Spice it Up - The new MSV Cafeteria

Improvements in the McCormick Student Village Cafeteria addresses previous complaints

BOLDIZSAR LASSU
TechNews Writer

The McCormick Student Village (MSV) cafeteria has always been, and is likely to remain, a subject of much scrutiny and debate for as long as students live in dormitory style housing.

This year, however, in light of growing student concern, Sodexo Marriott upper management has revamped the residence hall cafeteria leadership, and has implemented a number of changes geared at addressing student needs.

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Such was the main objective when selecting the new MSV cafeteria staff, consisting of Manager Sharon Davis from Chicago State University, Assistant Manager Mia Alfried from the Herman Union Building (HUB) cafeteria, and Supervisor America Leyva, who is known by many students as the former Deli server in the HUB. A new chef, Richard Norman, is also one of the significant additions this year.

In response to student comments from last year, the new management has instituted a number of improvements. The entire thought process has been revamped, and the menu includes more ethnic foods. One of the concerns with the food was it was bland - this year staff have been trying to "spice it up," said Pitner.

The vegetarian section now includes at least one "true" entree, as opposed to simple side dishes like rice and beans. The entire cafeteria uses only fresh vegetables. Muslim students are offered Halal meals twice a week. A different ethnic guest chef visits every month - last Monday the visitor was from an Indian restaurant, and a Creole chef is expected to visit in October.

The grabbing & go foods have also improved in quality, with the sandwiches and salads turning more upscale, according to Pitner. The first Monday of every month features a birthday cake to celebrate students with birthdays in that month. Instead of the old steak night, once a month students will be served at tables with tablecloths, restaurant style. Breakfast to go has also been added to the lineup.

Despite past news that the cafeteria did not have sufficient funds to implement such changes, the current staff is working from the same budget as the old one. Pitner said that the total redesigning of the programs did not require significant monetary increases; "We are committed to IIT," he said, "to have better food in the cafeteria. Nonetheless, the cash prices of meals have gone up slightly. The Snack Shop now features ice cream, at the request of the students. As for snack shop prices, they have stayed approximately the same; "The snack shop is competitively priced for the area," said Pitner.

In the long run, the cafeteria does not expect any major changes, except for the eventual move into the campus center.

Student reaction to the new cafeteria is mixed. Some, like computer engineering senior Jason Girtley love the changes - "It's excellent. I'm loving it," he said, also commenting on the approachability of the new staff and the high level of service they offer.

Computer science sophomore Adam Boyles calls the improvements "marginal," stating that the variety has improved, but the pizzas and burgers are still the same, and that some of the supplies are still dirty.

Joe Hart, freshman in civil engineering and aerospace engineering, said "Some of the food is okay. Like the pizza is okay. But anything that says meat lovers' is probably from yesterday."

Richard Buck, senior chemical engineer, said the food was good in the beginning, but has worsened with time, and that the

please see SAFETERIA, page 3
Looking Down the Tube
Illinois Tech linked through own web portal

SOHAN D'SOUZA
TechNews Writer

I
n its continued quest to produce better online tools for the Illinois Tech community, and after the success of the Student Web Board online trading service since last year, the Illinois Tech WebGroup has turned out one of its finest works yet. The Tube. Named after the accounts El tube in the new McCormick Student Center, which is being constructed around the Green Line on State Street, The Tube is Illinois Tech's first student-oriented portal service.

When the WebGroup has worked out the final details, it will also be managed and administrated by Illinois Tech's students and student organizations.

The mission to create a web portal for Illinois Tech's online community commenced in mid-April, when the idea was first brought up among the WebGroup's employees. With both function and visual appeal in mind, the webgroup organized an effort to design, structure, and code the portal, resulting in the creation of The Tube.

When the portal was initially released, the attention of their superiors, they cheered on, and gave no support to their support. The WebGroup then took on the task of testing the portal ready for Orientation Week of the Fall 2001 semester, when it was released online to the new and returning students. The Tube currently gets hit nearly 6,000 times a day on average, and with the publicity efforts of the WebGroup, is sure to grow in popularity in the days to come.

This portal is one of the first of its kind, as most other campus portals, such as Campus Pipeline, are bought pre-packaged. They are managed solely by an administration-appointed team, and are usually not open to large amounts of student input, while also costing the university a large sum of money. Illinois Tech's WebGroup, on the other hand, has ensured that The Tube will be more student-oriented, more open to students' input, and managed primarily by students and student organizations, while saving the university a pretty penny.

