Fall Fest ‘09: a memorable way to kick off Halloween

By Lory Mishra

On Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30, Union Board and the Campus and Conference Centers executed one of the most successful and well-attended events in the Bog. Fall Fest was a two-day event, with a dance party and costume contest on day one and Bottomless Bog on day two. This event marked the debut of IIT’s new Student Planning and Bog Coordinator, Chris Dayas. Mr. Dayas worked alongside Union Board’s VP of Bog Events, Hamza Obaid, to deliver a fantastic experience for all 250 students who attended Fall Fest ‘09.

Day One began at 7:30pm with an excellent DJ set by 4th year Rob LaRue. DJ LaRue played a wide selection of songs, some mainstream and some less so, to get the party started. While the initial sparsity of dancers was a bit disappointing, some mainstream and some less so, to get the party started.

Across the Bog from the dance party, numerous students were playing pool, video games, bowling, or just hanging out over some board games. UB Programmer Alicia Perez had brought in a tarot card reader who, judging from the continuous crowd around her, was a huge success as well. There were some great costumes and according to the 3 judges, The Roller Derby Girl, Peter Pan, and Edward Scissorhands were the best of the night. The costume contest was sponsored by the IIT Residence Hall Association.

Friday, October 30 saw a continuation of the festivities with Bottomless Bog, which included free bowling, great drink specials, and karaoke. Students trickled in to the Bog with Bottomless Bog, which included free bowling, great drink specials, and karaoke. Students trickled in to the Bog after a soggy Pumpkin Launch and were greeted with free food and other fun activities for the rest of the evening.

Overall, Fall Fest ‘09 was a fantastic, well-executed event. One can only hope that this is the start of a great tradition in IIT’s social programming!
Letter from the Editor: herpes in the bookstore?

By Lory Mishra

The participation in the Procrastination session held by IIT Counseling Center had my mind ticking about the ways to make the most of my time. But as much procrastination I might be going through, I knew there are no two ways to gulp down all the time in the world and store it in your system for future use, or look it in a cabinet instantly from escaping you. You can talk about cherished moments but not treasure time in your grandma’s chest.

The more the time you spend thinking how to use it, the more you’re losing it. The age-old saying, “Time is precious,” holds a lot of inner meaning and embodies various facets of life to decipher along with its message. In the long eventful journey of life, every moment of time is precious, valuable and irrevocable. Needless to say, a person who doesn’t bask in bygone success life, every moment of time is precious, valuable and irrevocable. Every breath inhaled and exhaled determines the time lost in each person’s life. There is no way to conquer, amass, fight with, or win over time; the only sensible thing to do is to live up to the times. All human beings are subjected to various changes in behavior with changing time. The time factor consequently determines the age factor and the different phases of life we undergo.

Ralph Waldo Emerson stated, “This time, like all times, is a very good one, if we but know what to do with it.” There are a plethora of wise sayings, to mention a few: “Time is the best healer.” Does that tell us to let time exhaust itself? Certainly not! “Life is like an ice cream, enjoy it before it melts.” Does that imply don’t bother with time? But then time does bother you. “Live for the moment.” Does that tell us not to waste time by passing hours into scheduling? “Time is the best healer.” Does that tell us to let time exhaust itself? Or to get over with the time issue? What is the proper indicator of using time wisely?

Take it like an adult would. The IIT campus bookstore is selling herpes, chlamydia, and gonorrhea-stuffed toys. I’m not making this up. When you first pick up one of these microbes, they just look sort of funny because they are mostly big pieces of fabric with two big eyes. And then you read the tag and think to yourself, “Hmm, who would want to cuddle with herpes at night?” I know I would be a little hesitant but according to the bookstore staff, these unconventional stuffed toys are selling quite well. The idea came from a student worker in the bookstore, Meagan Saratt. In a short interview with Meagan, she told us that she first encountered these microbes at a Kappa Phi Delta Risk Management event. “It was a fun way to learn about STIs and I thought it would be cool to sell them at the bookstore,” she said. Meagan, who also added that “The bookstore rocks!”, reported that there have not been any complaints about these quirky stuffed toys. As I fully expected, she told us that most people simply pick up a toy, throw it at their friends, and follow up with “Haha, I just gave you the clap!”

