

TechNews

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TECHNOLOGY SINCE 1928McCormick Tribune Campus Center
Room 221
3201 South State Street
Chicago, Illinois 60616E-mail: editor@technewsit.com
Website: http://www.technewsit.com

TechNews STAFF

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
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SUBMISSIONS

TechNews is published on the Tuesday of each week of the academic year. Deadline for all submissions and announcements is 11:59 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication. Articles, photos, and illustrations must be submitted electronically to the TechNews website at technewsit.com.

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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

campus@technewsit.com

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.