By Abishek Gundugurti

The BOG to open Thursday

By Abishek Gundugurti

TechNews writer

Yes, you have seen tons of posters around campus. You know it was going to happen. You knew it was going to happen Wednesday. Well, what don’t you know? TechNews has the inside scoop from the grand opening of one of the most to-happen places on campus.

The BOG is being reopened by the joint efforts of the Student Government Association, the President’s office and the Student Life Fund. The money to reopen the BOG, which totals about $750,000, was raised with the help of the administration and alumni. The Student Life Fund was created last year by the Dean of Students, Doug Geiger to fund the events that will take place in the BOG. This fund which is paid for by IIT students annually in their tuition will pay for the opening of the BOG 3 nights a week for the rest of the year. Starting Thursday February 8th the BOG would be open exclusively to IIT students, faculty and staff.

What does it have?

The BOG would include 3-lane open bowling alleys, pool tables, air hockey tables, a BAR, tap beer, televisions, and just tables and chairs to sit around the savor the atmosphere. Union Board, the largest programming organization and the responsible student body to organize events in the BOG has been gathering input for what kind of events students would like around the year. They are working on committees, dances nights, karaoke nights, battle of the bands, sporting events and more. Other organizations like Strike Force Bowling society will have bowling leagues by renting out the alleys. This can be the hangout or meeting place for many different student organizations. Students themselves can come here to relax and shake off stress from the week on the weekends. What used to be a great ‘chill out’ place will be back this semester.

To know more about the opening, TechNews talked to Yacin Nadji, the Union Board programer who has been planning these events from last year.

TechNews: On Thursday night, what is the BOG going to have for opening night?

Nadji: The first few hours will be setup for the kickoff event, BOG Hysteria. It will be highlighting three comedians, Dan Cummins, Tim Young and Dan Ahdout. Students can roam around and enjoy the BOG between the events.

TechNews: What were all the arrangements being done before BOG night?

Nadji: We have been planning the BOG 3-day kickoff since last October. Planning for the event, organizing the event requirements, getting contracts, and trying to fix problems as they presented themselves. Just about everything for the 3 days has been locked down solid for at least a month. I take a lot of time to plan an event of this scale, and we worked very hard to make this a reality.

TechNews: Who has been helping out in all of this organizing?

Nadji: There are several students from Union Board helping out. When we began planning for the event, I made a committee of UB members. They are the core members still working hard to make sure the event go off with out a hitch. A big thanks to Vishal Kadakia (President), Lory Mishra, Will Sawyer, Sam Solomon and Ankush Bhatia.

TechNews: Personally, what is your favorite event for the opening days?

Nadji: I am excited about every single event, but being the fan of dance music, I’m personally really excited for ‘BOG Nights’, the club event on Saturday night. We have three DJs spinning everything from rap to house, and a tremendous supply of lights and glow sticks. It’ll be a night to remember!

TechNews: What do you recommend for the IIT student population?

Nadji: Last semester I heard a lot of negative comments about the BOG. Students didn’t think it was going to open and were very doubtful of the situation of student life on campus. While the BOG wont make IIT the most happening campus in the universe, I can assure you the BOG will be the best thing to happen to IIT’s campus in a long time.

This is a huge first step towards making IIT more fun, but it will only be fun for you if you make the effort to go and enjoy yourself. Being apathetic about school isn’t going to make your day. It will only make it more fun, regardless where you attend school. I implore you, IIT student body, to get out there and see what our wonderful student orgs plan every day of the school year. The BOG is only a small part of your happiness, a lot of it revolves around what you’re willing to do.

The BOG has been closed since May 9, 2003. Now, almost 3 years later, due the efforts of student leaders like Jason Tenenbaum, Brandon Lloyd, Timothy Schug, Vishal Kadakia and also IIT President Less Collins, the BOG is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week. What has been the most conversed topic on campus last semester is reopening this week.

Above: Digital rendering of design for the BOG. The space includes deckoupe table created by IIT students, bar, and a stage for live performances. Be sure to check it out this Thursday at 5 p.m.

Super start ends in devastating heartbreak for Bears

By James Boozer

February 6, 2007

“I didn’t make the plays to win it,” said Rex Grossman (QB) in describing the Bears lackluster effort that cost them a chance to win their 10th world championship. With no real offensive and defensive game plans and five turnovers, there were too many obstacles for the Bears to overcome as the Indianapolis Colts were victorious in Super Bowl XLI 29-17. It was the Colts 1st world championship since moving from Baltimore to Indianapolis in 1984.

The Bears started the game off on a high note with Devin Hester (CB) becoming the first player in Super Bowl history to return the opening kickoff for a touchdown that gave the Bears a 7-0 lead. The 92-yard run had the crowd, made up of mostly Bears fans, on their feet and things looked bright for Chicago despite the cold and never-ending rain creating a less-than-ideal environment for both teams.

