

From the vault: 'Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky'

By Ryan Kamphuis
A&E EDITOR

In early 2006, the members of the indie rock group OK Go brought together a few treadmills, and with the help of a few family members, recorded a cheap music video for their new single "Here It Goes Again." They posted that music video on YouTube a few weeks later, and became an overnight internet sensation.

Almost everyone in America has either seen or heard of the music video where four guys danced around on treadmills. It was parodied on *The Simpsons*, and *Time Magazine* named it one of the 30 all-time best music videos.

To this day, the "Here It Goes Again," music video is one of the most watched videos on YouTube.

But as it is with almost all internet fads, just as quickly as OK Go achieved worldwide fame, they faded back into relative obscurity. Which is a shame, because it means that few were able to enjoy the sheer brilliance that was OK Go's 2010 release, *Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky*.

After a year of extensive touring to support *Oh No*, the album that contained "Here It Goes Again," OK Go entered the studio ready to make a dramatic change to their sound.

The band decided to make a concept album adapted from a pseudoscientific book from 1876 entitled *The Influence of the Blue Ray of the Sunlight and of the Blue Colour of the Sky*.

And change OK Go did. While their earlier albums were a delightful mesh of power pop and alternative, *Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky* was a daring jump into a fusion of rock and



Image courtesy of onethirtybpm.com

electronica. Their new sound hearkens back to Prince, bringing his style to the 21st century. The first track of the album even seems to acknowledge the huge switch the band made

with the title "Wtf?"

The album is full of strong tracks, my personal favorites being hard electric tracks like "White Knuckles" and driving tracks like

"Needing/Getting."

The album aspires to be a lot, and it delivers. The album has a very cohesive feel to it, and doesn't lose energy as it progresses. The album contains my all-time favorite OK Go track "Last Leaf," which is a testament that a driving rock band like OK Go can still slow down and make an amazingly heartfelt acoustic song.

Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky shows how versatile OK Go is, and that they are constantly growing.

Instead of doing more of the same or releasing another album during the height of their popularity after the treadmill video, they took the time to sit down and aspire to be better artists. *Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky* is a real treat because of this.

And on one final note, it wouldn't be OK Go without crazy music videos, and the music videos for *Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky* delivers.

Whether it is the video for "Endlove," which is filmed entirely in stop-motion in a park in LA, the video for "White Knuckles," which was filmed in one take and includes tons of dogs, the 2 videos for "This Too Shall Pass," one which has a massive Rube Goldberg machine, the other which has a massive marching band, or the video for "Last Leaf," which is a stop-motion movie comprised of pieces of toast, the videos show the creativity of the band, and show that they are willing to go to crazy lengths in order to make impressive music videos.

Of The Blue Colour Of The Sky is an album that you should definitely check out. It is a solid album that is a testament to the talent of OK Go. The album is available on iTunes, Spotify, and your local music store.

Unofficial photography club snaps into action

By Harshita Iyer
TECHNEWS WRITER

Out of all the hobbies out there, one of the most popular ones (according to this writer, anyway) has got to be photography. It is therefore surprising that IIT has not had a photography club. The older students will tell you that a photo club did exist, but it died out before some of us had even heard of IIT. Which is why it has been such big news that the photo club is being revived.

When sophomore Architecture student Audrey Simper first thought of starting a photo club at IIT, she had no idea that one had existed in the past. She says that she had been interested in photography during high school and had taken a few classes. It became a passion and therefore was both surprised and disappointed when she found that there was no club for it at IIT. She decided to start her own, and thus "Snapshot" was born. It started with just a few friends getting together, but it is quickly taking IIT by storm.

"Snapshot is definitely a club for experience on all levels. As long as you enjoy photography, you are welcome!" she said when asked about who forms Snapshot's target audience. The main aim of Snapshot is to give its

members an opportunity to go out and explore some of the awesome, but obscure sites around the city. They also plan to take members on trips to galleries and museums and hopefully bring in some guest speakers. They plan to have Photoshop tutorials and workshops on different photography techniques. They also want to start a group on Flickr, have monthly competitions and hopefully an open house every semester.

