

OPINION

Check out one student's take on
Fresh in the City.

Page 2

CAMPUS

Can an app make campus safer?

Page 3

A&E

Check out a beautiful showcase at
the Garfield Park Conservatory.

Page 6

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OPINION 2
CAMPUS 2-5
A&E 6
SLIPSTICK 7
SPORTS 7

Dancing, casino games at RHA Boat Cruise

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COPY EDITOR

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) held their annual Boat Cruise on Lake Michigan this past Friday night into Saturday morning. Tickets went on sale last Monday morning at 12:30 p.m. in the Office of Campus Life (OCL.) The line grew quickly, and soon it was wrapped around the corner and onto the MTCC Bridge. No cash was accepted, only credit and debit cards. The line slugged along, and lasted for more than three hours. The tickets sold out within the day, and many people were disappointed. The week dragged on until finally, Friday came.

Friday night, the women got all dolled up and formally dressed; ready to look their best. The men tightened their ties and put on their suit jackets. Then, everyone attending met in Cohen Lounge in MSV. There were two times to board the shuttle to

get to the boat, at 10:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. As people boarded, excitement was high, and anticipation was climbing. The bus ride only took about 20 minutes, and the passengers finally disembarked onto the famous Navy Pier.

The boat was magnificent. The Odyssey, a Chi-Town favorite, sat waiting for the Illinois Tech passengers to board. As they waited in line once more, to turn in their original tickets for new, official ones, anticipation was extreme. Passengers over 21 were allowed to drink alcohol on the ship, and were differentiated by a white wristband they got from the crew after checking their IDs. The line was moving, and each group got to take their picture behind a branded life preserver.

Once on the boat, the atmosphere changed from anticipation to exhilaration. There were four floors of activities for the passengers to use. The first deck, the bottom of

the boat, was a casino-type feel, with blackjack, roulette, poker, and more. Each table had their own set of chips, which was distributed to the players. Each passenger was given 500 dollars worth of chips for the night. Each table had a helpful dealer who taught people how to play if they didn't. It was a light and fun atmosphere that emulated a casino feel, and fun times.

The second deck was a small dance floor with a full bar. The mixers were both amazing, and the lighting was moody and dim. This floor was mostly empty, and the music was more oldies—jazz or swing music. Not too many popular new hits were playing, but it was still a great atmosphere.

The third deck was the party deck. At the beginning of the cruise there was a buffet of finger foods including vegetarian spring rolls, meatballs, chicken fingers, potato wedges and more. There were also a slew of desserts including mini cheesecakes, brownies, and

fudge. There was also a full bar and a big dance floor able to hold every passenger. The lighting was bright, and the music was bouncing. New age hits blasted through the speakers and dancers enjoyed the rhythm of the boat along with the music. The atmosphere was high and jumping, and it was quite a lot of fun.

The fourth and top deck was a sky deck. The skyline looked beautiful with the city lights twinkling. It was chilly and the wind was blowing hard, but a few brave souls explored the top and were rewarded with the view. Romantic couples pictures were taken, and many shots of the tall buildings were captured. Though the boat never left the dock, the view was still stellar all night long.

The cruise was three hours of fun-filled times, with many options for everyone to enjoy. Though the ticket line was grueling and long, many thought it was well worth the wait.



Photos by Khaleela Zaman