The Bears dominating defenders got their hands on Peyton Manning’s (Colts QB) first three passes. Brian Urlacher (LB) deflected the first one, Nathan Vasher (CB) broke up the second and Chris Harris (FS) intercepted the third and returned the interception 6 yards to the Chicago 35.

After the Bears went three-and-out, Manning tossed a 53-yard TD pass to a wide open Reggie Wayne (Colts WR), who took advantage of a broken coverage. But Colts holder Hunter Smith botched the hold on the extra point, and the Bears still led 7-6 with 6:50 left in the first quarter.

In an effort to keep the ball out of Hester’s hands, the Colts “squibbed” the kickoff. Gabe Reid (TE) scooped the ball up and tumbled it when he was hit by Robert Mathis (Colts DE). Dylan Gandy (Colts OG) was able to recover it at the Chicago 34.

The Bears defense got the ball back on the very next play as Alex Brown (DE) drilled Joseph Addai (Colts RB) just as he was taking a handoff from Manning. Mark Anderson (DE) returned it 2 yards to the Chicago 43.

On the next play, Thomas Jones (RB) rushed up the middle 52 yards to the Indianapolis 5. On third-and-goal, Grossman fumbled a 4-yard
we want YOU to join us as our next Advertising Manager or Editor for the sports page

TECHNEWS is hiring

Writers
Photographerrers

Submit anything anytime at technews.iit.edu - or - contact us at technews@iit.edu for more info
He who can teach, who cannot does everything else!

By Disha Doshi
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As you might have heard in the last lecture, my mind register when a question is raised, that quite possibly or even too slow to be able to form sounds into meaningful words. "Professor, I have no idea," you might say, "what a profession I thought. One that pays and assigning homework, grading each time while teaching the same concept, a reminder that there are plenty of reasonable people left. It might not seem like it right now, but there are. I could end this with a plea for change, begging you the reader to help me struggle to wrestle ourselves from this stupor. It might not seem like it right now, but there are. It might not seem like it right now, but there are. I could end this with a plea for change, begging you the reader to help me struggle to wrestle ourselves from this stupor.

Tribune columnist Molly Ivins is dead

By Joe Kaiser
ONLINE EDITOR

Molly Ivins’ last promise that she would continue to write about the war in Iraq, every single column, until we found a way to bring peace. I was looked forward to this start with a headache. Nothing’s looking too good. So when right in the middle of the column she exclaimed, without any warning, “STOP IT NOW. BAM!” I felt like it was time to be upset again. I was ready. And then the cancer took her away.

Kathleen wrote a memorial to Molly in her Friday column. She has no specific claim to grief, but describes as her someone who wrote, "the two of us often appeared among the editorials in the back of the book..." Kathleen wrote a memorial to Molly in her Friday column. She has no specific claim to grief, but describes as her someone who wrote, "the two of us often appeared among the editorials in the back of the book..." Kathleen wrote a memorial to Molly in her Friday column. She has no specific claim to grief, but describes as her someone who wrote, "the two of us often appeared among the editorials in the back of the book..."

I don’t care about apathy

By Colin Emch-Wei
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

When did we all become such introverts? Hello, when did every student on campus become selectively mute? Lately, I’ve been noticing an increasingly disturbing trend on campus... The inactivity in the classroom is inexcusable. It’s not just us. I can’t even remember feeling irked when my younger brother complained of boredom. I feel it is difficult maintaining my nerves the third time. Teaching thus entails a demanding field. What I was told by competitive is that a teacher has to constantly compete with one’s self, trying to make the same things again and again, more and more absorbing each year. It is a challenging and monstrous task to teach the same concepts which you have mastered each year.

Ivins, praising her for her convictions and her belief in the power of words. Calling her a Texas original. You know, for the first time in his Presidency, I think I believe on this one. I really do think he respected her. I've had a DVD of the movie Network sitting on my desk for the last month, waiting to get started. I can return it to my local library and get the next one on my list. And suddenly, it seems like there's no better moment to be mad as hell, and not going to take it anymore. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It's not just me. It’s your turn, kids. Break this one up and get rid of apathy!"
IPTOs: Now this is what I call competition

By Abhishek Gunduguri

I am sure not many of you have heard about the latest development. And when I say “many of you”, I mean the majority of IIT students who are not enrolled in one of the most unique courses at IIT, the enchanting IPTO. Now, there has been some sort of “small” resistance in IIT students for the willingness to take an IPTO. This is not a class; some just shun the idea. It has been a somewhat ‘small’ resistance in IIT students for the past year. Now, I would like to share an opinion with you about IPTOs.

