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Fresh in the City Scavenger Hunt introduces new students to Chicago

Abha Dalmia
TECHNEWS WRITER

Fresh in the City is an annual team-based challenge that began in the fall of 2010. The event is sponsored by Office of Undergraduate Affairs and the IIT Leadership Academy (LA). It is specifically targeted at freshmen and transfer students as it aims to welcome and integrate them into the IIT community and familiarize them with the city of Chicago.

This year, the event took place on Saturday, September 26, 2015. Students gathered early in the morning at 10 a.m. in Morton Park (the field north of Hermann Hall). As they arrived, LA scholars checked them in and assigned them to different teams. Initially they planned to have around eight to nine teams but due to the weak turnout on a Saturday morning, teams were merged to form a total of five teams. Each team had separate color bands and came up with their own names.

Every team had to complete two challenges before embarking on their scavenger hunt around the city. The event began with a sack race challenge followed by mind game challenges. The mind challenges were composed of seven tasks out of which each team had to complete at least four. The

tasks included things like a sudoku puzzle, identifying countries on a map of Europe, matching authors to the books they have written, multiple choice questions on IIT trivia, and unscrambling phrases by sounding them out. The teams that completed these two challenges fastest got a head start on the full day scavenger hunt, where teams explored different areas of Chicago and completed specific tasks. The scavenger hunt began with students choosing two places to explore from a comprehensive list of tourist sites including Millennium Park, Lincoln Park Zoo, Navy Pier, The Magnificent Mile, Museum Campus, and The Loop.

Points were awarded based on the number of tasks each team managed to complete and not based on how fast they completed it. However, every team had to check in to the different locations by a certain time and make it back to Morton Park by 5 p.m. to avoid penalty and deduction of points. There were about 17-18 questions that teams had to answer for each of the two stops they had chosen. Some questions were just asking for information while others required participants to take pictures at certain locations. The information seeking questions asked things like the reason why the Ferris wheel at Navy Pier was made, who invented it and other such questions. The practical questions asked teams

to do things like go into Ghirardelli Chocolate Company and take a picture while enjoying a chocolate sample, take a picture while doing your best Michael Jordan pose outside Nike, or take a picture with the LEGO figurine outside The LEGO Store.

The scavenger hunt actually required quite a bit of strategic planning. While some groups took the simple approach of completing tasks in a linear fashion then checking out and heading back to reach the last stop on time despite not being able to complete all the challenges, other groups chose to complete the challenges and reach the last stop a little late as the points they obtained from completing challenges more than made up for the points lost from reaching late.

Fifteen dollars was allocated to each student for lunch at a restaurant near the destination teams chose to explore from the list of restaurants that LA had prepared. The restaurants on the list were ones offering Chicago cuisine and hence students got to try the local food. Dinner was served on campus when all the teams returned.

Overall, it was an exhausting but enjoyable experience as it allowed new students to gain a little more familiarity with the city of Chicago. It made them more comfortable and more confident about travelling independently around a big city like

Chicago, which can be a little overwhelming in the beginning. Moreover, students got to build teamwork and leadership skills while having fun as they completed challenges as a team. Students also learned to use the CTA system and see the train line options available near and on campus. In addition, since students were randomly assigned teams, everyone got to make new friends.

As for the event, there is always scope for improvement. Some students felt that even though they enjoyed the event it could have been better organized if team leaders were given more information about the activities. Some teams had to walk around for 30 minutes or more just looking for the scholars that would check them in at each location as check-in locations were not designated.

On the brighter side, teams received amazing prizes. Team Popcorn came first and each participant on the team won a \$40 gift card that can be used in any store that accepts payment using a visa card. Team Purple came second and earned \$25 vouchers while Team Slayers came third with each member winning a \$10 voucher. On the whole, students were happy about attending this event and that is what really matters. Such an event is not easy to organize and students who attended would like to thank the Leadership Academy for putting it together.



Photos by Abha Dalmia

SGA opens nominations for President's Student Advisory Council

Reno Waswil
TECHNEWS WRITER

With the induction of Dr. Alan W. Cramb as Illinois Tech's ninth president last week comes the responsibility for President Cramb to make decisions that address the concerns of everyone affiliated with the institution, which naturally include those of the student body. For this expressed purpose, President Cramb has decided to assemble a group of student representatives to become the President's Student Advisory Council. These representatives will act as a direct line from the student body to the president to determine and evaluate any concerns of the students.

The student membership of the advisory council will be tasked with, among

other things, seeking out and representing issues and suggestions of the student body, voicing these directly to President Cramb, and advising and assisting in developing potential solutions, when appropriate.

