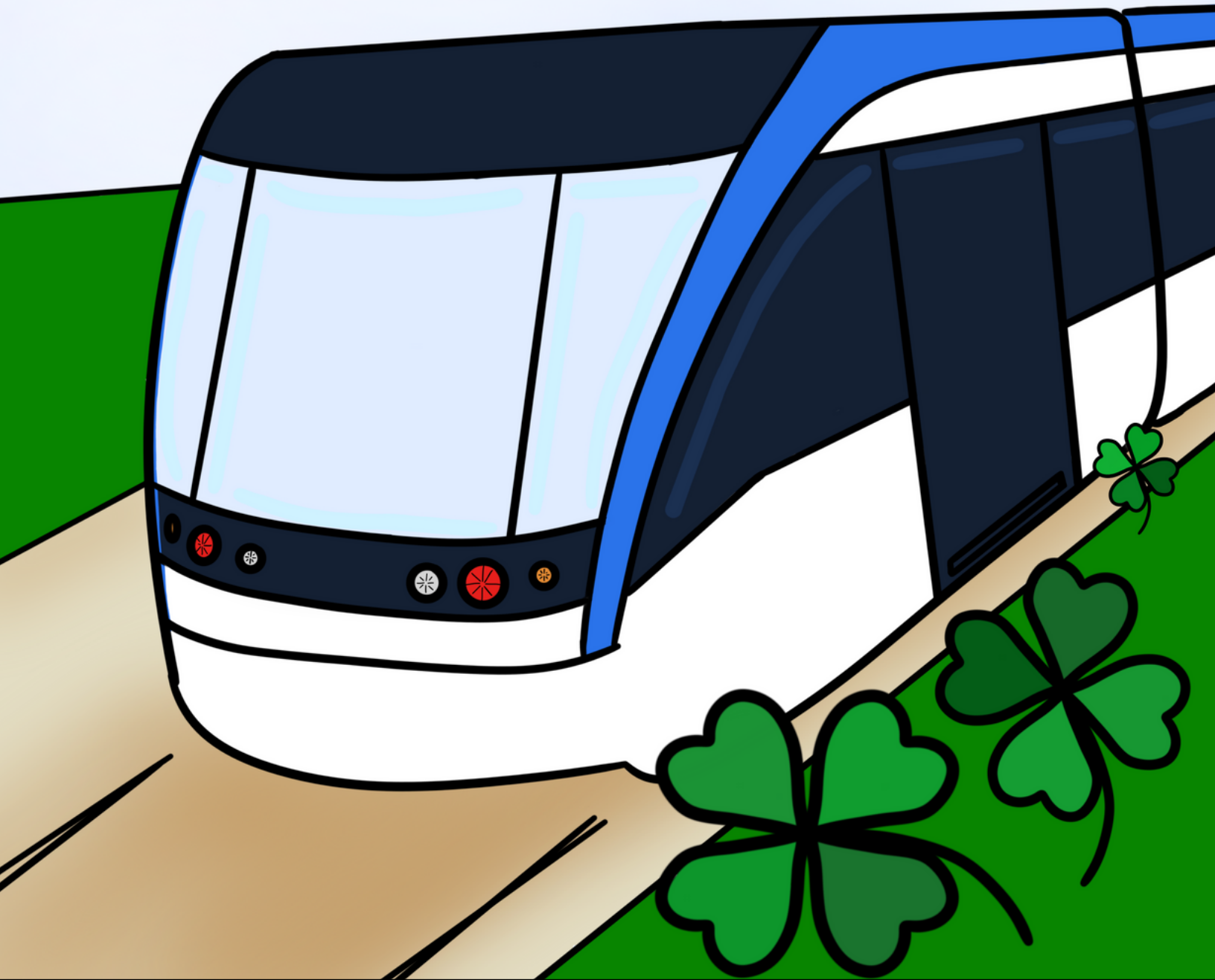


# THE IRON WARRIOR

Embracing Simplicity  
is Art

The Freedom of Desire  
Paths

Group Projects Suck:  
Martha Speaks Vol. 3



# MEET THE TEAM

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Athavan Gananathan

Julia Suljak

Rachel Pearson

Barath Arunachalam Nagendran

Avi Bhadore

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Jason Toft



THE IRON WARRIOR

### Iron Warrior

Waterloo Engineering Society

DWE 3520A

University of Waterloo

Waterloo, Ontario

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# Embracing Simplicity is Art

Avi Bhadore, 3A Computer

In modern media, there seems to be a desire to create things that are smart. Whether it's about misdirecting the audience or deconstructing a genre, there's no shortage of stories that try to be as clever as they can. However, art can also help us connect to our world better. We should never forget the basic pleasures of being human. Let's look past the battle of wits, and examine some niche art that engages with us in a primal, simple way.