Wait! I just got side tracked entirely. The latest development that I was about to mention earlier before all my attention was taken away by the fact that some IIT students dislike IPTOs, was that this year for IPTO day in April, there would be other universities that would be competing with IIT IPTO teams for the valuable IPTO day awards. Yes, you read right. IIT students will have competition from other schools in the area of IPTO day judgments. Other Chicago-land area colleges would be presenting their research projects at IIT, and will be competing. Now, of course, I am not suggesting that IIT students will become undergraduates in the next five years to become college graduates. It is great that the IPTO office is working on organizing the IPTO games to make sure the team works together for that semester. It is great that they have a Project Management Workshop to teach undergraduates how to work on a project. These are real-life, job related skills without which Donald Trump would have said “You are fired!” for sure. As an undergraduate learning these skills will give IIT graduates a key step up on the competition.

For those few students who are not convinced of the concept of IPTO, tell me what other schools make you take two or three research classes which are completely research based? Tell me what other schools offer a research class for free, and even pay you for it (at least most students) in their college? Tell me what you think is better than an IPTO? I would say nothing, and if you say something, then I suggest you see a shrink.

Seasons change Chicago

By Mubarak Ali

Snow. It’s white and flaky and soft and all, not at all like the snow that I am used to. I have spent most of my time in the tropics, the coldest I had ever seen was about 1 degree Celsius that was 57 degrees Fahrenheit, for all you Americans. So I was really looking forward to seeing my first snow ever. Now everywhere here I can say that Chicago is one cold city (weather-wise) and I do not need to mention why.

It was surely going to snow for Christmas, that’s what I was told. But of course, it snowed briefly, one day in October and then nothing for the whole year. But it was getting colder all the time. Back home, you don’t get to see the seasons change so dramatically. It is hot most of the year and for four months it snows and everything is green. Weather and wet and soggy and fresh and all very beautiful. The rain falls. It makes a noise. And when the wind is blowing just so you can get really wet if you venture out. I was wondering how the snow would feel. I have seen it in the movies. It’s all white and sticks in your hair and clothes and it’s also very beautiful.

Anyway, coming back to the seasons. I came here this fall. In August, the leaves were still hanging on and they were still green. But by the end of September, half of them had turned golden. I had never seen such sights before. It was as if all the tree leaves were independent. They were glowing so brightly. And there are lots of trees here in Chicago. Everything was so white and clean, it’s as if streets are just like they show in the movies.

Typical Chicago visitors cast the ground with inches of fluffy, white snow. Many snowmen were knocked out on a white Christmas. Chicago has had one snowflake in November and December 2006, but there haven’t been any Barries since.

Click here for free cash

By Joe Kaiser

The latest development that I was about to mention earlier before all my attention was taken away by the fact that some IIT students dislike IPTOs, was that this year for IPTO day in April, there would be other universities that would be competing with IIT IPTO teams for the valuable IPTO day awards. Yes, you read right. IIT students will have competition from other schools in the area of IPTO day judgments. Other Chicago-land area colleges would be presenting their research projects at IIT, and will be competing. Now, of course, I am not suggesting that IIT students will become undergraduates in the next five years to become college graduates. It is great that the IPTO office is working on organizing the IPTO games to make sure the team works together for that semester. It is great that they have a Project Management Workshop to teach undergraduates how to work on a project. These are real-life, job related skills without which Donald Trump would have said “You are fired!” for sure. As an undergraduate learning these skills will give IIT graduates a key step up on the competition.

For those few students who are not convinced of the concept of IPTO, tell me what other schools make you take two or three research classes which are completely research based? Tell me what other schools offer a research class for free, and even pay you for it (at least most students) in their college? Tell me what you think is better than an IPTO? I would say nothing, and if you say something, then I suggest you see a shrink.

Football at IIT

By Jeff Terry

As I write this article preparing to watch the Chicago Bears take on the Indianapolis Colts in Super Bowl XLII, I am reminded of a time 21 years ago. If we go back 21 years to Dec 1985, I was a 17-year-old high school senior living just outside of the Chicago. The Chicago Bears were in the midst of their first Super Bowl season and I was looking for colleges to attend. At that time, I had narrowed the choices down to Walsh College and the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. Why? Both schools had a football team that for whom I could play.

In that every Bear atmosphere of 1985, there was no chance in the world that I would have considered attending a university that lacked a football team. Here at IIT, we currently limit our undergraduate recruiting base because our university does not compete in football. In my opinion, we should work to change this situation.

According to the New York Times (Bill Pennington, July 10, 2006, http://tinyurl.com/29qvn), nearly 50 colleges or universities have added or reinstated football programs. Of these, 80% have been small colleges. These schools have seen that football programs increase diversity on campus. These programs have also raised campus morale and alumni donations.

Of the schools that IIT should be considering competing with academically MIT, Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Rose-Hulman, and locally, the University of Chicago, all field competitive football teams. IIT should compete for some of these students. As for me, in December 1985, I received a phone call from the head football coach at my alma mater, the University of Chicago. I had played college baseball and was looking for a football scholarship at the NCAA Division III University of Chicago (Go Maroons). It would have been nice if IIT would have offered a similar opportunity. Hopefully, IIT will consider riding the wave of Chicago Bears’ Super Bowl publicity and institute a football program.