The Tube has an assembly of links to the wider Illinois Tech network of sites and online services, with except sections and links to IIT Today, the Illinois Tech Student Web Board, the campus WebCam network, and other sites that were already in place before its debut. Apart from these, The Tube's main page greets the user with a online poll, a "campus view" snapshot, a weather update, and an excerpt from The Tube's calendar.

By Karan Singh, a chemical engineering graduate student said, "The faculty is very supportive and allowed me to download the software I needed to complete my projects."

"This facility provides students with a powerful educational tool and brings the most recent R&D results to the classroom, " said Hamid Arastoopour, chair of the Environmental and Chemical Engineering Department. "We can write fundamental equations for extremely complicated processes, numerically solve them, and generate a computer simulation. In principle this will eliminate the need for costly pilot plant step to the scale-up of these processes to commercial operation."

The laboratory was set-up with contributions amounting to $330,000. Mina Nemat, the system administrator said, "We are constantly upgrading the system, as the budget allows us, with new technology in order to keep up with the changes in the field."

Chemical Engineering computer lab gets makeover

THOMAS D'SILVA
TechNews Writer

The chemical engineering computational laboratory and media classroom was revamped over the summer.

The twenty computers of the lab have been upgraded from 1st generation Pentiums to Pentium III processors with 266MHz RAM. New Unix servers, Windows NT servers and workstations have been added.

Instead of logging into every computer and seeing which one is free, the newly installed Guardian System allows students to use any number of computers required to do number crunching calculations.

The laboratory is equipped with DVD-ROMS, superdisk, zip drives so that users can store and access their data in any medium. The laboratory also has its own web server, mail server and Unix servers allowing it complete self-reliance. There is also a backup lab available with six of these computers that have all the applications of the main lab so that student is ever kept waiting for a computer.

Beginning September 21st, the environmental and chemical engineering students will have 24/7 access to the lab with their Hawk Cards. The four students that are in charge of the lab for 30 hours a week ensure this.

The Hawk Cards also allow students to access other computer labs, and buildings like Keating Sports Center, and are used for everything from buying food to entering the campus-parking lot.

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COMMENTARY

Local media garners falling marks for misreporting
Two local stations mistakenly report Illinois Tech terrorist link, bad news all around

KELLY CHIU
Commentary Editor

During the aftermath of the horrific events of Tuesday, media outlets around the nation were scrambling for answers and explanations. During this feeding frenzy, speculation was garnered into fact and many mistakes were made.

Unfortunately for Illinois Tech due largely to its diverse student population was snagged in two local news station's errors. Both local affiliates of Fox and NBC erroneously reported that some of the terrorists were former Illinois Tech students. As new facts came to light, both stations in question recanted and apologized on air. However, the damage has already been done. While administrators harp over the safety of the school's name causing by a non-existent link towards terrorism, the media has done another fine job giving itself another black eye.

We live in a time of instant gratification, where entertainment and news are expected live, and in real time. However, the speed we often see our news reach our local police departments, is the confusion between news and entertainment.

Apparently, both stations thought they had a juicy story: former Illinois Tech students sharing the same name as those on the FBI's list. Instead of checking facts, both stations decided to “break the news.” Instead of reporting the mundane such as increased traffic downtown, or the usual pedestrian responses from local residents, both stations thought they had a tangible link to the events of New York.

Wrong. Instead both stations confirmed that they were more interested in making the news, rather than reporting it. November of last year seems long ago, there, a rush to judgment helped determine an election.

Rushes to judgment in a time of national anguish have broader implications. In addition to shaping international policy, the media has also begun to sow the seeds of suspicion. Before any of the facts were in, the focus was on the “Muslim connection.” Before any of the facts were in, news stations were spreading fear that anybody looking Middle Eastern might be a suspect. In the case of Illinois Tech, the same name was sufficient.

While it might already be proven that Middle Eastern Extremists were behind the attack, the media has already launched an attack on Muslims in America. While commandos, tanks and bombs could wipe out terrorists abroad, what can be said to clean up unfounded suspicions at home?

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS
TechNews Writer

Our school has a great mascot: the Hawk. It is a bird of prey having great eyesight and killing instinct. A powerhouse of feathers with keen intellect. But does it have pride?