There will be a total of fourteen positions on this council. These positions will include: the SGA president, currently Rahul V Wadhvani, who is elected by the student body every spring; a student worker from Residence Life chosen by Residence and Greek Life (RGL); a member of Greek Life chosen by Greek Council; a member of athletics chosen by the Student Athletics Advising Committee (SAAC); a member of the International Student Organization (ISO) to represent the international student body on campus;

a member of the TechNews newspaper; a member of the Graduate Student Association (GSA); a member of the Commuter Student Association, and a student selected by the Dean of Students Katherine Stetz.

The most exciting and applicable part about this news though, is that this leaves five remaining positions open in the council for which SGA, as of this paper's release, will be accepting nominations! These positions will be held by students who represent general student interests at Illinois Tech, and who will be elected by SGA based on the pool of applications. Any student at the university can be nominated for consideration, and self-nominations are accepted and encouraged. For students who think they can offer a lot of

insight into a discussion on issues pertaining to student welfare and who would be comfortable voicing these concerns, this is a fantastic and prestigious opportunity.

Nominations for these positions will run from Tuesday, September 29, 2015 to 11:59 p.m., Sunday, October 11, 2015 and can be directed to iitnominations@gmail.com. Applications for the positions for those that accept their nominations are then subsequently due at 11:59 p.m., October 19, 2015 and these can be found on the SGA's Hawklink page under the "Forms" section.

The President's Students Advisory Council will have their first meeting on a yet-to-be-announced date in late October.

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Drive and opportunity between the sexes

Jerry Sha
TECHNEWS WRITER

Equal opportunity has been something of a buzzword since seemingly the turn of the century. Policymakers and political reformers have been pushing hard for equality, initially focused on race, but expanding now to include education and gender.

The drive for equality draws fire from stunning and undeniable statistical facts. Less than five percent of fortune 500 company executives, for example, are female, and all but 20 heads of nation in the entire world are men.

While we may hear quite often about policies designed to ensure and promote equal opportunity, it seems almost incorrect in today's political atmosphere to question the existence of equal drive or motive.

Logically examined, this observation is quite simply absurd. How can we expect equal achievement, even under the assumption of equal opportunity, when the individuals who are challenging the opportunity barrier are not equally motivated to succeed? Is our use of the ratio of men and women in influential and highly visible positions a viable metric by which to measure the equality of opportunity?

A paper shedding new findings on the subject was recently published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) titled "Compared to men, women view professional advancement as equally attainable, but less desirable." In the study, researchers from Cornell University found that there was in fact a tendency even across women of drastically different demographics to view the male definition of "success", or more strictly defined as positions which hold power over others, to be signifi-

cantly less desirable.

As a starting point, the researchers asked groups of participants to write down or select from lists of life goals they found most important to themselves. These goals were then categorized into categories, such as affiliation (relationship with loved ones), achievement (winning competitions against others), and, importantly, power (attaining positions of importance and power).

The study found that women tend to list more goals than men, but at the same time submitted significantly less goals in the "power" category than men. The study involved women from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds, from undergraduate students to executives.

Furthermore, when asked to rate the desirability of a hypothetical promotion in the workplace, women across the board responded less enthusiastically than men.

Perhaps more interestingly, the same controlled surveys were used to present groups of men and women with a visual "ladder" of positions typical to the modern professional workforce. Each rung of the ladder represented a position better paid and more impactful than the one below.

Male and female participants, when asked how far up they could realistically climb, responded with answers that were essentially the same, and yet when asked to identify the "ideal" rung on which to spend their careers, women, once again, systematically choose lower rungs than their male counterparts.

Finally, as if to hammer in the conclusion, women showed a tendency to associate, through word association games, more negative connotations with positions of higher power. They also predict a higher chance of conflict between professional achievement and

personal fulfillment.

The paper, being a scientific publication, does not really present a clear political conclusion or a call to action. More importantly, the paper in no way identifies the origin of the female tendency to desire lower social power.

One would think that, given the prevalence and visibility of feminist movements in recent times, the issue of opportunity would be the stranglehold on female equality among the rungs of societal power, but opportunity is evidently not quite the entirety of the problem.

One could argue that the social perception of women's roles are to blame, and that with correct education and encouragement during their development, girls would exhibit as much ambition as boys upon reaching adulthood, but I beg to differ.

Near the beginning of the article, I mentioned that currently we seem to be using the ratio of successful men to women as a foolish metric to measure our progress towards equality. The absurdity of the metric lies in the fact that success has thus far been determined by a male-dominated viewpoint of power. A better metric, I suspect, would be a measure of personal happiness and fulfillment. When the experiment returns unfavorable results, it is not always the measured substance itself that is at fault; the measuring method is equally liable to produce undesired impact.