Snow. It’s white and flaky and soft and all, not at all like the snow that I am used to. I have spent most of my time in the tropics, the coldest I had ever seen was about 1 degree Celsius that was 57 degrees Fahrenheit, for all you Americans. So I was really looking forward to seeing my first snow ever. Now everywhere here I can say that Chicago is one cold city (weather-wise) and I do not need to mention why.

It was surely going to snow for Christmas, that’s what I was told. But of course, it snowed briefly, one day in October and then nothing for the whole year. But it was getting colder all the time. Back home, you don’t get to see the seasons change so dramatically. It is hot most of the year and for four months it snows and everything is green. Weather and wet and soggy and fresh and all very beautiful. The rain falls. It makes a noise. And when the wind is blowing just so you can get really wet if you venture out. I was wondering how the snow would feel. I have seen it in the movies. It’s all white and sticks in your hair and clothes and it’s also very beautiful.

Anyway, coming back to the seasons. I came here this fall. In August, the leaves were still hanging on and they were still green. But by the end of September, half of them had turned golden. I had never seen such sights before. It was as if all the tree leaves were independent. They were glowing so brightly. And there are lots of trees here in Chicago. Everything was so white and clean, it’s as if streets are just like they show in the movies.

Typical Chicago visitors cast the ground with inches of fluffy, white snow. Many snowmen were knocked out on a white Christmas. Chicago has had one snowflake in November and December 2006, but there haven’t been any Barries since.

Click here for free cash

Back when Google first bought YouTube, there were a couple big ones. There was the natural deep booming chant of “SELLOUTS!” that rang from everyone who had some stupid idea about how great they really were when their spirit was eternal and how there is no such thing as bandwidth costs. And then there was the other idea, “These guys are going to sell your company, where’s our money?” Because, you know, when someone gets a great idea, that is the original idea, that is how the internet gets financial backing, has to hire staff and weigh business deals, balance the need of customers with reasonable technical limitations and copyright issues, and gives it all away for free! Well, obviously, you deserve a cut for posting a five second video of a dog pooping (a search for “dog pooping” on YouTube returns 1362 hits).

And at the time, it seemed like an insult. How often do you use YouTube every day? Do you watch music videos, follow links from friends, maybe even subscribe to a channel? What other websites pay you for using them? Other than the free iPods thing, I can’t think of very many.

But they caved. And there’s a million ways this could go wrong – but if everything comes up aces, maybe something good could come out of this.

OK, so there’s the obvious problem. How do you really categorize what videos people want to watch? How do you know what is ripped off of eBaum’s world or certain websites? What other websites pay you for using them? Other than the free iPods thing, I can’t think of very many.

But they caved. And there’s a million ways this could go wrong – but if everything comes up aces, maybe something good could come out of this.

OK, so there’s the obvious problem. How do you really categorize what videos people want to watch? How do you know what is ripped off of eBaum’s world or certain websites? What other websites pay you for using them? Other than the free iPods thing, I can’t think of very many.

But they caved. And there’s a million ways this could go wrong – but if everything comes up aces, maybe something good could come out of this.

OK, so there’s the obvious problem. How do you really categorize what videos people want to watch? How do you know what is ripped off of eBaum’s world or certain websites? What other websites pay you for using them? Other than the free iPods thing, I can’t think of very many.

But they caved. And there’s a million ways this could go wrong – but if everything comes up aces, maybe something good could come out of this.

OK, so there’s the obvious problem. How do you really categorize what videos people want to watch? How do you know what is ripped off of eBaum’s world or certain websites? What other websites pay you for using them? Other than the free iPods thing, I can’t think of very many.

But they caved. And there’s a million ways this could go wrong – but if everything comes up aces, maybe something good could come out of this.
**IIT Campus News Briefs**

**One-on-one interview with Richard L. Cohen**

By James Boozer

Richard L. Cohen was recently selected as the new Director of IIT Public Safety. He replaced Steve Rubin who accepted a position at Hewitt Associates as their director of security. Cohen was previously director in 2003 and most recently held the position of security at Levy Security Corporation. In an exclusive interview, Cohen talks about returning to IIT and what his goals are as director of Public Safety.

**TechNews: What would you like to say to IIT students about your role as Director?**

Cohen: I am thrilled to be back in this dynamic and energetic environment. I look forward to re-acquainting myself with old colleagues and meeting a whole new student body. As for goals, I would say they are rather simple. To succeed in our mission, we have to meet regularly to ensure the lines of communication remain open and effective. As you know, the Public Safety Department’s mission is to support the university’s educational goals by advocating a secure environment for students to explore diverse social, cultural and academic ideas and to pursue knowledge. We take this mission quite seriously and are always exploring opportunities to improve our service capabilities.

