Art@IIT Spring Art exhibits

By Udayan Das

TECHNEWS WRITER

If you were not on campus between 4:30 and 7 pm this last Thursday then you missed out on Art@IIT’s biggest event yet. Four Art exhibits kicked off at the same time, each with its own unique theme. One of the four exhibits the Artist was present in person and a reception was held from 4:30 – 7:00 pm that followed. There was also a display of photographs from the MTCC Anniversary Photographic exhibition.

Exhibit 1: Emergence – Dr. Andreus Plioplys at the Kemper Room Gallery

The Emergence series brings together 18 pieces from Dr. Plioplys’s post-retirement work and brings together a number of themes. Dr. Plioplys, who is a noted neurologist and neuroscientist spoke about the driving forces behind the Emergence series at the reception at the Galvin Library. First, it deals with the idea of his own personal emergence from chronic illness (which is what forced him into retirement). Artistically, it is based on two previous series by the artist: Neurology and Thought from Under a Rock. Each of the pieces is based on existing artwork by the artist and is thus, in some way or another a re-invention of the existing work. The method used to create the artwork involved a digital manipulation of the base layer in Adobe Photoshop of the existing artwork and then building layer upon layer of other images on your image manipulation software. Plioplys indicated that a number of his own MRI brain scan images and EEG tracings (which are both images after all) formed the base layer of the artwork. He went on to speak about emergent processes in the human brain, with consciousness and the whole process of thinking thoughts themselves being emergent processes. It is possible to describe the complexity of the brain, i.e. its structure consisting of neurons and neural pathways, and its physiological behavior as exhibited by the EEG. But it is impossible from going to that quasi-qualitative understanding to a qualitative understanding of how the brain works, i.e. how does consciousness emerge from. He described this as being a classic hard problem and cited gravity as another example of the same: it is possible to describe through equations how gravity behaves, or what effects it causes, but not to explain how it does this. Life, similarly, is an emergent property.

The neuronal arborizations reveal underlying artistic processes, artistic memories, and process thoughts. From neuronal complexity, thoughts, words, and philosophy emerge. He went on to speak about emergent processes in the human brain, with consciousness and the whole process of thinking thoughts as another example of the same: it is possible to describe through equations how gravity behaves, or what effects it causes, but not to explain how it does this. Life, similarly, is an emergent property.

ART@IIT

By Linda Goldstein

TECHNEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association (SGA) of IIT will be having elections for its Executive Board members on April 14th, from 9:00am to 7:00pm in the MTCC WELCOME CENTRE. All IIT students are welcome to come and vote! Nominations of candidates should be submitted to http://sga.iit.edu (click on the black rectangle that says “executive elections ’09” in the upper right hand corner.) Nominations are open from Mar. 10 to Mar. 24 at 9pm.

The position of SGA President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Academics, Vice President of Student Life, Vice President of Communications, and head of Finance Board. All candidates are required to attend the SGA Orientation session before they can start campaigning. Sessions will be held on Mar 13 (Fri) 12-1pm, Mar. 23 (Mon) 2:40-4:00pm, and Mar. 25 (Wed) 9-10pm. Candidates only need attend one session, and can come at any time within the time frame of the session. (Please, at least fifteen minutes before the end of the Orientation session.) Orientations will all be held in the Student Activity Center in MTCC.

As the SGA website says, “As the governing student body of IIT, SGA’s role is to act as a liaison between the university administration and the student body and to serve as a forum to express student opinion. In addition, SGA provides certain services to student organizations such as official recognition and distribution of funds.” The role of these executive board members is to coordinate and guide the Senate, and to communicate with school administrators. It’s a large responsibility. If you want to learn more about this, contact sga@iit.edu or come to one of the Orientation sessions.

Lastly, you should nominate candidates for and vote in this election for the same reason that you should vote in the USA Presidential election: because the outcome matters to you, and because the new person in charge will want to change things. Regardless of your views on IIT or on US politics, it’s best to be involved in change.
Dear Sextech,

I like to work out on the recumbent bikes at Keating. The thing is, I can consistently reproduce a semi-ejaculation immediately after the “cooldown” phase starts. Now, I have some physiological hypotheses about the cause of this, but I’d like to know what light Sextech can shine on these symptoms. My hypothesis is that the combination of my thigh rubbing any penis, and that the overall drop in blood pressure sends more blood to that region.

Sincerely,
Halfway Harkin

The motions experienced while working out on a recumbent bike aren’t that much different from those in sex. Just time the movement so that all the work from the lower leg is transferred entirely to the hips and get both hips moving at once (obviously you can’t do this on the bike) and there you have it. Of course the repetitive rubbing of your member is going to produce a response as you have pointed out, and the only thing you seem to be missing is a full on raging wood is a mental stimulus. If you could imagine for a moment: Working out on the bike in sweat pants, you manage to produce a full erection and as you peddle your erection would wave happily at all passersby through your pants as the movement of your legs shifts it back and forth. That would be a golden and hilarious site to see. I’m already thinking about sending it off to Vivid as a suggestion to an opening scene.

Sincerely, Sextech Staff
sextechnews@gmail.com

Spelling = win

By Brigid Strait

Most children, at some point, announce they want to grow up to be president. However, there is a distinct difference between wanting to be president and wanting to speak like one. President Obama, for instance, is an orator. He correctly uses polysyllabic words on a consistent basis. Former President Bush, on the other hand, was not.

“The illiteracy level of our children are appalling,” claimed ex-President George W. Bush. He had no idea how ironic that statement was. I wish it only applied to the children.

I love being on the IIT campus. I love the resources available to me, I enjoy the location, and I adore the people I have met here. But there is one thing about being on campus that makes my skin crawl.

The posters. More specifically, it’s the abominable spelling on the posters.

This is a college campus. An institute of higher education. A haven of academia is a mindless world?! Why, then, are the walls littered with misspelled posters?