When it comes to an organic society of human beings, it is perhaps more respectful, more prudent, and more sensible, to ask to refine our self-evaluation metrics than to change the culture and mentality of roughly half the world's population.

TechNews corrections

Last week, in an article covering the approval of new student organizations by the Student Government Association (SGA), it was reported that the SGA Senate approved an IIT chapter of National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS).

According to a clarification from SGA, the organization was initially approved by a senate vote. However, after the initial vote, the status of the organization was discussed further. After reconsideration and changes to the vote, the group's approval was

revoked pending further investigation from SGA.

We apologize for the confusion.

CAMPUS

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Algorhythm to bring chiptunes artists from the Midwest to the Bog

Reno Waswil
TECHNEWS WRITER

WIIT has a lot to offer to any given fan of art of a certain independent nature. This isn't a limiting feature of "indie" music. Though the name has been attributed to a genre of folk-like alternative-rock, it encompasses way more than that to the point that it resists generalizable labels, in exchange of simply the acknowledgement of a shared personal investment. It is this determination, ingenuity and sheer barrier-less span that is often lost in the booking of college shows.

WIIT's autonomous and segmental nature, as well as its wide variety of shows, programming, projects, and contests that it hosts, offers it the perfect position to be the leader of promoting a wide variety of artistic and media endeavors at the university.

This is why, for this upcoming Saturday, October 3 (doors at 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m.), WIIT is teaming up once again with Union Board, this time to put on the Bog event Algorhythm, which hopes to be an experience for the ages. Trying to describe it is difficult, but what is lauded by its planners as "A night showcasing the music tracker and chiptunes musicians from the Midwest and Chicago accompanied by live video art."

Algorhythm will feature some of the leaders of the chiptunes genre in the

area. The four artists that will be featured that night—Diode Milliampere, Protoman, CCDM, and Infordrive—will be composing and performing experimental music, each with their own particular style and philosophy. In addition to this, Algorhythm will be marked by relevant video art created by local illustrator Ohhinaifu.

Diode Milliampere is a sound engineer and "synthesist" who specializes in making music using, among others, the OPL3 synthesizer found inside 1990's era video game sound cards. In addition to this, he also has the distinction of founding the Chicago Digital Arts and Music Festival, which has historically brought in the leading chiptunes artist in the Midwest.

Protoman prefers to compose his music to a large part using programming software "inspired by late 80s mod trackers like Impulse Tracker, Schism Tracker, and Renoise." Another one of his distinct styles is that he experiments with input devices such as different game controllers as midi controllers and sequencers using the Max/MSP visual programming language.

He spent years developing his unique sound working with fellow Chicago chiptunes artist K-Rad. He is also the host of a monthly computer music competition called "The Iron Chef of Music," where, fittingly, musicians, telecommuting, spend two hours creating

music out of a single audio sample that they exhibit and discuss at the end for the purpose of teaching electronic music programs and techniques for beginners in the trade.

CCDM is a Chicago-based experimental musician that will be using Commodore Amiga computers to make his music. The distinction of his music lies in his aggressiveness, relying on blistering tempos and demented samples marked by what could be described as baroque melodies. He currently has a number of albums out, including one single through "Radiograffiti" and four through "Sociopath Recordings."

Infordrive, a Michigan-based musician, ties off this lineup as an artist that specializes in using a Nintendo Gameboy as a music station using Little Sound Dj. Through his experimentation with the format over the last few years, he has developed a complex, ecstatic sound of manipulated Gameboy tones.

In addition to that, pixel artist and illustrator Ohhinaifu will be there to add a visual aspect to the show.

As one of the more interesting and obscure shows to come to campus, and one that has already garnered a lot of interest in the Chiptunes community, this event is sure to provide an interesting and compelling show for everyone in attendance.

Companies recruit a variety of students at Fall Career Fair

Abhinaya Iyer

TECHNEWS WRITER

Getting a job can be one of the hardest and most important things to do after studying hard for 4 or 5 years at IIT! However, every year IIT's Career Services department organizes a career fair where companies from both the public and private sectors come and interact with students. This year, the career fair was held on the September 24 in Herman Hall.

The hall was practically jam-packed with students dressed in formal professional attire along with some professors. It officially began at noon, but the action started earlier in

the morning when all the companies came and set up their stalls. Students started pouring in with resumes in their hands and hope beaming in their eyes! A lot of companies were present, including major companies like Google for computer science majors, Illinois Department of Transportation for civil engineers, and many other companies for other majors.

