

# Newly-renovated E1 atrium, common areas open to students



Photos by Kori Bowns

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# Auto Show sparkle dulls

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Last year, I went to the Chicago Auto Show for the first time and with a press pass, no less. Aside from the glaring that I attracted for being so young and on the floor outside of public days, it was really enjoyable. The displays were interesting and there were many experiences to be had that I hadn't seen before. A great showcase of classic cars in the back caught my attention and I think I put my butt in just about every car that had the doors unlocked (even the 2.6 million dollar Bugatti

Veyron). Through an unfortunate combination of rose colored glasses and first time wonder, the Auto show may never be the same for me. The experience going a second time was not as great a second time and almost felt routine.

Once again, I could gather the feeling that I didn't belong. I had the pass and the credentials, but I could almost hear the other reporters thinking, "We'll let you stick around, but you are not one of us." Getting the pass was difficult enough and even required a call to the editor in order to smooth out some wrinkles. The excitement from last year wasn't renewed walking onto the floor again a second time.

The show, apparently is 95% unchanged year to year (and some parts changed for the worse). Instead of a dragster, Toyota had an LP1 from Le Mans, in place of trucks, the test track had sedans; nothing excitingly different. The blinding sparkle of an endless sea of body work and diversity in automotive invention, instead became a pile of uninspiring metal and rubber to wade through.

There is something to be said about going to the show on public and media days. Last year, I experienced both sides of the event and the dazzle and awe of so many people packed into the space makes the show more of

a spectacle. The lull of media days, while great for avoiding lines at simulators and test tracks, takes away from the grandeur of what the largest automotive expo in North America is all about. For the briefest of moments, sitting in the Audi R8, I could feel the excitement. Looking at the Alfa Romeo display (aside from the presenter not knowing the name of the company she was representing), I was once again in the world of flawless execution and power that comes with automotive design. In reality, these brief moments gave way to a largely uneventful day. At least, the photos turned out great and I now have some new desktop wallpapers.