

IIT Rock Climbing visits Red River Gorge

By Dan Zweig
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.

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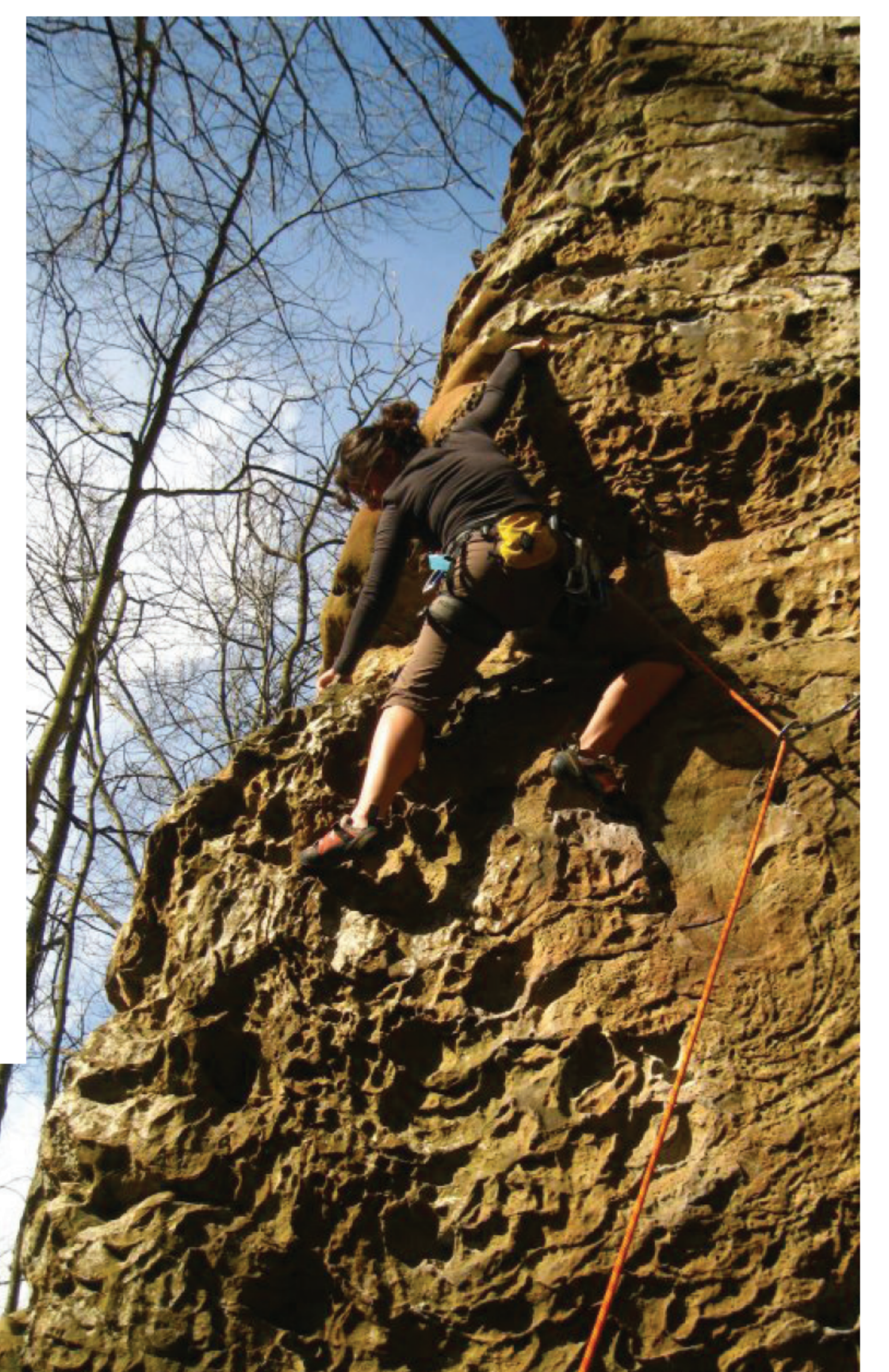
The little six year old girl was playing in the front porch of her house enjoying the weather in this pleasant Saturday afternoon, while her mother and younger sister watched nearby. Suddenly, loud thuds rang out that disturbed the otherwise calm weekend afternoon. What was it? Was it thunder announcing 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.



Photos courtesy of IIT Rock Climbing