

CeaseFire Chicago aims to stop violence among youth

By **Tanim Taher**
TECHNEWS WRITER

Everyone is so excited and happy that spring came so early this year in Chicago. It was only mid-March, and at a time of year when people are usually bundled up whenever they venture outside, and kids are kept indoors by their parents due to the cold, Chicagoans were enjoying June like weather! People were out in their jogging clothes; kids were out playing outdoors and enjoying the warmth. Even nature decided it was time to decorate – leaves started sprouting all over – six weeks early! Beautiful cherry blossoms filled the air with a sweet scent pleasing the olfactory senses, and filled the visuals with intricate shades of white and pink.

Everyone is so excited and happy that spring came so early this year in Chicago. It was only mid-March, and at a time of year when people are usually bundled up whenever they venture outside, and kids are kept indoors by

their parents due to the cold, Chicagoans were enjoying June like weather! People were out in their jogging clothes; kids were out playing outdoors and enjoying the warmth. Even nature decided it was time to decorate – leaves started sprouting all over – six weeks early!

Beautiful cherry blossoms filled the air with a sweet scent pleasing the olfactory senses, and filled the visuals with intricate shades of white and pink.

The little six year old girl was playing in the front porch of her house enjoying the weather in this pleasant Saturday afternoon, while her mother and younger sister watched nearby. Suddenly, loud thuds rang out that disturbed the otherwise calm weekend afternoon. What was it? Was it thunder announcing the arrival of rain – common for this time of year. Alas, it was not! Rather it was the sound of gun shots that announced the arrival of rain – a rain of tears. The little girl was no more! This is not made up – as heartbreaking as this reads, it is a true event that happened on March 17th at Chicago's

3100 block of South Springfield Avenue.

The truth is violent crime is more common than anyone would like in this city that we all love – Chicago. The truth is, and as two officers verified to me last week, when the temperature goes up, so do incidences of violent crime, shootings and gang violence. In some neighborhoods unfortunate incidences like the one above are repeated again and again with no end in sight. Is there a solution? Is anyone doing anything trying to stop it other than police officers who mostly come in after the crime has happened? Is anyone doing anything to prevent crime in the first place? CeaseFire Chicago is an organization that has been working in the past couple of years to “Interrupt” the cycle of violence in the troubled parts of Chicago. The brave, commendable social workers from Ceasefire work with troubled young people caught up in the vicious circle of violence, gang activities, drugs and prostitution – and their goal is to interrupt the path these people are on before things turn deadly. A widely acclaimed

PBS documentary called “Interrupters” was recently released that showcases the very important and essential work CeaseFire is doing.

The US Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. called CeaseFire “a rational, data-driven, evidence-based, smart approach to crime – the kind of approach that this Administration is dedicated to pursuing and supporting.”

IIT's office of Service Learning and the Muslim Students Association (MSA) is honored to welcome Ceasefire Chicago's Ameena Matthews to deliver a lunch lecture at IIT's Engineering-1 auditorium. Ameena Matthews is the lead person featured in the “Interrupters” documentary and has won wide acclaim and national media attention for her work. The lecture will be held on Wednesday, April 4th from 12.45-1.40pm. Please join us at the lecture to learn what concerned citizens are doing to turn the tide of violence, and be empowered with knowledge to help impact positive change.

All details are in the flier, and you may also visit <http://msa.iit.edu> for more info.

Future of nuclear energy in the United States still unclear

By **Utsav Gandhi**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Robert Rosner, Professor in the Departments of Astronomy and Astrophysics, the Enrico Fermi Institute, the Computation Institute, and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago delivered a talk on “Prospects for Nuclear Power in the United States and Abroad”, at a joint seminar organized by the Physics & ChBE Departments as well as WISER. With the shock of the Fukushima nuclear accident still heavy around the world even after a year, the prospects of nuclear power in this century are being scrutinized both in the United States and abroad. His talk addressed the issue from a variety of perspectives, ranging from economics to non-proliferation and was structured to address the opportunities, constraints and future of nuclear power in America.

Nuclear energy has remained under a cloud for a number of complicated

reasons, and its opponents mainly argue the unavoidable possibility of its use in weapons programs – rendering its civilian use very difficult to dissociate.

Professor Rosner firstly argued that nuclear energy meets the criteria for a carbon-free(r) future – as we look for alternatives to GHG emitting fossil fuels, nuclear energy is both untapped as well as clean. The catch though is that 90% of the energy is still residual in the fuel cycle. Indigenous sources of uranium are constant, and thus nuclear energy also meets the increasingly important criteria for energy security. In recent years, however, nuclear engineering jobs related to design and operations have faced a decline in demand. Today, the design, build and execution of nuclear power plants are turning increasingly non-American.

He also argued that the complete or gradual decommissioning of nuclear energy is especially risky considering internationally, the demand is going up. China has about twenty

plants under construction, and countries like India, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates are also catching up. Germany, earlier a major exporter of nuclear energy, has stopped production after Fukushima, and now imports its nuclear energy from Poland and the Czech Republic. He raised concern that countries like Vietnam, also considering nuclear power, may not have human or technical infrastructure to handle the spent fuel rods – there is a huge risk of major areas of the world turning into plutonium mines.

