In the Limelight: Dr. Fouad Teymour

By Disha Doshi

TECHNEWS WRITER

Get acquainted and know more about the gentle hearted professor, Dr. Fouad Teymour, Chairman of Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering.

**Technews:** Tell us something about your growing up years.

**Prof. Teymour:** I grew up in Egypt. I did all my schooling and my college there. I came to USA for my PhD in the early 80's. Coming to USA from Egypt was a big challenge but then over all it was a smooth transition.

**Technews:** What colleges did you go to?

**Prof. Teymour:** I received my B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Cairo University, Egypt in 1970 and then an M.S. from the same University in 1982.I received my PhD in Chemical Engineering from University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1989.

**Technews:** Tell us something about your professional career.

**Prof. Teymour:** I worked for a couple of years in the industry after which I entered the field of academicians by teaching for 3 years at a university in Middle East in Saudi Arabia. I then joined IIT. Working with industry shaped a lot of things for me that I do in class and my research.

**Technews:** What is the one thing you really like about being at IIT?

**Prof. Teymour:** I like the fact that IIT reflects a global atmosphere and has a diverse community both amongst students and faculty members. I feel this diversity of thought and culture brings out the best of everyone.

**Technews:** What is the one change that you think if done can do wonders to IIT?

**Prof. Teymour:** I think we should expand our offerings in environmental fields and have strong programmes in fields like humanities, arts, literature and films.

**Technews:** What is the one thing in your life that you want to reverse?

**Prof. Teymour:** I don't regret any decision in my life. Not that I did not make any wrong decisions but I feel those decisions taught me a lot and helped shape my life.

**Technews:** One incident in your life that changed you and the way you looked at life?

**Prof. Teymour:** The birth of my first son because it made me aware that I now carried responsibility of him.

**Technews:** Your message to the students.

**Prof. Teymour:** Enjoy every second of the time that you have right now because these are the golden days that are never again going to come back to you. Always put your heart and give in 100% in whatever you do. The worst thing in life would be to spend your entire life doing a thing that you do not enjoy so matter how much of success that brings to you. And most importantly don't take life too seriously.
Travel with STS to this year’s top 10 Spring Break destinations! Best deals guaranteed! Highest rep commissions. Visit www.ststravel.com or call 1-800-648-4849. Great group discounts.
Extended warranties: Don’t waste your money

By Phong Bui
TECHNEWS WRITER

Christians are almost here. Everyone is in gear for another shopping season. iPods, mp3 players, digital cameras, cellphones, etc., all kinds of high tech and high priced gadget producers are working their best to squeeze every penny out of your pocket, not just by selling you their products but also by getting you into purchasing the extended warranties for those. Everyone knows that it is very tempting to buy a $25 two year replacement plan for a brand new $150 Canon PowerShot; but the experts say those extended warranties are almost always a waste of money.

Extended warranties are basically OVERPRICED insurance products,” said Andrew Housser, a co-creator and chief executive of bill.com, a personal finance site. Buying insurance is a good idea when it comes to home, car or life insurance. The insurance companies generally post profits in the 15 percent range, whereas the electronics retailers generate profits as high as 80 percent on warranties. It was found in many cases, electronics retailers make almost no profit on the goods they sell; they make almost all of it on the sale of extended warranties.

The experts have done the math, taking into account the odds that a product will break, as well as the price of a warranty versus the cost of repairs or replacement, and almost all the time, the warranties represent PURE PROFIT for the seller and PURE LOSS for the buyer. Think about it, if a product is really that high quality (as the producers would), it wouldn’t break down easily in 2 or 3 years (unless you stomp your foot on the whole time or throw it into Lake Michigan). Take digital cameras for example, a recent Consumer Reports survey found that only about 10 percent of digital cameras break during their first five years.

In the last five years, a senior editor for the Consumer Reports magazine, said the magazine’s surveys have found that warranties are an especially bad buy for computers, iPods, digital cameras, and stereos, mainly because the prices for these products are always dropping. The costs for the warranty are always far more than the value the buyer would get back, it would cost you to have to spend less than 10 percent of the purchase price, since a phone with a similar feature will cost much less.

"Extended warranties are basically overpriced insurance products.”
- Andrew Housser, co-founder and CEO of bill.com

SSV cancellation fee - How is over $2.6 grand ethical?

By Crystal Erbott
TECHNEWS WRITER

I have lived in residential high school and college housing for three and a half years. Recently, I earned a scholarship that would allow me to pay rent instead of being forced to stay on campus (paid by my student loans). Of course, like anyone else I have many reasons for wanting to move elsewhere (one being to save about $500/month), but he said that the reasons should be the student’s own, not the university’s and not evaluated as sufficient or incident.

There is just one problem: the housing staff decided to make a rule that if you cannot finish the spring semester at any time during the fall before Dec. 1., you will still have to pay 10% of the spring semester charges as a "FEE." That is ridiculous... half of $4535 plus the deposit. That’s about $2600... over $2.5 grand... Are you kidding me? It is an entirely different semester. I even let them know 4 months early.

