversary with the IIT community!

**Nate Staniforth at the BOG**
9pm, The BOG
Gone are the tables, boxes, scarves, top hats and bad jokes that come to mind when one hears the word “magician.” In his shows, Nate Staniforth simply does magic. Simply. Openly. If you’re lucky you’ll see Nate performing close up street magic earlier in the day. You and your friends might even be part of the short video he’ll show at the night’s performance of highlights of the day. Head over to the BOG and prepare to be astounded.

**Friday, February 6**

**Citation Organization for Thesis/Dissertation Writers**
12:50-1:40pm, Library Learning Center, Galvin Library
Learn now to use citation management tools including Zotero and EndNote Web. Part of the First Fridays @ Galvin Library workshop programming.

**Illinois Tech Idol**
7pm, The BOG
Come and cheer on the 10 finalists in IIT Idol compete for the grand prize, a Nintendo Wii.

**Family/Game Night**
8-11pm, Old MSV Cafeteria
Family game night at the old MSV cafeteria to celebrate Black History Month.

**Study Abroad Applications Due**
Summer and fall 2009 study abroad applications are due no later than Friday, February 6.

**Saturday, February 7**

**Leadership Academy Seminar: Selling Yourself and Your Ideas**
10am-2pm, MTCC Ballroom
A Leadership Academy seminar to teach students about the necessary skills and tools that they will need to help build confidence and effectiveness in situations that require them to be able to persuade others. Lunch will be provided.

**TechNews submissions due!**
11:59pm, technews.iit.edu
Want to get an article or photo into the February 3 edition of TechNews? Now is your last chance!

**Monday, February 9**

**CMC Workshop: Getting a Job - Creating a Quality Resume**
12-1pm, CMC, Galvin Library
A resume is often a candidate’s first opportunity to make an impression on an employer. A quality resume can be the difference between getting an interview and getting passed over. At this workshop you will learn the fundamentals of creating a resume that will impress employers and hopefully lead to employment.

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**Last day to add/drop classes with 100% tuition refund**

**SAI**

**Lindsay Drabek, Editor**
ldrabek@iit.edu
Few aging rappers have experienced the late-career resurgence that E-40 was blessed with in 2006. His top single, “I'm the Real,” in a Major Way, went gold in under a year in 1995 and had reached platinum status by 2002. My Grammy Report Card earlier this year, but in 1995, the highest-selling record was Hootie and the Blowfish's Cracked Rear View, which sold 11 million copies in its first year. In 2006, 11 million copies was a great year for E-40. Musical, clocking in at 4 minute, Hella, The Jerky Boys went platinum twice in 1995, which tells you how far record sales have sunk. With his voice, E-40 is the perfect lead singer for his hits. He makes all sorts of money capturing dragons and betting on dragon races. The story builds up to a big tease at the end for the next issue, and I felt disappointed there wasn't more in this issue. I supposed that's what creative power is. Usually this kind of thing makes me fume, but E-40's flow is so tight on this album that it's not even a concern. That, and in the future, E-40 has a definite topic nearly every song, to be pumped up real loud and blared out car windows, hyphy is real refreshing. E-40 only getting better with age. Joe Bryce Kaiser

Several years ago, I was going through a phase of trying to cut down on my consumption of music, and one of the first things I decided to give up was E-40. E-40 is an icon of our culture, a true friend, and I hope he never outgrows his popularity. However, I have come to enjoy listening to his music again, and I can see how his style is still relevant today. I also appreciate the way he uses his platform to address issues like poverty and inequality. I am glad that he continues to make music that matters to him and his fans.

