St. James’ forum introduces Islam

Sorin D’Souza
News Writer

A
fter the terrorist attack on September 11th, and the events connected to Islamic extremism were elucidated, Americans have begun displaying a renewed interest in the religion of Islam and the nature of its adherents. Concerns have arisen regarding the Islamic views of war, women, freedom and infidels.

In light of these concerns, the Illinois Tech Campus Ministry and St. James Parish organized a forum they called “Introduction to Islam,” where four guest speakers were invited to deliver a discourse on the prevailing and future visions of the Islamic world.

The forum consisted of Professor Marcus Hermansen from the Islamic Studies Department at Loyola University, Professor Anthony McCloud from the Islamic Studies Department of DePaul, and Imams Frederick Toon and Al-Deen, along with the moderator, Professor Scott C. Alexander, who is also the Director of Catholic-Muslim Studies from the Catholic Theological Union.

Hermansen began with an introduction to the revelation of the Koran, followed by the Hadiths, and the 5th century. She went on to describe the five pillars of Islam: Shahadah (declaration of faith in God and in the prophethood of Muhammad), Salat (ritual prayer five times a day), Ramadan (a lunar month of fasting from dawn to dusk), Zakat (giving the poor 2.5 percent of one’s disposable income), and Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime). She mentioned that Muslims follow a lunar calendar, and that their lunar year falls back about eleven days every solar year as a result.

Al-Deen proceeded to describe the relationship between Islam and other religions, citing the fact that Muslims believe in the prophets of Christianity and Judaism, such as Abraham, Moses and Jesus, who Muslims believe was a mortal prophet and not a divine incarnation. Al-Deen discussed the Prophet, the first Imam, and the circumstances of his conversion to Islam.

McCloud then discussed the Islamic view of women, mentioning their right to property ownership and inheritance. She talked about the Islamic requirement for women to be modestly dressed and the varying interpretations of the same in different cultures. She also spoke of the veil or headscarf commonly worn by Muslim women as an expression of modesty, and how it was an ancient custom in pre-Islamic Arabia for women to cover their heads, even before the Koran mandated it to be so. She spoke of how this custom too has been interpreted differently in different cultures. Finally, she spoke of how citizens are also regarded as a form of translation, as a local custom in some Muslim societies, and how the Koran is not commended by Islamic teachings. She did not, however, mention the Islamic practice of polygamy, which allows men to have up to four wives, though Hermansen later expressed her disapproval of the same.

During the following Q&A session, many interesting questions were raised. One woman, who asked if the Koran specifically targeted the United States of America, was told that the Koran says nothing on such a thing, and that the actions of the terrorists were not in accordance with Islamic teachings. When a man raised the topic of Jihad, he was told that, while Jihad is not a purely defensive concept, it means the struggle against injustice of all sorts. The panel also mentioned that stoning is not endorsed in the Koran as a punishment, and that not only men, but women also undertake the Haji.

When the question of the punishment for apostasy, or converting out of Islam to another religion, was raised, Hermansen said that, in its nascent days, a very small community followed Islam, and so apostasy was treated like treason. Therefore, she says, the Sharia, or Islamic Law, mandates that apostasy be punished with death. However, she said, the Sharia must be considered within the context of its times, and harsh punishments for such offenses as blasphemy and apostasy should not be applicable in the modern age of a civilized society. Alexander also mentioned that the Sharia law was not amendable like a national constitution, though it may be interpreted differently by different jurisprudences.

The forum came to a formal end at the closing of the Q&A session, after which the moderator thanked the audience for their presence. After that, Hermansen said that, especially after the tragedies of September 11th, the liberal and progressive segments of the Muslim world needed to make their voices known, and take action against the conservative Islamist fanatics who encourage terrorism and violence.

She disparaged the Islamist ultraregressive, who interpret Islamic law in a literal and inflexible way, and force their interpretations upon other Muslims. The community gathered around for about an hour afterward, as refreshments were served, and the attendees who stayed behind casually conversed with the speakers.

Under Construction

Thomas D’Silva
News Writer

A
grove is being built in Siegel Field to honor Robert Frittscher and Robert Galvin for their service to Illinois Tech.

Once completed, the grove will be a great place for students to sit, study or meet people,” said John Collins, Vice President for Business and Finance. It will consist of two stone benches, a pergola and a fountain.

The floor of the grove will be made of cobblestone. The project will be completed by the middle of December. The construction of the grove was made possible by a grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation. The grove is part of a wider project that includes landscaping of the area near Main Building and the construction of the student center.