SSV always has far more people on the waiting list than they can even handle, so they aren’t losing money. It makes no sense to charge so much. $500/0k that would be a big fee for rent. I feel like they are stealing from me because I know that a simple yes or no from them means $2600 of my money. So basically, they are saying “Sorry! I’ll go on vacation to the Bahamas with your money!” I don’t know about you, but I am poor. Whoever makes these stupid rules needs to go to some serious ethics training.

Also, if they are going to have a bogus rule like that (among the university’s many, many, like requiring us to use the universal insurance of SSK), they should make sure that people understand it before they enter a contract. They might say “well if you are out of the contract.” Well, it is not that clear for the rest of the students living in the residence halls, know anything about it. Which is what they (housing) want - I believe the inhuman term is fine print.

Apparently, nothing can be done. Even if you are getting married or pregnant (they are one of the 20 worst reasons to get out). With the way things are going in the world and the little wild life photography I had seen on TV or the Discovery channel. What caught my fancy was the photography you could see out in the wilds, capturing some of the most magnificent sights of nature. I promptly decided to put my money towards the camera to do this for the next family meeting. My proposal met with an approval!

On the day of my birthday, I got a not hand written straight to my dad’s chosen for the gift. I opened the closet and pulled out the camera which was exactly what I was hoping. Holding my birthday gift. I happily opened up the gift wrap and got my camera out. I was a joy and a source of admiration. I was planning on having the camera was no less than that of an emperor having conquered a much desired piece of land.

I still very distinctly remember my camera. It was a blue and silver colored analog cameras, on the back of the rad style, and I would say an unphonetic “I aim and

If you would like to contribute to the Opinion Section or would like to see something else in it

Contact Josh
mulljos@iit.edu
Alcohol deaths on the rise among middle-aged men

By Abishek Gunduguri
TECHNEWS WRITER

London, UK. In a official release by the Office of National Statistics the number of middle aged men over drinking and killing themselves has more than doubled since 1991. Men aged between 35 and 54 have suffered the biggest rise in alcohol-related deaths the release said.

Deaths among women in the same age group also nearly doubled, fuelling concerns over binge drinking and rising alcohol consumption in Britain. Campaigners said the link between people drinking more and the rise in alcohol-related deaths was established more than 50 years ago.

“Tropic as they are, these figures are hardly a surprise,” said Frank Stoev, a spokesman for the charity Alcohol Concern. “Binge drinkers take especial note of the risks, as well as the £350 a year between 35 and 54 who are now dying.” The number of alcohol-related deaths last year stood at 8,386, compared to 4,144 in 1991. Death rates among middle-aged men more than doubled to 30 per 100,000 of the population. The highest rate of deaths among men and women was seen in the 55 to 74 age bracket.

The Liberal Democrat party said the government had “failed miserably” to deal with alcohol abuse. “Ministers have done very little to control the dangers of our binge-drinking culture,” said Shadow Health Secretary Steve Webb. “Public health budgets are being raided across the country to plug spiralling deficits.”

The Department of Health said it was spending more to promote sensible drinking and was working with the drinks industry to stamp out alcohol abuse. “We are concerned about the number of alcohol-related deaths and are committed to tackling this problem,” a spokesman said. Last year’s changes in the Licensing Act that allow pubs to remain open longer were criticized as an invitation for people to drink more. The government rejected the claims and said the changes would encourage sensible drinking. Alcohol is linked to a range of diseases, from liver damage and cancer to strokes and high blood pressure.

Poor lack of access to clean water and toilets

By Phuong Bui
TECHNEWS WRITER

According to the United Nations Human Development Report (November 9, 2006), in our increasingly prosperous world, whereas more than 1 billion people are denied the right to clean water, there are 2.6 billion people who lack access to adequate sanitation; as a result, every year, about 1.8 million children die as a result of diarrhoea and other diseases caused by unclean water and “lack of access to sanitation”. Now, people are well aware of the clean water issue, but sanitation is now the biggest taboo and hot, the problems despite of its big efforts are underscored. Issues dealing with human excreta tend not to figure prominently in the programs of political parties contesting elections, or the discussions of governments,” said Kevin Watkins, the report’s main author. “They’re the unwanted guests at the table.” As a matter of fact, we know from the same survey now how much medicine, and vaccines are being aided to the third world countries; but never once, we heard about how to help them get cleaner water and better sanitation – the most powerful preventive medicines to prevent infectious diseases.

Lack of access to toilets, people in Khums, Kenya have to entice into plastic bags that they throw into the streets – practice known as “the flying toilet”. In Ethiopia, a vast slum in Mumbai, India, there is only 1 toilet for each 1440 people. Across the countryside of Asia and Africa, people “do it” in streams, rivers, backyards, and fields. As a result, they befoul the already scarce water, dirty the places their children play, and the places where their food grows.

Moreover, the decrease in for water and clean sanitation inflate the prices. The poorest people not only get access to less water, and to less clean water, but they also pay some of the world’s highest prices. People living in the slums of Jakarta, Indonesia, Manila, Philippines, and Nairobi, Kenya, pay 5 to 10 times more for water per unit consumed, on average, at high-income areas of their own cities, and even more than consumers pay in London or New York.

As one of the resolutions towards the problem, the report’s authors estimate that by investing $15 billion a year (less than half of the amount spent on health care spending on bottled water) would cut down half the number of the people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the year 2015. However, the governments of both poor and rich countries are paying too little attention to this fundamental problem.