Most students were excited but at the same time nervous about their personal interviews. Although most interviews didn't last for more than five minutes, it was enough to make them uneasy until it was done. The companies there were looking for a variety of skills

from IIT students. The Hanley, Flight & Zimmermann Company was looking for computer science and mechanical engineers, resulting in a long queue of students standing in front of their stall. Chris' Awesome Guacamole was favoring food processing engineers and business majors. Michigan University had also set up a stall encouraging undergraduate students to join their graduate majors. Cleversafe was looking for computer science engineers with an experience in Java programming. AECOM was on the search for architecture and civil engineers who had played around with Autocad and Revvit before. Spraying Systems Company

was a popular company amongst chemical engineers. They were in search of engineers with a passion of trying to protect consumers but at the same time be commercially successful. The company was into making sprayer nozzles for paper, steel and food industries.

The organizer behind this event was Deborah Young in Career Services; she had help from Shirlean Williams as well as a few student organizations. In a nutshell, the career fair was a grand success catering to the needs of every major on campus helping undergraduate students obtain internships and graduate students get jobs.

From a Simple Dream to an Incredible Reality: the Story of UNICEF at IIT

Genevieve Hummel

TECHNEWS WRITER

The student organization United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) at IIT is a relatively new group on campus. The group can often be seen at tables and events around campus, and can be recognized by their vivid blue UNICEF tee shirts. The group received approval in March of last semester and the two students who started it agreed to an interview to explain more about the purpose behind the organization. The story behind the founding of this group, as told by the two students who started it all, is truly inspirational.

UNICEF President Pratik Sampat and Vice President Mert Pekdemir met each other for the first time approximately a year ago at the Millennium Campus Conference (MCC). They attended the conference as part of Engineers Without Borders. That year UNICEF had decided to partner with MCC for the conference, so there were many UNICEF members from various colleges in attendance. There were also many other organizations there, but the blue UNICEF shirts stood out to Pekdemir and Sampat. They began talking to students from other schools who were part of UNICEF. The UNICEF clubs they talked to shared their personal stories about what they were doing to help and showed off their clubs' Facebook pages. They discovered that almost all of the major colleges around Chicago had UNICEF organizations on campus, except for IIT. Sampat said that this "inspired us to think about why we don't have this kind of chapter on our campus, why we don't have a UNICEF at IIT?" They thought about IIT as a campus full of such diverse students with a unique set of skills and they wondered why there was not yet a UNICEF chapter on campus.

During the conference, the President and CEO of the US Fund for UNICEF,

Caryl M. Stern, gave a speech explaining what UNICEF was and talking about how she got involved. The speech was so touching, according to Sampat, that it seemed everyone in the room was crying by the end. The speech motivated them so much that they decided to come back to campus and find out why there was no chapter at IIT and see what they could do to fix that.

It took the two of them a while to get things going because neither of them knew anything about starting an organization from nothing. It took a lot of work because they had to work with both IIT and UNICEF in order to get the group started up properly. They decided to split the work between them and Pekdemir focused on IIT while Sampat focused on the UNICEF side of things. Eventually they put together an executive board for the organization and they took the idea to SGA for approval. When talking about trying to get approval, Sampat said, "I think that was one of our biggest challenges" because SGA was reluctant to approve another nonprofit organization on campus. At that time, it was still just the two of them in this organization and they had to put together a huge presentation and answer a lot of questions. Eventually, however, they did manage to distinguish themselves from the other nonprofit community service groups on campus enough to receive approval to start an official UNICEF chapter at IIT. The organization now boasts 45 active members, with the email list consisting of 212 members.

The main goal of UNICEF as a whole is to "bring the number of preventable deaths to zero." Sampat explained what this goal means by saying, "Every single day 17,000 children die from preventable causes like malnutrition, lack of water, not having proper vaccinations, etc. These are things that we take for granted, things that are easily accessible to us, but 17,000 children die every day from things like that and UNICEF strongly believes in re-

ducing that number to zero. If these are preventable, we can make this zero, this shouldn't be impossible. That is one of UNICEF's biggest missions".

In order to contribute to this goal, the IIT chapter of UNICEF divided up into three committees: education, fundraising, and public relations. The committees work together towards the common goal and come together for general body meetings, but they each focus on a different purpose within the organization.

