

ISO hosts 2nd CTA train party

By Ibrahim El-Natour
TECHNEWS WRITER

ISO at IIT is hosting their second CTA "L" Party! If there is one thing we are famous for besides being the Windy City [and deep dish pizza] it is that we have probably one the most efficient mass transit system in the country, if not internationally.

Everyone knows that the best kind of party is a VIP party, so exclusive that you have to know someone throwing it just to get on the list.

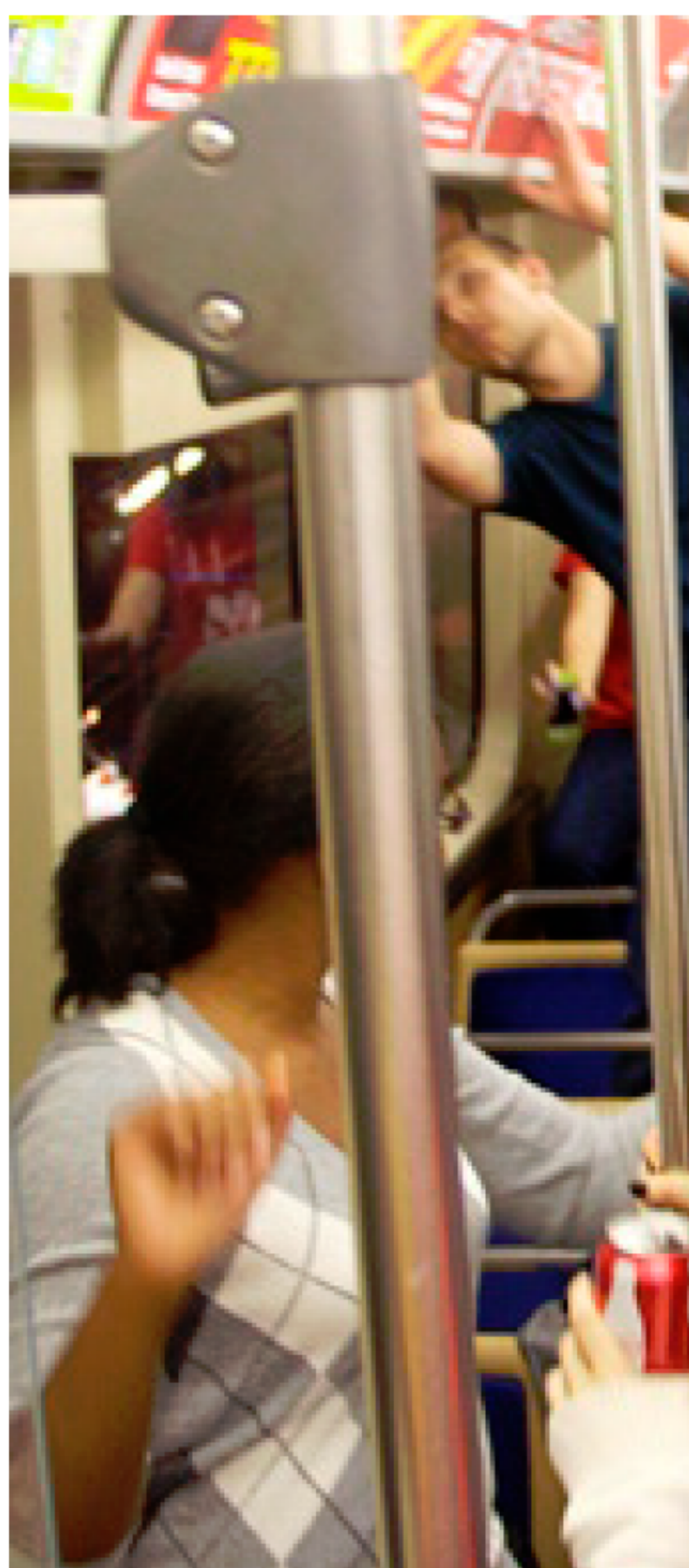
Well, we kind of know people, and by that we mean we can get you on the list. Now what if we told you that this party is on the best train system in the world, "the L"; what would your reaction be? A party so exclusive every train car has its own DJ and its own theme.

We will have 4 cars to represent 4 locations: the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. And all these cars have different food, songs, and dancing. We're actually not quite sure if you can handle a party so exclusive! And so here is where you come in, put on some traditional clothing and hop on our CTA train party.

This party will be on Friday November 2 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and it's so exclusive we are only letting people off the train. Boarding will take place on the 35th/Bronzeville IIT train stop; so be there early and get ready to experience a once in a life time event.

Reserve your spot! Sign up for free at <http://tinyurl.com/ctaparty2012>. To volunteer to help decorate the CTA train email Ayman at ayman.hamed90@gmail.com

Decorations will be provided as we try to exemplify the world cultures and regions. Simply join the CTA and us for decorating "L" party after.



Photos courtesy of ISO

I-Fest Week celebrates campus diversity with food, fun

By Ibrahim El-Natour
TECHNEWS WRITER

If money were not a concern, where would you go in this world? What would you like to see? Which crazy and interesting foods would you like to try? The International Students Organization is going to make this happen for you. 'How?' you may ask.

