

# New experiences in the Windy City: A week in review

By Mike Purdy

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I find that it is often times necessary in life to change things up a bit. Whether that involves creating a new routine, going somewhere you have never been, or experiencing life from a different angle; spontaneity is key, and Chicago provides a near-perfect backdrop for such endeavors.

Life moves at a fast pace in the "Windy City", where a multitude of interesting people and unique experiences await those who seek them. This reality can appear seemingly distant to a student at IIT, who may find it easy to fall into the doldrums of an eat-sleep-study sort of routine. Whenever I find myself in this funk, I have discovered that the best medicine is a jaunt (or many jaunts for that matter) into the heart of the city in hopes of a rejuvenated outlook and a taste of the real world. Last week presented many opportunities for me to hit the town, so I decided to do just that, and, although my studies were neglected just a tad, it was ultimately well worth it.

Here is a brief review of my week of experiences, many of them new, in the arts and entertainment arena of Chicago:

After a brutal Monday, my ventures began Tuesday afternoon at the Field Museum of natural history. General admission was free, which definitely aided my decision, but I had always been drawn to this museum due to its sheer immensity, abundance of rare artifacts, and its highly professional and informative

displays. I was only able to stay at the museum for about two hours, which gave me just enough time to walk through the "Ancient Americas" exhibit; a permanent section of the museum devoted to charting evolutionary and societal change and progress throughout North and South America. I felt like a kid again amongst the grand showcases of ancient civilizations; from simple hunter-gatherer villages to the towering Aztec empire, it was truly an awesome exhibit. I could have easily spent the whole day at the Field Museum, and I will surely be back soon to wander through more exhibits and gain a greater appreciation for history. I recommend this experience to anyone!

Tuesday night culminated with a trip to my first Bulls game, which was a long-overdue item on my Chicago to-do list. Aside from the pattering rain and biting winds, the trip to the United Center went smoothly. The high-energy atmosphere within the arena was engulfing, but that was to be expected from the nearly 21,000 fans who had come to see the home team put a thrashing to the visiting New Orleans Hornets. Although most of us in attendance thought a blowout was imminent, the Hornets kept it close throughout, and it proved to be quite a contest.

There didn't seem to be a bad seat in the house, and it was awesome to feel so close to the action of an NBA game, which usually appear to be much slower-paced when viewed on television. With the score deadlocked at 95 with under a minute to go, Derrick Rose hit a fade-away jumper as the shot clock expired, clinching the victory for the Bulls and sending the crowd into euphoria. It was a great experience, and

one that I will be repeating in the near future.

On Friday night, I had the sudden opportunity to attend the Zeds Dead concert at Congress Theatre. I immediately jumped on this offer, because all of my past experiences at Congress, including Rusko and MSTKRFT, had been a blast. For those of you who have yet to attend an electronic music concert in Chicago, I would definitely recommend it; the music is intense, the crowd is wild, and you can dance to your heart's desire.

The lineup for this particular concert was a steal for the low ticket price of only \$20; with Midnight Conspiracy, a well-known Chicago dubstep duo to start things off, followed by electronic artist Dillon Francis, and finally capped off with Zeds Dead, a talented electro group touring out of Toronto. The theatre was filled to the brim, mostly comprised of college-aged fanatics of dubstep, a music genre which has absolutely boomed in Chicago over the past few years. I emerged from the concert with my ears ringing, shirt drenched in sweat, and carefree as could be in the face of a chilly Chicago night; that is the power of live music at Congress Theatre.

With the arrival of Saturday evening came a new window of opportunity in the realm of music. Completely opposite my previous experience from the night before, I was now dressed in formal attire, sitting in the main theater at 220 S. Michigan Avenue, awaiting the start of my first Chicago Symphony Orchestra experience. As a brotherhood development event, my fraternity had purchased a number of tickets to the CSO, so I figured I would

tag along for a bit of classical immersion. Contrary to the 19-20 year old crowd at Zeds Dead, the average age of a CSO audience member was probably around 65, but that is to be expected. Performing at this particular orchestra outing were conductor Jonathon Nott, pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard, vocalists Michelle DeYoung and Stuart Skelton, and of course the accompanying orchestra ensemble.

The concert proved to be much more powerful than I had anticipated, and gave new meaning to the term perfection; there was true beauty emanating from the chorus of strings, horns, and voices. I felt as though I had gone from poor college student to a member of high-society in that one hour period, and the music led me down some lines of thought I had previously left unimagined. It was a good test of patience, and an even better outlet for relaxation – I would certainly attend another of these performances if given the chance.

As my time in college quickly rolls by, I have made it a priority to engage in as many new, exciting, and educational experiences as I can, and so should you. When else will we get the chance to roam freely throughout a world-class city any day of the week and enjoy all that it has to offer? Of course, school comes first, but with the proper time-management skills, any student can turn a dull week into something which far exceeds the limitations previously established.

There are still so many things I hope to do while here in Chicago, especially once the warm weather rolls around. Until then, it's back to the grind, always with an eye out for those spontaneous opportunities.



Images courtesy of timesonline.com, fieldmuseum.org, & buckoclownd.blogspot.com

## Tech[nology]News: iPad 3 leaks, rumors suggest March unveiling

By Swasti Khuntia

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Apple's iPad is one of the best-selling tablets in the world, and the iPad 3 is one of the most anticipated devices from the company this year. The upcoming iPad 3 has been a main topic for discussion recently after learning that Apple is set to present it at an event during the first week of March. While the rumor mill has been working overtime, a few reporters were able to get hands-on time with some actual iPad

3 parts, confirming recent speculation about higher resolution and an upgraded chip system.

This article explains some of the new features that are to be included in the iPad 3. In a nutshell, the Apple iPad 3 is expected to look very similar to the iPad 2, with the same 9.7-inch screen and shape. However, the iPad 3's higher resolution seems to be the hot topic related to the new device, setting it apart from its predecessor. Apart from that, the iPad 3 will have a lighter battery, reducing the weight of the tablet. However, the battery is reported to cost 20 to 30 percent more than the current iPad's battery, and will also have a longer battery life.

It is also expected that the iPad 3 will have a wireless charging technology, which will be able to charge the battery and transfer data wirelessly.

There isn't any official word from Apple on when the iPad 3 will be released; however, rumors indicate that it will be announced sometime in March. One of the major reasons why the launch of the device has been delayed is due to the Retina Display technology. It is also said that it could be delayed because of legal issues with one of Apple's main suppliers, Samsung.

Boy Genius Report claimed a source had an iPad 3 prototype, and sent the tech site various development images that reveal

more information about the device and its components. Meanwhile, Amazon added two iPad 3 books to its European site — iPad 3 pour les nuls, or iPad 3 for Dummies in French, and Auf die Schnelle iPad 3, which is German for iPad 3 on the Fly, according to a report from GameZone.com. iPad 3 for Dummies is scheduled to be published on March 29. However, Bloomberg recently reported that the next-generation iPad will be faster – running on a quad-core chip – feature a high-definition screen and be compatible with long-term evolution (LTE), a wireless network that gives users access to data more quickly.