The grove is in line with Please see CONSTRUCTION, page 2
CONSTRUCTION
continued from page 1

creating the new focal found of the University near Siegel Hall. With
both a field and a field where events
can take place, the campus planners
are hopeful that students will make
use of this new area. The student
center, the major construction project
on the campus, is progressing.

"The setting up of the concrete
trash can take place, the campus planners
are hopeful that students will make
use of this new area. The student
center, the major construction project
on the campus, is progressing.

creations, and the tube by early
December. The laying of the steel
framework for the roof will begin in
December. Foundations for this
started on November 5th," said
Terence Frigo, Director of Design
and Construction.

The construction will continue
through the winter and the
steel framework for the roof
will begin in December. Foundations
for this started on November 5th," said
Terence Frigo, Director of Design
and Construction.

The construction will continue
through the winter and the
tube is expected to be completed in
the spring. The base of the building
will be completed by the winter of

The construction is expected to continue in the winter.
Fusion or Fission?

Ronak Desai
News Writer

Illinois Tech has a tremendous amount of diversity, students of South Asian ethnicity seem to thrive on campus. One of the most recent clubs at Illinois Tech is the South Asian Student Alliance that recently attended a cultural talent show called Fusion. Fusion was designed to fuse the modern pop culture with the rich traditions of South Asia.

The Fusion program consisted of eight different schools: University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern, University of Illinois, Northeastern, Loyola, The University of Chicago, Purdue University, and Illinois Tech.

“Fusion will continue to thrive and IIT will participate in it for years to come,” said Ronak Lakhia, a participant in the Fusion program.

“Illinois Tech entered two dances into this year’s Fusion program and is hoping to send more dances next year. The first dance that IIT entered was named “Euphoria” a synergy between modern beats and traditional dance moves. The second dance was from International Festival and was entitled “Lagana.” University of Illinois and Northwestern entered their extremely popular a cappella group. Northwestern’s group Brown Sugar, recently released a self-titled debut album. Another activity at Fusion was the fashion show that many Illinois Tech students participated in.

Thanks to this outpour of cultural vibrancy, the Ekstra Radio Station will now sponsor the Fusion program. One of the major goals of Fusion is to bring together South Asian students from across the continent. SASA does this by holding a student conference every year in a major city. This year the conference will be held in Toronto, Canada and will include a variety of speakers. Some of the prestigious speakers include Deepak Chopra and Indian film actress Ashwariya Rai.

SASA is providing the opportunity for many South Asian students to gather their thoughts and beliefs on a variety of topics in discussions with other students and celebrities. If you have any questions regarding the IIT chapter of SASA or you have questions regarding the conference in Toronto e-mail iit@sasa-edu.

Study abroad booth highlights opportunities

Thomas D’Silva
News Writer

In order to promote the study abroad program, an information booth was set up by the international center in the HUB Cafeteria on November 14 and 16. A variety of courses can be taken in universities abroad such as computer science, humanities and engineering courses. Students in the program can transfer credit from all courses taken abroad if they plan accordingly.

In order study abroad, students must apply through the International Center. Illinois Tech has exchange programs with universities in France, Scotland, Sweden, Spain and Poland. The benefits of studying at these universities is that the tuition the student has to pay is the same as Illinois Tech’s,” said Lori Friedman, study abroad coordinator at the International Center.

If a student wants to study at another university then he or she would have to pay the tuition accordingly. To apply for a visa, one would have to go to the respective country’s consulate. The universities Illinois Tech has exchange programs with are INSA-Scientific and Technical University, Lyon, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, International School of Technology, Krakow, Kungli Tekniska Hogskolan, Stockholm and the University of Oviedo, Spain.

In order to study at these universities, students have to satisfy foreign language requirements, as the language of instruction at many universities abroad is the local language. On an average, ten students study abroad every year. In order to find out more about the program contact Lori Friedman at friedman@illu.

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Fridays: Still no escaping from IDIOTS

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS
TechNews Columnist

Problem for the misleading title. However I must point out that commentary writers must gear readers with no fields bored.

Anyways, the other night I was rather bored with this programming loop work assignment I don’t like to work in my room. I ended up at ease sitting in one of the libraries. So I plugged up my laptop and sat down, getting to work.

Unfortunately, I failed to take into account that this was Friday morning, and a lot of heavy drinking was done so late into the week.

Anyway, my first warning was a lot of loud talking. As is my usual luck, it was heading my way. It became apparent that the student was saying something like “Who everybody? No one should deck with us.”

Well, I think it was clear that he was not the one who was doing the talking the kind of guy much as he could rather than condemning clearly just as well. I probably get into trouble with the editor if I was to mention it.