The measure of time
By Udayan Das

MS. Anne Krupa (VanderCook) said the other day that the invention of the phonograph had made her feel that by some sense that in the back day when you had an EP, a musician had only 15 minutes or so to work with. He's had to prove that he has 15 minutes worth of worthwhile. An improvisation may last four measures, and the musician had to utilize it effectively. Now, in the era of the CD you can have up to a 70-90 minutes of music within most of a 30-minute track being consistently boring. Lots of beating around the bush if you like. It's a much better deal. Not just of lazy, but of contemporary music in general. And why limit yourself to music in any of the Arts; in writing, in movies, anything. There is very little premium now on utilizing the time (or the space) that you have. This is because for one, things are cheap, especially in the internet age, no limit on what you can publish (and publicize), possibly even for free. Second, there is always the possibility of one more, isn't there? And, likely, that kind of size and self-importance is not long enough to demand an encore. Similarly, economics imply that since there is so much stuff out there, if you could get as much good product for free (or for the word of mouth, to a semi-favorable review) you are bound to make a dint into the market, no matter how small (not to mention the ability to offer to other "well-known" artists etc.). You'll get to churn out another album soon, so why worry about how the good work in this – the seeing of a whole called "Lions for Lambs" the other day and it was an apt illustration of how valueless time has become in terms of appealing to those who are interested in the creative process (questions of Art vs. Entertainment are left for another day). It's a 90 minute movie and despite the good acting, fairly decent production values, it says absolutely nothing. White people for a change again due to the language of "what do you tell me, I don't want you to tell me anything, I don't know. I only know that it ends up meaning nothing. And this is the getting old thing that is made by Redford who has made a number of good films in the past. It may be that he is not the one to blame, because the film did have a fairly good (or at least a good that the thing that made me watch it to the end, because I was constantly expecting something interesting to develop at any moment, until that I was already in credit. Nevertheless, seven of the sitting is to blame, why should someone like him take up such a project? Heavens, even the editing is exceptionally bad, because the best scenes in the movieerval between between Crusel and Meryl Streep) is interest with useless scenes (especially certain developments in Afghanistan). The beauty of the thing is that again due to the lack of a point (and strategies (and supposed political issues developing on screen) the film was already assured of a certain response even before it was screened. Constantly - cannot convey to a time in the same time in "Cries and Whispers," without compromise for a second on technical quality. Ivory, The view is back to the Standards and the standard being produced by the Beatles, what's noteworthy is that song Bevis (off, if there's a point). He says exactly 20 minutes, which once also was a vinyl record limit but not at the time of the Beatles. Why then did they limit their tracks to those lengths, and we can see what they had to do and moved on to the next. It seems like average song lengths these days are about four and a half minutes, and that a lot when the music you're listening is far from exceptional. Imagine what happens when you come up against a Fergie number that goes on for something like an eight and a half. Movies are tending to be closer to two rather than less than an hour and a half long as they used to be in the early 90's. In writing, it is easy to find a number of contemporary novels that go on and on but say little or nothing. Poetry, the highest form, hasn't been spared either, with prose-poetry trades in turgid and more and more popular. Now, there is nothing wrong with prose-poetry existing as a form, but it's growing popularity certainly should be questioned. There are more and more languages, and the language, among a number of other things. I would argue that the propensity towards preferring prose-poetry is due to effects of selling languages on managing me. I call it a "churning" mentality, quantity over quality. Some might say better for what I mean by blogging every going up to rise and become an art form? Really it's about a lack of restraint. Indulge yourself while you still can, because you may have to do it without chance. It's a good lesson to have your blog every going up to rise and become an art form? Really it's about a lack of restraint. Indulge yourself while you still can, because you may have to do it without chance.
Ray Guns Are Not Just The Future seduces the ears
By Adam Kadzbak

IT had to describe “Ray Guns Are Not Just The Future” in one phrase, it'd be “space robots seducing my ears.” The sophomore release by L.A. duo The Bird and The Bee, the album mixes the always lovely Inara George's beautiful voice with Greg Kurstin's excellent musical arrangements.

One of the tracks on the album is “Love Letter to Japan.” The album itself is a testament to Japanese pop culture, which is infectious and love inspiring. After proclaiming her intention to fly “From the West to the East...to be near you,” Inara sings of seduction. “Here is my heart, my beating heart/Oh, I’m longing for this love affair to start.”