Upon some quick research, I discovered that The Giant Microbes series is very extensive and includes such microbes as swine flu, salmonella, and the common cold. The bookstore offers a fairly good selection of these microbes at a reasonable price and if nothing else, they would be a great conversation piece at parties. I would highly recommend that you stop by the bookstore soon and figure out for yourself if you’d like to snuggle with chlamydia after a rough day of classes.
Speaking of IIT: language classes, theater, and SocialDevCamp

By Kaushik Thimmarcsi Ganesan

New York City in a jiffy: tips on planning a great trip

By Kaushik Thimmarcsi Ganesan

One of the good things about being an Indian grad student in the US is that you are generally good at day-to-day practical combinational optimization. Ok, I apologize for my badly-digested attempt at flaunting my Computer Science credentials. I was just referring to my propensity to deconstruct the optimal ways to do things, ranging from packing stuff into our suitcases to buying goods to the most economical way to do one’s laundry. I understand the financial optimization techniques, if you can call them that. It doubtless helps if you study at a university where even PhD students need to consistently worry about paying tuition - which means that being economical is not just a comforting rest assured that you’re terribly lucky (can get your resume to someone who feels you’re good enough). It’s something that islington need to be very good enough to be an RA/TA for a professor who has enough money to fund your coursework), you’re got to rely on cash-saws (e.g. a parent’s or loan-sharks (banks) for tuition and the $7.5/ hour on-campus job for your living.

So then, like most international bring-parents-to-the-USA-after-your-studies (no-longer) students, I endeavored to take my parents to the Holy Grail of Materialism (and the epicenter of the global financial earthquake) NYC.

Since both my budget and vacation days were tight, I decided to fit in the visit over a weekend. After all, NYC isn’t exactly a place known for awe-inspiring natural sights, where you can lose yourself admiring the beauty of mother Nature.

Here’s my trip in detail. I think it worked out quite well overall - an experience re-affirmed by a few of my friends - and I hope it helps anyone wanting to simply visit or take your parents to NYC in a quick, cost-effective manner.

Day 1

9:30 AM

Travel & Stay

I generally don’t believe much in vacation packages, but if you have a queue of flights, hotels, car, etc., least of all on airline websites. Still, I just got it a shot and browse package deals on the Internet. I saw flights to Chicago for ~$170, and I chanced upon the American Airlines site, where I got a more-than-just-decent package - return tickets from Chicago to New York for 3 people - 1 night stay at the HiltonPenn Station for $950.01 I was initially skeptical, since it worked out to be ~$316 per person, but considering the fact that the average ticket rates hovered around the $290 -$340 range when you checked, plus at least 50 bucks for even a half full tank of gas, this was a small price to pay.

If you’re going to NYC, you need to figure out specifically where you want to stay. It can make staying away-from-a-millennia-background like you, staying in any of the decent hotels in Manhattan is out of the question: they cost upwards of $200 per night. There are very few sub-$100 hotels which are conveniently close. I recommend you want to take your parents to, at most, which night. Which then brings you to New Jersey, where is the near train station (PATH transit), which goes to you NYC, and these buses aren’t very safe/ reliable/frequent at night. Hence, Hilton-Penn Station was quite a deal - apart from the Hilton brand name, there’s a train station practically right below the hotel, and a free shuttle to get to the hotel from Newark Airport.

The Days

Day 2

9:30 AM

Woke up on Saturday at 9 AM (contrary to the Empire State, which opens at 9 AM. The crowd wasn’t that bad, but the travel agents who kept hogging at the entrance, were a pain. Still, I’m sure, you won’t be disappointed. The best view was of the Statue of Liberty, but not as much as you can see of the surrounding part of New York. And if you’re into stocks, finance, etc., I’m sure you’ll be interested in the most stylish and expensive restaurant in New York. I think that’s all for now. Yes, there is much more to see there, but if you’re looking for a short, inexpensive, but very scenic trip, then I would definitely recommend New York City. In this article, I wholeheartedly hope you plan your trip a little better.
In support of IIT’s marathon runners, 2 banners were set up at the half-marathon finish line in 2009. Of the 8 runners interviewed for this story, only 2 saw it. Yang Wang, currently in his fifth and final year of a doctorate program in biology, has a solution (“If we get more IIT people to run, we can have a big banner. At least 100 [people]... This is our city!”)

