

Visibility, safety town hall discussed at SGA Senate meeting

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TECHNEWS WRITER

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its first Senate meeting of the semester on Wednesday, January 20. The meeting began with presentation by groups seeking approval to become official student organizations on campus. One new student organization, "Science Graduate Student Association" received approval at this meeting. This organization was created to provide a professional organization for graduate students on campus that would offer resources and opportunities that focus on helping graduate

students.

These presentations were followed by the President's and Vice Presidents' reports. The results of the Student Speak Survey revealed that students have noticed SGA's attempt to become more visible on campus. However, SGA still would like to increase their visibility on campus, including better advertising for open senate seats. For example, there is now an opening for a College of Architecture senate spot.

Many students are not aware that Illinois Tech offers a free "student discount card" that provides discounts to local places on and off campus. This card can be picked

up in the Office of Campus Life (OCL) and is free for all Illinois Tech students. The list of places where the card can be used can be found online. The Vice President of Academic Affairs at SGA is hoping to increase the number of vendors offering discounts through this card.

The Communications Committee's service project was a huge success last semester, providing toys and small gifts to children from local elementary schools. The Vice President of Student Life reported that the second Town Hall will be held on February 8 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the MTCC Welcome Center and will focus on the topic of safety on campus.

All Student Government

Association meetings are open meetings and SGA would like to encourage all students to attend senate meetings. Meetings are held every other Wednesday night beginning at 9:15 p.m.. Meetings will now be held in Stuart Building room 113. The Student Government has an open door policy for meetings, where students may come and go as they please and students can participate in any discussions. SGA meetings are a great way to become more involved on campus. The next senate hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 3 and all students are invited, and encouraged to attend.

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Reviews:

Marble Mouth releases promising indie pop album

Soren Spicknall
WIIT STATION MANAGER

Scott Reitherman is no stranger to the indie pop community. As frontman of Throw Me The Statue until that group's departure in 2013, he's already become a familiar face in his native Seattle and beyond, scoring a minor college radio hit with that band's song "Lolita" in 2009. The success of the album *Creaturesque* earned Throw Me The Statue live session appearances on KEXP, Daytrotter, and more while touring, but the end of the group threatened to put an early cap on Reitherman's promising musical career. But instead of losing energy without a formal lineup behind him, Reitherman has instead cloaked himself in the shroud of a new name and a retro-futuristic new sound: Pillar Point. The first sign of a departure from TMTS's signature guitar pop came with Reitherman's move from Secretly Canadian to Polyvinyl Records in 2014, which was followed quickly with the release of Pillar Point's self-titled debut album, an upfront look at internal conflict drenched in layer upon layer of synthesizers and drum machines. And now, returning to perfect that formula, Pillar Point is back with their sophomore effort, *Marble Mouth*, which dropped on the 22nd.

Cynics may point to the rise of dance pop groups like Glass Animals and Sylvan Esso in recent years, and dismiss Pillar Point's music as a simple market grab rather than a genuine effort by Reitherman to expand his musical horizons. Those cynics would be wrong. *Marble Mouth* is one of the most painstakingly constructed albums I've heard yet in the genre, and



Image courtesy of Pillar Point

is certainly the most complex work of Reitherman's career. The musician traveled to Athens, Georgia to record in the studio owned by of Montreal's Kevin Barnes, a process that took

a month to complete. After that, more recordings were made in New Orleans, another six full weeks of work. The result is a kaleidoscope of grooving, rhythmic electropop with backing

contributions from members of Kishi Bashi and Washed Out, matching the concentration of works by Sun Airway and Animal Collective with the danceability of Jamie xx or LCD Soundsystem. At times the album has small signs of Kevin Barnes influence (most obvious on the Athens-themed track "Lafayette", which includes Barnes' unmistakable voice layered over itself as backing vocals), but Pillar Point's general vibe is all its own.

Upon first listen, it might be easy to call *Marble Mouth* a "retro" pop work based on the sheer number of New Wave synth tones found inside. However, the warm and sunny production style of the album betrays its modern nature, a product of the 25 years passed since such tones were last considered purely dramatic tools. Additionally, Reitherman's vocals are mixed in a different fashion than they ever were on TMTS's LPs, taking on a similar R&B-influenced sheen to Twin Shadow's first two albums. Pillar Point is an act much more suited to today's independent music climate than any continuation of TMTS would have been, and *Marble Mouth* will likely be considered Reitherman's most significant work to date within the next two years. That said, it's important to note that Pillar Point is not an utter departure from Reitherman's roots with TMTS. Perhaps an intentional nod to his past, the final song on this new album is a guitar and organ-driven affair, a signal that Pillar Point does not exist in a vacuum away from Reitherman's history. It's a stellar song in its own right, too, and proof that after all the electronics are peeled away, the man's songwriting prowess still stands on its own. 8.7/10

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