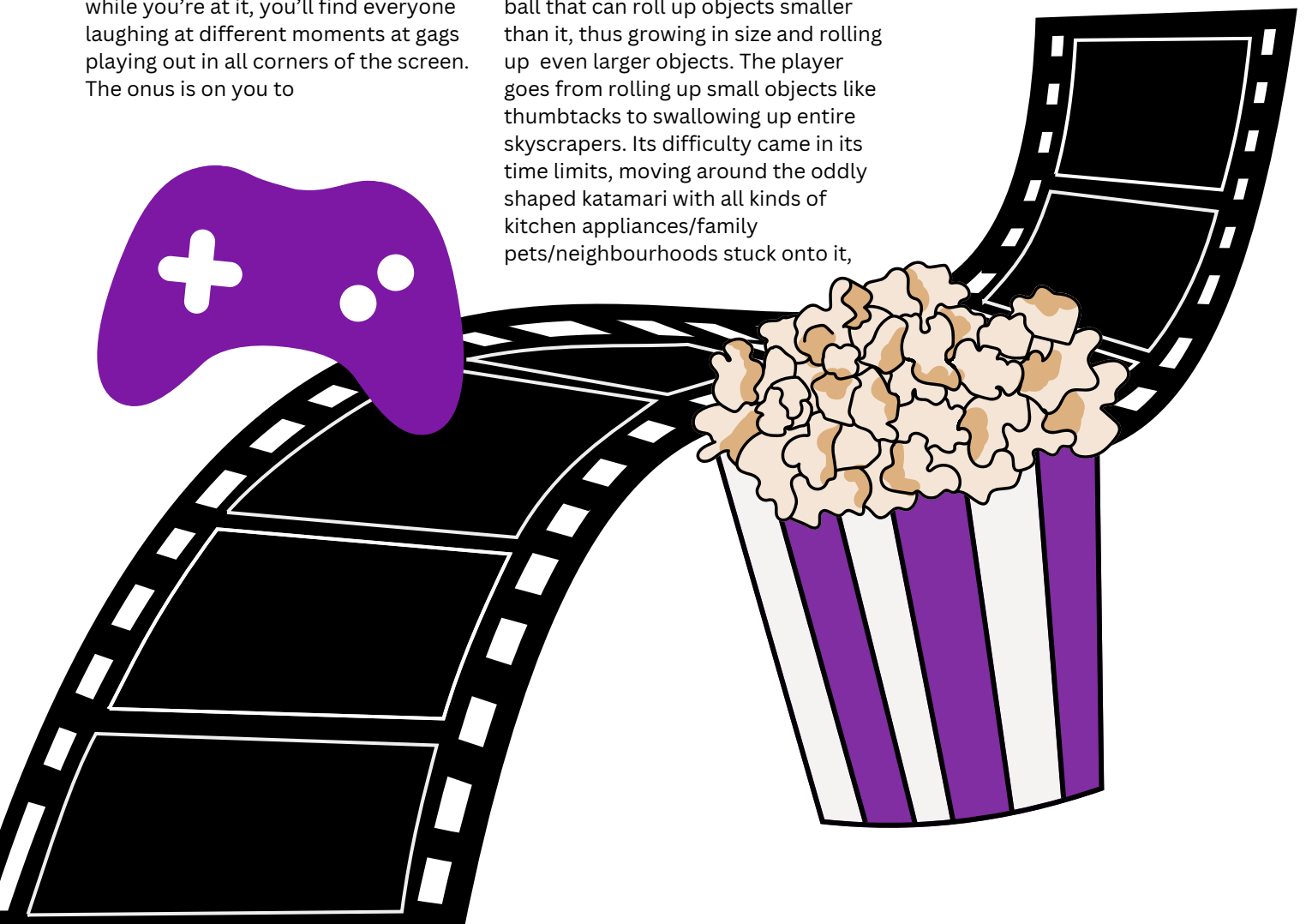
Our first subject is *Playtime*, a 1967 French comedy film where the dialogue doesn't matter and the plot is non-existent. Rather than following a hero, *Playtime's* main character is a futuristic version of Paris, or more specifically, its inhabitants. Each scene is full of people living out their lives, with different jokes playing out everywhere across the scene at once. You can re-watch this movie countless times and catch different visual gags playing out. If you grab a friend or two while you're at it, you'll find everyone laughing at different moments at gags playing out in all corners of the screen. The onus is on you to

catch the jokes among the chaos of busy Parisians. This movie encapsulates the joy of people-watching, of simple visual comedy, and the fun of *Where's Waldo* books from childhood. Despite its name, *Playtime* makes the viewer work for its comedy, making them a part of its strange world. It is a movie that transcends language and culture, connecting directly with the human experience of being one soul in a crowd.