**TechNews: How would you describe the existing public area surveillance systems, alarm monitoring and emergency call stations?**

Cohen: I am happy to report that IIT has completed these projects and the opportunity to lead the IIT Public Safety program presented itself and I was asked to return which I wholeheartedly agreed to.

**TechNews: What are some of the safety initiatives/programs you plan to implement as director?**

Cohen: As you know, Public Safety services are outsourced to Levy Security Corporation and I have been working with our corporate offices since I left IIT in early 2003. Most recently, I was asked to fulfill a role at our corporate offices and since my Assistant Director of Operations at the time was well prepared to assume the Director role, I moved on to the new role.

**TechNews: What are some of the safety initiatives/programs you plan to implement as director?**

Cohen: One major initiative I will be working on is examining our long-range security planning from a technological aspect. As the surrounding community continues its revitalization, there will be additional initiatives/programs you plan to implement as director? What are some of your goals?

Cohen: Our primary service is peer tutoring, a free service open to all IIT students and faculty. We take this mission quite seriously and are always exploring opportunities to improve our service capabilities.

**TechNews: What would you like to say to the IIT community about your return as director? What are some of your goals?**

Cohen: I am thrilled to be back in this dynamic and energetic environment. I look forward to re-acquainting myself with old colleagues and meeting a whole new student body! As for goals, I would say they are rather simple. To succeed in our mission, we have to meet regularly to ensure the lines of communication remain open and effective. As you know, the Public Safety Department’s mission is to support the university’s educational goals by advocating a secure environment for students to explore diverse social, cultural and academic ideas and to pursue knowledge. We take this mission quite seriously and are always exploring opportunities to improve our service capabilities.
On the Cheap - Lindy's Chili & Gertie's Ice Cream

By John R. Brilla III

TECHNEWS WRITER

This week, I have decided to take a break from architecture to bring the students of IIT to my take on the cuisine, atmosphere, price and ease of finding a restaurant in the area. Yes, I am bringing you an “On the cheap” article, and have chosen to review Lindy’s & Gertie’s.

Lindy’s Chili & Gertie’s Ice Cream is located at 3685 S. Archer Avenue, and is very easy to find. It is located on a corner lot, to the left when traveling south on Archer, with seemingly ample parking. Also, if you do not wish to drive, it is very near the Archer Orange Line Stop.

The atmosphere is something of a mixed experience. Having entered, you will see a large amount of memorabilia on the walls, and somewhat dim lighting. Also, from here, it seems as though there is an historic atmosphere, with a more intimate glow, as is usually created by the low lighting in bars.

But, if you turn to sit in the main seating area, just to your left, it seems as though you have stepped into McDonald’s. In fact, you have now begun walking on that brick floor that you have only seen on the floor of McDonald’s and under your feet in your elementary school lunch line.

As the name would seem to imply, you would usually come here in search of two things, these being either chili or ice cream. I have to be honest – I did not get the chilli, though I did get a milkshake.

My order consisted of a hot ham and cheese sandwich, fries, a pepsi and a milkshake. I did enjoy the sandwich, but was not in the eating mood, leaving the fries for another day – do not do this.

But, I did very much enjoy the milkshake. It was rich and creamy, and as is usually the case with this type of establishment, there was more milkshake in the container they gave, than would fit in my glass. Even more delightful was the way they refilled it, thus creating an interminable stream of milk and whipped cream. Above this, these refreshe well, allowing me to enjoy milkshake-like ice cream well into the next week.

On the issue of price, it is usually pretty reasonable, though my meal did not come with the fries that I ordered, and I got a pepsi and a milkshake. I ended up paying more than I had expected. But the other members around the table managed to keep the price low, and the enjoyment, high through burgers and chili.

The service was good, the price was not outrageous – between seven and thirteen dollars per person, usually – the atmosphere forgave, Lindy’s Chili Gertie’s Ice Cream was a delightful experience, that I think I will recommend to all who are reading this.

Indie is a misnomer

By Andres De La Hoz

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Shins’ new album, “Wincing The Night Away”, debuted at #2 on the Billboard album charts. The indie pop outfit known for their old-fashioned, simple sound and their place in the movie “Garden State” have achieved the highest chart position by a band in the Sub Pop label (in any amount released solely by the label as opposed to in collaboration).

This is yet another step in a process that has come to define this entire decade. Ever since The Strokes and similar bands gained notoriety as “saviors of rock”, the rock music scene has shed away from big bands and looked more at independent music for their heroes. Mainstream rock bands have, for the most part, lost their place in the critics’ world, with only a few of them (Radiohead, being the most notorious) still looked at as more than mere fad artists.

Is was rich and creamy, and as is usually the sound of an inextinguishable sonovac like Creed and Nickelback. Now “alternative” is more or less a guarantee that whatever the radio station in question is about to play is audioble. cheese.

Can the same happen to indie rock? Listening to indie rock was about as unusual as it could get for a few years, then became cool for about 6 months, and now is practically a lost cause. It doesn’t matter how obscure you try and get, because there’ll be someone listening to that exact same music working at a firm and making sure that the snarly guy who requested “Your Favorite Weapons” is a real band.

