

TechNews

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Providing Libyan aid shows humanity still exists

By **Sneha Seraf**
TECHNEWS WRITER

With all the things that have been going on in Libya for the past few months, I know I should be glad that the tyranny of the Gadhafi regime is finally being challenged.

However, instead I'm more skeptical about the Libyan rebels – are they any better than Gadhafi's loyalists? What are their intentions, besides overthrowing their government? Can we even trust them? And, once the rebels accomplish their goals, what sort of government would they set up, and how?

Second, I find myself ashamed of many fellow Americans. Over the past few months that I've been reading about the war in

Libya via the internet, I have inevitably come across user comments which I've taken personally.

Often times, these people vent out their frustrations – “Why should we help the Libyans in their war?” “Don't we already have problems of our own to take care of?” I wonder, whatever has happened to humanity in this world? Those people aren't any different than we are – they're still humans like the rest of us.

When I was little, I would hear stories of how even the poor people in India would give whatever they had to their neighbors whenever they desperately needed it. Those selfless people didn't care much of their own plight, so long as they were able to help others. What makes this any different, besides

the magnitude of the situation? Many Libyans are crying for freedom and democracy – why shouldn't we lend them a helping hand, in the name of humanity?

The people I am most worried about now are the civilians themselves. In the midst of this war, they will suffer no matter which side wins. I understand that innocent lives will always be lost whenever there is war; but how much of this sacrifice is too much? Houses get destroyed, families get separated, and there's always a constant fear in the hearts of these civilians. Is anyone listening to their cries for help? And if there is, why don't we pitch in to support the cause?

If there is anyone out there who can answer all these questions of mine, I would be very grateful.

Fresh in the ciITy: an alternative perspective

By **Pranamee Sarma & Utsav Gandhi**
TECHNEWS WRITER & CAMPUS EDITOR

Chicago breathed into my life a kind of rare genesis of frenzied outdoor planning.

Starting from my first day in January when the city was covered white, trees were bare and the sun was hidden, I was already in the mood to prowl for action and merriment. Chicago's downtown is considered to be a beauty and I love it even more for its forever charming affair, including my personal favorite – Millennium Park! The park has so much to offer, even during the chill of the year with everyone's favorite – ice skating, “Cloud Gate,” the famous art showcase in the park inspired by liquid mercury, and the lights.

You have to be there to feel warm and excited even in the dull winter under the aesthetic sense of life at the park. I stretched from this part of the city to the ‘Magnificent Mile’ which has gala elements with big shops, food joints and obviously the Marilyn Monroe

statue which is about 26 feet tall. The rest of the oh-so-famous places in and around the Mile are a must visit in everyone's itinerary in Chicago, but frankly, I've only just visited them myself.

Spring is a season to feel and see the colors changing all around. Flowers blooming, trees bearing white, pink and red, tulips of all colors all over Downtown, amazingly distributed with stylish artificial add-ons in their horticultural treatment. Then flows in the Summer of Chicago! Everything seems to be at its best with the season of warmth flowing in after May. When I was in India, the summer season seemed to be the longest period to bear but here my notion has completely changed – I don't want it to end so soon.

Summer here brings in not only the good weather but also an assortment of activities: carnivals, movie weeks, festivals, shows, events and lots of cycling. The best place to be during this time is the lake, the beach and of course Navy Pier. But you need lots of energy and motivation to actually enjoy this period.

My help came in from my friends and a new IIT venture called B-cycle. Just \$25 for the entire school year and I get to ride the bike everywhere in bike-friendly Chicago, especially the photographic lakeside, the grand Navy Pier and the tranquil beaches of the city. There's so much to explore, not only in this part of Illinois but all over the state.

IIT is also doing a lot to make the students always on the run for fun! The weekends, with events such as Fresh in the ciITy for the freshmen, Taste of Chicago with yummy brownies and pizzas, the We the Kings concert specially for the IIT students, and soon we shall see Homecoming week with so much more to do. Fresh in the ciITy was held last weekend with groups of ten-odd freshmen paired up with one or two upperclassmen as they enjoyed lunch at great restaurants and navigated the city completing fun challenges set up by the Leadership Academy. It's left the students awaiting more days of fun and activities till we finally bid adieu to the wonderful summer in a wonderful city!



Photos courtesy of Andrea Rivera

What's your angle?: Euthanasia's pros, cons

By **Kira Vincent**
TECHNEWS WRITER

“Hey Charlie, did you read the newspaper this morning?”

“Good morning Angie, and no, I didn't; I had an early class. Why was there something interesting?”

“Interesting isn't the word I would use for it. There was this really scary article about this doctor on trial for literally euthanizing one of his patients! Can you believe that?”

“Well it isn't really that surprising. The debate on whether or not it should be legal for a doctor to provide assisted death to patients has been going on for a long time. If

someone is really sick and in a lot of pain and there is no cure, don't they deserve the choice of ending their suffering earlier?”

“But you can't be sure they won't find a cure or some sort of treatment. What if someone has a year to live and decides on euthanasia, and a cure comes out in six months? That situation can seem hopeless and a really sick person may not see that there is always a chance for a cure and make a rash decision.”

“True, but that is a rare example. There are so many patients in hospitals that have a really low quality of life because they are literally just waiting to die. Many patients have said that if it was legalized they would opt for euthanasia. It's sad, but if it was legalized there

would be more space in hospitals and more medication available for other patients.”

“That does make sense, but what about people who are depressed and don't want to live? Do they have the right to go to the doctor and ask to die as well, even though there is a treatment and they aren't actually dying? And if you aren't going to give them that right, where do you draw the line?”

“That's a really good point. I guess the reason this issue is up for debate so often is because with all the different ways you can look at it, there really isn't a right or wrong answer.”

What's your angle? Send your thoughts to peds.iit@gmail.com