Aid from developed countries for water and sanitation has declined from 8 percent (mid 1990’s) to 5 percent of all development assistance, whereas the life-saving investments in water and sanitation are delayed by fashionable foreign countries. According to the U.N. report, in Ethiopia, the military budget is ten times the water and sanitation budget, and in Pakistan, it is 47 times.

Poverty, often associated with the lacks of food, water, and sanitation, and has the same impact on people’s health as the lack of clean and accessible health care services. Many people who live in poverty suffer from the lack of basic services, and often lack the ability to pay for these basic services. The lack of access to clean water and sanitation is a significant contributor to poor health outcomes, including increased rates of disease, disability, and death.

Water and sanitation have suffered from an excess of words and deficit of action. As a result, they find themselves in a position of being less valued than they should be and less valued than they could be if people were to realize the fundamental human right to clean water and sanitation.

FedEx cancels Airbus A380 order, switches to Boeing

By Abishek Gunduguri
TECHNEWS WATER

European plane maker Airbus suffered a major blow last Tuesday because the world’s major shipping company, FedEx Corp, canceled a 2.5 billion dollar order and switched its orders to Boeing Co. The express package delivery company cited delays in delivery of its order of 10 Airbus A380-800 super-jumbo jumbo freighters as its reason. In addition, it already ordered 15 777 freighters from aircraft US giant Boeing. The FedEx spokesman said the option that Airbus was offering, the A380 freighter, was not very popular.

FedEx expects the delivery of these Boeing by the year 2009, 2010 and 2011. There would be four delivered by 2009, 8 in 2010 and 2 in 2011. At a list price of $232,000 each, they would be $240 million each, Boeing could get paid $3.48 billion. The Boeing 777 Freighters, launched in May 2005, is the world’s largest twin-engine cargo aircraft, but smaller than Boeing’s new four-engined 747-8F Freighter.

FedEx’s decision costs the sum of outstanding orders for the A380 freighter 15 from 25. Last month, FedEx rival United Parcel Service Inc, which has 10 A380s on order, said it had set up a team to evaluate its purchase. In 2008, the Airbus A380’s market share stood at 15.5 percent.

FedEx’s decision opens the door to Boeing’s orders, which have been stagnant for years. In 2006, Boeing canceled its $4 billion order with FedEx. FedEx and UPS have been in discussions with Boeing on a possible order.

FedEx, based in Memphis, Tennessee, said it continues to be ‘Airbus’ largest wide-body airfreight customer and will order more used and refurbished wide-body aircraft to its fleet in the coming years. Also, with Airbus delays in the delivery of clean water and sanitation, the company’s decision could be seen as a move in the right direction.

A Boeing spokesman said the company is prepared to meet FedEx’s delivery schedule. “We are very pleased to meet the needs of such an important customer,” spokesman Jim Prouty said. FedEx shies were up 86 cents, 0.7 percent, to $14.77, in afternoon trading on last Tuesday, while Boeing was up $4.21 to $46.49, both on the NYSE.

Source: Associated Press - Chris Reiter (NY), Nick Carey and Kyle Peterson (Chicago) and Nick Timmerman (Paris)
Australia Senate lifts ban on cloning

By Abishek Gandugurti

The Australian Senate voted last Tuesday to lift the country's four year ban on cloning human embryos for stem cell research. The Senate ruled that the potential for medical breakthroughs outweighed moral doubts. The rare conscience vote in a country where lawmakers are expected to follow the party line sets the stage for the ban to be lifted entirely. The law now goes to Australia's House of Representatives.

The senate voted 34 yes vs 32 no to allow therapeutic cloning; cloning which involves removing the nucleus of an unfertilised human egg and adding DNA to make it grow in a lab dish. Scientists were pressing the lawmakers to relax rules on stem cell research and follow therapeutic cloning of embryos for medical research. In 2002, the Australian Parliament passed its first laws on stem cell research in 2002. Scientists have been allowed only to extract stem cells from spare embryos created for in vitro fertilization.

The member of the opposition Australian Democrats, Senator Natasha Dolejo praised the vote saying it was the right thing to do and it created an opportunity for great research. Opponents of the law warned that the technology could be abused and could lead to human cloning and animal-human hybrids. The ruling Liberal Party's senator, Grant Chapman compared the research with human experiments conducted by Nazi Germany.

"Experiments which subject the zygote, or embryo, to any significant risk are the ethical equivalent of the infamous medical experiments that were inflicted on the unwitting and uninformed victims in Nazi death camps," Chapman said.

Scientists though have more humane reasons for stem cell research which could lead to treatments for diseases like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries, diabetes and arthritis. The potential scientific benefits and the U.S. debate about stem cell research ahead of midterm elections caught Australian media attention last month when Bush Limbaugh, the conservative commentator, accused Michael J. Fox of faking the severity of his Parkinson's disease in a campaign ad for Democrat candidates who support the research. Fox said he was neither acting nor off his medications.

President Bush and others have argued that the promise of stem cells should not be realized at the expense of human life, even in its most nascent stages. In 2001, Bush pledged to limit federally funded embryonic research to the stem cell lines that had been created by the time and in August he vetoed a bill that could have multiplied the federal money going into embryonic stem cell research.