The Shins, on the other hand, are on the rise. Their new album, “Wincing The Night Away”, debuted at #2 on the Billboard album charts. The O.C. has used every song on the planet. At this point the only real difference between the indies and the majors is the fact that the indies are starving.

 Holt and the Shins new album cover, “Wincing the Night Away”.

Not exactly the sound of the future we’re talking about. Can the same thing happen to the indie rock scene? The Shins are in majors. Anything is indie after that.

But what about the bands playing? The Shins got to number two. Are The Shins a terrible band? No. Are The Shins the future of music? God no. They’re just about the most harmless, simple indie band. They’re quirky without being truly odd, they’re soft without being fay, they’re retro without sounding like they should be opening for The Yardbirds. What other indie bands have actually gotten success? The Postal Service? Not exactly the sound of the future we’re talking about here.

Will the indie scene die? No. Neither did the alternative scene. This decade has been the decade when liking indie has become cool, without the music having much to do with it. The only thing that’s going to change is the meaning of the word indie in mainstream media. It doesn’t even mean anything anymore. Most popular indie bands are in majors. Anything is indie rock these days. I’ve heard of Throop Yorke, of all people, being referred to as indie. Indie rock pretty much means “bands that aren’t quite modern” right now.

In a way, the rise of indie among the mainstream is a good thing. It has helped combat the woe-is-me, please-look-at-me scene of such popular bands as Korn and Linkin Park, but like alternative before it, I’ll turn it into a bloated, soulless monstrosity in about 10 years time. Enjoy it while it lasts.

Where in Chicago

If you know, be the first to e-mail us at technewsphotos@gmail.com and we will publish your name next week.

Last Week’s Winner

Congratulations to Tony Smith for being the first to correctly identify last week’s photo as Holy Name Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of Chicago. The church was build and dedicated in 1875 after the original structure was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire.
Damage to brain disrupts addiction to smoking

By Victor Guharyo

Scientists last week reported that an injury to a specific part of the brain near the ear can permanently break a smoking habit in animals. The study included 32 former smokers with brain injury. They smoked at least five cigarettes a day for two years or more. Sixteen patients reported that they no longer had the urge to smoke. The researchers from the University of Iowa and the University of Southern California performed M.R.I. scans on all of the patients’ brains to identify the location and extent of each brain injury. They found that those 16 patients had an injury to their insula, a prune-sized region in the brain implicated in addictive behavior. Injuries to other parts of the brain had no effect on the urge to quit smoking. The study did not examine other dependencies such as alcohol or drug addictions.

Smoking is a controlling habit and is extremely difficult to get rid of. Most smokers revert back to smoking after repeated attempts to quit. Some experts believe that the crave can last a lifetime.

Dr. Nora Volkow, director of National Institute of Drug Abuse commented “This is the first time we’ve shown anything like this, that damage to a specific brain area could remove the problem entirely and it’s absolutely mind-boggling.”

The finding is unique and in a number of brain systems have been implicated in addictive behavior in the past. Obviously, no one is suggesting brain injury is the solution for halting the addiction. The findings suggest that potential use of new therapy focusing on the insula area of the brain may offer an alternative for anti-smoking treatments in the near future.

**Business from around the world**

By Shravani Pasupneti

Viacom asks YouTube to remove 100,000 videos

The parent firm of networks like MTV and Nickelodeon has asked YouTube to remove 100,000 videos that violate copyright laws. Viacom took this initiative after they failed to come to an agreement with YouTube on possible revenue sharing similar to what other networks like CBS and NBC have implemented. Viacom is said to have demanded a higher share than some of YouTube’s other partners, mainly because Viacom owns the two largest networks in the online service, namely the 18-30 age group. YouTube on the other hand has said that shows on MTV and Nickelodeon have gained in popularity because of their “passionate audience”. The in, CBS has admitted to a spike in ratings after their complete shows were highlighted on YouTube.

Tata wins Corus bid for $11.3bn

Tata Steel, the largest steel manufacturer in India has bought 100% of the Anglo-Dutch company Corus Group at 60p a share. This acquisition makes the Tata Group the largest steel manufacturer in the world. Individually Tata and Corus were ranked 56th and 9th on the list of steel manufacturers last year. Corus employs 47,000 people, most of them in Wales and England. The deal is the largest foreign investment by an Indian company after the Reddy Group bought out Betapharm for $570m.

The acquisition has created concern amongst British Trade Unions about a possible loss of worker jobs in manufacturing facilities.