While Wang is an international student from the Chinese province of Shanxi, his marathon story starts right here at IIT’s Main Campus. Before coming to IIT, Wang started riding a stationary bike at a gym to lose weight. Upon arriving at IIT, he met and became a “running mentor” Benjamin C. Stark, Ph.D., professor of biology and associate chair for biology. Now, Wang believes that running is more fun than biking and that biking is “boring.”

Wang’s, first, second, and third marathons were the 2007, 2008, and 2009 Chicago Marathons. He recalls being unable to sleep the night before his first Chicago Marathon while thinking, “I’m not going to finish.” This year, he was “no longer afraid and [now] ready to move on to something more terrible.” Wang is currently training for the Chicago Lakefront 50/50 on October 31, 2009. He tentatively plans to run the 50-mile race option.

Wang’s tale is just one of many on an unseasonably cool 33-degree day in October, when over 37,000 athletes from around the globe came to run the 20th Chicago Marathon. IIT’s marathon runners included students, faculty, and staff of all ages for at least most ages: from early 20s to mid 50s, representing Main Campus, Downtown Campus, and no particular campus (for the distance learners).

The veterans

James Vergara is the least veteran of the marathons interviewed for this article. His first marathon was the Tokyo Marathon in March of this year. Vergara first started running as an undergraduate at Purdue University. He describes himself as “a larger than normal guy” back then. His initial reason for running was to lose weight.

Weighing in 50 to 60 pounds lighter than in his undergraduate years, Vergara went to Japan to teach English for 4 years. This put him in contact with students that competed in marathons, long-distance relay races that are most popular in that region. He credits those students with the inspiration to run his first marathon. Vergara first decided to return to the United States in January of this year as a native of Bolingbrook, IL, “he has always been in love with Chicago.” He returned to Chicago in August as a first-year law student at the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

For Vergara, training in Chicago has been different than training on the Japanese countryside, where there are plenty of hills and no stoplights. He ran the Chicago Marathon for the experience and to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS). He completed the Chicago Marathon with a net time of 3:25:17, more than 15 minutes faster than his time in the Tokyo Marathon.

Rick Kaim is a 44-year-old part-time student in IIT’s Industrial Technology and Management Program. Kaim completed his first marathon, the Milwaukee Lakefront Marathon, in 2006. The 2009 Chicago Marathon is his third Chicago Marathon and fourth overall marathon. Kaim “feels like he has a personal connection to the [Chicago Marathon] course.” The course passes by Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, which he attended for 1 year, the University of Illinois at Chicago, which he attended when he was younger; and IIT.

For Kaim, the marathon is preparation for his main goal, the 2011 Ironman Hawaii – a triathlon event that ends with a marathon. A day after this year’s Chicago Marathon, he was “a little sore.” Coming into the marathon, he was still in good shape from a half-Ironman he completed earlier in the year.

Mario Alvarez, a part-time mechanical engineering undergraduate, completed his first Chicago Marathon in 1999 with no training. He says it was a “crazy” idea. His athletic background includes running cross country and track (the 1 mile and 2 mile events) in high school. The 2009 Chicago Marathon was his fourth marathon finish out of 5 attempts. He was also fastest. With a net time of 3:19:35, he bested his 2008 Chicago Marathon time by more than 20 minutes. Alvarez admits to training harder for this year’s race. He recalls mile 22 as the most painful, while mile 25 provided him with some much needed crowd support.

Steven Kuptsis has run this, his fifth marathon overall and sixth Chicago Marathon, to support a running partner. His running partner completed her first Chicago Marathon in last year’s unseasonably warm temperature. She wanted to do it again when the temperature was cooler.

Kuptsis, a third-year part-time student at Chicago-Kent in his 50s, used to do 3 or 4 marathons a year. After a health scare, he limits himself to 1 marathon per year, typically at “tourist pace.” He is a big fan of the first half of the marathon course.