I finally had my first article published in the newspaper two weeks ago. During that time I went around and talked to people about it. I have reached the conclusion that the people at ITT hardly read this paper. Indeed, some even threatened to give me radioactive cafeteria food at the mere mention of Tech News.

This is scary. We have so many sophisticated students here, yet apparently we are not proud of the school. Before I left for ITT, I had worried that this school would have so many needs, that is so say people who look themselves up in their room all day and in effect giving me no people to talk to. My fears were soon quelled. Most people here are friendly as well as socially active. But some still lack the “Hawk Spirit.” It’s true that freshmen are promised buildings that aren’t going to be constructed in time. It’s true that we get steam leaks at this TECH school. It’s also true that our teachers sometimes just don’t meet our expectations. But the Hawk Spirit does not come from the school, it comes from the students. Tech News is a paper about the students, not the school itself. Save the Hawk Pride before it becomes extinct.

If you are reading this article, I would not worry about it. You follow the Tech News enough to justify the Hawk. You might want to contact some of your lesser enthusiastic friends and ask them to follow Tech News as well.

Just be sure to duck fast enough.

You can Contact Nick at willielchill84@gmail.com

THE UNDERTOW
Answers to questions nobody asks

Dear Knowledge Nerd,

What is the deal with the computer lab in the dorms? This year, the lab was open all the time every day, and that was nice because I could finally check my email or work on something, but now we have to go to one of the other labs on campus, and that is really inconvenient because they are usually full of people. Plus, with the stupid stair case at whatever the heck it is on the basement, this week, the lab wasn’t open at all, so if I had to stay up all night to write a paper or something like that, I wouldn’t have been able to. And I can’t just go to one of the other labs on campus because they all close at 10pm. Is there some way to change all this?

Angry Lab Goer

Dear Angry,

I must agree that this new policy is really inconvenient to those that do not have their own computers. It’s not easy to check your email before 6pm when the labs open up, and it’s more difficult to find an open computer on which to do any work you might have. But before you become all enraged, you have to think about the CNS point of view. For instance, it can get expensive paying all those lab monitors to work twenty-four hours a day, especially with the budget cuts that came into effect this year. When you take into account that the residence hall lab is basically empty from mid-morning to mid-afternoon, it seems a little pointless to pay someone just to sit there on the computer and do effectively nothing. Would you want to pay someone to do nothing?

On the other hand, I’m sure you are not the only person upset by all this. It is quite a nuisance to have to leave the dorms to find a computer to use. If you really feel strongly about this, my advice would be to contact Kelly Patrick Fitzgerald. He’s the administrator in charge of the dorm computer lab. Ask him about CNS’s reasoning behind the new schedule, and express to him your concerns. Talk to other students who have similar concerns, and have them relate those concerns to Mr. Fitzgerald. If enough people speak up and express legitimate concerns, you may be able to get a change in the policy. Mr. Fitzgerald’s email is fitzgerald@ect.illinois.edu, or you can call his office at 312-567-3152.

The Knowledge Geek

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Muslim Americans brace for backlash
Tensions and accusations arise as nation copes with loss, looks for response

N.S. HAQUE
Features Writer

By now, two weeks have passed since the World Trade Center came to be no more and the Pentagon came to be something else.

However, the loss of thousands of lives inside and outside the buildings as well as in the four hijacked airplanes is much more devastating than the loss of a modern world wonder. Not only have the lives of families and rescuers changed, but also the lives of all humans have had to undergo that same process. Part of this changing and coping is, unfortunately, the pointing of fingers in random directions.

Articles in newspapers quickly scapegoat Osama Bin Laden, calling for nuclear weapons as retaliation and obliteration of Afghanistan, the country of Bin Laden's exile.

More tangible are the numerous Muslims living in the United States of America; they have been targeted by rash acting, generalizing, raging people.

Reports about verbal and physical abuse against Muslims - and even just Arabian-looking students - have been scattered across media since September 11th. The fear is great - of various universities, their fellow students have actually assaulted Muslim students.

Illinois Tech, no such racial violence has been reported as of yet. Various students have said they felt safe, while they also pointed out they could not speak for the entire Muslim population.

The Muslim Student Association, on the other hand, decided to speak for its members. Its website has been updated to contain only a message of condolences to the victims - the upcoming events have been downstaged in light of the previous, sad ones. The message extends its sorrow and grief it shares with the entire nation to the public, and condemn any attacks against the United States.