Apple, Cisco delay court battle over iPhone

Apple and Cisco have agreed to put off a court case on the matter of the new Apple iPhone that may stop the ‘iPhone’ which is set to for release in June. Cisco owns the trademark for the name ‘iPhone’ and has produced a line of VOIP enabled phones under that name for the last year. Under US trademark laws, two products can share the same name if they have different uses. This has been the point which Apple believes will allow them to use this name for their touch-screen enabled smartphone. The two companies were initially headed towards a court battle but have temporarily put it off to extend talks aimed at “reaching agreement on trademark rights and interoperability”.

Woman found guilty of trying to steal Coke secret

Joya Williams has been found guilty for stealing confidential documents and samples from a Coke facility and trying to sell it to Pepsi. However, after she contacted Pepsi, they reported the case back to Coke and Joya was arrested by the FBI in Atlanta.

Google hands out $1.5m to executors

Google Inc. has decided that it will pay bonuses of up to $1.5m to its top executives including various Vice Presidents. During this period in 2006, Google had a total revenue of $12bn. The board of directors will most probably not be handed out to company founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page and CEO Eric Schimdt. Those three took out salaries amounting to $1.5m in 2006 to be paid by end of 2007 instead of $2000 last year. But then who needs a bonus when you are on the Forbes list of the 100 richest men in the world?

**Health Briefs**

By Shravani Pasupneti

“Smoking Ban Reaches France”

France, joined the growing number of European countries that have banned smoking in workplaces. The ban will first affect airport’s railway stations, theaters, clubs, stores, and offices. By the end of the year, the bar will be enforced in restaurants and bars as well. The ban was the first step towards the possibility of a ban on smoking in 2004. Soon after, Sweden, Italy, and Malta passed similar restrictions. Chicago witnessed a similar ban last year. The penalty for breaking the ban in France will be €68 for individuals and €153 for companies. The ban only affects public areas and employees can smoke in secluded smoking rooms that are designed solely for this purpose.

“New non-invasive test for fetal genetic abnormalities introduced”

Scientists from the US firm, Rausgen Inc, recently unveiled a non-invasive blood test to test for genetic abnormalities in the fetus. The team, led by Dr. Alexander Benachi, developed techniques that uses fetal DNA from the mother’s blood and tests for common genetic abnormalities such as Down syndrome, but due to the small amount of fetal DNA present in maternal blood, conclusive tests could not be carried out. However, the team reports that treating the blood with formamide can maximize the amount of DNA and allow for conclusive tests. It is estimated that this test can be identified within 24 hours, which is a large improvement over the 6 days taken by current tests.

AIDS Gel Clinical Trial Halted

Clinical trials of a gel designed to protect women from contracting AIDS during sexual intercourse was stopped recently. The gel, which is manufactured by the Canadian company Polydex Pharmaceuticals, found to not help the women, and in fact made them more vulnerable. The trials were being conducted on 1,300 women in South Africa, Brazil, Uganda, and India. Similar trials in Nigeria were also stopped, but three other gels are still being tested. Trials in other countries have determined that thirty women in the trial had contracted AIDS. The World Health Organization and the United Nations, are in a disappointing and unexpected setback in the search for a safe and effective microbicide that can protect women from HIV.
Relentless, inhuman, immortal, as-close-to-perfection-as-it-gets, there are some of the adjectives that voluntarily or involuntarily occur to anybody who watches or barely hears about Roger Federer’s play. So much so that he has been given the title “His Royal Highness” by some Sports Columnist back in India, and who would disagree with that? Just the other day, watching the Press Conference of the Australian Open after Roddick’s 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 drubbing at the hands of the master, one could not help but admire and appreciate Roddick’s poise after what had happened. If Roddick thought he was a step closer to conquering Mt. Federer after beating him in the Koyoung Classic in Melbourne, well, he just realized he was sadly mistaken. The thing about Federer’ism (for want of a better word to describe the ideology/enigma/mystery/aura/phenomenon that the man is) is that the mere you try to understand it or think that you have understood it, the farther you are. It’s somewhat like the String Theory. As a famous scientist once famously said, “If you think you have understood String theory, you have not understood String theory.” To quote the writer, “The man functions in a parallel universe that is somehow visible to us against all laws of physics. Only, twisted many-worlds interpretation can help us make some sense of the man’s genius and where it has left men’s tennis.”

After seeing the other semifinal (the Federer-less one) in which Fernando Gonzalez from Chile absolutely outlasted Tommy Haas of Germany 6-1, 6-3, 6-1, and the way he accomplished the showdown in the Finals. Obviously with the usual doubts (of Federer’s ruthless efficacy in shattering the opponent), that always go with a Federer match, where one expects it to be a proper “match”. My doubts were, however, proven right after reading the score line of 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the Australian Open 2007 finals. "match". My doubts were, however, proven right after reading the score line of 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the Australian Open 2007 finals. (I purposely refrain from explicitly mentioning in whose favor the score line reads because what is obvious as far as Federer is concerned has given a new definition to the word “obviousness”). And to think that the same writer said of Gonzalez – “(Gonzalez) is playing tennis like Sudoku with all the numbers written down on a napkin in his shirt pocket.”

