Tube Trouble

Construction of the McCormick Tribune Campus Center is moving ahead at a fast pace, with most of the work progressing smoothly. Recently, the rebar at the southwestern end of the tube was seemingly disintegrating, which raised a number of questions. So is the tube really crumbling?

Story by Mihdi Vahedi ■ TechNews Writer

Structural engineers Holabird & Root of Chicago designed the tube and the Campus Center, in a partnership created by Rem Koolhaas, the architect. Last fall, we noticed cracks in the concrete at the southwest end of the tube confirmed Terry Frigo, Director of Design and Construction. The exposed rebar is actually due to “the removal of concrete under the supervision of the structural engineer. We have been closely working with the structural engineer to evaluate the condition and the cause,” added Frigo. Thus the concrete was removed to assess the cracks and did not crumble on its own.

The liability of the tube rests with the structural engineer, and an analysis of the situation is soon expected. On the whole, this situation does not imply any fault in the foundation of the main supporting beams of the tube, which are undamaged and intact. Results of the evaluation are awaited while work on site is progressing at a faster pace towards completion.

Debate Continues

SLC considers changes for Fall '03

Ananya Bhattacharyya

SLC Liaison

Student Leadership Committee (SLC) and its Future Policy Committee met on Wednesday, March 5, to discuss changes to our school's government system, much of which was driven from the ideas obtained by attending the COSGA conference at Texas A&M last week. The future policy committee is dedicated to improving our student government to serve you, the students of IIT, better in the days to come.

At our meeting, students came up with several ideas in order to improve problems facing SLC today. First, we considered changing SLC's name to SGA, which stands for "Student Government of AIA" and is popularly used in colleges across the country. The new name and/or names will be voted on in one of the next few meetings. Secondly, we proposed for a continued on page 2

IIT Team in Ethics Bowl

Students gain entry into quarter-finals;

Robert Ladenson

Submission

Team of four IIT students achieved one of the eight intensely contested quarter-finalist positions, out of a field of forty teams representing colleges and universities throughout the United States, at the Ninth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, held in Charlotte, NC on February 27-28. The members of the IIT team were Charles Cooper, Niranjan Dhar, Ganesh Kalyanaraman, and Amanda Modjeski. The Ninth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, co-sponsored by the Ethics Bowl was originally conceived by the Ethics Bowl at AM. The team will compete in three morning matches against the United States Military Academy, the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and Utah Valley State College. In its quarter-final match IIT was eliminated from the competition by the United States Air Force Academy. The United States Naval Academy ultimately emerged as the winner of the Ninth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

In an Ethics Bowl match each team is asked one question by a moderator. After a team presents its answer the opposing team is given an opportunity to comment on the presenting team's answer, and the presenting team has a chance to respond to the comment. A panel of judges, who are distinguished individuals drawn from academia, the professions, and public life, then poses questions to the presenting team. At the close of the question period the judges evaluate the team's performance in terms of the following criteria: Clarity and Intellectualism; Focus on Ethically Relevant Facts; Avoidance of Ethical Generalization; and Deliberative Thoughtfulness.

The Ethics Bowl is designed to educate students to reason collaboratively about ethical issues that are complex, difficult to resolve and highly viewpoint dependent," said IIT Philosophy Professor Robert Ladenson. Ladenson chairs the Organizing Committee for the Ninth Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl, and is the originator of the ethics bowl concept.
new government system, which will include an executive
branch, a Student Organization branch that will include representatives
who will attend both SLC meetings & Finance Board
hearings and an assembly
made up of 20 elected mem-
bers (3 Freshmen, 3 Sopho-
more, 3 Juniors, 3 Seniors,
4 Graduates, 4 Delegates from
any class, and 1 from each
group which would make up a Board of Over-
seers responsible for Fi-
nance Board and electing
members to it). A judicial
board, with a student acting
as chair, similar to civilian
jury duty slates in court tri-
als was also considered in
this discussion, in the event
that a disgruntled or re-
jected student wanted
an appeal decision brought
upon by SLC or Finance
Board.