Back in Australia, Liberal Senator Alan Ferguson spoke about his daughter's multiple sclerosis diagnosis 13 years ago, and said therapeutic cloning would give hope to people like her.

"I would never forgive myself if I voted against this bill and did not give medical research that extra possible opportunity to succeed in finding a cure for some of those terrible diseases which are now incurable and which affect so many of our population," Ferguson said.

Fellow Liberal Sen. Guy Barnett said he would vote against the bill despite suffering type-1 diabetes — one of the diseases that researchers hope to cure with the technology. "The promises of cures are false and fanny hopes," Barnett said.

Prime Minister John Howard was part of a Cabinet decision in June that the law should not be changed, but he agreed to allow a rare conscience vote on the issue — instead of requiring lawmakers to follow the party line — after government lawmakers threatened to revolt. Australian Cabinet members, including the prime minister, hold seats in Parliament.

Howard, an ally of Bush who sent 2,000 Australian troops to the Iraq war, said Monday that he was undecided how he would vote when the issue came before the House of Representatives, where he holds a seat. "On one hand, I want to do everything possible to help relieve suffering and to leave open the hope of cures of terrible, debilitating illnesses," he said. "On the other hand, I do have concerns that this may in some areas be a step too far and I am still weighing the matter."

Source: Yahoo! News and AP
“Stranger than Fiction”: A little strange, but still fiction

By Colin Emch-Wel
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

“It’s okay. It’s sort the most important piece of the last decade, but it’s okay.” So says Professor Jules Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman). The same could be said for “Stranger than Fiction,” Will Ferrell’s latest movie.

“Stranger than Fiction” follows the story of Harold Crick (Will Ferrell), a shy IRS agent who inexplicably begins hearing his own life narrated to him. Even worse, this narrator informs him that he’s going to die, and pretty soon. Understandably scared and confused by this sudden shock of clairvoyance, Harold attempts to decipher the puzzle before it’s too late.

Along the line, he’s forced to meet Ann, a hostile hippie baker (Maggie Gyllenhaal) and enrol a professor of literature to aid him in unraveling this mystery. In addition, an alternate plot line explores the plight of Kay Eiffel, a renowned author with writer’s block who’s desperately trying to kill Harold Crick...the same one, only she thinks that he’s a man purely of paper and ink.

At least, that’s the supposed premise of the movie. “Stranger than Fiction” wants to be about Harold’s great detective story, about how Harold slowly comes to realize how the seemingly meaningless events in his life all contribute to his demise. However, the movie transforms into a tale of Harold’s self-realization and recapture of his life. Harold discovers the whimsical absurdities of life with the help of Professor Hilbert, and falls in love with the first person to bake him cookies, and attempts to capitalize on his lifelong dream: playing the guitar. The message here is almost clichéd, but altogether an interesting one: if you know that you were going to die soon, no matter what the cause or time, wouldn’t you seize life by the reins and ride it as hard as possible until the end? Harold’s doing so taken over the movie, and it’s a welcome departure, since the actual plot device moves extremely slow. Yes, there are some funny moments, but this isn’t that kind of movie.

With as good an actor as Ferrell can sometimes be (think “Anchorman”...now think “Elf. That pain you felt was the sting of inconsistency”), the true magic of “Stranger than Fiction” lies within Ferrell’s interaction with the supporting cast. This movie has probably one of the better casts in cinema today. Dustin Hoffman is a delight as the eccentric and completely honest professor of literature ("Little did he know?/I once did an entire class on ‘little did he know’. You might die on Friday, come back tomorrow",), and he steals every scene he’s in. Maggie Gyllenhaal does a great job as Harold’s nemesis and his love interest, and she’s almost unrecognizable compared to her previous work. Lastly, Emma Thompson and Queen Latifah make an oddly good team as they scour the wastes of humanity to find an appropriate death for Harold Crick. Their dynamic can be summed up in one scene, where Eiffel asks an ER nurse, "Where are all the dying people? I want to see the ones that aren’t going to make it."

Much like the aforementioned patients, one often wonders if “Stranger than Fiction” really is going to make it. The actual plot moves like molasses, held up only by wonderful efforts by the cast. If you go in ready to see some good character play, you’ll enjoy “Stranger than Fiction”.

If you would like to contribute to the A&E Section or would like to see something else in it
Contact Andres and Colin
delaandi@iit.edu, emchcol@iit.edu
TV Spotlight

Tuesday, 11/14
7:00 PM
Game Trailers.com: The Best and Worst Games
MTV

7:00 PM
Trick my Truck
CMT

8:00 PM
Friday Night Lights
NBC 5

9:00 PM
House
FOX

9:00 PM
Overhauling
TLC

3 hrs. (Series Premiere)
CBS 2

Law and Order: SVU
NBC 5

Wednesday, 11/15
7:00 PM
Til Death
FOX

8:00 PM
Bones
CSI

America's Next Top Model
The O.C.