Photos by Sebastian Morales Prado
This Friday, in keeping with all the creepy campus happenings, a Blood Collection was ceremonially held in the MTCC Ballroom. Omega Delta Fraternity and the Office of Student Life - Service Learning hosted Heartland Blood Centers for the second time this semester. From 12:30-4:30 students were lured into the “draining room” with free hooded sweatshirts and promises of cookies and juice. It’s less than surprising that after a wet and exciting pumpkin launch that students would be dying for a treat and some warmth. With students’ hearts pumping so palpably after making some pumpkin heads roll, the collection for a treat and some warmth. With students’ hearts pumping so palpably after making some pumpkin heads roll, the collection staff was more than willing to receive these donors. There was the typical paperwork to ensure that the donors blood would be well suited for it’s purpose, and a pianist prick to verify that there was iron in the blood and not garlic. After a final check of all the information the donor was sent over to the “collection cluster” where nine draining stations were manned by an expert staff. After a cleansing ritual with iodine swaps and a few squizzes of a hand grip, the blood began to flow. The low pressure pouch slowly sucked the succulent life juices until a full unit, or 350 mL, was obtained. The donors were carefully disposed of at the refreshment table, where hopefully they were transformed into willing donors for future drives.

Friday was an excellent day for blood collection. Previous events have had successively larger numbers of units collected; this one broke all previous records with a terrifying seventy-one units! Sixteen individuals were graciously turned away from donating for various reasons bringing the total number of participants to eighty-seven. The daunting task of surpassing this number was not for one bit of heart, but it will take as many thumping chest cavities as we can gather to break this record! It is said that up to three lives can be saved with just one unit of blood, we just have to hope that they aren’t counting the vampires among us.

Student Life - Service Learning hosted Heartland Blood Centers in record numbers on campus. The best aspect of the Sigeps efforts is that all the profits were donated to charity. Minds Matter will transform into willing donors for future drives. The Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity gave back to the community by putting on every fall," says RHA Publicity Committee Chair Laura Arece. "You get to spend three hours gambling, dancing, and getting amazing views of the Chicago skyline. What Friday night can top that?"

The SGA Senate is the main representative body of the Illinois Institute of Technology undergraduate and graduate student body at Main Campus and in recent months, the SGA Senate secured funding for BOG Events (and brought back the BOG in 2006), lobbied successfully for the restoration of Illinois MAP Grant funding, worked with the Department of Student Affairs to create the Good Samaritan Policy, and is proposing for a 24-hour Galvin Library, and helped fix dozens of student problems in the fall of 2010. The SGA Senate is the main representative body of the Illinois Institute of Technology undergraduate and graduate student body at Main Campus and in recent months, the SGA Senate secured funding for BOG Events (and brought back the BOG in 2006), lobbied successfully for the restoration of Illinois MAP Grant funding, worked with the Department of Student Affairs to create the Good Samaritan Policy, and is proposing for a 24-hour Galvin Library, and helped fix dozens of student problems in the fall of 2010. The SGA Senate is the main representative body of the Illinois Institute of Technology undergraduate and graduate student body at Main Campus and in recent months, the SGA Senate secured funding for BOG Events (and brought back the BOG in 2006), lobbied successfully for the restoration of Illinois MAP Grant funding, worked with the Department of Student Affairs to create the Good Samaritan Policy, and is proposing for a 24-hour Galvin Library, and helped fix dozens of student problems in the fall of 2010. You, the students, will be the judge of who is to represent you on all issues in our university. If you don’t exercise your right to vote, you are effectively saying that all things at IIT are perfect and that it doesn’t matter who represents you. If that’s how you feel, I applaud your positive outlook and encourage you to vote anyway.

