

Did I tell you that I am one of those unfortunate (I) people around? If not, then know this-I am. Every time anything good happens specially any good concert it turns out to be 'yours truly' who gets to miss it. Like, after a chain of some lousy concerts I had missed the one on the 23rd June, which was, so far as I've heard, a great show. So you see I have formed this kind of belief in me that I am either cursed or have a born habit of missing the best of the things! Poor me!

But...frankly speaking fellows, that belief of mine is now starting to have a change since I haven't missed the last Friday concert! Well, last Friday (4th of August) there was an alternative metal concert at the Russian Cultural Center. And yes, this time I was there and boy! It was heck of a good concert, one of the best I've ever been.

Tell me, do you have any idea how long it's been that I waited for a good metal concert to take place...almost six months I guess. The last one was on the "Valentine's Day" but

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it was such a shock in the heart and in the pocket as well. Almost half of the bands did not perform for some God-knows-what reason and if "The Glad Tiders" were not there I'd have definitely sued the organizers and asked my money back!

Anyway where was I...yeah, the last Friday Concert was more than *Fattafati*. With almost all the best of the metal bands performing, I bet no one would want to miss it. (If you did, join my club and take my place!). Starting from "Nemesis", the concert was glorified by bands like "Cryptic Fate", "Tantrik", "Fumes", "Migraine" and "Neuroses".

At 4'o clock came up the "Nemesis" with few good numbers of U2. They were quite good. The main vocalist did well enough to copy Bono's voice but I think they need to work on the tunes more...but still "With or Without you", "Bullet in the Blue Sky", "Where the streets have no name" were far better than I had thought of. I remember, even Ayub Bacchu in one of his concerts played "With or without you" and he too, was not perfect. So in that case "Nemesis" was far more great.

Then came "Fumes" with tracks like "I just died in your arms" of "Cutting Crew", "You give love a bad name", "In these arms" and of course the new sensational song "It's my life" of Bonjovi. The "Fumes" also did a good job in playing Warfaze's "Bosheachi".

After the Fumes...the concert-going-nerds, audience that is, were on their feet as the Present Leading Metal Band "Cryptic Fate" entered. Loud cheers followed as soon as the guitarist and the drummer of "Cryptic Fate" started doing what we call "Bhaab." Forget the English tracks they had played the bangla track "Nishongo shohorey...bhaboghere" and "Shreshto" were outstanding. Man! This is only the third time I have heard these two and the more I am getting to listen those the more I am falling in love with them.

Ok. I'd not back off to mention that "Warfaze" is my NUMBER ONE band in Bangladesh. Honestly speaking never ever have I thought to compare any song with Warfaze's composition. But believe me guys, even being a die-hard fan of Warfaze I would say these songs by the CF could surely compete with them. They were in a word *beshi jase*, like always.

Later on, "Tantrik" came to the stage and played for more than half an hour. I wonder where these guys were before! As

far as I've heard they are the most senior band, formed in 1988. But exposure came late, I guess. Still, I have to agree that the vocalist has got some nerves! The songs he sang really need hard work and a good 'stable' vocal cord. Plus I have to admit this, the left-side-guitarist was such an ace...you know I was then sitting right beside the stage and from there I was just thrilled to see his fingers moving faster and faster and go higher and higher.

Soon after they were done, Migraine entered. Oh! By this time, "Koprofilia" apologized for not playing that night, which was definitely appreciated, at least by me, not by the crowd I guess. What I think it's a normal sense of decency to say sorry if you don't perform when you were supposed to. Better than not being *present* at all. No 'prolimo' guys...next time!

Migraine was superb, obviously. In every concert they catch a part of the audience who go on shouting "Migraine, Migraine..." and that says it all. Migraine's vocalists rocked the auditorium with "under the bridge", 'MI: 2' of Limp Bizkit,

ALTERNATIVE RULZ
By Khondker Zunaed Rabbani



"Californication" of "Red Hot Chilly Peppers" and so on. They da iced and made the crowd dance...Cool.