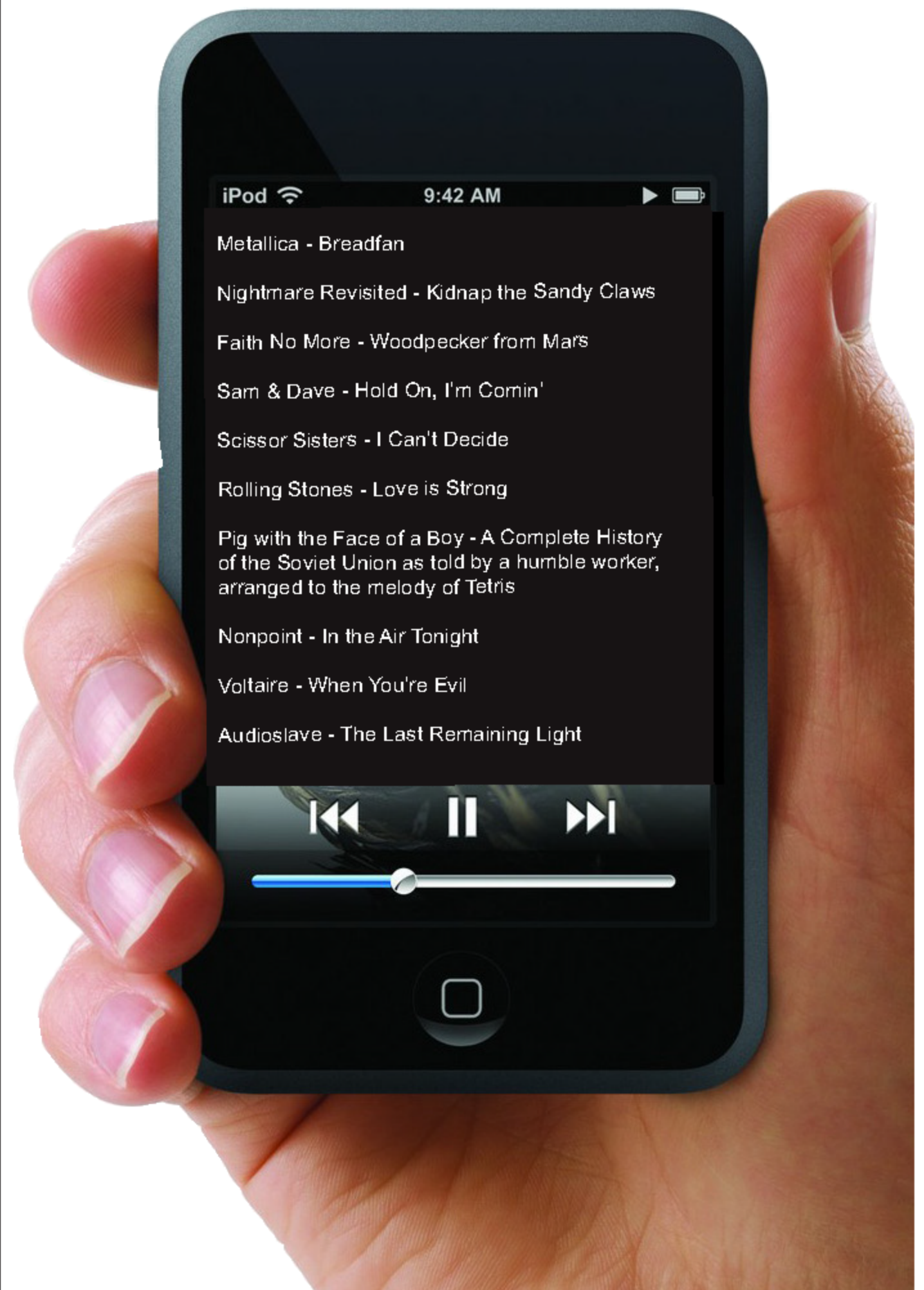
The only catch is that Snapshot is not yet official, since it was born just this semester. According to Audrey, though this gives them some freedom, it is definitely also an obstacle, as guest speakers and flyers cost money, and reserving certain rooms around campus for Photoshop classes is a challenge for an unofficial club. However, the way things look right now, it does seem that it is not going to be long before they are official.

As for this semester, Snapshot plans to collaborate with Coffee Club, our other favorite unofficial club, on coffee/photo trips. Snapshot is also planning to do a "long exposure workshop" in downtown Chicago, and try out all the different techniques that come with long exposure photography. If you have no idea what this means, worry not, you are not alone. It sounds like a lot of fun, so if you want to find out, just find them on Facebook at "IIT's Unofficial Photography Club, Snapshot!", and sign up!



Image courtesy of Snapshot

What's on CHRIS ROBERTS' playlist?



What's on your playlist?
Email ae@technewsit.com!