The education committee, led by Pekdemir, has the goal of educating the members of UNICEF, as well as students all over campus, on the issues that are affecting children all over the world. Most of the students at this school were raised in a sheltered community where there was never a concern about food and water. Students at IIT do not know what it means to starve or experience thirst or famine. There are children that are experiencing things that we cannot imagine and we do not know how they are living and what they are fighting through. The job of the education committee is to teach these subjects around school in an effort to raise awareness about what is going on around the world. Pekdemir explains that, "If we don't know about this then we cannot help the cause, we cannot add anything, we cannot contribute. In order to contribute we need to talk about these facts and what UNICEF does and tell it to the school so that the school will know about what's going on around us and what's going on all around the world". This is the goal of the education committee, because "if you know, then you will be talking to people" and then hopefully more people will be inspired to help make a difference.

The fundraising committee, led by Madina Tahmas, is dedicated to raising money to send to UNICEF on behalf of the IIT chapter. On Friday, September 25, for example, this committee hosted an event called "You vs. UNICEF" that raised \$132. This money,

as well as any other money raised this month, will go towards supporting Syrian refugees to help children afford things such as water and medical needs. Each month the group focuses on a different cause and the money raised that month is dedicated to helping that cause.

The third committee is public relations and it is led by Deniz Demir. The purpose of this committee is to help the organization by spreading the word about what the other two committees are doing. The goal for this committee is to increase campus awareness about UNICEF and the various activities and events that the group is hosting around campus.

One great project that UNICEF wants everyone to be aware of is the tap project. Donating money is definitely not the only way to help, and this project is one great example of how anyone can easily contribute to UNICEF. The tap project is a project dedicated to raising money for clean water. In order to help with the cause, anyone can simply go to "http://tap.unicefusa.org/" or Google "the tap project by UNICEF" on their phone. This will open up a page where, for every 15 minutes the page is left open, one day of clean water will go to someone who needs it. This is a very simple way to help because the page could be open while your phone is in your pocket or while you are in class, for example. At UNICEF events, the members working the events typically have a tap project table set up where they all leave their phones during the event.

Anyone interested in learning more about UNICEF at IIT can go to their Facebook page. The best way to contact the organization is to send a Facebook message to the page, which will be answered within three hours. There is also a link on the page to sign up for the mailing list and to join one of the committees. This organization is only just beginning at IIT and they are always looking for new members and new ideas.



Photos by Genevieve Hummel

THANK YOU

ILLINOIS TECH Students, Faculty, and Staff

For making Homecoming 2015 and our first Global Spirit Day a huge success!

Pride matters. Pride counts. Thank you for showing it!

Special thanks to Union Board and our campus partners for your contributions to an amazing weekend of celebration!

ILLINOIS TECH OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



Congratulations, President Alan Cramb

On your inauguration as the ninth president of Illinois Tech

From provost to president, thank you for building a culture of excellence at Illinois Tech!

From the entire Illinois Tech community

Commuter Student Association holds first meeting of the semester

Reno Waswil
TECHNEWS WRITER

“Our mission is to help create a sense of community and friendship among the commuter student population and to provide helpful resources for commuters,” reads the Commuter Student Association (CSA) website. Last Tuesday, September 23, CSA had their first meeting of the semester in Wishnick Hall and had a full house. This was due, most likely, to IIT’s large commuter student population as well as the delicious food, which included a mixed rice dish, fortune cookies, and other Asian culinary dishes in fairly large quantities, and for good reason.

Though Kevin Tapia, the president, would go to lead much of the meeting and speak through the slideshow presentation that was prepared for it, most of the meeting would find Tapia handing off the speaking privileges to the various guests who came to announce specific things to all those in attendance.

Food turned out to be a motif of the meeting and the opening remarks, after an introduction by Tapia, came from Ricky Stevenson as a representative of SGA’s Food Advisory Board. Since food would naturally be a huge part of any student’s life, and commuting students are so often kept out of discussions about campus food because they do not have meal plans, he invited any of the students who wished to participate and be included in that discussion to come to the biweekly Friday meetings at the MTCC Pritzker Club from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. When asked whether there would be food at any of these meetings, Stevenson declined.

Next came a message from a representative from IIT Campus Sustainability who encouraged everybody who has a bike on campus to come to register it with them at the MTCC South entrance, the exact dates and times being announced on their Facebook page. This process involves getting the bike

tagged in an attempt to prevent it from getting abandoned and stolen and to help with the recovery process of lost and stolen bicycles, and getting it listed with their organization, which, the representative mentioned, would help the organization make the case to the school to, among other things, install more bike racks on campus.

He also provided a few recommendations to the students in protecting their bikes, which included only locking it on a designated IIT bike rack, avoiding chain locks for the stronger and more resilient U-locks, and locking the tire and frame whenever locking a bike on campus. He ended the talk by responding to a question of whether there were any in-

to Career Fair Success,” where students can ask questions and get their resumes reviewed in preparation for the fair.