Lastly came the new band "Neuroses". Well, to tell you about them, I personally do not like these guys. So better no get into the words of applause (?) or 'boozing'. What my friends told me, the exact words were "Ora ektu beshi chachay!" Ha ha ha. Since I had left before they started what I have heard later on that they were also good with 'Trooper' and some of "Nirvana materials" comparing to this fact that they are still Rookie. After performing for half an hour or so, they finished and so did the concert. And people, especially me returned with a very content heart...Oneek din por.

So...that was all I had for the time being. Sorry folks if I am wrong in some places or my view does not go with yours...just overlook them cause I am not much into Metal!!!! LOL.

PS: The RS had planned to review these kinds of concerts last year. But due to some unavoidable reasons it was delayed. Sorry for the delay! From now on we promise to give you more information on this. This is the first metal concert review, if my memory does not betray. So let the criticism go to the dogs and make a toast "A'ternative Rulzz...let it rule."

AEDES The Dengue Culprit

By Paromita

We've been spraying "aerosol" all over the place, all the flower-vessels have been emptied and I've been checking the windows and doors every now and then. In spite of all these wariness, whenever someone finds out a tiny mosquito (maybe a delusion!) at some mere corner, my heart starts bouncing at once. Those little Aedes mosquitoes have become the talk of the town these days, and the most horrifying fact is that no vaccine has been introduced for this dengue fever yet!

I called up a friend this evening, one of her cousins have caught fever. The doctors said it's only some cold fever, nothing serious, but they are serious anyway. They've been taking the patient to the clinic regularly for check-ups and buying all sorts of medicines and not to mention tons of fruits and juice and horlicks. Cuz till now the best treatment for dengue is plenty of fluids and rest. So I guess they're doing the best thing. But then I remembered the awfully sick woman I saw yesterday who was at a severe stage of dengue (which can be said from the very first sight!). She is a resident of those tiny plastic houses on the footpath. There was none by her side to bring at least a glass of water. But she was resting anyway, beside the howling main road, under a cloudy sky, inside a blue-plastic cottage.

Aedes aegypti is a sort of day-biting mosquito. It means you just can't get rid of them that easily and only by rigging up curtains at night or spraying insecticides. You gotta wear full sleeve, long, loss fitting dresses (in this weather) and use mosquito coils at the daytime as well. Still those of you who are currently on some vacation like me and get to stay at home most of the time, are pretty lucky. But for others it's even more hazardous.

The city of mosquitoes- well I guess it's been one of the most disgraceful epithets for Dhaka so far, but seems very much appropriate these days. Even our honorable mayor has got this cute nick "mosquito Hanif" (no offense). But did the City Corporation have really taken any effective steps to remove our agonies or at least just to get out of this bad reputation? We all know that they had really big dreams, even bigger plans, but that's all they've had! Those naked dustbins, unhygienic lakes and drainage system, unplanned slums- what else could be the perfect dwelling for all the germs and diseases? Also they've got these unique spraying machines. Which appear on certain evenings without any earlier notice, making an awful noise that can even cause you a minor heart attack or something, there's also a terrible smell and smokes. And finally (within only a few seconds) when the machine is gone, you can see all the mosquitoes rushing towards your window! I wonder what's exactly the use of this weird equipment I came to know from today's newspaper that the Mayor has started local investigations regarding these Aedes mosquitoes. Hmm... that sounds great! But with due respect I'd like to ask him, "what took you so long, Sir? The people have been shouting and screaming for such a long time, where have you been?" Anyways, better be late than never.

The number of dengue patients has been increasing everyday, but then there is not enough accommodation or medical facilities for them in our general hospitals. Very few of them can afford to go to the private clinics, and the rest are simply left to the mercy of God. So the only thing we can do now is to watch out all sorts of mosquitoes and to stay miles away from them. At least we have to try our best, for the sake of our own lives. Also we hope and pray that the researchers find out the vaccine for dengue pretty soon.

Study in THE U.S.? FROM PAGE 1

family.