8:00 PM
Day Break (2-hr. Series Premiere)
ABC 7

Medium (2-hr. Season Premiere)
NBC 5

9:00 PM
Modern Marvels
History Channel

Thursday, 11/16
7:00 PM
Prison Break
FOX

My Name is Earl (Special 40-minute Episode)
NBC 5

Saturday, 11/18
7:00 PM
Nov. 20th Episode: Michael takes time out for a sad farewell with Mahoza to foil C-Note's plans. C-Note suffers a loss when he ventures out in public; and Kellerman tries to cover up a missed opportunity. -TVGuide.com

7:00 PM
Little People, Big World
TLC

8:00 PM
College Football in Primetime
TBA

8:00 PM
Football Night in America
Denver Broncos vs. San Diego Chargers

9:00 PM
Trip of a Lifetime (Series Premiere)
Travel Channel

11:17 PM
World Premiere

Friday, 11/17
7:00 PM
WWE Friday Night Smackdown!
WGN / The CW

8:00 PM
Mayor Dog
Animal Planet

* This is a tentative TV schedule and is subject to change.
The many works of Richard Tuttle at the MCA

By Andres De La Hoy
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"The Art of Richard Tuttle", the MCA's recently opened exhibition, shows the work of an artist that has dedicated his work to challenging conceptions about what art is and what it should strive for. The exhibition showcases key pieces from Tuttle's entire career, spanning from the 60s to now. The work includes Tuttle's sculptures, paintings, paperworks, assemblages, and books, most of the work being minimalist and not as easily defined in type (sculptures with paintings, different arrangements, etc).

Tuttle, born in New Jersey in 1941 and a dual New York/New Mexico resident, started his work in the 60s, helping to shape minimalism in new directions. His work is heavily based in real properties and defined by spatial variables. Cubes, one of his first works, consist of paper-assembled cubes with their own volume, structure, solid and empty areas. His alphabet works consisted of arrangements closely resembling the written language (the alphabet made in paper hung on walls, possessing its own volume, weight, shadow, and place in the real world). The interaction of art with the real world is a constant in Tuttle's work, with most of his work existing in a joint way with its surroundings, its setup in this exhibition being fundamentally different than another display somewhere else, altering the art as it goes along.

His 70s' works followed similar ideas, but allowed Tuttle to branch out to other areas, including works in paper (69 of which are on display) consisting mostly of lines and shoreline, the interaction between the work and the medium (the paper showing clear signs of humidity due to the Elements need to work on it). Also on display are collages, which extend from the paper to the wall in order to form a fully realized work that only reaches completion while on display, as well as his well-known paper octagons, octagons with no extension, specific arrangement, and causing their own shadow and possess clear physical properties. Simultaneously, Tuttle held a career in furniture-installation design. His 80s' work, as displayed in the exhibition includes his multimedia assemblages, sculpture, and the 90s' work includes a large sampling of book art, as well as the New Mexico/New York pieces. Also of note are his hightop sculptures, one of his most ambitiously accomplished works.

Tuttle's work raises many questions, one of the main ones being the relationship of art to the real world. Most of Tuttle's work is heavily dependent on where it is being displayed at. The installation itself is as much a part of the work as the work itself. His text works consist of him bending the wires and the resulting effect and wire memory causing the work, therefore being so related to the artist that the work itself does with him. Similarly, the collages extend to the wall, making the location of display itself a part of the work. Hosting an open discussion session for the media opening, Tuttle went into detail about what his art set out to achieve. His efforts to create new art, as opposed to what he calls imitation art, art that stems from trying to replicate other work and doing so in a way that brings no relationship to the real world. His art is meant to get to the real from and content of the world rather than values that are too abstract for it. His work, then, is meant to be a return to the concept of bringing art to the people rather than making them watch, making works that can be appreciated by the common man. Though it would seem contradictory since his work is somewhat complex in intent and conversation, after detecting any preconceptions of what art is and isn't, the final work isn't terribly unconventional.


Where in Chicago

Where was this photo taken?

If you know, be the first to e-mail us at technewspictures@gmail.com and we will publish your name next week.

Last Week's Winner

Congratulations to Vasil K. Patel who correctly identified last week's picture as the Blue Line CTA station at O'Hare Airport.

If you would like to contribute to the A&E Section or would like to see something else in it
Contact Andres and Colin

delaandi@iit.edu, emchcol@iit.edu
U.S. under fire as who picks new leader

By Abhishek Gundugurti
TECHNEWS WRITER

The World Health Organization picked a new leader last week to take the position of the Director-General. For the United States and the Bush administration, this means a review of drug and sexual health policy shaping up the selection of the candidate. The candidates for the position included Dr. Margaret Chan, a bird flu expert and former Hong Kong director of health, Dr. Shigeru Omi of Japan, who heads WHO’s Asia office, Mexican Health Minister Dr. Julio Frenk, Spanish Health Minister Elena Salgado Minicato and Dr. Kamael Behbehani, a veteran WHO official in Kuwait.

Though the United States did not declare a preference for any candidate, critics said the USA has a big role behind the scenes. This is because USA is the largest donor to WHO and also because the Bush administration is said to be promoting the interests of its Pharmaceutical companies and has adopted an ideological line on issues like abortion. President Bush has made more money available for AIDS research than any previous American leader, but that largesse has not extended to programs in reproductive and sexual health. His administration has also challenged ideologically charged WHO programs such as needle exchanges and condom distribution.