The week of November 5th is International Week, a week filled with activities to stimulate all of your senses. We will start off the week with the best way to start anything, that is, food. To kick-start I-Fest, ISO is proud to present "Taste of IIT", a jam-boree of eclectic and flavorful dishes from all around the world. Now you get a chance

to experience new tastes and flavors in small portions, so you can try many different foods and feel your stomach crossing the globe on the MTCC Bridge. A word of advice on your journey across the globe: show up early, because the treats always get grabbed up quickly, as we like to call this day I-FEAST. Remember: MTCC Bridge, Monday, November 5 from 11am-3pm. To participate or volunteer, sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/tastebooth>.

That's not all this week, Taste of IIT is only the beginning. Tuesday will be I-Colors Day, a day to celebrate and show off your nationalistic pride. There will be face painting, flags, and flag stickers given out on the MTCC Bridge. This will be going on from 12-2 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. on the MTCC Bridge, on November 6.

Now that you are well fed and have

shown off your national pride, it is time to step up to the challenge and participate in I-Games; a day of competition and fun, where traditional games from all around the world will be played. Bring your A-Game, because we will not go easy on you. This will be held across the MTCC Colored Rooms, November 7.

After 3 days of fun and excitement from around the globe, you have to end the week with a bang. Thursday night is the capstone of ISO events for the semester. We will start the night with the I-Fest, a night of cultural performances including singing, dancing, (bad) jokes, and a night of all around fun.

During the show we will take a brief break, but not for the audience. ISO Fashion Show will take place at this time, with a huge mix of fashion from all around

the world, and then we will get back to the I-Fest performances and overwhelm you with excitement. After all that there is even an after party! Join us at the Bog from 12-2 a.m. at the I-Fest after Party. I-Fest Performance and Fashion show will be in the Herman Hall auditorium from 7-11 p.m. and the after party in the BOG will be held from 12-2 a.m. To participate in the I-Fest with any type of act, sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/ifestperformance>. To participate and represent any part of the world for the I-Fest Fashion Show, sign up at www.tinyurl.com/iitfashionshow2012.

To be added to our mailing list, and the rest of the excitement we have to offer - including international movie nights clothing trips and much more - sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/isomaailinglist>.

Vedic Vision Society: 'Law of Karma' goes around, comes around

By Sneha Saraf
STAFF WRITER

Speaker Avelo Roy began Friday's lecture, "Law of Karma," by starting with the basics of our true spiritual identity as the soul. He then explained the universal definition of a problem: something that nobody wants, everybody tries to avoid, and that which nobody can escape. These fundamental problems are called death, old age, disease, and birth. To be a responsible human being means to take advantage of our intellectual facilities and question life, or in Vedic terms, inquire into the Absolute.

With those ideas established, the speaker moved on to introduce the law of karma, which, simply put, is the science of action and reaction. Roy gave two examples to lead into this idea of karma and justice. He started by showing Princess Diana with her two children, juxtaposed with two children of obvious poverty carrying bricks on their heads, asking us to contemplate why some are born

into wealth and opulence, while others are born into scenes of poverty and exploitation. With his second example, he asked us if we thought it seemed fair that Adolf Hitler, whom was responsible for the torture and deaths of millions of people, died only once by suicide.

Though it might seem that everything begins at birth and ends at death, the Vedic perspective proposes an alternative. We used to have a child's body. Now we have a youthful body, but our sense of "I am" has not changed. This sense of "I am" comes from the eternal unchanging soul, the spiritual beings that we all are. This soul continues transmigrating after the death of this body into another body, awarded according to our desires and credits from our past activities (karma). Roy gave the example of how one who likes to eat lots of meat may be awarded the body of a tiger, since that body is most suited to fulfill that desire. Of course this is a simplification to explain the idea, as karma is extremely individualized with multiple variables.

According to Vedic philosophy, at

every situation we are faced with the reaction of our past karma, both good and bad. And in every situation, we have the freewill to make a choice that determines future karmic reactions depending on the action performed. These reactions can be instant, delayed, or fructify in another lifetime. Roy gave the example of somebody who may choose to lie on his resume. The immediate reaction may be that he gets the job because of the lie, but later on he gets caught and dismissed. Additionally, in his next life he could find himself in the position of the boss or hiring manager and get cheated by a new employee who lies on his resume. Again, this is a simplification to explain a concept.

Our free will is strongly influenced, however, by our sense of "I am", in conjunction with the mind and senses. This perspective drives the choices made and therefore the subsequent reactions encountered. For example, one who identifies himself as a man or an athlete or scholar will see the world from that respective viewpoint, and the actions are influenced according to that sense of material identity.

Roy compared karma, or the universal law of actions and reactions, as the neutral force of justice. Just like a police officer gives a speeding ticket to any violator, so too we will face the consequences, both good and bad, of our decisions and actions. Reactions from previous pious activities, like being born into a good family, wealth, beauty, etc. are nice, but are equally binding because it still does not allow us to escape the problems of life. Beautiful people also get old, wealthy people also get diseases, well-educated people also die, and so on.

Therefore, Roy concluded by explaining that by using this human form of life to inquire into the Absolute and leading a God-centric lifestyle, we can perform activities beyond the law of karma. These activities are karma-free, and when there are no more karmic reactions, the Vedas state that one no longer has to face the four problems of birth, disease, old age, and death.

As always, the lectures are available for viewing and discussion on [facebook.com/vedicvis](https://www.facebook.com/vedicvis).