More ideas included
changing the names of the
officers in executive, i.e.
chair, vice-chair, vice presi-
dent to vice president. SLC also
felt that it should hold a
workshop that met often to
work on its flaws so that IIT
students would become bet-
ter informed about policies
and meetings, and hopefully
counter-act voting rights and
procedures within the next
few months. This would
benefit students and bring
about more involvement
with the diverse student or-
ganizations on campus by
using better advertise-
ments. In this way, students
who attended meetings
would not be clueless about
guidelines and more gradu-
ate student involvement in
SLC sponsored events such
as Leadership Day and Pride
Day. It was commonly felt
that student activities
should be the overuse of all
this and that permanent
records of all Student Ac-
Table 1: SLC Committee Members
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Member</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. Walker</td>
<td>Editor-in-Chief</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Silva</td>
<td>News &amp; Features Editor</td>
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<td>A. Cho</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Entertainment Editor</td>
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<td>P. Kroenke</td>
<td>Sports Editor</td>
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<td>E. George</td>
<td>Copy Editor</td>
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<td>C. Chen</td>
<td>Layout Editor</td>
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<td>M. Miller</td>
<td>Features Editor</td>
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<td>S. Vital</td>
<td>Associate Layout Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. Azeem</td>
<td>Web Developer</td>
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Correction: last week's article "SLC Attends Nat'l Conference" was written by Anasuya Bhattacharyya, not Nhat Nguyen.
One year ago, an amazing event took place at the New York Stock Exchange. As the opening bell rung out to signify a new day in trade, it also signified a corner stone in science and engineering. Ringing the bell that day was a small humanoid robot, the first of its series, ASIMO.

ASIMO is an acronym that stands for Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility. In homage to the late Professor, author, and leader in robotics theory, Isaac Asimov, ASIMO is the first of his kind to be able to perform the human-like abilities of climbing stairs and walking. To us, this may seem like a trivial matter, but this advancement took engineers at Honda, Japan 17 years of research, planning, and trial and error to accomplish.

Since appearing in New York a year ago, ASIMO has constantly been tested to gather new data for future generations of robots. Currently, there are several models of ASIMO in existence, with one of them currently on tour throughout the United States. The ASIMO tour recently arrived at the Museum of Science and Industry on Feb 22-23, and select students and faculty from IIT were able to receive an advanced demonstration of ASIMO and his capabilities along with media and school children from across Chicago.

Currently the most advanced robot in existence, ASIMO is barely four feet tall and weighs a mere 115 lbs. Powered by a nickel metal hydride battery in his stomach, ASIMO is operational for up to half an hour before having to be recharged. His light weight is due to a magnesium alloy frame and is capable of 26 degrees of freedom: six on each arm and leg and two in his neck. Within ASIMO’s head are two cameras that allow a team of just two computer operators, who see everything ASIMO sees and avoid collisions. Within his backpack are the numerous computers that calculate his next movements as well as a transmitter receive input and transmit data collected by the four tactile sensors in his feet as well as his camera feed. In order to better interact with his environment, ASIMO has also been designed to be quite dexterous. Each finger is capable of individual movement and operates like a human hand. Currently, though ASIMO can only lift objects weighing no more than two pounds.

The small robot’s most noted attribute is his ability to maneuver around objects and to traverse uneven ground, even stairs. ASIMO is currently the only robot on two legs that can change direction while walking. Though he plods along at a leisurely mile an hour, he can also vary his speed and length of his stride. To accomplish all of this, ASIMO possesses a feature called Prediction Movement Control where data is constantly collected from his various sensors and internal gyro scope and used to calculate his next movement and adapt to counterbalance if necessary. This way, the computer controllers are only required to give ASIMO his next command. To climb stairs though, ASIMO is still required to read markings on the floor and then position himself before proceeding. Honda has poured so much time and research into ASIMO in an effort to extend its capabilities as a technology company. Already, the manufacturer of cars, boats, and motorcycles, Honda believes that its goal is to increase human mobility. Thus it has created ASIMO to assist elderly and handicapped to better navigate their environments. Included in the goal of creating the first autonomous mobile robot is the focus on interesting school children in science and engineering as well as providing a practical use to society. The demonstration given at the Museum of Science and Industry was noticeably geared towards a younger crowd, but was still a worthwhile experience. The leader of the North American ASIMO team, Jeffery Smith was available to answer questions from media and children as well as provide insights of future developments, such as trying to create a miniature hydrogen fuel cell that would give ASIMO a much longer running time. ASIMO is currently still touring the United States and will visit a vast array of cities, including Seattle, San Diego, and even locations in Canada. More information on ASIMO can be found at www.honda.com.