Tapia then moved on to talking about The Bog, which maintains the commuter students lounge during the day from Monday to Friday. Though neither bowling nor the bar are open during this time, it is still a time for students to come when the ping-pong, billiard tables and the gaming systems are open and where a refrigerator and microwave are available for use. He then spoke on the various Bog events happening that week, which include a dance party that Thursday, from 9 p.m. to 12 a.m.

The next topic of discussion was a



Image courtesy of Commuter Student Association

door storage spaces on campus for the storage of bikes either overnight or otherwise. He said that there are currently no indoor spaces where bikes could be stored and that they are not allowed in academic buildings, but finished that this should be encouragement to get everyone’s bike registered.

After that, Tapia spoke about the Career Fair which was taking place that Thursday, September 24. Though there are multiple any given academic year, the fall one was by far the biggest and the best one to go to, and mentioned that Latinos Involved in Further Education (LIFE)—a club Tapia is also the President of—and Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE) were hosting an event titled “Career Essentials: Ultimate Guide

trip that CSA was planning with The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) and National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) to take to the trampoline park Sky Zone which, in the course of that meeting it was decided, would probably happen at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, and include a cost of about \$5 per student.

Near the end, when Tapia opened the floor for questions or proposals for things the club could do to support commuter students’ interests, someone spoke up about whether they can get lockers for commuter students to store books in. Tapia acknowledged that there are currently lockers available in the MTCC that students can purchase for \$60 a semester, to which the student replied that no one wants

to pay that. Tapia said that they could try to get cheaper or free lockers for commuter students.

The conversation, as expected, once again came back to food when Tapia invited up two students from an IPRO which hosts Eco Eats, which, as their Facebook page reads, “is a platform to connect students cooking their own meals with others who are willing to chip in a small amount of money to join them and share,” for about \$5 as the student said. The first of these meals, which will include chicken teriyaki, potatoes, and peach dumplings with ice cream for dessert, would take place Friday, September 25 in SSV middle at 8 p.m., and more information about future meals and events is available on their Facebook page: facebook.com/ecoatsit.

Then, after the presentation and when everyone was waiting in line for food, a student from SHPE, in the process of normal conversation, was invited by Tapia to talk about the SHPE conferences, which are much larger conferences and are much better at helping engineering students getting jobs and internships, but which take place on the east and west coasts and for which students would have to get their own tickets and transportation.

If you or someone you know is a commuter student looking for a sense of community [or free food], CSA invites you to come to their next meeting, which is scheduled to be taking place on Tuesday, October 20, at 12:50 p.m. It was originally planned to be in a Wishnick Hall (the normal meeting place for the club), but after the turnout to this meeting, Tapia changed the location to the Bog.

To say up-to-date on times commuter and CSA meeting news, I recommend everyone go to the CSA website: iit.edu/~commuter/, and sign up for their mailing list.

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A&E

Ed Sheeran concert: An unforgettable experience

Abha Dalmia
TECHNEWS WRITER

It is said that unplanned days and spontaneous nights often turn out to make the best memories.

Being a planner by nature, I have always held the opinion that for events and outings to be fun and worthwhile they have to be planned to the minutest details. However last week I was pleasantly surprised to find myself screaming and swaying to songs at an Ed Sheeran concert when I least expected it.

It was Wednesday evening and I was still debating which of the two meetings that I had lined up for that evening I was supposed to attend, when suddenly a friend whom I had hardly spoken to told me he had extra Ed Sheeran concert tickets.

Initially I rejected the offer, deciding to be responsible and stick to the plans I had laid out. However, at the spur of the moment, an hour before it was time to leave, I decided to

ditch both the meetings and attend the concert instead. A decision that I am super ecstatic I made.

As a part of his 2015 world tour, Ed Sheeran performed at the Hollywood Casino Amphitheater in Tinley Park on Wednesday, September 18. The show started at 7 p.m. with special guests Passenger and Christina Perri opening before Ed Sheeran took to the stage. He sang most of his popular numbers including “A-Team,” “Thinking Out Loud,” a mash-up of “Don’t” and “Nina,” “Tenerife Sea,” “You Need Me,” “I’m a Mess,” “One,” “Photograph,” and others.

It was a nerve-racking hour-long drive to Tinley Park from IIT since we got caught in the evening rush hour and hence reached the venue a little late. However, once we got there, we were amazed to see the hoards of people who had gathered to watch this gifted performer perform.