On the east wall of the Commons a large poster advertised “WOMEN’S JEOPARDY!” I am not certain what a “women’s” is, but I am a woman. My roommates are women. Iffy had a jeopardy event it would be “woman’s jeopardy,” but if they had one together it would be “women’s jeopardy.” I am not certain where the complication comes in.

Take a close look at the posters that warned students of upcoming room inspections. How, precisely, does Housing Services plan to “confiscate” toaster ovens, extension cords, and kittens? I do not know what “confiscate” means, but it does not seem very threatening. If they had said “confiscated” I might have worried, but I’d bet “confiscated” means something innocuous, like “given chocolate” or “smiled at.”

I recognize that the typo probably came from a sleepy FWS worker. Know that I am being petty. But words are powerful. “The difference between the right word and the almost-right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug,” said Mark Twain. This is doubly true if the almost-right word does not exist.

These posters represent their functions, their makers, and their school. They are often the first introduction passersby have to their messages. So come on, people. Make an effort. Use a spell checker. Use a friend. Heck, use two friends. If you care enough about your message to make a poster advertising it, then care enough to do the job well.

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TechNews Classifieds

I love you, Carolyn! 📜

Renting 2 Apartments at 506 west 45th Street
2 floors 2 Bedrooms 2 Bath Garage Space No Pets
Utilities Included $1500 Month

Ground Floor Studio Garage Space No Pets
Utilities Included
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Contact Steve (312) 961-5986

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TechNews Tech News2 Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Vote, think, and buy guns - while you still can

By Linda Goldstein

Our right to bear arms in the United States has become nearly meaningless. Ethically, this is utterly shameful. Yet Obama wishes to further restrict what is already under tremendous restriction. The civil liberties of war torn Guantnamo are more important to Obama and his administration than the civil liberties of any law-abiding American firearm owner.

In 2008, the Supreme Court ruled that Americans are allowed to hand a handgun in their home for self-defense. A 5-4 vote ruled that the Second Amendment (“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”) applies to the gun rights of individuals, civilians or military.

Obama, however, feels that an individual’s right to bear arms should be controlled by state and local governments. He calls this “common-sense regulation”. It is not okay for ANY of us to own guns, except for the people who are closely controlled. Fundamental rights are rights for a reason; they have been what set the United States apart from the rest of the world since the Constitution and Amendment are as important as the First (our right to freedom of speech and freedom of expression). This is a nation of individuals, which ceases to be as soon as you restrict rights of individuals. You cannot be more fair in removing my right to protect myself than you can be in removing my right to speak my mind.

While a complete ban on handguns is not politically practicable, I believe reasonable restrictions on the sale and possession of handguns are necessary to protect the public safety. This is a very complicated issue. I support a package of bills to limit individual Illinoisans to purchasing one handgun a month; require all promoters and sellers at firearms shows to carry a state license; allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show to carry a state license; allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; 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and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handguns; and require FOID applicants to show a valid license; and allow civil liability for death or injuries caused by handgun owners have expressed a variety of opinions on the laws that have been proposed. Some have argued that stricter gun control laws would prevent mass shootings and other violent crimes. However, others have expressed concern that such laws would infringe on their second amendment rights and limit their ability to protect themselves and their families. The debate over gun control laws continues to be a contentious issue in the United States.
Sinkholes are for pansies

By Lory Mishra

I really love reading about abortion. So when I opened up last week’s News, I was delighted to see Max Graziano’s “Sinkholes!” article taking up some underscored space in the Opinion section. It would have been OK if Mr. Graziano wasn’t so blatantly lying to you all but the thing is, his assessment of threats to modern America is completely false. It was clear from the article that Mr. Graziano is completely out of touch with the public and that if he were running for public office, he would surely lose. Of course, I am not interested in attacking his character because I am sure he has at least a few redemptive qualities deep down. I am just interested in exposing the truth and bringing to your attention more urgent problem. Sure sinkholes tend to attack indiscriminately but the likelihood of your being harmed by a sinkhole is much less than you being attacked by a piece of paper.

“A piece of paper? But Lory, I use paper on a regular basis and I am under the impression that it simply wants to be friends. How can something so benign even begin to qualify as the greatest threat to modern America?”

Because a piece of paper can give you a piece of paper cut in your eye. When I was a sophomore in high school, I was in the worst Physics class imaginable. My teacher was a lunatic (the always had a container of exposed mercury in his van and he was convinced that it was not the greatest place to store the stuff). He would bend the paper halfway, raise it up at an angle, and release it towards the intended receptor. Devious piece of paper would often zoom towards you at eye-level and if you were not mindful, it had the potential to give you a pretty terrible paper cut on your face. I will admit, I never did observe or experience a paper cut in my eye but just the fact that the possibility existed was enough to unnerv e your humble reporter.

Just take a minute and imagine getting a paper cut in your eye. It’s a gruesome picture. You can’t exactly nurse the wound back because Neosporin would be too messy and a band-aid would just make you look ridiculous. On a more basic level, eyebrows are fairly well and dignity... the blood from the paper cut would probably diffuse throughout the rest of the area. That sounds so unfortunate and disgusting! And I'll probably mean skipping classes, missing exams, never graduating, and finding a job. Do you really want to go through that? Just a small occurrence could affect you.

The worst part is, paper is very good at diverting attention from itself. Over time, paper has worked very hard to earn our trust. “Hey, you can write on this paper and it won’t burn,” you promise. “It’s a friendly stuff! I am so happy to be your friend and help you!” Paper communicates to us about the evils of the plague, malaria, AIDS, and cancer in our textbooks and newspapers. But when was the last time you wanted you about the evils of paper cut in your eye? I am a big risk by using this paper to tell you about its devious plot; if you suddenly don’t see me around in the future, you’ll know why.