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Possible Changes in the Works for MSV

Richard Duncan
TechNews Writer

Change seems to be a recurring theme at IIT these days. With the upcoming completion of two buildings geared exclusively toward students scheduled for later this spring and summer, and the ripples felt by the reorganization of various on-campus departments, no organization appears to be immune from the changing tide.

The Housing Department is no exception. For years having to deal with only two on-campus housing complexes, the McCormick Student Village and the four apartment buildings, the addition of the State Street Village next year has provided the department with a number of opportunities to change and possibly improve the existence, community, and financial well-being of the MSV.

Though responsible for undergraduate, graduate, and non-traditional groups such as the students of Aspect, Director of Housing and Auxiliary Services Jean Bingham shared, in an interview with TechNews, that freshman and other undergraduate housing is the top priority of her department. Any future changes to the structure or residency of the McCormick Student Village hinges on the availability of space after undergraduate demand has been met.

But, with the State Street Village garnering excitement and the potential demand for rooms there seen as high, despite the steep price tag, the potential for space opening in the MSV is quite likely. If enough space does open, plans are in the works to make use of the space to expand housing programs already in place.

Graduate students who attend IIT are primarily international students and therefore are often not well accustomed to American forms of dining and programming. As a result, many don’t enjoy the added cost of a full-board plan required for those living in the MSV. With only 356 on-campus apartments available for graduates and only a portion of Graduate Hall available due to undergraduate housing requirements, the university has had to contract with nearby Prairie Shares to guarantee leasing of 80 units for graduate students who could not otherwise obtain housing.

In an effort to rein in this revenue and bring these graduates closer to the rest of the IIT community, the number of graduate residents in Graduate Hall will be increased. Should space allow, the entire hall will be set aside for graduates, with a kitchen installed somewhere inside to allow those residents to take only a minimum board plan and make much of their own food. As well, only one senior RA will be required to staff the entire hall as graduates do benefit as much from the usual programming events as much as from the RA as undergraduates.

Other changes rely even more heavily on the success of the State Street Village. As a recruitment incentive, accommodations have been made to allow a select number of rooms in the SSV to be opened to freshmen. If this demand is high enough, the number of FYE (First Year Experience) floors in the MSV could be reduced. One hall which generally houses freshmen, East Hall, could then be made available for other uses. Already, used for housing students for the Urban Program and the Intensive English Institute, both of these programs could increase the demand for space. Students are already able to house and thus increase their overall enrollment. Both are important parts of the diversity of IIT and thus the entire community could benefit from their increased success.

Other possible uses for East include housing student center plans to be developed in the HUB as well as the introduction of guest housing for MSV residents. In the past, a number of rooms were available for residents to house short-term guest, but recent size requirements have made these rooms unavailable. Throughout its existence, security and community have been of the most important parts of the MSV. As such, any new types of residents, whether graduate students at IIT, students of the various non-traditional programs, or members of convention groups would be held to the same security standards as current residents. All would be given IDs to enter the building, and all would be affiliated in some way with the university or educational institutions as in the case of the convention attendees. In addition, the current non-traditional residents usually stay for only a semester at most, and thus the changing faces would not have an adverse effect on the community feel of the MSV. The melting pot environment already here would only be enhanced as a result.

Before any changes are made, however, Bingham insists that undergraduate housing is still the main focus of the Housing Department. No changes will be made if the demand for undergraduate housing in the MSV is too great to facilitate them. Current availability of single rooms would also not be affected. As these are mostly confined to South, North, South, and Lewis Halls. Bingham stated that balance and flexibility will be the keys to accommodating the increasing demands of the larger undergraduate population and other programs as well as maintaining the current offerings of on-campus housing.