Anyway, the mighty (perhaps drunk) wielder of “Class,” turned around and the corner and into the lobby where I was. He had two friends (pass by) with him. He decided that the most prudent course of action would be to ignore him and continue working.

Make no assumptions. I know perfectly well what would happen next. When a humble idiot with a sense of being one of the blessed financially challenged. Cabbie spots me, particularly in the midst of working on a college production, tells me to speak to me.

It started out with a “Hey, laptop boy,” and then proceeded to say that he should not have any intercourse with him. That was quite all right with me. I am a person who believes in relationships and love out loud.

Unfortunately, I am a bit of a skeptic, and I would not consider developing feelings or desire for a man. Apparently disappointed that I did not have any before him and beg him to remove his clothes, he repeated the statement that his simple little brain with its limited vocabulary allowed.

“Don’t stick with this.” Perhaps, the little knucklehead was beginning to get the idea that I had no intention of making him any more, because he decided to express his thanks with supporting adverbs.

“Don’t stick with me or I’ll kill you.”

One of his friends told me aside that he was joking. I think the two were probably decent people, but I don’t quite agree with their pet monkey.

Anyway, we were alone in the idiot’s mind, for he decided to ask a philosophical question “Do you know what death is?”

That’s a question of my own, “Do you have an IQ?” Unfortunately, this concept would have been the person’s mind, so I kept it to myself. He decided to follow up on a grave.

As far as I am concerned, that Naïveté that could have picked up a grapple and eaten it. Anyhow, his friend was momentarily dragged him away and I was pleased when I no longer heard his voice.

In high school, I was head of a research department that uncovered evidence in what now dubbed the idiot factor. At every high school, there are a number of that type, and here I say this to avoid trouble. Nevertheless, X ∩ Y = A is a heard of people perceiving the universe from a grain of sand. Well, these people make a living perceiving the universe from beneath.

“Nothing, the best is one, don’t ask?” “Oh, yes, quite nice. Makes you want to think of the universe.”

“What if I don’t give you that? Makes you want to think of life?” “Hey, words, sounds been around. Can’t have them back.”

My diagnosis is as long as our society encourages people to have the IQ of mustard, that we will have these idiots walking around the world.
construction of the access tunnel on the Green Line tugs along above the MC CORMICK TRIBUNE STUDENT CENTER

some of the landscaping improvements made to the area in front of MAIN BUILDING, benches and new trees

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Side-splitting comedy at the Skybox (1608 North Wells)

Joyce Tan
Arts and Entertainment Writer

On November 6, Chicagoans turned out to see the second annual performance of "Danny's Skybox" at the Skybox Studio Theatre. The show is a cross between a Broadway play and a late-night talk show, with a cast that includes some of Chicago's best comedians.

The event was hosted by Billy Gross, an actor known for his roles on 30 Rock and The Office. The show features a mix of stand-up comedy, improv, and musical acts. The performers include Alia Yunger, Claudia Wallace, Alyson Lyon, and Stif Friday Night. The show is presented by the US Comedy Arts Festival, which is held in Aspen, Colorado, and is currently the largest comedy event in the nation. Selection is demanding and a few well-known names are not allowed to participate. The performance was a real opportunity for some of the city's best comedians to perform in front of their fellow entertainers.

Second City, Chicago's oldest comedy club on the north side, also hosted the show. Admission was free, but if you got there early, seating was decent. Typical of comedy performances, the audience was kept waiting for the start of the show, which was small and intimate. At least 6 individuals auditioned and were chosen from the city, as well as the Second City troupe from Detroit who was in town for their 21st Mainstage Rehearsal.

The show was a huge hit with the audience, who laughed and clapped along with the performers. The event was a great way to showcase the talent of Chicago's comedians and to bring the city together for a fun night out.

Globe-trotting comedy at the Skybox (1608 North Wells)
CROSSTECH CLUES
by Johan D'Hoore

ACROSS:
1. having multiple spouses
6. source of knowledge, wisdom, or prophecies
8. Carthaginian general; Silence of the Lambs
9. late, sluggish
10. twelve-month period
12. wine production year
13. having electronically powered organs
15. of strong and secure construction
17. make somebody uninterested
18. manicure for the feet
19. small fragment of baked food
20. small furry mammal; Bugs
22. dare, call into question
23. extend widely

DOWN:
1. beg money from strangers
2. chalice; Arthur’s Quest
3. illness transmitted by mosquitoes
4. apologetic
5. punishment
7. annual observation of past event
9. set of three
11. with notches; teeth of a saw
13. game of hitting 3 balls with cue
14. mock
16. land suitable for cultivation
17. color removing substance
19. young male horse
21. rise and fall of ocean

Solutions to the last CROSSTECH:


Deep Thoughts
by SANDEEP GANGIREDDY

Isn’t it weird how people feel bad about killing certain birds, but don’t really care about killing others? Like if you were driving to Thanksgiving dinner and ran over a bluebird, you’d probably feel bad for the poor bird, but nobody really cares about the turkey they’re going to eat for dinner. I think it has to do with how edible the bird is. If you run over something small and bad tasting, like a bluebird, you feel bad that you killed it because you know you can’t eat it. On the other hand, nobody minds killing a turkey because they know it tastes good with gravy. People are weird.

