

Tech[nology]News:

EU in favor of single, universal cell phone charger

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OPINION EDITOR

Editor's Note: While this is clearly an Opinion piece by our fab Opinion Editor, this is also a fitting Tech[nology]News piece, which is located in A&E. Submit Tech[nology]News pieces to editor@technewsit.com.

Remember the days when every phone had a different charger? Well, the European Union (EU) has recently created a draft law that will force all cellphone manufacturers to use the same charger, and has leaned in favor of setting the MicroUSB as the standard.

No comment has been made yet by

Apple, being the only substantial phone maker likely affected by this change in the EU. Most Android phones will see no difference as most already take advantage of the MicroUSB for charge and data transfer.

Most manufacturers already use the industry standard of the MicroUSB without the need of a law regulating that it's now mandatory.

Isn't it an amazing process whereby consumers know what they want, and actively purchase those things?

Even more amazing perhaps are companies' abilities to evaluate incoming market data and translate this into products ori-

ented towards the consumers wants.

This law is coming pretty late to the party; it's the equivalent of screaming "NAP TIME" at midnight when all the kids are already asleep.

For better or for worse, Apple has favored property parts and cables. Boasting its faster data transfer speeds or the first capable of reversible heads,

Apple clearly doesn't want or need the MicroUSB. Apple consumers want to buy whatever Apple is selling and that's fine.

As much as I can appreciate one charger to rule them all, I think this has got to be one of the dumbest laws I've ever heard of.

Years from now when our kids read "Ridiculous Laws from Former Conglomerations" this one will find its way in there.

Of all the things I need a governing body to look after, my cellphone charger is one of the least important. The law has been proposed for (supposedly) the right reasons.

Chargers account for 51,000 tonnes of e-waste every year and proprietary cables can be a ploy to force you to buy more. I can't help but feel that someone has received a large sum of money for supporting this superfluous law.

Hopefully this draft law will be voted out of existence for its uselessness.

Movie Review:

'Monument Men' monumentally unremarkable

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Bill Murray, Matt Damon, John Goodman, and George Clooney are stuffed into this ultimately lackluster portrayal of the recovery of the Ghent Altar.

Set in the midst of World War II, this movie begins with what could've been a great movie about the value of art, but ends with an audience unimpressed, but not necessarily disappointed.

Flat, inert, boring, unsatisfying, this picture was created for the phrase "it's not bad, but certainly not any good".

This is a movie where the whole is not greater than the sum of the parts. There are pockets of emotions, reasonably enjoyable moments of joy, humor, romance, but nothing to really tie the story together.

The movie is based on historical fact with men on a mission. How hard could it be to sell a story about the Allies (not to mention Americans) being awesome during World War II?

The movie was severely over-casted. This movie could've been much greater, had it featured a cast comprising of rising actors. With so many acting powerhouses

nothing short of greatness was to be expected. As an indie development this could have been an amazing picture, but a Hollywood blockbuster it feels like the flair of a 70 million dollars budget is missing.

Monument Men simply needs improvement on the most critical fronts a film. The locations and cinematography are nice enough, but the plot and characters are never fleshed out. The emotions are stale and hollow.

There is a clear disregard for how an audience would react to what's playing on the screen.

You've started with a classy picture and a classy relatable cast and then there's no follow through. On the whole, Monument Men is a nice detour for the barrage of cynical apocalyptic "the world and everything in it is awful" movies that have been flooding theaters, but there's nothing to I wouldn't recommend seeing this film. Bad movies at least give you some-



Image courtesy of screen-crush.com

thing to talk about.

The only thing I keep thinking of is how there's nothing to discuss in this movie other than the fact that it's so devoid of inter-

esting objects!

There are movies good movies, bad movies, and apparently this is a movie that is the embodiment of meh.

'Hackerspace' in Pilsen promotes DIY projects

Utsav Gandhi
CAMPUS EDITOR

Unbeknownst to many, a small, enterprising group of IIT alumni have initiated some influential change right here in the immediate Chicagoland vicinity of our campus. Combining technical expertise with a passion for community mobilizing and an entrepreneurial flair, a group of "doers" have started a "hackerspace" on the south side of Chicago (in Pilsen.)

They are seeking "hackers, tinkerers, hobbyists, crafters, artists and doers" to help create a social, educational and collaborative space for the benefit of the larger community.

They have reached out to faculty in the Architecture Department, IEEE@IIT, as well as Professor Matt Bauer himself to spread some awareness

Located at the Mana Arts Lofts at 2233 South Throop Street, number 214, they have plenty of equipment for woodworking, electronic and bicycle maintenance, as well as prototyping; but are also currently looking for several common objects: an eyewash station, fire extinguishers, lockers, desk space, a couch, tables, "hacker" magazines, a projector, and an assortment of mechanic tools, woodworking tools, metalworking tools, a mill, a second drill press, lathe, bicycle service stand and tools, sewing machine capable of sewing materials like canvas, nylon and denim.

Their goal is to promote DIY ("do it yourself") projects ranging from traditional (metalworking, woodworking, arts and crafts) to technological (software development, electronics, 3D printing, robotics.) They have three levels of dynamic membership, including working professionals, students, artists, entrepreneurs, and unique self-starters.

The initiative started as a group of



alumni from diverse disciplines (MMAE, Architecture, Computer Science) coming together to replicate another hackerspace that exists on the North Side, 'Pumping Station I', as an outreach space. Most of them come in from Greek, philanthropic and Camras backgrounds during their time at IIT and their professional backgrounds have also enabled set up some promising relationships with Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Public Library system as well as entrepreneurs in the city.

They have also instituted a membership structure with three tiers: a donation level, starting hacker level and full membership.

Anyone is encouraged to check out the space by attending their weekly general body meetings (every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.) at the hackerspace location, to volunteer in many possible roles they have available, to provide monetary donations or even to teach a class provided the interest and resources exist for one of the hackerspace's many activities.

Since March 2012, the group has been forging friendships with innovators all over Chicago, who continue to diversify their membership. In July 2013 they moved into their first space, the 1000 square feet studio in the Mana Fine Arts Building at Cermak and Throop, but have also launched a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo. They have envisioned a plan that separates their space into three major areas.

Seeking to improve the surrounding community and inspire young adults to find a safe space to explore and grow, they have big expansion plans and hope to service the greater area of Chicago in the future!

Check out this campaign at igg.me/at/sshchicago, their website at sshchicago.org/, on Reddit at <http://redd.it/20235i>, and on Facebook at facebook.com/sshchicago.