The Word of the Day is:

minuscule \MIH-nuss-kyool\ (adjective)
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Example sentence:

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Pacific Theater of Operations IV (PTO IV)

Raj Parai
TechNews Writer

A long time ago, when the SNES reigned next to the SEGA Genesis, Koei released a mighty good game aptly titled Pacific Theater of Operations. Having been weaned on Koei games stretching back to Romance of the Three Kingdoms (RTK) and L’Empereur, I bought the game as soon as I could find it at the local Toys ‘R Us. Easily the most complicated of the Koei strategy games, the original PTO dropped the player right in the middle of World War II. It involved hours of strategic planning (yes, real strategy) as well as a relatively well-developed, turn-based tactical game. The unfortunate thing was that even after having played and won several times, I was bored by the game. So I decided to look at the historical accuracy inherent in the game balance, which American video game enthusiasts had once been treated to in a sequel of the II, and promptly lost trace of Koei until the PS2. For some reason or another, Koei never released PTO III in America, nor did it continue publishing the vaunted Uncharted Waters series, Nobunaga series, or even (gasp) The Romance of the Three Kingdoms games. So when Koei released PTO IV in America as the makers of Gitaroo Man ronin, I demanded to know what happened to that title as well, and was pleasantly surprised to find that PTO IV is as historically accurate as PTO III and IV.

My joy at playing PTO IV was pari passu with Koei’s SNES is now reserved for Street Fighter II Turbo tournaments, the PS2 can still be a manta of hell to control strategy gaming. This was plenty of instances where I should have done more work, but ended up saying “just until I conquer Midway... Or at least India.”

Yet, even swimming in nostalgia, PTO IV, which was released on February 5th, is not a sequel of the game. Indeed, it fails far short of that achievement. Some of the problems are obvious but, while others are either more insidious, or clear to only history buffs.

The design decision to divide the world up into 50 regions and 14 key bases is an unfortunate one indeed. While it makes the game more manageable for newcomers and programmers, it lacks a sense of realism. I do not find Japan to be adequately defined by one region, in all respects the same site as the area surrounding the Carouse Islands. When my Japanese region was invaded by the Allied 1st, 3rd, and 7th in turns, I found myself defending the region around Kure. This reveals the next major flaw. Victory in any sea battle, while others are either more insidious, or clear not. “Ships cannot turn on a dime, like soldiers,” I kept telling myself as my grand fleet kept getting shot up by the Japs. The sense of scale is definitely off too. Ships just aren’t that big anyway. Even in the USS Yorktown was as big as Oahu. The original PTO had turn and gold based battles. Also, the original’s playing field was the entire Pacfic. No “regions,” just one big piece of the globe. Thus could be anywhere, at anytime. It was up to the player’s reconnaisance and strategic astuteness to keep the upper hand. All this is lost in the PTO IV. The game now allows the player to control weapons development and disrupt trade, etc. All of these added options do not make up for the realism portrayal of war. This is truly a pity, as the peripheral addictions of fighting and swordplay are top notch and dramatically add to the appeal of the game.

Judged on its own merits, PTO IV is entertaining, and certainly a quality product. Do not expect the deepest console war game, however. That honor belongs to the earlier renditions of the game.

2003 Chicago Auto Show

Raj Parai
TechNews Writer

The Chicago Auto Show is like a candy shop for college kids in the Chicago area, as mid-sized and walled cars ranging from Daewoo to Jaguars are laid out on the main show floor throughout McCormick Place. What attracts the hordes of people is the chance for a look at the cars that are out in force. You can look at any car you want, get in, see its features, and not be forced to commit to anything right away. In addition, you may want to look at cars that you plan to buy in the future or wish to buy sometime in your life. Besides, what’s more exciting than an exhibition center full of amazing automobiles?

Walking in right away, the Toyota and Chrysler models were shown to be lackluster. Many dealers, many lower level cars with higher quality are being sold. Yet, the 2003 Toyota Corolla, with the styling of its father cars such as the Camry and ES 300, and 2003 Hyundai Elantra. Both these cars are about $15,000 and $10,000 respectively. The 2003 Volkswagen Jetta is also a decent buy for college kids with a little higher budget.