The only uncorrected election is in the Stuart School of Business, where a majority of students are at the graduate level and find it difficult to get involved. Graduate Students interested in representing their college are encouraged to email sga@iit.edu. RHA Boat Cruise

RHA is sponsoring its annual Casino Boat Cruise, set to take place Friday, November 6. This is a night of fun for students, who will enjoy a beautiful cruise on Navy Pier and try their luck at some exciting casino games, dealt by fellow IIT students. At the end of the night, prizes will be auctioned off to those who have won the games. Dress code for the event is formal, so no jeans, shorts, or gym shoes will be allowed. Everyone is looking forward to this year’s cruise. “The RHA Boat cruise is the biggest, most luxurious event RHA puts on every fall,” says RHA Publicity Committee Chair Paula Arece. “You get to spend three hours gambling, dancing, and getting amazing views of the Chicago skyline. What Friday night can top that?” The RHA Boat cruise will begin at midnight, and buses will leave from IIT for Navy Pier every fifteen minutes between 9 o’clock and 11 o’clock. Students should sign up for buses when they purchase tickets. Students can also choose to find their own transportation to Navy Pier. The cruise will end at 3 am, and students can take buses back to IIT.

Any questions can be directed to RHA by email at rha@iit.edu.
**University Calendar**

**Tuesday, November 3**

**SGA Senate Elections**
All Day, MTCC
Vote to have your academic college's voice heard to the university administration. Vote to change IIT.

**Getting a Job: Interviewing**
10-11am, CMC, Galvin Library
This workshop will cover ways in which you can research companies so that you can show hiring managers you are serious about their company and position.

**Yoga**
7:30-8:30pm, Keating Hall
This program is free for all IIT students. The cost for faculty and staff is $5 per class. There will be 12 yoga classes during the fall semester. No registration required.

**Wednesday, November 4**

**SWE GB Meeting and Walsh Info Session**
12:50-1:40pm, E1 102
After some SWE business, Walsh will talk about their companies and student opportunities. Lunch will be served.

**8th Annual First Amendment Forum**
3:00-5:00pm, Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Courtroom, Downtown Campus, 565 West Adams Street
Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan will discuss changes to the state’s Freedom of Information and Open Meetings laws which take effect January 1, 2010.

**Architecture Lecture**
6:00pm, Crown Hall, Lower Core
“MEP Systems: Material, Ecologic and Programmatic”

**Thursday, November 5**

**Getting a Job: Job Search Letters**
12:50-1:40pm, CMC, Galvin Library
When job searching, there are many types of letters that can help you succeed. From letters of inquiry, to cover letters, to thank you letters, this workshop will cover many of the ways you can improve your job prospects by presenting yourself in a well written, professional manner.

**Friday, November 6**

**IIT Craft Fair**
12:00-3:00pm, MTCC
Vendors will display their talents in jewelry design, textile arts, candle making, baked goods, and more with the IIT community.

**Saturday, November 7**

**Getting a Job: Researching Companies**
12:50-1:40pm, CMC, Galvin Library
Learning about companies is an important part of the job search process. This workshop will cover ways in which you can research companies so that you can show hiring managers you are serious about their company and position.

**Humanities Colloquium**
2:00pm, Siegel Hall 218
Engineers and sustainability: An inquiry into the elusive distinction between macro-, micro-, and meso-ethics

**Monday, November 9**

**Supply Drive for Injured Soldiers**
1:00-7:00pm, MTCC Bridge
The Landstuhl Hospital in Germany is sorely in need of travel size toiletries, towels, sheets, shirts, pants, and boxers for the patients. A full list is available at http://www.landstuhlhospitalcareproject.org/HowToHelp.htm
PC Game puts the action in “action-rpg”

By Erik Johnson

Fans of action RPGs rejoice! Torchlight, a new ARPG from Runic Games is now available on PC. Designed by several developers of Diablo I and Diablo II, this indie ARPG is an incredibly polished trip down memory lane, for any fan of the old Diablo games.

Torchlight had garnered a fairly large following of PC gamers who tracked its progression until its release on October 27th. I was excited, but skeptical. Surely, this game wouldn’t hold a candle to the classic Diablo titles. However, the game had to impress, and at a $19.99 price point it’s almost impossible not to buy it.

The game first caught my eye of gamers when the developers added the option to disable the “shaky cam” feature for a disabled fan. This impeccable customer service attracted tons of buzz from our social news sites like Reddit and Digg, bringing attention to a game that had really flown in under the radar. It wasn’t long before people were clamoring for Torchlight information all over the internet, myself included. Its release brought down servers, as various sites of fans purchased the game using their digital distribution of choice. Torchlight has entertained me ever since.