I really don’t want to keep this paper in front of me because it is so obvious that I will humbly admit that I do not have all the answers. I just know that getting a paper cut in your eye would make you want to leave the room and that it could get dark in a hurry. I just hope that now you will be more mindful of paper and its true agenda. It perhaps is not an advantage for our society but in reality, it is the biggest threat that is facing modern society.

The book is always better

By Carlito E. Cabada, Jr.

“Wasted,” I thought, “What a wasted effort on such a fantastic novel in the first place. ‘Wasted’ also demonstrates many euphemisms, but I heard nothing about the bits of penis exposure that were scattered throughout the film. The worst part is, you can’t even pinpoints the source of the voice. It was less than graphic or that I felt a strong bond to the words she exclaimed. To many people, just finished watching Watchmen at Navy Pier and was traumatically along to catch a late night ride on the subway. I assumed the woman was talking about the bit of penis exposure that was scattered throughout the film because, as expected, someone was immune enough to ask why the main character Mannion was either growing on. From the tone of her voice, I could tell she was disheartened. So I...

I brushed aside a poor man asking for a dollar, I headed into the subway tunnel to see the sound-mouthed, yammering masses that filled up IIT’s Union Station (I don’t even know the official). Many of them were talking on the fantastic action scenes and humorous euphemisms, but I heard nothing about the underlying messages that made Watchmen such a fantastic novel in the first place.

“Wasted,” I thought, “What a wasted effort on the parts of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons.” I couldn’t do anything but stand there, and hear the dregs of popcorn munching and ramblings of the nightlife.

“You have a dick. Realize what it is and get over it.”

Rorschach is a dick, but not in the way that women meant it. Rorschach is also a hero of mine, no matter how much of a dick he is. I read Alan Moore’s Watchmen at our local public library (cue Reading Rainbow music) five years ago and reading about half of it before I was forced to return it. My 14-year-old brain was amazed at the maturity the novel presented, even if I couldn’t fully comprehend the symbolism and parallel narratives. Most importantly, I looked up to Rorschach, a vigilante who hardly compromised in the mid-19th century.

I felt the directors, producers and screenplay writers compromised a few things when working on adapting a much beloved novel for the big screen. Even though I found one particular sex scene distressingly edited out, I can still hear Rorschach shouting from the audience. I wasn’t particularly upset that the whole thing was bashed; I was upset that the film creators saw fit to pander to lowbrow sensibilities. Oh wait, we’re talking about an audience that can’t handle seeing a penis on screen. Never mind.

“You have a dick. Realize what it is and get over it.”

As I got back to my dorm and typed this line immediately, it distressed me that my first instinct was to go through Microsoft Word instead of my notebook. I suppose our culture, our generation, is meant to lead the way. Even though most people hardly have time to smell the roses, take a much-needed nap or even read a good book. Everyone is more concerned smelling their coffee, staying up for insane parties or watching movie adaptations for stories meant to be read. With this, society cultivates a superficial image of its own self.

I yearn for simplistic ideals driven by common sense, decades of being exposed to a common courtesy and competent maturity derived from common sense. I wish we lived in a world where people could take time when people were merely content with the necessities and not much beyond that. Yet this is not the case, and no point in trying to change game session with a chai latte in tow; I could only slump and wallow in my hypocrisy. Then I was suddenly, I felt bad for that poor man who asked me for one dollar.
Who ruined Keating?
By Joe Kaiser

The minority of people who have seen me with my shirt off know that I am not athletic, and I doubt most doctors would describe me as healthy. Through most of my life, my idea of exercise was the calories burned when swallowing high-fructose corn syrup. To put it another way, I am a CS major. But even a CS major can be concerned with his own health, and so late last year I started going to the gym a little more. I got on the treadmill for about an hour or 3 to 4 times a week, and as the semester ramped up, cut it down to about once or twice a week and did a few sit ups at home. I haven’t lost any weight and am not expecting some drastic change, but maybe I’m delaying a heart attack or something.

My girlfriend, who attends Columbia College, is the recent recipient of a complimentary 6-month YMCA membership and I tagged along with her until her guest passes ran out. Since then, she and I would go to Keating on Fridays, as, unlike the Y, there was no restriction on how often I could bring a guest. Well, until this week.

When I arrived at Keating, the girlfriend spotted a sign that said that the guest policy had been revised and your guests had to be related to you to be allowed in. I asked the girl at the desk, “I can’t sign my girlfriend in?” and she explained that some students had brought in some outside guests whom they didn’t really know, and those outside guests had created a nonspecific mess.

Isn’t there a better way to take care of this problem? I appreciate the courtesy of free athletics facilities for myself and a guest, and I don’t doubt the issue was significant, but I’m sure there’s a better way to do it. There’s problem with bringing guests into dorms or the MTCC that merits a blanket ban, so why Keating? And is it really that much of an epidemic? Looking over the last few months of Public Safety Incident Reports, there’s only a few instances of patrons being ejected from Keating - no more than I would expect Public Safety has to deal with on a regular basis. Call me crazy, but I trust my girlfriend not to cause a cacophany while she’s in the locker room, the only time she’s not under supervision at Keating. What can I do to convince the Keating staff of that?

Why don’t you dance?
By Adam Kadzan

On Friday night, Union Board brought DJ Kid Color into the Pritzker Club as part of the MTCC Late Nite. I was there for most of the set, and let me tell you, I saw some of the worst dancing I’ve ever seen. There was little rhythm. People were spastic. Limbs were flailing about. It was kind of like dancing to Dance Dance Revolution, but not actually playing the game. It was ridiculous.

And it was awesome.
Now, be fair, most of the “dancing” I just described was how I dance. I can’t dance, I’m terrible at it. I fail about with no rhythm, and I’m well aware of that fact. But you know what? I had a ton of fun dancing with people on Friday night. I let go, stopped thinking about how ridiculous I looked, and just had fun. I was dancing with my friends, with international students, with Shimier students. People knew well, and people I’d never seen before. It was fantastic, but the whole thing still made me kind of mad.