Even though Inara promised to make not another fluffy penguin movie, possibly the most memorable shot of the film is a penguin asking David Aisley, a penguin expert of over 20 years, for a ride on the continent. After Rowland, we meet a banker from Colorado. Rowland made his way to Antarctica after spending two years in Guatemala with the Peace Corps, and how he drives a “Tan the Terra Bus,” the biggest vehicle on the continent. After Rowland, we meet a string of “full time travelers, part time workers”. These professional dreamers range from forklift drivers to glaciologists to plumbers, with all sorts of odd characters in between. Throughout the movie we meet a diver who is obsessed with the fertility of ice organisms, and classic doseday sci-fi movies. We also meet scientists studying weight loss with ants, and get to bear the bearded, inorganic bleeps and bloopes of the sound under the ice – which they liken to some sort of psychotic Pink Floyd experience.

The film lacks a plotline for the most part, it mostly drifts through the interesting images and the love and appreciation of good beer. This might be a little off-putting to some, as the informative nature of the show, pertaining to the brewing process and the various things involved in it, might not go over too well with those not really interested in beer, but it fits into the larger context of the show very well, and isn’t too much of an interruption.

Given the very specific nature of the film, it might not have mass appeal. However, it's a unique experience that brings together a number of disciplines to form an intricate, but polished – even descriptively simple – performance. It's even enjoyable by those who are not drinking age, as there is no alcohol served at the show (not BYOB, for those who haven't been skimming and scheming for the length of the review). In all, “Beer” is a funny, well-executed, and even informative show, one that comes highly recommended by this writer.
I love shopping! Then again, show me a girl who doesn't! So when I go to a mall or shopping center, I do get attracted to those big display boards which show ads of a wide range of products. And they definitely get my attention because of the music playing at the same time. The screens which display the ads are now equipped with small, hidden cameras which are tracking your every move! They distinguish between genders effectively most of the time. They also monitor the speed at which you move so it can determine the gender, ethnicity and the time you spend watching the ad respectively. The software then compares the new shapes and data to the already existing ones in its database to determine which category you belong to. Certain features are used to distinguish the male and female viewers. These include bone structure, eye or eyebrow position, lips and other such prominent features which differentiate a male and female based on appearance. This is almost done instantly. Age range is a bit harder to determine accurately especially in times of plastic surgery and Botox. So instead of narrowing the age to a certain range, the software makes an estimation of the viewer's age range. Determining ethnicity is harder than the two above, but again, there are very few ads which are targeted towards an audience belonging to a specific ethnic group.

So the next time you are at a mall and watching an ad, don’t be surprised if you magically see the advertisement of the product you want to buy. Remember that big brother is watching you too!

It seems the people at Google seem to be hooked on the motto—Create something new every day! Google has come with a few experiments which might as well be inconspicuous but fully functional and well established. For starters, Google has made Gmail accessible even offline. This also includes offline access to your Gmail apps such as Google Docs and Google Calendar.

Google happens to believe in a concept called cloud computing which is essentially an internet based development technology wherein resources such as the ones Google offers are provided as a service over the internet. The web based applications can be accessed from a web browser, whereas the actual software and data remains stored on the Google Servers. When deploying such a technology, continuous internet access becomes imperative in order to access any of your data. If you don’t have internet access, you have to wait until you are able to connect to the net in order to access any of your stored data which is on the Google server. This explains why Google would very much like to kick off this experiment soon as so to attract business. Having offline access gives you the ability and the freedom to access your files and data when you want and where you want, irrespective of network availability. An example of such offline access is available in the form of Google Calendar.

This experiment will enable you to read, write and search Gmail messages offline. Google also assures that you will never miss out on important messages, no matter how something goes wrong. For instance, if you are on the bus and don’t have internet access at that moment, you will still get the message.