U.S. officials deny they are seeking to force the administration’s health policies upon the world. “We are not giving WHO money because we want to have influence,” said Bill Hall, a spokesman for the U.S. Health and Human Services Department. “We’re doing this because we want to improve the human condition around the world.” Leading public health experts and senior WHO officials told The Associated Press that Washington consistently interfered with policy under the U.N. agency’s last director-general, Dr. Lee Jong-Wook, who died in May.

“The government has a direct role in every significant decision made in Geneva, and even close to a veto role,” said Dr. Richard Horton, editor of the influential medical journal, The Lancet. In one prominent case of alleged interference, the United States requested the suppression of a book commissioned by WHO that criticized U.S. free-trade agreements for jeopardizing poor countries’ access to cheap medicines.

In a letter to WHO’s acting director-general, a senior official from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said the report “spewingly” characterized U.S. trade policy. WHO has yet to make a decision on the U.S. demand. “Standing up to the U.S. is not the easiest thing to do,” said Tim Smeale, a mangement policy expert at the Centre for Health and Human Rights, and Kennedy and Republican Henry Waxman.

In a widely reported episode in January, WHO’s top official in Thailand was dropped from his post after he said in an editorial that a U.S. Thai free-trade agreement would jeopardize Thai access to cheap drugs, leading to the deaths of thousands of thousands of AIDS patients.

“This was an example of an instance where there was probably from a national member state, in this case the U.S.,” said Dr. Tido von Schoen-Angerer, of Medicines Sans Frontieres, which works closely with WHO. The United States denied it had anything to do with the transfer of the official, Dr. William Aldis, to the WHO’s regional office in New Delhi, India.

“We had no role in that,” said Hall of the Health and Human Services Department. Though Hall says Washington formally complained to the WHO about the editorial, he said no suggestions were made about a U.S. trade embargo of Thai goods. It is this kind of competitive aggressiveness that growing coalitions of Western governments are warning that allowing developing countries to produce generic medicines may compromise the quality, endangering the lives of the patients they are meant to treat and leading to resistant strains of diseases. The WHO’s General Assembly, meeting in Geneva, is expected to discuss the trade issue, and the NGO community is urging a “yes” vote.

Thailand has often been praised as a success story in its approach to tackling AIDS — producing generic, cheap alternatives to patented drugs. More than 80,000 people depend on these life-prolonging treatments and AIDS deaths have dropped by nearly 80 percent in the last decade. Since the publication of AIDS’ editorial, the Thailand-U.S. free trade agreement has been a subject of intense discussion, in particular the attention given to what the pact would do to Thailand’s strategy on fighting AIDS.

On Thursday, a few days after closed-door deliberations, the WHO came to a conclusion that will be left to the new Director General. Dr. Margaret Chan of China was chosen because of her work on bird flu and the impact she had with her work.

Med schools teaching drug company sales pitches

By Victor Guhavov
TECHNEWS WRITER

The glut of marketing tactics used by drug makers is rife with controversies. Pharmaceutical firms spend $8.5 billion on marketing annually. Most of this is spent on advertising to doctors. The drug makers spend a lot of time researching on how to raise their market share. Obviously, the drug makers need to remain financially healthy and no one can question this strategy. However, studies have shown that direct marketing of prescription medicines, sometimes to the detriment of patients. Sometimes, in order to promote a new drug, the sales representatives use exaggerated claims to lure doctors into prescribing the product.

The sales representatives distort the results of clinical trials so that the doctors would be more likely to prescribe the drug. The sales representatives also pressure doctors to prescribe the drug by offering them various benefits such as free samples or money. The sales representatives also use fear tactics to discourage doctors from prescribing the drug by spreading rumors about the side effects of the drug.

In one such case, a number of medical schools were alarmed after a report revealed that many of the students were being paid to give seminars to doctors. Some of the medical schools were outraged after the reports revealed that the students were being paid to give seminars to doctors. Some of the medical schools were alarmed after the reports revealed that the students were being paid to give seminars to doctors. Some of the medical schools were alarmed after the reports revealed that the students were being paid to give seminars to doctors.

Hunger gene discovered

By Abhishek Gundugurti
TECHNEWS WRITER

In an effort to identify genes that cause hunger, a team of French and Swiss scientists discovered what they call the hunger gene in mice. They said it could pave the way for treatments for obesity and alcoholism. These scientists from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland and Leopold Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France found the gene that allows the body to detect the sensation of hunger before meals.

The research based on laboratory tests on mice was published in Current Biology, a scientific journal. The gene named as “Per 2” is active throughout the body and on the brain and generates signals warning of hunger, partly based on a notion of time. The researchers, Urs Alberrecht and Elieenne Callegari, managed to reduce and cut off the signals of hunger in their experiments. The mice with modified genes were unable to detect hunger until they were forced with food. The normal gene mice searched for food roughly the time they were expected to get hungry. These findings also were able to link the timings of a meal and the sensation of hunger. This was viewed as a positive avenue for developing treatments for obesity, surplus weight, sleeping disorders and depression.
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Date & Time: **NOVEMBER 18, 2006, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Location: **ARMOUR FACULTY DINING (HUB BASEMENT)**

Please remember – this event is only open to undergraduate students.