For the first half hour of the set, there was only about five people dancing. We were all having a blast, and were trying to convince others to join in. I was walking around trying to convince people to join in on the party. I was texting everyone I knew. I was directing people I didn’t know towards the P-Club, telling them the party was down there. I dragged one friend into the P-Club, and physically carried another halfway there. I was largely unsuccessful for a while, and almost everyone I tried to get to join in gave me the same excuse. “But there’s only a couple people down there!” I’ll look dumb! Well of course there’s only a couple people down there! Everybody is waiting for everyone else to start dancing! You need to set an example and go down there first!

I started asking myself, why is everybody so afraid of dancing? What’s holding everyone back from just having fun? Why will nobody go out on a limb and try something new? You might suck at dancing - it’s okay! I do too! We can look like idiots together.

The only answer I can come up with is that perhaps that’s just the way IIT students are. Maybe all the stereotypes are true, and 90% of the students here are so introverted and so overwhelmed by social anxiety that they’ll never want to just start dancing. Maybe the majority of IIT students just don’t know how to have fun.

Eventually, a large group of Shimier students showed up, and after that it was like dominoes. More groups of students showed up, and finally a real dance party started. It was still sad that it took so long for the party to get going, but in the end I know everybody that was there had a blast. My only hope is that next time, people aren’t so lame and start dancing sooner.

SPRING BREAK

WOOOOO

TechNews is going to friggin Cancun or something.

We return March 31.
Submission deadline: 11:59pm March 28

technews.iit.edu
IIT 4 Dummies: how to reserve space on campus

By Brian Kibbe

Reserving space is a common need among most students for all kinds of needs. Organization meetings, IPRO meetings, study meetings, all sorts of meetings. Of course many of the rooms have uses beyond just meetings. No matter what your need, there are a few simple steps that are needed to reserve spaces on campus. Before these steps though, there are a few different kinds of spaces that may be reserved. The MTCC, HUB, academic rooms, and spaces in Keating.

For the MTCC, HUB, and academic buildings, the Campus and Conference Centers (CCC) located in the MTCC by the Commons is responsible for managing all room usage. For every student organization that is registered with the Office of Student Life, three people from their leadership automatically have access to Event Management System (EMS) accounts. These accounts can be accessed through the CCC’s website. Anyone who does not have an EMS account may request one assuming they have enough need for one. With this account, students can see when certain rooms are available and reserve them for individual or recurring events. For any other room needs, walk-ins are acceptable assuming that the requested space is indeed available, but use of the EMS system is highly preferred. Specifically for academic rooms, reservations are often unnecessary because as long as meetings take place after most class schedules, there is plenty of available space to accommodate most needs. Send an email to reservations@iit.edu to request access to EMS or to request a reservation.

Now the EMS system does not extend for space reservation in Keating. Kelly Fitzgerald of the IIT Athletics department is responsible for rental and reservation of Keating Sports Center, Keating Recreation Field (north of the Baseball field), IIT Tennis Courts, Baseball Field, Soccer Field. Any of these may be requested for reservation; however, these requests may be denied for reasons of a conflicting reservation, a history of abuse by that group, or other discretionary judgments from the athletics staff. To request a reservation for any of these spaces a group must fill out a Facility Request Form and return it to the athletics staff. To request a reservation for any of these spaces a group must fill out a Facility Request Form and return it to the athletics staff. To request a reservation for any of these spaces a group must fill out a Facility Request Form and return it to the athletics staff. To request a reservation for any of these spaces a group must fill out a Facility Request Form and return it to the athletics staff.

WIIT 88.9 FM is Awesome

By Raymond Ballard

There’s a lot to enjoy at IIT: tons of cheap opportunities to go see fantastic theatre or sporting events in Chicago from Union Board, the RHA Boat Cruise, SGA’s work to improve our university, the Leadership Academy’s programming, and getting to chat with and introduce the infamous Bill Nye the Science Guy.

However, there’s one thing I’ve always wanted to do and that’s run a radio show on WIIT. I’ve seen plenty of my friends in the studio having a good time (Lory and Adam with “Indie Snobs” on Sundays 7-9PM, Hamza and Grace with “Dienophiles” on Saturdays from 1-3PM, Joe Kaiser with “Everything is Ruined” on Wednesdays 2-3PM, and Brian Kibbe with “Kibbelectric” on Fridays 3-5PM) DJing on the radio, and after six semesters I finally decided to take a crack at it.

I emailed wiit@iit.edu and they set me up with a trainer. Any student can be a radio host on WIIT 88.9 FM Chicago.

After two training sessions I was prepared and ready to go, and I have been hosting AWESOME shows for several weeks now from 10AM to Noon! And of course, I needed a crazy, catchy name…like the Ray Ray Radio Show. As a great man from “How I Met Your Mother” would say, “It’s going to be legendary...wait for it...say!” I have no idea what we’ll talk about or what music we’ll play, but if the last several weeks have foreshadowed the future, it will be quite a ridiculous show to listen to. If you want to be a guest to promote something on my show, please email rayrayradio@gmail.com and be sure to listen in Friday from 10-Noon! YOU DO NOT NEED A RADIO. Just go to radio.iit.edu and click on the link for low or high quality. You won’t want to miss out!
But wait, there's more!

By Raymond Ballard

The Student Union Board is ready to go with a lot of energy for more great events this semester. More commonly known as UB, its Organization’s purpose does not revolve around supporting a specific field, department, ethnic group, religion, or area of residency; nor is it designed to get students to attend one specific event. Instead, the Student Union Board’s mission (as found on ub.iit.edu) is as follows:

“We, the members of Union Board, value teamwork, dedication, and diversity. We believe that these values form a foundation to grow and develop into an accountable, beneficial and enjoyable organization. With these goals, we strive to create a more cohesive IIT community and develop a stronger sense of school spirit. We will achieve these ends through unique programming that provides personal and memorable experiences for all that participate. We’ll make our peers aware of the programs, which will be inclusive, impactful and enjoyable.