Some said that the terror- ists' behavior was not according to Islamic doctrine, but rather to the warped ideas of some single terrorist group, and thus the majority of Muslims would not be able to identify with the objectives of the attacks.

Still, campus security has been upped immediately after the news spread, but, more importantly, the higher awareness of individual cultures at IIT due to the high rate of international students, may have been what prevented abusive attacks from happening.

The Muslim Student Association's website put it best: "It is important for the nation to remain calm in the face of tragedy." For now, and the future, prejudice should not rule people's behavior, but reasonable insight: everyone is an individual; they make individual choices; and only a few of us are naturally evil; all those who are not should not suffer because they share looks or reli- gions with those who do evil. And, even more important, the world should not retaliate against those who look like they could be terrorists with the same sort of barbaric actions.

Emotions at Illinois Tech expressed over tragedy
Students react to terrible events in New York with shock, fear, anger and calm

SENTHIL JAYARAJAN
Features Writer

Illinois Tech has one of the most diverse communities, representing a wide spectrum of people having different cultures, religions and regions in USA as well as abroad. This is the beauty of the IIT campus.

As a result of the tragic events on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, it is not easy to fathom and it also stirs up many different reactions. Reactions ranged from horror, to deep sorrow, anger, to fear. Reactions that many people felt that day and will feel for days to come.

It has been a week since the worst day in History for the US and as a result of just one week, emotions seem to have calmed down on campus. Two themes exist: a lingering shock over the event and a sense of uncertainty, explanation, and waiting, to hear of the outcome. It's important to look at the consequences and the costs.

Many of the students are still in denial and use coping mechanisms to block out America had been attacked. As Ryan Meyer, a second-year ECE student says, "It feels like a movie... it is unbelievable."

The truth is, many on campus have watched the news and the video clips, listened to reporters and victims, and discussed the horrific event over the past week, yet there are fears whether consciously or unconsciously choose to view the event as something out of Independence Day or a war movie. Aside from the shock or rather posttraumatic stress disorder, there is also wave hostility, anger, and resentment against the perpetrators of this crime.

Farah Chowdhury, a Biology student and a person who has witnessed resentment towards Muslims on campus said, "I feel very angry at the people who could do such a horrifying deed."

An immediate and common reaction to this event or any event that stirs up intense emotions is to place blame. This is not a conscious choice nor is it responsible. Many after the incident were so angry that they wanted something done and done soon. However, students have chosen a different approach. Students expressed hostility at the SLC meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2001 stating, "who gets it and how bad?"

"Mutually, we need to practice restraint and find out who did this before we hit them hard," Commented Kevin O'Mara's Second Year EE major. Kevin O'Mara also stated, "We have Americans going and hunting other Americans based on country of origin and religion." This is not responsible.

Many people on campus are afraid of going on campus because of the reports of persecution of people who resemble the perpetrators. Inferring from the unity shown by the campus in our grief and the expression of it in discussions, vigils, and prayers, this type of discrimination has been eradicated from our campus.

As people on campus are slowly trying to find a state of normalcy, many are of the same opinion as Adam Boyers, a second year Computer Science major, opined, "The worst possible thing Americans could do is to attempt to return to the way things were before that historic Tuesday."
Deep Thoughts
by SANDEEP GANGIREDDY

Lately, I realized that IIIT has a lot of important life lessons for students to learn. For example, I've been going to the library lately to do some studying. Last week, I sat down on my corner of the IIIT library and started reading a book. Suddenly, there was a loud noise coming from behind me. It was the sound of a phone ringing. I realized that the phone was in the pocket of one of the students studying there. I thought that this was a good opportunity to teach them a lesson about the importance of being quiet in a place where others are trying to study. I asked the student to turn off his phone and apologize. He did, and I explained to him the importance of being considerate of others in a shared space. I think this is a valuable lesson that students can learn from their time at IIIT. The experiences they have here will help them in their future endeavors.
IT'S A TIME FOR UNITY

Homecoming Week
September 22-29

Due to recent events, the theme of Homecoming will be "It's a Time for Unity." We will be making our events a time to unite the students together in hard times. We will also be giving our respects to victims of the tragedy and everyone involved. We want to still celebrate for what we have and want everyone to try and come together and unite and be strong by having fun at Homecoming. We must persevere! Please join us in Celebration and in Unity. The Homecoming Schedule and Information, including Online Nomination and Voting, are at http://www.iit.edu/~ub/
Women’s Volleyball pound in win against Trinity International

JOYCE TAN
Sports Writer

While it is still early in the season, the Scarlet Hawks have been setting a positive tone out on the volleyball court. Illinois Tech’s 11 women have been training hard and went into this week with three wins of the six games played so far.