Register for this event by **Nov 16** by internet http://leadershipacademy.iit.edu/schedule.php or by phone 312.567.3945

IIT Campus News Briefs edited by James Boozer, Contributing Editor
Fantasy Sports: NFL Mid-Season Report

By Prateek Sanan

Quarterbacks (QB):
Top Performer: Peyton Manning, Indianapolis Colts: Is there any other field general that you would want to have on your team? After his near 30 passing TD performance two years ago, Manning has become an almost unfair fantasy option. With the duo of Marshall and中国古代的杨毅,Yellow, it's tough to find a defense against the Colts passing game. And with a much diminished running game, Manning has thrived this season and is by far the best quarterback at QB.

Biggest Surprise: Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints: Almost no one thought he could or would, but Drew Brees would be a top five fantasy QB at the beginning of the season. What has been most surprising is that he has done extremely well in his first season with a new team that only four games into the season, a rookies head coach, and after recovering from off-season shoulder surgery. Brees has a fantastic first half finishing 14 touchdowns, 17-0 for over 2,200 yards and look for him and the Saints to have continued success.

Biggest Disappointment: Mark Sanchez, New York Jets: Sanchez has been a very big surprise for the Texans this season. He has quickly vaulted into the top five tight ends as he has been David Carr's favorite red zone target, hooking up for 5 TDs. Although he does not have the great receiving yards that the elite tight ends have, his fantasy football value is in his touchdowns, and as long as Daniels keeps finding pay dirt, he should be a great fantasy option for the season.

Kickers (K):
Top Performer: Robbie Gould, Chicago Bears: Gould has had a special season as a kicker. He is head and shoulders above every other kicker in terms of fantasy value and is on pace to break the record for most field goals and most points in an NFL season. Add to that the fact that Gould has not missed a kick this season and you have one of the best fantasy seasons from a kicker ever.

Defensive/Special Teams (DST):
Top Performer: Roman Harper, New Orleans Saints: The biggest surprise of the NFL season, no one has really compared to the overall performance of the Ravens. The Saints have been unstoppable at getting to the quarterback, forcing turnovers, and even scoring...all the ingredients for a great fantasy defense. They have allowed just 111 first half points, while recording 33 sacks, 264 tackles, 17 interceptions, 8 fumble recoveries, and 4 defensive touchdowns. The Ravens have not been quite as dominant as they were in 2001, but their fantasy production has been just as good, if not better.

Best Kickers: Lee Evans, WR, Tennessee Titans; Evans has the kind of speed to really burn the rather slow Tennessee defense deep down the field. The Bills will probably also be without their top running back, Bills' McGahee so expect the passing game to really pick up and Evans to have a great game.

Best Team: Tennessee Titans; The Titans have been dealing with some injuries and Mike Bell has replaced him in the back as the top back. Due to too much demand from both Bell this week against a stiff Chargers run defense. The Bills have been very good with Brown vs. Villanueva, but they have not accumulated the best rush defense in the NFL. Although Brown has had some nice games this year, look for other options this week, however, as Brown should be shut down by a very good Ravens pass defense.

Michael Vick, QB @ Ravens: Vick has had his best fantasy performance in his career this season and has been a good value at his position. Vick has had some rushing attack. Vick should have a tough transition to being a pocket passer against a very fast Ravens defense this week. He should be great for a couple of turnovers and it could be tough that he will find the end zone.

If you would like to contribute to the Sports Section or see something else in it Contact Matt

TECHNEWS your voice

Matthew Helland, Editor
mHELLAND@IIT.EDU
SPORTS

What to watch for: NFL week 11

By Matthew Helland
SPORTS EDITOR

Atlanta 20 Baltimore 21
Both teams will most likely make the playoffs this season, however neither team has shown any consistency on offense. The Falcons string together impressive wins, and then lost to teams like Detroit while the Ravens offense has gone through hot and cold stretches all season. In a game like this, you have to expect the best defense to win.

St. Louis 17 Carolina 28
This game definitely has playoff applications because only one of these teams will likely make the playoffs. The Rams have an easier schedule down the stretch, so this game is far more meaningful to the Panthers. It’s not quite a must win, but Steve Smith and the offense need to start playing up to the level their capable of performing.

Pittsburgh 20 Cleveland 17
If you had told any Browns fan at the beginning of the season that they’d have the same record as the Steelers through eight weeks, and they’d be more than happy. However, they would have expected a winning record, not just two wins.

New England 35 Green Bay 21
This game should be a shootout, with the passing games of both teams taking center stage. Expect Favre to be on top of his game against one of the NFL’s best teams. However, the Packers are conclusively outmatched by the Patriots and surprisingly only have one win at home this year.

Buffalo 10 Houston 17
Both Houston’s win have come at home this season, where they have looked like a totally different team than the one that plays on the road. If Cass and the offense can get an early lead, the defense will be able to sit back in the passing zones and disrupt the Bills passing game.

Oakland 6 Kansas City 24
The Raiders are winless on the road this week and travel to Arrowhead, where the Chiefs will be ready for a Raider onslaught. If the Oakland offense scores a touchdown in this game I’ll be surprised. This is without a doubt the lock of the week.

Minnesota 14 Miami 13
No one can figure the Vikings out, including their own head coach. They have the defense and talent needed to blast through their easy schedule and make the playoffs, but the question seems to be whether or not they will even make it. This is a team without the killer instinct needed to stop teams away and won’t go further than the first round if they even make the playoffs.