UB has already programmed tons of events this semester (tickets to Monty Python’s “Spamalot,” riled-up sporting performances in the BOG, and lots of pumped-up sporting events (Rent, Blue Ma Group), major movie premieres (tickets to Monty Python’s “Spamalot,” riled-up sporting events) that trigger conflicts and potential solutions. The next Leadership Academy seminar will be the Team Skills Regatta on Tuesday, April 26. Please visit leadershipacademy.iit.edu for more information on UB events, manage to do well in school, when I find out their secret I’ll school a better place, it’s a wonder that UB members still know how to keep secrets. But wait, there’s more!

A&E EDITOR

By Brendan Lane

In the March 10 issue of TechNews, an article titled “Confrontation and Conflict Resolution” was published. The article covered the second seminar of the semester, titled “Confrontation and Conflict Resolution.” The seminar was presented by LA Director Dr. Bruce Fisher and explored the various situations that trigger conflicts and potential solutions to sticky situations. The seminar was attended by more students than LA seminars in the past, and judging from the questions and scenarios, it was a very engaging presentation.

Dr. Fisher began with a brief introduction of the topic and proceeded to explore the positive and negative results of conflict. With the help of audience participation and input, he then addressed the situations of how to get the most out of your communication and input. We found out that it is not always necessary to let your emotions get the best of you. With so much time spent volubly helping to make their school a better place, it’s a wonder that UB members still know how to keep secrets. But wait, there’s more!

The bus ride home was silent because we were either wounded, caring for the wounded, or sleeping. I hope this personal account doesn’t scare anyone away from skiing. The Double Zero was exciting, minus the stopping part and the Lois flying into the trees part (she ended up surviving with only her broken bones, my brother, Don’t Head naked). I can purchase non-fogging goggles and reduce the costs. I also hope that Union Board does a similar event in the future. Thank you, Union Board, and thank you to everyone who personally contributed to this event’s success.
This week’s happenings at...

...MTCC Late Nite:

...art@IIT:

Photos by Chris Chock and Curtis Roberts
Tuesday, March 10

Safe Spring Break.
11am-2:30pm, MTCC Bridge
Start your spring break early with an obstacle course, free drinks (“mocktails”) and free massages!

CMC Workshop: Getting a Job - Interviewing
12-1pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Join the CMC as they discuss the finer points of conducting a successful job interview.

Housing Services Summer Conference Housing Assistant Info session
9:15pm, MTCC Auditorium
Dynamic, detail orientated, customer service focused student leaders are needed from May 16 to August 21.

Wednesday, March 11

No TechNews Writers Meeting
Don’t show up at the TechNews office, there’s no issue next week so it wouldn’t make a whole heck of a lot of sense to have a writer’s meeting. Ya dig?

ASCE General Meeting
12:45-1:45pm, Perlstein Hall Auditorium
Vote for CAEE Professor of the Year, and Steel bridge and concrete canoe teams will present their progress updates.

Thursday, March 12

Mens’ Volleyball
7pm, Keating Hall
Believe it or not guys, we have a Men’s Volleyball Club Team!!! They will have their very first home game Thursday the 12th at 7pm!!! come out and check them out as they face off against UIC!!!

St. Baldricks
7-10pm, The BOG
Head shaving in solidarity with children and families affected by cancer. Last year we raised over $10,000 with a goal of $5,000. So this year we are setting the bar a little higher at $10,000. Can we destroy that goal as well? It’s up to you.

Friday, March 13

CMC Workshop: Getting a Job - Becoming a certified candidate
2-3pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Join the CMC for their seminar on how to become the certified candidate that companies are looking for.

Friday the 13th!
Find something scary to do or pretend to be King Philip IV of France and have the heads of your least favorite political organization prosecuted! Enjoy yourself, it’s the Friday before Spring break!

Saturday, March 14

ISO Gurnee Mills Trip
9am-5pm, in front of MSV
The International Students Organization will be providing free transportation to Gurnee Mills Outlet Mall!

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Ides of March
Feel like playing Julius Caesar? Now’s not a good day to do that - you’re going to die. Don’t believe us? Try it - we’re the newspaper, we can’t lie.

Monday, March 16 - Sunday, March 22

Spring Break
IIT will be celebrating a good time to give students long term assignments with an annual spring break when many students will most likely ignore their assignments until Sunday, March 22.

Chicago Blackhaws vs Edmonton Oilers
March 20, 7:30pm
Come on out and check out this super hot Hockey game. Chicago Blackhawks vs Edmonton Oilers. If you are board and trying to do something or having a hot date, or just want to go to United Center, this is for you!
Tickets sold at MTCC Bridge at March 16th, 13:00.

Chicago Bulls vs. LA Lakers
March 21, 7:30pm
Union Board has tickets to one of the greatest teams in the NBA, with the Most Valuable Player, KOBIE BRYANT!!! The game is over Spring Break, so students who are staying in Chicago, look out! Union Board has given you the best event of your week off! Tickets are only $10.
Tickets sold at MTCC Bridge at March 17th, 13:00.
reports of behavior or abuse would lead to legal actions, Geiger stated flatly, “It has nothing to do with judicial action. It’s about help.”

Throughout the interview, he emphasized the need to “move beyond a culture of narcizing,” in which students feel that they cannot seek help for someone for fear of being identified and ostracized for their efforts. Geiger claimed that by maintaining this culture, “we run the risk of, what if an incident happens?” which could have been prevented by someone seeking help.