This man Federer makes statistics look small and irrelevant; nevertheless, it is imperative that we at least try to look at them for statistics’ (poor fellow!) sake. Australian Open 2007 was Number 10 for Roger. He did not lose a set in the Grand Slam, becoming the first man to win a Grand Slam without losing a set since Bjorn Borg at the 1980 French Open. (I am devoid of reactions now.)

Ultimately now, Federer’ism is having more far-reaching consequences than initially imagined. It’s evident that the realms of Tennis-the-sport have been redefined. But one Perfection is getting complete. She (I will not go into the details of why I chose the feminine gender for Perfection) has been brutally manhandled and heartlessly ripped apart by this man. Every time he steps on court, he endorses to redefine and improve upon his most recent tory with something he does with unflagging reliability. But, of the manner in which every execution was carried out — accompanied by a beauty and poetry that only one man can render – Roger Federer.

The bears put the game away early in the fourth quarter when Colts cornerback Kelvin Hayden intercepted an ill-advised Grossman pass and returned it 53 yards for a touchdown. Grossman pump-faked, then threw off his back foot to Muhammad. But Hayden picked off the underthrown ball and tip-toed along the sideline to put Indianapolis ahead 20-17. Grossman then tried to go deep to Remiant Herrem (WR), but he underthrew and Bob Sanders (Colts DB) picked it off. The Bears then turned the ball over on downs at their own 46 with 9:05 left when Desmond Clark (TE) was drilled by Colts safety Matt Giordano, forcing an incompletion.

“In the past when our team’s come up short, it’s been disappointing,” said Manning, the Super Bowl MVP. “Somehow, we found a way to have learned from those bad losses, and we’ve been a better team because of it. As disappointing as the playoff loss was last year at Pittsburgh, the veteran guys went together and learned from it and felt we were a better team this year and maybe stronger for it. It’s nice when you put a lot of hard work to cap it off with a championship.”

Tony Dungy (Colts Coach Head) became the first black coach to win the championship, beating good friend and protégé Lovie Smith (Bears Head Coach) in a game that featured the first two African-American coaches in the history of the Super Bowl. “It feels great. I thought about that as I was on the podium,” said Dungy. “I had a chance to become the first African American coach to win it. I have to dedicate to some guys, before me -- great coaches I know could have done this if they had gotten the opportunity. Lovie and I were able to take advantage of it. We certainly weren’t the most qualified.”

It was a heartbreaking loss for the Bears who had not been to the Super Bowl since 1986. “The whole year our thing has been to finish and that’s exactly what we didn’t do,” said Bears linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer. “We still had a chance to win the game in the fourth quarter and we didn’t do it.”

When the dust finally settled on Tuesday’s game between Concordia (IN) and Illinois Tech, the visiting Scarlet Hawks had won their fourth game of the season and many personal and team highs were accomplished. The 106-70 victory was the most points scored by the Scarlet Hawks this season.

Five different Hawks scored in double figures, and despite a good game early (ties 23-23 with 13:31 to play in the first half), the Hawks went on a 32-13 run to end the first half and never looked back. The Hawks were led by Rob Knipczyk with 18 points and he was joined in double figures by Matt McKailey (12), Nil Valls (16), Bobby McQueen (13), and Vernell Robinson (11). Two Scarlet Hawks also reached double figures in rebounds – Karolis Kozys (10) and Bobby McQueen (10) who recorded his fifth double-double of the season.

The Scarlet Hawks also set teams highs in the contest for field goal percentage (51.9%) and assists (22) in the contest. The Scarlet Hawks return to the hardwood Saturday, February 3rd for a CCAC game against Robert Morris at 5:00 p.m. Robert Morris is currently #1 in the NAIA Division 1 rankings.

The Lady Hawks had a strong second half performance against conference opponents Purdue University Calumet (IN) but fell 68-53 in the end. The loss gives lady Hawks a 5-18 overall and 0-6 in the conference.

Purdue University Calumet (IN) took control of the game at the beginning, as they held a 23-17 advantage half-time score. The tide swung the other way at the beginning of the second period when the Lady Hawks started to match the Lady Peregrines point for point. From there the game remained tight but Illinois Tech failed to regain the first half deficit.

Lady Hawk Polina Ivanova ended with impressive 23 points, and grabbed 9 rebounds. Alinyon Williams added 11 points and 4 rebounds. Stephanie Herrera had 4 points, 7 rebounds and 4 assists. Erin Pedersen also chipped in with 9 points.

By Kaushik T. Ganesan

When the Swiss Emperor of the World walks in Australia

Game Recaps

W= Win  L= Loss

Morris at 5:00pm. Robert Morris is currently #1 in the NAIA Division 1 rankings.

– Courtesy of IIT Athletics Dept.

• Lady Hawks Hangs Tough With Purdue University Calumet (IN)

Last Week’s Scores

No scores available for last week’s games.