The game itself is simple, and anyone familiar with action RPGs will know exactly what to expect. There’s a simple class selection (a warrior class, a mage class, and a ranger class), a hub town (for all your medieval shopping needs), randomly generated dungeons, and tons of loot. Despite its formulaic properties, Torchlight pleases on multiple levels.

It’s graphically impressive and incredibly well optimized. There are options to scale it down to the point that it will even play on netbooks - a must for on the go gamers. The art style is unique as well - one gamer described it as a cross between World of Warcraft and Disney’s Heroclix. For a seemingly “indie” title, the shine of its graphics are a surprise.

Despite the simplistic gameplay, Torchlight draws in players just as much as other action RPGs on the market. The satisfaction of leveling and finding unique loot is as fun as always, and the fast paced and intuitive gameplay keeps the pace quick. The process of travelling and selling items has been much improved and streamlined over older titles - less time is spent travelling back and forth to sell things, leaving more time for battling and exploring.

Overall, Torchlight is a great ARPG experience for a really low price. There are a lot of hours worth of gameplay to be had for $19.99 and the randomly generated dungeons and loot will keep any gamer entertained for dangerously long periods of time. I highly recommend it.

Record Review: Imidiwan (Companions)

By Karl Rybaltowski

Though I’ve always considered myself someone who is open to new kinds of music, the biggest shock to my perceptions was exploring (for the first time) non-Western music. My first experience was with a band called Tinariwen. Tuareg musicians from the Saharan desert who play one of the most original, and simply breathtaking, styles of music I’d ever heard. They’re now on their fourth album, named Imidiwan (or Companions in English), and it’s a testament to the constant evolution of their sound, as well as the synthesis of different musical elements they are constantly encountering as they slowly begin to make a name for themselves on the world stage, and not just in the realm of world music.

The Tuareg are desert nomads who have lived their lives largely detached from the world, moving their herds of goats from watering hole to watering hole and keeping their language and customs alive for centuries. With the independence struggles of the 1960s, the borders drawn up between nations bordering the Sahara suddenly restricted their age-old freedom, and their own independence struggle resulted in bloody persecution from many of the North African governments. Fleeing retribution from the military of Niger, many of the Tuareg fled into the desert, where their language and culture seeped into their milieu since their contact with the West, as well as an affirmation of their desire for freedom and their love of their people and the Sahara itself. Tinariwen’s folk music and occasional tinges of Western music that they heard (with influences as diverse as Motörhead, the Bee Gees, and Bob Marley); Imidiwan is more varied than some previous works, though with a less intense sound. And what kind of a sound is this? Simple blues riffs play over hand drums and hand-claps, while Alhabib or others sing in the Tuareg language, occasionally with backup vocals or ululations from the female members of the group. The guitar’s variety of sound is astonishing; sometimes it sounds like primordial rock and roll, while at others it delves into blues or even folk territory. Vocals are original, with Alhabib sometimes singing, sometimes just talking over the music. The whole thing is so earnest, so unpretentious, so pure that standard tropes of cliché or being derivative melt away. And unlike their previous releases, this one allowed a studio to be set up in their hometown in Mali, giving the sound a certain grittiness that only reinforces the feeling of authenticity.

The various influences, still contributing to a cohesive whole that really does evoke the feel of the desert in all its stark beauty, are inspiring. The call-and-response “Tahult In” sounds almost like a low-key forgotten funk album, while the upbeat “Lulla” bursts with energy, with ululations, choruses and full instrumentation all brought to bear. The album closer, “Desert Wind,” is haunting, its only melody sounding like the strings on a guitar being plucked by the breeze itself. For those with an interest in something completely new, but with just enough of a smattering of the familiar for safety’s sake, Tinariwen is an excellent listen. Rarely can an album in a language I don’t even know be so profoundly moving, but Imidiwan is just that.
Last week in Makuhari Messe, Chiba City, Japan, automakers went mad and launched many new concept cars. Japanese automakers used their home turf advantage and dedicated much time and energy to green automotive technologies. Hopefully it reaches the real roads soon.