Cincinnati 28 New Orleans 70
The Saints have jump out to a surprising 6-2 start, yet the experts keep picking them to lose every week. I think it’s time New Orleans, and Drew Brees get the respect they deserve. It might take a playoff win to do that, but a win this week against the Bengals will go a long way toward earning that respect.

Chicago 20 N.Y. Jets 13
This appears to be another mismatch for the Bears. However, they have struggled against the AFC East this year, just ask Miami. Don’t expect the repeat of the Miami game, as the Bears will be motivated to add the elusive prize of home field advantage.

Tennessee 14 Philadelphia 27
Philly really needs a win here to keep pace with the Giants. New York has a tough game this week, and a win at home to the Titans would be unacceptable for the Eagles. Look for the Eagles to try to run a ball a little more this week, giving Westbrook as many opportunities to touch the ball as possible.

Washington 20 Tampa Bay 13
Both the Redskins and Bucs made the playoffs a year ago, but both need a miracle to make the post-season again this year. Washington has been the biggest disappointment, as they were picked to be better than last year with all of their off-season acquisitions. However, I like the Redskins in this game, as their short passing attack matches up well against Tampa’s defense.

Detroit 14 Arizona 24
The Cardinals are the only one win team left, but should be able to pick up their second against the Lions who are winless on the road.

Even with two terrible teams, this game does have some winnability, as whoever loses this week will be on a fast track for the first pick in the draft.

Seattle 31 San Francisco 18
Even with injuries to its two most effective offensive performances, the Seahawks will find themselves in first place. They might not have the record or momentum they had last year, but Seattle will definitely be dangerous come playoff time.

Indianapolis 28 Dallas 20
This game will feature the most hyped receiver in the NFL and the most productive receiver in the NFL. T.O. gets all the hype, but Marvin Harrison puts up the numbers year in and year out, and more importantly his team wins.

San Diego 17 Denver 21
The winner will claim first place in the AFC West and be a step closer to claiming a playoff spot. Both teams will likely reach the playoffs this year, but a first round bye would help either team’s chances of reaching the Super Bowl.

N.Y. Giants 20 Jacksonville 23
The Jaguars don’t look at home; in fact, some home games haven’t even been close this year. The Giants should change that trend and make this game close. However, without Michael Strahan and Amani Toomer, the Giants don’t have the firepower needed to win in Jacksonville.

This week in Chicago sports

By Sachin Jain
SPORTS EDITOR

Which Bears team will show up this week? No one is quite sure, but hopefully it will be the one that has thwarted opponents by twenty point margins.

The major difference between when the Bears have won and when they have lost has been the play of quarterback, Rex Grossman. For the most part Grossman has been phenomenal and has helped the Bears score 34 or more points on six different occasions. However, in the loss to Miami and almost loss to Arizona, he has looked like a completely different quarterback, passing for only one touchdown and half a dozen interceptions.

Whenever the Bears have dug themselves into a hole early in a game, Grossman has tried to force the issue. Both the Cardinals and the Dolphins anticipated that this would happen and were ready to make interceptions when Grossman threw the ball into heavy coverage. In order for the Bears to go deep into the playoffs, they will need much more consistency from the quarterback position, as one loss will mean the end of the season. If Grossman is able to become somewhat more cautious and give fewer turnovers, the Bears will be hard to beat.

The Bears also need running backs Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson to produce more consistently to help ease the pressure on Grossman. After facing the Giants last week, the Bears stay in New York to take on the Jets. Expected to be one of the worst teams in the league, the Jets have surpassed expectations thus far, even after losing their star running back, Curtis Martin, to the physically-unable-to-perform list at the beginning of the year.

The Jets will need quarterback, Chad Pennington to pick apart the Bears secondary if the Jets have any chance to come away with a victory. Behind an angry defense, the Bears should come out on top, as long as Grossman doesn’t throw the ball to the Jets more than two times.

Just as the Bears have run into some consistency problems, the Bucs have started off the season quite inconsistently as well. The Bucs started the season by beating a tough Dallas Mavericks team, who reached the NBA Finals last year. The Mavericks will be without their second leading scorer in Josh Howard, but still have more than enough firepower to give the Bears trouble.

Next on the road trip, the Bulls head to Houston. With their two stars, Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming healthy, the Houston Rockets look to be one of the best teams in the West. The size of both players at the guard and the center position will give the Bulls some serious problems, however, if the Bulls can limit the damage by role players such as Shane Battier and Bonzi Wells, they can escape with a victory.

Finally, the Bulls get the best team in the NBA in the San Antonio Spurs. Their power forward, Tim Duncan, looks to be returning to form after a couple years ago when he helped lead them to the Western Championship. That in combination with a healthy supporting staff will prove insurmountable for the Bulls.

After finishing up their tour of Texas, the Bulls head west to play Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers. Although, Bryant has not looked the same since after his injury, the Lakers seem to be a much-improved team as the other players, particularly Lamar Odom, have stepped it up. In continuing with their roller coaster of a season, The Bulls should come away with two wins this week.

Schedule of Events

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Last Week’s Scores

No scores to report this week.

James Boussor | TECHNEWS