So how does this offline access actually work? How can you connect to the Google Calendar without connecting to the internet? All this is made possible by an open-source technology called Google Gears. Gears lets browsers store the data on the local cache. This is merely a copy of your inbox on your PC. Using Google Chrome for this purpose is more advantageous as it is already available on the browser. In order to use this with the Firefox browser, you have to install Gears manually which should be of a much lesser size and can be used to read your old Gmail messages and new messages. Neither can it send the messages you composed unless there is an internet connection. So how does it work? It just reads and displays the messages you have offline. It doesn’t make any new connections, so you don’t need to worry about your internet connection. Of course it can’t get any new messages. Even compose the new messages. All the messages you composed will form a queue and be sent whenever you do have internet access. The buffer has space for only 10,000 messages that can be read offline. This comprises of the most recent messages in your inbox. Of course the messages would have space for users like me but might prove to be a handicap for larger business corporations. Moreover, you cannot attach any files to the composed messages. You can’t update your address book or contacts list either in the offline mode. However, your existing contacts will be displayed. Despite its limitations, Google offline would most likely prove to be a good step.

In order to activate your Offline Gmail, go to the Labs tab in your Gmail settings, and enable the Offline Gmail button. Scroll down and save the changes you made. So how do you know when you are using the online version and when the offline one? Gears does the thinking for you. It detects your network connections to check whether a strong signal is available. If it can’t find a signal, it runs in the offline mode. But if there is no connection at all, then Google starts up the offline mode. All this is fine. But what about when you are connected to the internet, but your signal strength is too weak to detect? The solution to this comes with the “flaky connection mode”. This mode will quietly switch the composition window from the online mode to the hard drive temporarily. As soon as the network strength improves, it sends these queued up messages.

I would definitely suggest trying this option out. You might run into a few glitches at the beginning, but refreshing the browser solves most of the problems. Meanwhile, I’ll keep an eye on what else Google coughs up and TechNews will keep you updated!
Women’s basketball fall to Robert Morris

By Mike Z

On the last day of January, our women’s basketball team played a hard core match against the Robert Morris Eagle. We putted up a good attitude and played hard for it. Although we came short at the end of the game with 51 to 63, but the match was phenomenal.

The first set started with the Eagles taking the lead, but the Hawk’s defense was making a great parameter which made the Eagles very hard to get through. Each time had quite a few fouls but nothing serious and unethical happened during the game. Our Hawk N.O 24 Jessica was doing a superior job. She was able find open spots and quickly passes the ball in. Lisa on the other hand made some great three pointers. Thanks to her long ranged shot, we were able to catch up the scores quickly.

The second half slowed down a little bit, the players on both teams were getting a little tired and the pace of the game dropped a little bit. We were able to keep up with the re-bounce since our lady hawks have the advantage. Hopefully next time when we all meet again, our lady hawks will crush the Eagles with ease. Go Hawks.

Men’s Basketball drops one to Eagles

By Mike Z

Last Saturday, our Men’s Basketball team faced one of the toughest opponents – Robert Morris’ Eagles.

The Eagles have shown incredible skills since the pre-game warm up. As predicted, they lead the score all the way to the end of the game.

The Hawks popped the cherry by scoring the first two points on the Eagles. However the Eagles managed to catch up very quickly and went pass the Hawks. As much as the Eagles have great dunking skills, the Hawks played smart. Our players were able to accurately spot their openings and attack. At the end of the first half, the Eagles were leading us by a few shots.

The second half got even tougher. The Eagles were showing off their dunking skills like no other, but on the other hand, our Hawks were able to break through the Eagle’s iron sold defense. It seems like three point shots were the Eagle’s best trick. Their players can pretty much score a three pointer without too much difficulty. Even though the Hawks were facing such a tough team, but we played smart, we kept the scores close. We did lose by a large margin, but we did the superior job at team work and teammate cooperation. The Hawks didn’t use any fancy moves, and didn’t try to play the solo show. Instead we played like a team and thus we were able to keep up with such a strong opponent – The Eagles.

Good luck to the Men’s Basketball team in the future games.

Upcoming games:

Women’s Basketball

Tuesday, Feb 3 at Saint Xavier University at 7pm
Wednesday, Feb 4 Home vs. Indiana University at 7pm
Saturday, Feb 7 at Trinity Christian College at 2pm

Men’s Basketball

Wednesday, Feb 4 at Saint Xavier University at 7pm
Saturday, Feb 7 at East-West University at 7pm

Photos by Mike Z and Jonathan Mikesell

Women’s Basketball Standings:

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