The concept car that really stood out was one made by Chrysler. The 2003 Chrysler Mercurio and the 2004 Lexus RX 330 seem to be cars that are and will be the future of the car market. Students that have saved a lot of money should consider the 2003 Accent 3.2 LS, Nissan Pathfinder, Nissan 350Z, and BMW 3-series. All these cars range from $28,000 to $32,000.

At the auto show all the mspf, invoice, and stats of each and every car are available. The most interesting car companies were Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz, and BMW. Volkswagen allowed people to create personalized VW driver’s license, Mercedes had an interactive chair, and BMW had a virtual reality set up. The exotic cars that were displayed were not that impressive to look at. Ferrari did not display its 450 M. Marenolo, or Spyder. Maserati did not have a display either. The cars that should be considered when looking for a car are in the price range ($50,000-$120,000) and are: The 2003 Mercedes-Benz S60, BMW 760, and Jaguar XJR. All of these cars are in the superior class. However, most RTX fights are tactical fights that require a minimum of strategy. This computer path finding is sometimes arro- gious, and it made me wonder whether it was intentional or not.

This Week in Chicago

Jooman Shim
TechNews Writer

Saint Patrick’s Day is coming up, and you know what that means. Wears of green, or else be pinched! Oh wait, we’re not in grade school anymore. We’re Chicago! And for those of you who have never paraded in Chicago on Saint Patrick’s Day, here’s a small glimpse of what you’ve been missing out on: green beer, a green river and revellers at the parade. Slap on some thing green, hold your Guinness high and dance a jig, because everyone’s Irish on this day! Just a little bit of history on this joyous occasion, theperor was the first to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Ballycastle and died AD 465. He set up schools and churches which aided him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated at St. Patrick’s Day over since. Here’s a list of some of the festivities going on this weekend:

Downtown St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Various Locations (Chic- a go) Saturday, Mar. 15

St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Old St. Patrick’s Church 700 W Adams St
Chicago, IL 60661-3512
9:00 am Saturday, Mar. 15
Free

Free

Old St. Patrick’s Church hosts mass and a parade.

St. Patrick’s Day at Harry Caray’s
Harry Caray’s Restaurant
33 W Kinzie St
Chicago, IL 60601
Saturday, Mar. 15

St. Patrick’s Day at PJ Clarke’s
PJ Clarke’s
1204 N State Pkwy
Chicago, IL 60610-2219
A weeklong bash offers live music and trips and one of the biggest sandwiches you’ve ever seen

And here are some unrelated events, but definitely worth mentioning.

Macy Gray
House of Blues
329 N Dearborn St
Chicago, IL 60610-4381
11:45 pm Saturday, Mar. 15
Now selling out the old

Staff Writer Wanted!
E-mail technews@iit.edu
Spring Season at the MCA

Domienc Garascia
TechNews Writer

The Museum of Contemporary Art has much to offer for this spring. The exhibits are diverse with most drawing upon the museum's extensive collection. The MCA has currently organized an exhibit of Hiroshi Sugimoto's latest body of work entitled "Architecture." The exhibit is open for the first time in its entirety and draws upon works ranging from 1997 to the present. It includes all of the gelatin prints of famous architectural sites, some in Chicago. The prints are intentionally blurry and intriguingly compositional. Some highlights include the Farnsworth House, the Eiffel Tower, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the Twin Towers, and other less publicized sites. The deliberate out-of-focus works speak to the ever-changing nature of architecture. They place a work in a context of space and time. Often architectural photography can become iconic in nature. Not so Sugimoto, who designed the gallery space himself to emphasize the inherent namelessness of architecture in an age when everyone knows the architecture name. Running through June 1st, is short including roughly 20 pieces, but is powerful and striking. Other current exhibits at the MCA are collections of common pieces from the MCA's permanent collection. The largest of these is "Life's Death Love: Pleasure, Pain." It draws upon some of the best known works the MCA holds. The works are arranged to represent the MCA's collection and its most significant pieces. The exhibit is expansive and offers many insights into the history, progression and future of modern art. The exhibit is slated to run through April 18th. The MCA has delved into the international political arena with its show "War (What is it Good For?)". The exhibit documents wars and their direct effect on the human individual. With pieces that comment on the cold war, and others that discuss current global conflicts the exhibit exposes the often hidden undertones to any war. The exhibit intends to look at the war has affected the individual person as recorded by the artist. War is the God of Good? runs through May 18th and offers many insightful comments on war and its endless repercussions. Other exhibits include Category Categorically Speaking, a collection of works based upon categories and lists, and 12x12, a look at new Chicago artists per year. Other upcoming events at the MCA include the About Face Theatre group's new plays, museum tours and lectures, and First Friday Openings. The Museum is located behind the water tower old pump station on 220 E. Chicago Ave. Admission is $6 for students and free on Tuesdays.