It was amusing to witness thousands of heads eagerly waiting in a tightly-packed

and immensely huge stadium. The fact that so many people had gathered to watch a solo, casually-dressed, 24-year-old performer sing using just a guitar, loop pedal, and a collection of narrative sing-alongs was unbelievable and nothing short of a miracle. The stage set up too was very simple with slightly psychedelic tour screens to match the beat and feel of the songs.

The most unforgettable thing about the concert was its atmosphere. It was surreal to witness super-excited fans crying and screaming when Sheeran graced the stage. The vibe was electrifying and full of excitement as people sang and danced their hearts out, forgetting all the worries in the world for a few moments. The outdoor lawn seats, despite being the cheapest, turned out to be the best due to the pleasant weather and refreshing breeze.

Another essential element for an unforgettable concert experience is great company. Even if just one member of the group is super passionate about the performer or performance it rubs off on the whole group. Had it

not been for my wonderful group of friends, I would have missed out.

Ed Sheeran was a performer I was only vaguely familiar with before the concert, but now I find myself listening to his songs on YouTube for study music all the time. I am glad to have been introduced to such an honest singer who not only has a soothing voice but also writes beautiful heartfelt lyrics, full of pain and passion.

This concert has definitely turned me into one of his biggest admirers. Hence for all the international students out there, even if you are not familiar with a lot of American musicians, attending a concert should definitely be on your bucket list.

Despite not knowing the lyrics and not being able to sing along, my concert experience was an unforgettable one and something that I would love for everyone to experience at least once in their lifetime.

ZBoard electric skateboards offer premium experience

Austin Gonzalez
OPINION EDITOR

When it comes to electric skateboards, innovation comes in the form of optimizing the existing standard. Lighter decks, embedded batteries, hub motors, and the like can all be found on top-of-the-line eboards, but the one company that really sets itself apart is ZBoard.

ZBoard is the only weight-sensing electric skateboard on the market. First brought to the public through a Kickstarter campaign in late February of 2012, ZBoard has established itself as one of the best eboard manufacturers around.

What makes it so interesting is the lack of wireless controller you usually find. To move forward and back, you press on two pads that pop up through the board, somewhat like a sideways Segway. The name ZBoard comes

from the clever system; as the user moves in the X and Y directions, your weight pressing in the Z direction propels you forward.

ZBoard has offered three boards for quite a while now, the cheapest of which clearly shows the age of the company. The weakest offering, the Classic, uses sealed lead acid batteries to propel you five to six miles at 15 mph.

I’ve had the pleasure of getting my hands on a San Francisco Special. This 28-pound monster of a skateboard weighs so much, thanks in no small part to an 18 amp hour lithium ion phosphate battery. To the uninformed, that may sound too heavy and meaningless, but once you feel the rush of 18 mile per hour wind in your face as you hit the top speed, you may change your mind. Couple that with the stated 18 mile range and Lake Shore Path, and you’ll be cruising far past the loop without a care.

In the past week, I’ve ridden around 25 miles on the aging San Francisco Special

ZBoard and I feel comfortable saying this is a huge performance step up over similar boards. I’ve only been able to measure a top speed of 15 mph, but this might be due to a two-year-old battery pack slung under the deck.

I had a friend come with me to compare the style of the ZBoard to something more traditional like the Yuneec. We found that the ZBoard is much better at taking bumps and potholes you find throughout the city. Fair warning, wiping out on the Zboard is more frightening not only because you’re traveling 50 percent faster but also due to the nearly 30-pound rocket that shoots out from under you that you have no control over.

The cons of such a beast of a board don’t stop there. The learning curve of using your weight to carve and to actuate buttons placed much too far apart is a bit steeper. It took around three miles before I was comfortable compared to three blocks with a controller.

This eboard is one that I would no longer consider a skateboard. It’s impossible to push by weight alone and the resistance from the motor is massive. To highlight this with an example, the ZBoard will actually slow to a stop going downhill if you don’t press the accelerator. The weight is an instant hit whenever you need to get off and carry it. Bringing a 9-pound longboard to class will turn some heads, but a 28-pound ZBoard is going to need a desk of its own.

So for all the inconvenience of weight and size, what you get is an overpowered rocket on wheels. And if the top speed and range weren’t enough, both can be improved with urethane wheels with a simple swap.

The ZBoard crew will be releasing the ZBoard 2 soon, which promises the same specs as above, with better ergonomics and only weighing 16 pounds. If you’re looking for a top tier eboarding experience, have a look at ZBoard.



Reviews:

Heartless Bastards perform at Chicago's Metro

Soren Spicknall
WIIT MUSIC DIRECTOR

It's truly a shame that Chicago doesn't seem to have the same appetite for roots rock as cities like Milwaukee or Nashville.