Geiger said during a meeting to the Student Senate, “I do not want any student to hesitate to get help for another student.” He later added, “We are a small community… If [IIT] were a bigger school, concerns of narcising would probably not exist.” He continually stated, “If a student has a concern, please come see us.”

On the subject of drug abuse, one of the motivations for creating the reporting system, Student Affairs is focusing their efforts on confronting abuse of legal drugs, including prescription as well as over-the-counter medications. Doug Geiger emphasized that this is not simply a college matter, but a nation-wide trend in drug abuse.

The reporting system is planned to be a campus-wide service, incorporating all of the colleges which share space with IIT, such as Shimer and VanderCook. Administrators from the respective colleges will likely be involved in verifying reports, although the exact details have yet to be developed.

Geiger commented that a key goal is “getting help to students who need help.”

To spread the word about the report system, Geiger plans on creating “a very public visibility campaign.” Elements of the campaign include informing students about it during summer orientation. The public launch of the program is planned for fall ’09 and will include forums in which members of Student Affairs, including Geiger himself, will discuss the system. In doing this, Geiger hopes to add transparency to the system, allowing students to interact face-to-face with the people who will be running it.

Demonstrating the his dedication to this cause, Geiger stated that funding for this project will be drawn from his own department’s funds, as opposed to reallocating funds from broader institutional or outside sources. Looking to the future, Geiger suggested that by 2010, the program may receive a specific budget of its own.

Geiger concluded the interview by urging anyone who is concerned about a situation which poses a threat to a student to “go to Student Affairs,” adding, “We deal with these situations all the time. We do it because we care about the students.”
What do you want out of Student Government?

SGA is about to have executive board elections. What do you want to know about the candidates before casting your vote?

Submit a question at technews.illit.edu. Who knows, it may come up at the SGA debates!
Joss Whedon’s Dollhouse: worth watching?

By Karl Rybaltowski

TECHNEWS WRITER

Considering Joss Whedon’s track record of shows, it’s difficult not to have been excited by the prospect of another one. Between Buffy the Vampire Slayer, its spin-off show Angel, and the space Western Firefly, Whedon has amassed a large group of fans. It shall come as no surprise, then, that he raised some eyebrows with the announcement of his new series, Dollhouse. Granted, the first news of this show came over a year ago, and between then and the mid-season premiere a month ago, it seems Whedon has had to overcome some Herculean struggles of his own. The final product, on the surface, appears to be just what initially made the rounds. But the devil, as they say, is in the details, and what is currently holding the show from reaching its full potential is the nit-picking over said details; an ongoing conflict between Whedon and the suits at Fox that needs to be resolved – and soon – if it is allowed to excel.

The premise of the show is, on paper, an outlandish one. A shadowy, illegal business exists to serve the needs of extremely wealthy clientele – whether amorous, criminal, or anything in between. The morally ambiguous year-round hired hands who get paid to conduct said errands are extremely capable, but just in case, each active has an assigned handler on site. They are the keepers of the organization’s secrets, and working out, occasionally engaging in some vapid conversation to remind us that when they’re not out picking over said details, they are the professionals of this world. Together with the other actives, they make some bad decisions (the nature of which is unclear), because it’s more profitable to go through Echo – a young college graduate who is the focal point – Eliza Dushku – is, for the most part, up to the task. Though at first her roles appear to re-hash personalities from her former roles (Faith on Buffy, and the title character in True Calling), there’s enough variety to keep her performances from feeling too repetitive. Dushku’s “active” co-stars, Dichen Lachman and Enver Gjokaj, manage to do a satisfactory job as Boyd, Echo’s handler, that stands out the most (at times even outshining Echo). An ex-cop, he clearly seems uneasy with the legal repercussions. Together with the other actives, they accomplish this with personalities matching the exact needs of said extremely wealthy clientèle, essentially creating a perfect version of whatever it is those rich clients want. We’re introduced to this world through Echo – a young college graduate who made some bad decisions (the nature of which is unclear), and signed up to become an active in order to avoid possible legal repercussions. Together with the other actives, they spend their down-time wandering the swanky headquarters of the organization and working out, occasionally engaging in some vivid conversation to remind us that when they’re not primped up in a specific personality, these people are barely people at all – with all the personality and intelligence of a five-year-old. Whedon has had to make some compromises. The show is exploring, even if it does beat you over the head with a high-speed motorcycle chase immediately followed by a night of clubbing, for example. This might not sit well with some of Joss Whedon’s more staunch supporters, but it’s the trade-off for attempting to go for mass appeal. As well, sometimes the various sub-plots can be a bit much, and one can tell there’s still some kinks to work out in maintaining a proper balance – and keeping the different sub-plots relevant to each other. But a good deal of depth exists in the themes the show is exploring, even if it does beat you over the head with some of this. The uncertain morality is a departure from some of the less ambiguous good-bad setups in Whedon’s previous shows, and the show’s very concept invites a great deal of contemplation on the very idea of life and identity. Thus, even if it has compromised, the show manages to be a fairly high-concept affair.

The biggest conflict – alluded to earlier in the article – is that between Joss Whedon himself and the Fox network. Given the terrible working relationship between the two during Firefly’s unfortunate run, one is hardly-pressed to understand their continued work together on Dollhouse. In fact, shortly after it was first announced, the network rejected Whedon’s initial scripts, and enough nit-picking occurred over various aspects that Fox scrapped the show and re-started from scratch. So what’s the problem? Fox wants the series to consist of action-packed, self-contained individual mini-stories, a “monster of the week” arrangement (so that a viewer could jump in at any point in the season). Whedon wants a complex, character-heavy story to unfold over the course of the season, which might not always mean as clean a cut between episodes as the network would like. In striking a balance between these two stances, Whedon has had to make some compromises. The trademark humor found in Firefly and Buffy is much sparser here, while large-scale action sequences and just plain stylish-looking scenes are more prevalent – the first episode starts with a high-speed motorcycle chase immediately followed by a night of clubbing, for example. This might not sit well with some of Joss Whedon’s more staunch supporters, but it’s the trade-off for attempting to go for mass appeal. As well, sometimes the various sub-plots can be a bit much, and one can tell there’s still some kinks to work out in maintaining a proper balance – and keeping the different sub-plots relevant to each other. But a good deal of depth exists in the themes the show is exploring, even if it does beat you over the head with some of this. The uncertain morality is a departure from some of the less ambiguous good-bad setups in Whedon’s previous shows, and the show’s very concept invites a great deal of contemplation on the very idea of life and identity. Thus, even if it has compromised, the show manages to be a fairly high-concept affair.