He then spoke about what went wrong in Japan – and how this probably won't happen in America. In Japan, the promotion and regulation of nuclear energy is controlled by the same entity – and since this is different in America, the chances of a more structured risk-based safety assessment greatly increase. Fukushima was the result of lack of oversight. The major issue was the placement of emergency equipment so close to the actual site and that too just a few hundred yards from the

shoreline. The disaster was perfectly predictable but the communication turned out to be quite a faltering challenge. He also said the inherent Japanese policy of respecting higher authority to the T without critically thinking and raising questions had a role to play. In America, both the organizational structure as well as the technology is well equipped to question changes critically as well as act quickly when needed.

Economically, he said that the current poorly developed R&D structure for carbon capture means that even though renewables will play a large role in the future, natural gas demand as well as prices will probably go up. Since it is more expensive in Asia, it makes sense to export natural gas, even though environmental constraints for hydrofracturing remain. To address the expensiveness of nuclear energy, we need to first move over our reluctance and the regulatory environment. For the future, he said that new designs, a more productive workforce, reliance on robotics and prevention of court delays are the way forward.

IIT participates in national competition to donate clothes

By **Utsav Gandhi & Anita Thomas**
CAMPUS EDITOR & TECHNEWS WRITER

Did you know that IIT is participating in the national OneShirt competition? Anita Thomas, the RA of the Service Learning community in MSV is working with Lynne Meyer, Director of Service Learning and Spiritual Life, to encourage IIT students and Chicago residents to donate their unwanted clothing instead of overcrowding landfills. From April 1 until April 21, anyone can donate clothing, shoes, coats, etc to any of the following drop off locations: McCormick Student Village (MSV) lounge, Gunsaulus lounge, State Street Village (SSV) 5th floor lounges, the Office of Campus Life, and the 10 west Tower (specific area will be pinpointed by tomorrow 3/27). On April 27, all donations will be weighed and then donated to God's Closet at First Trinity Lutheran Church. The campus with the highest weight in donations will win the national contest and receive free t-shirts.

“Heeding the biblical commands to care for the poor, to clothe the naked, to love one's neighbor as one's self, and recognizing the call of faith to be responsible stewards and caretakers of an increasingly fragile planet”, the God's Closet at First Trinity strives to provide an alternative source for clothing and other goods in the Bridgeport community. The intent of God's Closet is to both provide resources for those in need in a life-giving way, and a “green” venue for the redistribution and re-purposing of clothing and other goods.

They are currently open to the public on the following days and times - Tuesdays, 5 to 7 pm;

Fridays, 10 am to 1 pm and Sundays after church. If you, your church, or your school would like to volunteer time or clothing, please contact us at 312.842.7390 or gclonet@firsttrinitychicago.org.

Hundreds of colleges and universities from every state will be competing against each other for the title of BIG SHIRT ON CAMPUS! And, of course, national bragging rights. The school that works with their community to collect the most clothes [total and per student] during Earth Week 2012 [April 16-21] will be declared the winner! Winning schools will receive up to 50-100% recycled, made in America shirts for your club or group. Additionally, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival will be awarding one Grand Prize of 24, four-day passes and premium camping to its 2012 event.

The average American throws away 68 pounds of clothes every year.

Building on momentum from last year when nearly 100 schools participated, SustainU said in their official press release that it expects more than 200 schools in all 50 states to join the inter-school competition during Earth Week 2012. Campus groups will rally their campus and community to donate used clothing to benefit local charities and job training programs.

Additionally, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival will be awarding one Grand Prize of 24, four-day passes and premium camping to its 2012 event.

The average American throws away 68 pounds of clothes every year. The Office of Service Learning challenges you to be less than normal! Please contact Anita (athomas5@hawk.iit.edu) or Lynne Meyer (lmeyer2@iit.edu) for more information.

Financial Aid Update: Account holds explained

By **IIT Office of Financial Aid**

Registration for Summer 2012 and Fall 2012 begins April 9! Students are encouraged to check the Finances Tab on the MyIIT Portal to determine if they have any holds preventing registration. There are specific reasons why a hold may exist on a student account and these can be identified easily on the portal.

Outstanding Balance

Any outstanding balance on a student account will prevent a student from registering for classes. To determine if there is a balance on a student account, please complete the following:

Login to MyIIT, select the Finances Tab, and select Manage My Account under Manage Account in the middle column.

Select the Manage My Account button and view your Current Account Status on TouchNet.

Students with an outstanding balance need to pay the balance to register. Payments can be submitted on the TouchNet system directly, following the steps above, or in person at the Cashier's Office located in Main Building, Room 104, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. If you have questions about your balance, please contact the Bursar's Office at bursar@iit.edu or 312-567-3794.

Outstanding Financial Aid Requirements

Any outstanding financial aid

requirements on a student account will delay disbursement of federal funds. If federal funds did not disburse, please complete the following:

Login to MyIIT, select the Finances Tab, and select holds under Financial Aid Requirements in the middle column.

Unsatisfied requirements must be submitted to the Office of Financial Aid directly via e-mail at finaid@iit.edu, fax 312-567-3982, or in person at Main Building Room 104.

Once a student submits documents, the Office of Financial Aid will review these within 7-10 business days. Once all outstanding requirements are satisfied on MyIIT, federal funds will disburse to the student's account.

Immunization Compliance

Students are required by Illinois State Law to provide proof of proper vaccine history to the Student Health and Wellness Center. If a student has outstanding immunization requirements, registration will be prevented. Any questions should be directed to Celia Mayora at cmayora@iit.edu.

International Students

International students may have outstanding requirements to keep their student status at IIT. Students with a hold due to a status-based issue should resolve it with the International Center. Questions can be answered by contacting their office at icenter@iit.edu or 312-567-3680.