The world’s first algae-fueled vehicle, which is called the Algaeus, has started its long green drive across America. Three years ago many would have dismissed the notion that a significant supply of the world’s automotive fuel could come from algae. But today, the idea, while still an adventurous one, is getting much harder to ignore. The car, a converted plug-in Prius outfitted with a nickel-metal hydride battery and filled with a blend of 5% algae and 95% gasoline from Sapphire Energy, set out from San Francisco. Burning a B20 blend of algal diesel, these vehicles are the first to make use of a potentially revolutionary way to grow algae for biodiesel production.

Solazyme, a synthetic biology company out of San Francisco, has developed a way to grow algae that essentially hijacks the photosynthetic process to optimize oil production. Like any good photosynthetic organism, algae convert sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into biomass. Solazyme has figured out how to harness this process to generate enormous amounts of oil. The firm’s algae can produce 100 times more oil per acre than soybeans — currently the leading source of U.S. biodiesel — or any other terrestrial oil-producing crop. Because of its high energy content, oil from algae can be refined into biodiesel, green gasoline, jet fuel or ethanol. Last week, a converted plug-in Prius outfitted with a nickel-metal hydride battery and filled with a blend of 5% algae and 95% gasoline from Sapphire Energy, set out from San Francisco.

Fuels project are focusing on specialized aspects of the algae-to-bio-crude process. Solazyme, a synthetic biology company out of San Francisco, has developed a way to grow algae that essentially hijacks the photosynthetic process to optimize oil production. Like any good photosynthetic organism, algae convert sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into biomass. Solazyme has figured out how to harness this process to generate enormous amounts of oil. The firm’s algae can produce 100 times more oil per acre than soybeans — currently the leading source of U.S. biodiesel — or any other terrestrial oil-producing crop. Because of its high energy content, oil from algae can be refined into biodiesel, green gasoline, jet fuel or ethanol. Lastly, algae needn’t be grown in landfills. They can be grown in water. And, it grows rapidly.

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Women’s Soccer finishes Season 10-9

SPORTS

By Graeme Port

Women’s Soccer finishes Season 10-9

On Tuesday night the Lady Hawks played their last regular game of the season against Robert Morris College. It was raising steadily the entire game, and the field was a mess of mud, with players slipping and sliding everywhere.

The first half of the game saw neither team score, as most of the players seemed to simply be trying to stay on their feet in the bad weather. In the second half, however, Robert Morris scored three minutes in on a penalty kick. Freshman Jessica Roberts answered with a goal thirty seconds later, off an assistant from senior Mary McCabe. Although the Hawks played hard, Robert Morris scored twice more during the game, and the Hawks left with a loss.

Although a win would have helped them to gain a better standing, it didn’t keep them from qualifying for the end of season conference playoffs. The Hawks qualified by holding onto a 7th place standing in the conference, in which they tied equally for playoffs and play in a bracketed tournament.

In their first game of the tournament on Saturday, the Hawks took on the 2nd ranked team, the Tigers of Olivareau University. The Lady Hawks held the Tigers at bay throughout most of the game, proving that they weren’t going to step down easily. Although Olivareau took 15 shots on goal throughout the game, freshman goalkeeper, Amy Amhurst made 7 saves, and the Tigers only scored once. The goal, scored by Michelle Davis, was scored with 15 minutes left in the game. The Lady Hawks held their own against the Tigers for the entire first half of the game, keeping them from scoring, even though the Tigers took 11 shots in the first half alone.

Although the loss means the end of the season for the Lady Hawks, it was an impressive year for the team, with much more to look forward to next season.

TeCHNeWS WRITER

The Illinois Tech Women’s Volleyball team (16-17, 6-3) played four games last week, which resulted in one loss and three wins.

The team welcomed Olivareau University (25-8, 7-0) to their gym on Tuesday. The Scarlet Hawks took the first game easily, 25-18. The Hawks led the whole second game; however the Tigers created a late run and captured the game 23-25. The Hawks continued to put up a good fight but the Tigers pulled out the win in the last two games (26-24, 25-20).