Aside from Wilco, who made it big on their experimentalist tendencies rather than their alt-country leanings, there are very few Americana success stories who call this city home, and not many major folk rock figures make their way here often when touring. The last time Brandi Carlile played anything besides a festival set in Chicago was in 2012, a story that starts to sound familiar when you look up the most recent Chicago concerts of groups like Dawes, Shakey Graves (who, to his credit, has a show coming up in a few months), and others in the genre.

That's why, when an opportunity came up for me to see Cincinnati band Heartless Bastards at Metro, I was quick to jump on it despite not counting myself as a major fan of the group beforehand. That's how I found myself in Wrigleyville on a Wednesday night, fighting past baseball drunks to get to the venue and figure out whether it was worth the trek or if I would leave unsatisfied with the sound of Heartless Bastards.

The show started off on a rollicking note with a short opening set from Chicago's own Redgrave, a duo led by Angie Mead, who seems born to front a rock band. Redgrave's sound is a blend of early metal and modern garage rock, combining influences from bands as different as Led Zeppelin and X to form an explosive, if somewhat repetitive, live show.

Redgrave brought the energy level up and set the bar high for the second openers of the night, the Brooklyn-based folk rock group Alberta Cross.

The group's signature sound was more of a direct fit for the type of crowd that would turn up to a Heartless Bastards show, with vocals reminiscent of Ben Bridwell from Band of Horses and song structures which bring fellow New Yorkers The Lone Bellow to mind. However, at times it seemed that Alberta Cross tried too hard to fit a certain folk pop mold with their music and appearance, which might have something to do with the fact that their leader and only permanent member, Peter Ericson Stakee, is of Swedish origin and that the band originally formed in London.

While establishing themselves in a European environment not already saturated with other Americana groups, it seems that Alberta Cross may have chosen emulation over innovation and settled for a relatively deriva-

tive overall sound.

Though the group obviously has talent, no particular songs of their set stood out as something that couldn't be done by another group in the genre. In the end, Redgrave's set was more memorable than Alberta Cross's, though not for lack of talent or energy on the part of either group.

A full hour after the beginning of the music, and two hours past the time that Metro's doors opened for the evening, Heartless Bastards finally came on stage. After a quick greeting, the group made the interesting choice of beginning their show with the title track from 2009's "The Mountain" before five songs in a row from their latest album for Partisan Records, "Restless Ones." Though lead singer Erika Wennerstrom took a little time before her voice truly warmed up, by the end of the first set of tracks she was in full force, one of the most powerful altos in rock music today.

Though it's an odd comparison to make, Wennerstrom's upper register is very similar to that of Foxy Shazam's Eric Nally, getting ever more soulful and concentrated as it rises in pitch without ever getting to the point of showing cracks. Though there were a few moments where Wennerstrom had to be careful around her highest notes (understandable,

since the band has been performing nonstop since the beginning of August), her voice never missed or broke.

The rest of the band was in similarly professional form, with current lead guitarist Mark Nathan stealing the show at points with his impressive ability to shift on a moment's notice between bold solos in the style of Dawes's Taylor Goldsmith and contemplatively complex builds à la Adam Granduciel of The War On Drugs. Though the group's between-song stage presence was somewhat lacking (shown most obviously by some half-hearted "we love Chicago" banter from Wennerstrom that wouldn't have sounded sincere to anyone), their performance more than made up for a lack of personal charisma.

The 17-song set spanned the last four albums from Heartless Bastards, peppering in fan favorites with plenty of material from the latest LP, and I'm sure I would have been in heaven if I was a dedicated fan of the group. Heartless Bastards showed that even at the end of a promotional tour cycle, they can bring great energy and perform compelling versions of their songs in a live environment, and while doing so they made a great case for seeing more roots rock here in Chicago.

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	9	1					
2		7				4	1
						5	2
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数独

The word Sudoku, above, is actually the abbreviation of "Suuji wa dokushin ni kagiru," meaning "the digits must be single" or "the digits are limited to one occurrence."



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- Friday, October 2**
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- Men's Soccer**
@ Maranatha Baptist 3:30 p.m.
- Women's Volleyball**
@ Rockford 7 p.m.
- Saturday, October 3**
Women's Volleyball vs. Grace Bible 2 p.m.
- Women's Volleyball**
vs. Mount Mary 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 30**
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Obama Sweeps to Historic Victory

Nation Elects Its First African-American President Amid Record Turnout; Turmoil in Economy Dominates Voters' Concerns

By JONATHAN WEISMAN
AND LAURA MECKLER

Obama

WASHINGTON—Sen. Barack