Help Wanted

Start your own Fraternity?
Zeta Beta Tau is looking for new members to start a new chapter in the IIT community. If you are interested in academic success, a chance to network and an opportunity to make friends in a non-fraternal environment, call 312-938-5277.

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Program Description

Illinois Institute of Technology and Rush Medical College offer a joint admission program for motivated and intellectually promising college sophomores preparing to attend medical school upon completion of their undergraduate degree and who intend to become research-oriented physicians. This program is for current IIT sophomores majoring in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, or molecular biochemistry and biophysics, and for students attending other colleges or universities and transferring to IIT after completing their sophomore year.

Students will be admitted to this program the summer between their sophomore and junior years and will complete their undergraduate degree at IIT. As part of this experience they will participate in a year-long research project that bridges engineering/science and medicine. Upon admission to Rush Medical College, students will be able to select either a M.D. program, or a M.D./Ph.D. program.

Eligibility

• IIT students who by the end of Spring 03 will have between 48 and 72 credit hours left to meet the requirements for their major and the Premedical Studies minor and will graduate no earlier than Spring 2004.
• Minimum of an 3.25 cumulative GPA - no course grade below a "C" w/grades of B or better in all premed courses.
• Students majoring in chemical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science or molecular biochemistry and biophysics
• Applicants should have successfully completed or be close to completion of courses which include: eight semester hours in biology or zoology, eight semester hours in laboratory courses in inorganic and organic chemistry, and eight semester hours in general physics

This is a highly competitive program with limited space available.

Application available in Premed Office - E1 116 Deadline is March 17th
A look ahead at IIT Baseball

Quick to avoid labeling last year as a "rebuilding year," Coach Darrah explains that he feels the term is "an excuse to lose." All new freshmen recruits. Coach Darrah is always very proud of all new recruits that he can bring to IIT. Given the demanding course load at the school, he is always impressed at the time and effort new recruits are willing to commit to in coming to play at IIT.

The coaches will be using the upcoming Spring Break trip to Florida to evaluate the new talent and set the starting pitching rotation, using two pitchers per 7-inning game. Games will be either seven innings or nine, depending on how many aces to be played each day. Games are often seven innings as part of the NAIA's "Speed Up" rules. Other rules include the option of pinch running for the catcher whenever he reaches base, the manager being given the ability to just point to first base if he wishes to intentionally walk a batter, and a 10-run rule after 5 innings (in 7 inning games), or after 7 innings (in 9 inning games).

After finalizing the starting lineup and rotation in Florida, playing eight games over break, (which count in the overall record) the Hawks will return to play their first game at home against Culver College on March 25th. For everybody's sake let's keep our fingers crossed that it's a little bit warmer by then. After that game the Hawks will have a tough schedule ahead of them, playing nine out of ten on the road. Perhaps fortunately, the Hawks will again be playing Olivet Nazarene, one of their biggest challenges, later in the season when the weather is warmer and everyone is playing better, more fluid baseball. Of course every game will be a challenge, but in speaking to Coach Darrah, IIT should keep an eye on its Hawks baseball team, because "Provided everyone stays healthy, our starting nine can play with anybody."

PROJECTED STARTING LINEUP

C TBD
1B Barry Twenter
2B Mario Urcuquio
3B Greg Albright
SS Jon Roach
CF Dennis Payonk
LF Mike Johnson
RF Brian Beewinick

Send in your relationship, sex, or love questions to TechNews' SexTech.