With only four episodes under its belt, it’s still much too early to pass final judgment on Dollhouse. The most that can be said with certainty is that it’s interesting and still has a good deal of potential. Even Buffy took about a season to really find its legs, so it does not pay to be hasty. Whether Eliza Dushku can perform well in her various roles, and whether the audience can find a way to connect emotionally with her character, will heavily determine how far that potential can go. And if Joss Whedon can manage a balance between his ambitious ideas and mass-market appeal (thus appeasing the suits at Fox and his hardcore fans), it may very well be able to take a place alongside the cult classics that have made him so famous in the first place. It’s certainly worth giving a shot.
LORY MISHRA, Editor

Johnson & Jonson produce a stellar debut

By Joe Kaiser

TECHNEWS WRITER

Imagine you’re a hip hop group and you read a review of your debut record that mentions Black Star, J Dilla, and the Cool Kids in the first sentence. What would you think? I hope it’s something along the lines of “wow, we’re sure doing something right,” because Blueprint and Mainframe have put out the first great album of 2009. (It came out in September, but was quickly forgotten amongst the big mainstream releases. Indie rappers!)

Now comics are interesting things, and some of the details about this are actually quite fascinating. When I saw the trailer for this movie many months ago I was stunned by the dark violence and grandeur in a way that other superhero films have lacked save The Dark Knight. Having since that time read the comic series, I approached the film with reluctant gusto and substance.

It would be an understatement to simply say that the movie adaptation of the 1986 graphic novel Watchmen premiered last Thursday, it turned through the Navy Pier Imax theater with gusto and substance.

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Across
1. Follower of Mary
2. Lions & tigers
10. '2000 miler' hiking trail
11. Butter substitute
12. Goalie's feat
13. Wistfully emotional
18. Cpl.'s superior
19. German one
20. Spoil
21. Japanese coin
22. Column’s counterpart
24. Capote nickname
25. Capone and Gore
27. Online journal-writer
29. Tranquilized
32. Pina colada ingredient
33. “Are we there ___?”
34. Trickeries
37. Mark for misconduct
39. Admiral’s org.
40. ___ mission
41. Press Secretary Fleischer
42. Wax producer
43. Emergency PC key
45. Phish
47. Watch chain
49. Admiral’s org.
53. Carhop’s load
54. Egyptian snakes
55. Solitude
56. Pottery oven
57. Open wide

Down
1. Coils
2. Great conductor
3. Lodge letters
4. Port-au-Prince’s land
5. Cordial
6. Fine dinnerware
7. Hombre’s home
8. Shrink
9. Back at sea?
14. Papua ___
15. Foreword (abbr.)
16. Outback birds
17. Logo
23. Fairy tale villains
26. Not now
27. Flower starter
28. 911 responder
30. Needle hole
31. Banned pesticide
35. The white in a pool game
36. Punch
37. Facts and figures
38. Breaks in relations
42. Indonesian cloth
44. Prison guard, in slang
48. Yellowstone sight
49. Illegal trade
50. French silk center
51. ___ of honor
52. “Piece of cake!”
54. Egyptian snakes

xkcd
by randall munroe

I wish this were in America.

Copyright Lovatts Puzzles

Three more sudokus because TechNews loves you
Car Tech review: Bugatti Veyron

By Abhishek Gundugurti

In these grim days for the automotive industry, only the rich or super-rich can afford a new car. Or anyone who has been involved with Bernard L. Madoff and got some extra cash. Automotive enthusiasts, though, don’t care much about the price. They care about the technology and innovation behind the cars. In times when GM and Chrysler are struggling to survive, just like their European cousins Citroen and Peugeot, talking about technology behind the cars is the least car fanatics can do to keep a positive attitude and a hopeful mood. Helping in this aspect is the new famous car maker, Bugatti Automobiles SAS.

With their headquarters in Molsheim, Alsace, France, the automobile maker partly owned by Volkswagen AG, designed a car in 2005 that took the world by storm. The automotive world was most happy because they finally got a car that was faster than the crop of really fast cars. Most importantly, it was the replacement for the McLaren F1 sports car, which was just as revolutionary as the Bugatti Veyron when it was launched on 28 May 1991. The Veyron, launched in the Geneva Auto show in 2005, was the underscoring WW1 from 1999 under the badge name EB 184 Veyron. The car launched in 2005 was named the Bugatti Veyron EB 16.4 and was priced at 1.4 million dollars.

The price though, is not important. What is important is that the car has performance figures that will leave you breathless. It has a W-16 engine producing 987 horsepower, and it can reach 408.5 km/h on a straight line. The engine is handcrafted by combing two V-8 engines in the form of a W. The engineering team behind the engine developed pushed innovation out of the envelope. With such a power output, a normal car has one radiator, while the Veyron needs 10 radiators to keep the engine cool. The engine has 64 valves for its 16 cylinders and 4 turbo chargers.