It is not difficult to believe what is said about the team after witnessing their enthusiasm and persistence. It distinguishes them, not only as a good team, but also as one with much pride.

The most recent matches were the first two in a series of about seven games that are to be played consecutively on home ground. With the advantage of the home court and the experience of a large number of returning players, the Scarlet Hawks are ready to do battle. Losses to St. Ambrose & Indiana D. W. on Saturday were a minor setback but did not stop them in the least from gearing up for the game against Trinity International on Tuesday (9/19).

With a starting line-up of Amy Kephart (setter), Megan Bowgren (defensive specialist), Jackie Sokolowski (middle hitter), Violette Kar (outside hitter), Allison Lafflar (right side hitter), and Jackie Baue (middle hitter), Illinois Tech came out strong.

Although Trinity looked impressive warming up before the game, they were a fair match for Illinois Tech, who pulled together and went all out.

A few great serves and some brilliant spiking anchored the women in the game, not to mention the effective blocking at the net. The match stayed pretty much tied until game point, but the Scarlet Hawks pulled through to win 31-29.

With the first game under their belt, there was no turning back. The women went on to win the match 3-0 with scores of 30-27 and 30-15 in the next two matches. It was a well-deserved win, not just because of the technical skill of the team, but because of the amount of soul that went into it and made it a great game to watch.

Cross-Country times dropping at Parkside Invitational

LAUREN RAETZ
Sports Writer

Teams from all over the country gathered on Saturday, September 18th to race at the Parkside Invitational in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Thirty-two teams were scheduled to compete, however, some of the far away schools were unable to make it due to the momentous events of the past week. Those who were able to run were both reminded of the recent tragedy and encouraged by our nation’s spirit as they ran past the large American flag painted on the course. It was a beautiful day to compete at this national course and Illinois Tech runners represented us well.

Illinois Tech’s women’s team ran first, each member racing strong and making improvements on last week’s times. Susan Lewis, just overcoming an ankle injury and running her first race of the season put forth an amazing performance finishing first for Illinois Tech with a time of 21:03. Just behind her was Amy Flecht with 21:48, then Jackie Johnson with 23:06, Rachel Barnes with 25:34, Sarah Boudet with 29:44, and Neva Wheeler at 32:00.

The men’s team also had a great race finishing their 8K race with Matt Rodriguez leading the team at 30:45, Wendell Holmes at 32:53, Rusam Chhatrivala at 33:36, Lance Fickens at 39:17, Ken Baker at 42:15 and Mark Zachar at 42:35.

All runners on both the men’s and women’s teams raced extremely well, taking between thirty seconds and in some cases almost four minutes off their race times from last week.

With such improvements, the team looks forward to another great race next weekend in the same course.

Athlete of the Week:

BRIDGET DULINSKAS
Sports Editor

Bridget Ann Dulinskas is one of Illinois Tech’s newest faces on the volleyball team. She hails from Alan B. Shepard High School and entered Illinois Tech as a freshman studying Architecture.

Dulinskas has been playing volleyball since she was in fourth grade. Her older sister, who also played the game, got her interested in the team sport. "I couldn’t imagine not playing it," she said.

As a result of volleyball, Dulinskas also plays basketball and badminton. In her senior year of high school, she was voted as part of the All Conference Defense team and has been a state qualifier in badminton since her sophomore year in high school. Dulinskas has also been a conference champ in badminton since her freshman year.

Outside of sports, she participates in high school clubs namely Leo Club, German Club, International Exchange Club, Key Club, and National Honor Society.

Dulinskas opted to attend Illinois Tech because she likes having small class sizes. Also, the school is relatively close to her home. She also stated that Illinois Tech allowed her to continue her volleyball career and attend a good architecture school at the same time. Her goals in life include being a successful architect and maintaining a good relationship with her family and friends.

| 9/28 | Volleyball Homecoming | University of Chicago | 7:30 PM | Home |
| 9/29 | Volleyball | Marycrest International | 1:30 PM | Home |
| 9/29 | Track Meet | | 11:00 AM | Loyola |