Senior outside hitter Melissa Cheviron (Fort Wayne, IN) had 21 kills in the match while junior outside hitter Noelle Bennett (Belvidere, IL) ended with 12 kills. Senior libero Aubrey Vanderheiden (Rockford, IL) had 25 digs for the Hawks, while senior setter Kiyomi Pyle (Tucson, AZ) had 36 set assists.

The team then took on the Judson Eagles on Thursday night in Elgin, IL. The Hawks won all three games (25-17, 25-15, 25-23), adding another win to their conference record.

Cheviron led the team with 21 kills while sophomore middle blocker Kayla Heller (Dixon, IL) added 7. Pyle contributed 32 set assists while Vanderheiden had 14 digs.

The Hawks then traveled to Indiana on Friday to compete against Grace College. The team easily defeated the Grace Eagles, holding the enemy at bay throughout the game. The Hawks won three of the four games last week, which resulted in one loss and three wins.

Men’s Soccer slump to yet another defeat

By Graeme Port

The Hawks fell 3-1 at home to Cardinal Stritch to leave the team struggling to make this years CCAC Playoffs Tournament.

The Men’s Soccer team’s dismal season continued on Saturday as they suffered yet another disappointing home loss. The match was played on an extremely muddy field but the pitch conditions could not be blamed for another below par performance from the Hawks.

Cardinal Stritch took the lead in just the 3rd minute of the match after David Perch capitalized on a defensive mix-up before he smashed home the visitor’s opening goal.

The Hawks had the better of the play during the rest of the first half but a string of missed chances saw the home team go into the break 1-0.

The Hawks started the second period of play in a determined fashion and they were rewarded in the 47th minute when Luke Blakely nodded home a Ritchie-Smith corner to even the score at 1-1. Instead of building on their momentum however the Hawks slipped back into their poor first half form; eventually seeing the team punished in the 60th minute when Andy Collins fired Stritch into a 2-1 lead.

The Hawks went on a pursuit of a tying goal yet again but in the 86th minute the visitors secured their win, after a calamitous Ritchie-Smith free kick led to a fast break and a 3rd and final goal for the visitors.

With the loss the Hawks overall record now falls to 8-9-0 and their CCAC record falls to 4-5.

The Hawks currently hold 6th place in the CCAC league table and enter their final conference game of the year, against Robert Morris on Tuesday night, knowing that nothing less than a win will see the team, remarkably, fail to make this years CCAC Playoffs.
Focus on fitness: T’ai Chi master Paul Channic at IIT

Mr. Paul Channic is the instructor for T’ai Chi at IIT. He has more than 20 years of experience and has been teaching classes full time for the past 5 years in the south side of Chicago. He first got introduced to T’ai Chi in the 80’s but it wasn’t until seeing a special on television, featuring T’ai Chi Masters that he realized there was a whole lot more to it than what he was learning in the group he was with at the time. He soon met with Master Wayman Liao and knew after one demonstration that Master Liao would become his teacher and mentor, and he has remained so to this day. Paul still actively attends seminars and practices with other masters to continually develop his skills.

Paul explains that T’ai Chi is not just about the movements, but rather integrating the mind, body and life energy or ‘Chi’ in a relaxing meditative state. It is considered a soft martial art, enjoyed by people of all ages and is something he believes people can improve upon as they age. Some of the benefits Paul has heard from his students participating in T’ai Chi include, becoming much more relaxed and easy going about life’s unexpected events, as well as just feeling better overall.

Paul is pleased to be working with IIT students this semester and enjoys seeing some familiar faces at each class. This past week he recommended a book to us called “There Are No Secrets” which was written about a famous T’ai Chi professor Cheng Man-Ch’ing.

Students enjoy Paul’s easy going attitude. Each session Paul is sure to review previous lessons to ensure that the regulars get a refresher and also so that the new-comers are able to catch up. I personally have participated in a couple of sessions and I was able to jump right in and not feel out of place. He gives just enough instruction for students to take away a new skill each time, to work on at home between each session.

Classes are currently offered Monday mornings at 8am, and Fridays at 1pm and will be offered until December 4th this semester, so come and check it out. I know Paul would be more than happy to see you there.
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