Now that Thanksgiving is coming up, people can’t think of anything other than food, cornucopias, and visiting their relatives in far off places for some pumpkin pie. But let’s not forget the real reason why we celebrate Thanksgiving, to get a decent meal for a change.

They say that the day after Thanksgiving is one of the best days to go shopping. I think this is because people feel bad for killing so many Turkeys so they slash prices on electronics and cashmere sweaters. Yeah, that must be it.

You know, some people think that having a disease or a disorder is always a bad thing, but I’d like to point out that there’s always a bright side. For example, if you were bulimic, you could eat thanksgiving dinner like 10 or 15 times. Granted there would be a few problems later, but c’mon, who wouldn’t spend a few extra minutes in the bathroom for more pie?

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Illinois Tech faces Indiana Wesleyan

**Chris Osinski & Jo Pereira**  
**Sports Writers**

The Hawks first test this season came Saturday, November 10, against Indiana Wesleyan. The game stayed close early on as the two teams went bucket for bucket to start, but Illinois Tech looked a bit sluggish in the first half at times. The Scarlet Hawks used their defense to get back into the game, but they couldn’t seem to break even. The second half, the Hawks gained the lead and never looked back. The Hawks shot 44.3% from the field and 43.7% from the free-throw line. They scored 29 points in the second half and 91 points in total. The Scarlet Hawks fell 91-80.

**The Hawks shot poorly in the second half and took themselves out of the game... allowed The Hawks leading scorer at halftime was Jo Pereira with 14, as he made Indiana Wesleyan pay for overlooking their defense.**

The final was 80-55, Indiana Wesleyan on top. The Hawks failed to score 20 points in the second half. Combined with their lackadaisical defense, the Hawks were put out of the game. The high scorer for Illinois Tech was Jo Pereira with 23 points. Mark Thomas finished with a solid 10 rebounds.

Brian Tiran and Tarik Galijsavcic followed with 8 points each to help the scoring. Chris Osinski shot poorly from the outside and must improve upon it, but the Hawgs want to be successful. Illinois Tech had several bright spots: they were never down 10 points. They had moments of offense and defense, but must practice to improve and become more consistent.

Illinois Tech men's basketball season preview: mix of old and new pieces in place for good run

**Chris Osinski & Jo Pereira**  
**Sports Writers**

The Illinois Tech Men's Basketball team did not know what to expect going into the new season last Saturday, November 10. After losing its top two scoring players from last year's 11-16 team due to graduation, Head Coach Ed McLellan expects a new core of players to step up and fill vital roles.

Last season's top scorer, Nick Triandiflou, was named to the all-conference first team, while forward Mike Shogren was also named all-conference. With their scoring and leadership gone off the court, both players are now helping patrol the sidelines as assistant coaches.

This year's team, however, looks like it could be very exciting and successful with the right pieces in the right places.

Returning starters from last year's team are senior forward Mark Thomas, who missed the end of last season due to an ankle injury. Now that he is fully recovered, he looks to dominate under the boards. Joining him in the frontcourt is junior center Bryan Tiran, recently named captain, who looks to continue his good form from last year.

Senior Tarik Galijsavcic returns at the other forward position. Named all-conference last season, he is hoping the team can improve from last year's mark.

The lone returning captain is senior guard Brian Reznicki. This year his experience will lead the team both on and off the court as they try and make big strides.

Players looking to step up include last year's co-rookies of the year, sophomores guards Chris Osinski and Joseph Pereira. After a summer of hard work, they both are ready to accept the challenge of taking the team to the next level.

Looking to contribute more this season after experiencing their first season last year are junior forward Jon Czarno, junior center Dan Lawler and sophomore guard Sean Maloney.

**Added to the mix of this year's team are two freshmen, PJ. Swaney from Arlington, WA and Hakan Ozen, who played in Atlanta, GA. These two 6'3 forwards look very promising and hope to contribute progressively throughout the season.**

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