FORM II this is the one in which the applicant has to do the greatest amount of work. You will have to give your test scores; write about your personal interests, academic and extra-curricular activities (e.c.a.) and finally, the most important of all, have to write an essay! In short, this form gives a true picture of you beyond your grades or scores. In **FORM II**, like in your whole admissions process, be honest. Be neither a big show-off nor too modest. The two main objects of anxiety for most students here are: the *extracurricular activities* and the *essay*. For the former, again, be honest- don't just write down some activity, say debating, that you have never done in your life. For you would be expected to take that up in the university, if accepted. You may even send additional materials like slides of your artwork, tapes of your instrumental/vocal performance, photographs, stories/ plays that you may have written and so on. Additionally, if you can submit some certificates/proofs of your winning any sort of competition, you greatly enhance your candidacy. ECA are marked on a particular scale, say 1-9 with 9 being the highest. So getting an 8 or a 9 from the art department of the university (which would judge your slides) means that it really wants you to join the university. And this interest in turn aids the Admissions Committee to take a more positive outlook at you. It's better to have genuine and consistent interest in 1 or 2 activities than have numerous half-hearted ones. To get into a good university you can not neglect your e.c.a. at any cost.

Next is the *personal essay*. The more selective university you want to get into, the more the admissions committee deviate away from the general scores/grades and more it refers to the essay! Mostly you will be asked to write an essay that describes you best. This is so important that your whole admission could

acceptance rate and below 30-35% are highly selective. So think of applying to these only if you are sure what to expect. One way of using the ac.r to your advantage is to apply to reputed universities (like GeorgiaTech, U. of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, U. of Chicago, with staggering ac.r of 75%, 71% and 61% respectively) that have relatively higher ac.r than the highly selective universities. In that way, if accepted, you not only get a superior academic experience but also get yourself more wow's from your relatives. Here are the acceptance rates* of some of the most highly selective universities in the USA. However, do understand that the ac.r shown are the total no. of applicants accepted, including the int'l ones. E.g. if Harvard's ac.r is 12%, then out of this 12% only a handful (say 2-4%) will be international students.

Name, State

Harvard University
Princeton University
Stanford University
Columbia University
University of Pennsylvania
Brown University
Dartmouth College
MIT

Acceptance rate

MA 12%
NJ 13%
CA 13%
NYC 14%
PA 14%
RI 17%
NH 21%
MA 22%

*Source: 2000 College rankings, usnews.com

Contact Through Emails: Once you have finalized your university list, start emailing to all the respective universities immediately, asking for their brochures, catalogues, magazines and most importantly the Undergraduate Application (for fall 2001 say) forms. Email addresses may be obtained on the Internet, in reference books or at the USIS library. Early summer (like June/July '2000) is usually the peak period for this. So to avoid any delay you may even email them early in the year (say, in March/April 2000) so that your receiving the right materials in time is guaranteed. In Sept/October of 2000, you will receive the application form which comprises of (not necessarily with the same no.):

FORM I this lists general information about you/your

depend on it. Don't misunderstand me: I am not saying that only writing a superb essay will take you places. Actually, no single thing can do the trick. It's your whole application that matters. In whole, you need to stand out. However, if you are good in all other aspects and manage to write an excellent/exceptional essay, then you'd be taken in. Many a time, we come across genius students who got 1500+ in SAT I or a 2300+ in SAT II, yet they are rejected by some of the top universities. One reason for this could be their essay. Probably it wasn't well written or even if it was grammatically correct, it may have given an inappropriate picture of the applicant. May be the essay projected the applicant as an immature or a violent person or some one who is grade conscious and so on. The ESSAY requires much time, planning and thought. Never scurry to write it a few days before the deadline but instead work on it, over and over again, for 1-2 months. The gravity of this segment could make me write many pages on THE ESSAY alone so to make it short, log on to the Internet where you may even find sites (like petersons.com) that show "essays that worked". Again be true to yourself and work accordingly.

FORM III this is meant for your High School principal or your college counselor. Here you do not need to do much except forward the form to the designated authority on time.

FORM IV (a),(b),(c) This form may have two teachers' recommendations and an optional peer recommendation. Again, just give them to the appropriate persons. One thing you could remember is that when giving form IV (a) and (b), select teachers who have taught you the required subject(s) for a reasonably long period time as opposed to someone who knows you only for 1-2 years or even lesser.

FORM V this could be your financial-aid application. Read all documents and publications thoroughly, taking extra care to follow the deadlines.

When all the forms are filled up, seal the envelopes (with additional materials, if any) securely and mail off the whole application package on time. Keep your fingers crossed and wait on for the big envelope... And if you are accepted into the university of your preference, then thank God and me(just joking!!).