The aerodynamics team faced a tougher challenge of developing the car and avoiding the drag the car creates as it crosses speeds of 200 km/h. As one automotive reporter presented it, the aerodynamic forces are more resistive after the car has reached speeds of 200 km/h and the car requires twice as much power to reach the next 50 km/h speed(s). The car was tested in a high speed wind tunnel, faster than a Formula 1 car. The Veyron goes from 0-100 km/h (0-60 mph) in 2.45 seconds and it accomplished the quarter mile (~400 m) in 10.2 seconds at an exit speed of 143.6 km/h (231.1 km/h), as tested by Road and Track magazine. The Veyron’s brakes use cross-drilled, radially-vented carbon fiber-reinforced Silicon Carbide (C/ SiC) composite discs, manufactured by SGL Carbon to help it achieve breaking figures like 300 km/h to 60km/h in less than 10 seconds.

Bugatti Automobiles SAS has celebrated 9 years of the Veyron’s existence by launching the Bugatti Veyron Bleu Centenaire. It is also to celebrate 100 years of existence for Bugatti. The Bleu Centenaire is priced at $1.7 million. All in all, the Veyron is an engineering masterpiece and a pricey millionaire’s car.

FEAR 2: Project Origin unchallenging

By Jonathan Mikesell

Platform: PC, Playstation 3, Xbox 360
Genre: First-person shooter

The Rundown
Armaclan, an evil defense corporation, has been secretly researching a psychic soldier program, in which mostly unremarkable but able soldiers are cloned and given the capacity to receive orders telepathically. Key to the function of the program are intelligent, highly psychic people with paranormal abilities to serve as commanders. Unfortunately, those individuals are also prone to insanity and, should they run amok, are nearly impossible to stop. The most powerful such person, a teenager named Alma, has resisted all conventional means of pacification and it is up to a team of other commander candidates to find a way to stop her.

Graphics
FEAR 2 is at the top of the curve as far as graphics as concerned. Character models and environments are highly detailed, dynamic lighting is pervasive, animation is lifelike, gore is over-the-top, and lens effects are probably the best ever done in a game.

Sound
Hearing is a key element in horror, and so the developers made sure to get top quality work done in this area. There are many creepy screams and whispers in addition to the ever-important weapon and environmental sounds.

The music functions well to heighten tension.

Gameplay
FEAR 2 is a hybrid in which aggressive, action-oriented head-on shooting is alternated with slower-paced horror-filled dark areas. Unfortunately, neither type of play is particularly good. Combat sections resemble shooting fish in a barrel. The AI is well done: enemies move to cover and hug it while shooting or throwing grenades and they will call for backup when in trouble. The problem is that for the vast majority of the game you have a recharging “bullet-time” meter that you can use to make all the enemies slow down massively from your perspective, allowing you to slaughter a whole wave of leptopric enemies without risking being shot or missing. Even if you do not abuse this power, your character is so resilient and your enemies so inept at dealing damage that charging at the enemy while spraying bullets almost always results in easy victory.

Your enemies are also unreasonably resilient, though not so much so as to be too much of a problem; true, they may survive 2-3 14mm spikes being fired through their cranium, but you can put out 4 of the things in a second or two. A worse problem than the enemies being tough to kill is that they react to being injured by flinching momentarily before returning to full effectiveness, despite apparently crippling injuries, and they are only actually dead when they either suffer dismembrament or scream.

Horror involves wandering throughout extremely dark environments, sometimes without any light source, while disturbing images appear, ghosts jump out of walls to attack you, and you are grabbed by a naked, decidedly dead-looking Alma and must tap the same button over and over to throw her off. The game certainly succeeds at being disturbing, but often fails at achieving true horror, since ghosts are extremely easy to defeat and Alma is easy to find off before she does any serious damage.

Overall
FEAR 2 is a game that does a great job at everything except making the core play challenging and fun.

Final Verdict
3 of 5
Prior to his highly publicized divorce with the Dallas Cowboys and recent signing with the Buffalo Bills, talk about Terrell Owens being released sparked in January. It was around this time that this story was being written, and the Chicago Sun-Times wrote the following: “As we all know, Owens comes with more baggage than the cargo hold of a 747 – and he will fit quite nicely into the lavatory of the plane. – but few available players could make as big of an impact. With Owens split wide right, Devin Hester went deep, Greg Olsen and Adewale Ogunleye down-the-field threat at tight ends and with Matt Forte in the backfield, the Bulls could have a much more dynamic offense regardless of who plays quarterback.”

From then on I thought to myself he might make any offense better, but the move made no sense for the Bears. He’s not talented enough, and not good at making receivers play well. Look at the following former Bulls receivers that have played better after they left Chicago.

**Brett Favre**


2008 Minnesota Vikings: 16 games, 48 catches, 964 yards, 7 touchdowns.

**Muhsin Muhammad**

2007 Chicago Bulls: 16 games, 40 catches, 570 yards, 3 touchdowns.


**Mark Bradley**

2007 Chicago Bulls: 15 games, 6 catches, 71 yards, 1 touchdown.

2008 Kansas City Chiefs: 10 games, 30 catches, 380 yards, 3 touchdowns (along with a 37-yard touchdown pass to Chiefs’ QB Damon Huard).

*Note: Bradley played an additional 2 games with the Bears before his release. Stats: 0 catches, 0 yards, 0 touchdowns.*

It was because of Angelo’s stupid decision making. The man picked Cedric Benson fourth overall, after being considered a 5th round pick by many of those who knew him. For Benson, he used a 3rd round pick in 2007 for Garrett Wolfe, who was considered a 5th-round pick by many of those who knew how to actually evaluate. He was also drafted offensive tackle Chris Williams in 2008, when other teams reportedly took him off their board. According to NFL Network draft analyst Mike Mayock, there were 3 out of 6 teams whom he spoke to that took the former Vanderbilt offensive tackle off their board due to a “neck and cervix” injury.

The real reason the Bears didn’t sign T.O. was by having 158 balls touched, which is rare for a rookie running back, but that is also a sign of trouble...