Put someone that isn't accustomed to video games in front of one, and you will find them go through the same processes a baby does, all over again. Often they're more absorbed into the acts of walking, picking up and using items, and such things that most gamers take for granted than any complex and deep game mechanics. Keita Takahashi, a man fresh out of an art degree working at SEGA, realized this and created *Katamari Damacy*. The game is simple: you have a little ball that can roll up objects smaller than it, thus growing in size and rolling up even larger objects. The player goes from rolling up small objects like thumbtacks to swallowing up entire skyscrapers. Its difficulty came in its time limits, moving around the oddly shaped katamari with all kinds of kitchen appliances/family pets/neighbourhoods stuck onto it,

and the innate human desire to roll up everything into a big ball. With bright colours, a ridiculously upbeat soundtrack, and an endlessly goofy story and world, *Katamari* is a treat for all the senses. Regardless of age, it taps into the fundamental enjoyment of moving around in video games and collecting things in a mad dash.

Whether it's the joy of people-watching in *Playtime* or the whimsy of *Katamari Damacy*, there's no shortage of the beauty that can be found in simple, shared human experiences. As you sail the vast seas of modern media, consider the things you love: what do they stir deep inside of you? Beneath the wittiness of jokes or cleverness of plotlines, what is it that your favourite stories make you feel? Diving deep into yourself and your tastes is sure to help you find more joy in the things you consume, and certainly, in your own life as well.





# The Freedom of Desire Paths

Rachel Pearson, 1B Civil

Recently, I've discovered the existence of "desire paths". A desire path is one that has been beaten down by passers-by who have decided that the urban planning of the area is less efficient than or inconvenient to their tastes. One such path can be seen just off of campus. As you walk down University Avenue West past the ion rails towards Farah Foods, you'll see the muddied path the students before us have carved into the ground for their, and our, quickened access to the plaza.

Desire paths are a testament to how urban planning can lack in its understanding of human will. We as people are very fond of finding the faster, more efficient way of doing things, highlighting the lack of necessity the straight lined planning holds in our lives.

We were meant for broken patterns and crisscrossed lines. In urban living we find strict tracks with little variance when all of us would rather take even the smallest

short-cut. I believe this shows a beautiful impatience that is representative of the lack of control any one thing can have on humans.

Even when people sit in a boardroom and determine exactly how we should be living our lives and what should hypothetically be most efficient, in practice the civilians of the world can make small tweaks and cuts to suit the programmed world to our more jagged nature.

I find joy in the idea that something so simple as a desire path can suggest the freedom we have with our choices, the freedom to ignore the written rule. Humans will always choose to make their environment suit them rather than change themselves, which can be

dangerous, but in the case of the desire path is just practical, efficient, and a little bit fun; grounding oneself in the grasses just to the side of a concrete path can feel cathartic... maybe even rebellious.

Maybe I'm dramatizing it, as it is just a beaten down patch of grass. But I feel as though it is representative of so much more. A path highlighting the true nature, the true desire of, or rather, the quickest path to Farah's slushy machine.

But you get what I mean.

# halves

Rachel Pearson  
1B Civil

life is full of halves.

i'll only see half of  
my mother's life

and half of my  
father's.

i'll only see half on  
my child's life.

and i'll only see half  
of my life,

as i'm busy trying to  
see everybody else's  
before they slip out  
of my grasp

## SUDOKU

#2024-04

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## SUDOKU

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## SUDOKU

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# Waterloo Warriors Gaana Dance Team Excels at K2B Choreo Competition

Athavan Gananathan, 3T BME

On January 21, 2024, the University of Waterloo (UW) Gaana Dance Team excelled at the Kalaipuyal & K2B Dance Choreo Clash competition in Scarborough, Ontario. They earned 2nd place in the event out of five teams.

For those who are unfamiliar with the group, the UW Gaana Dance Team is a dance team at the University of Waterloo that primarily is connected to South Asian culture and performs in various dance styles (both South Asian and non-South Asian), including Bharatanatyam, Kuthu, Hip-Hop, and Dancehall. With more than 50 students from both the University of Waterloo and Laurier University part of the team, their goals involve fostering a fun environment for students who want to demonstrate their love of South Asian dance while allowing their members to grow as dancers themselves.

They provide both a competitive team, for more experienced dancers, and a non-competitive team, for those who do not have as much experience and want to do dance for fun. They are also associated with the University of Waterloo Tamil Networking Association (UWATNA), which is the university's largest Tamil-led club that promotes Tamil culture to the UWaterloo community. In February of this year, they performed at the Gujarati Student Association formal and the Sillunu Oru Kadhal, which is UWATNA's yearly Valentine's Day formal.

In terms of K2B, they are a South Asian-ran dance school located in Scarborough, Ontario that teaches students from as early as 3 years old about various dance styles including Urban, Gaana, Tamil Folk, and Hip-Hop. For the K2B Choreo Clash competition, 25 members of the UW Gaana competitive team participated at the university level, competing against other Canadian universities including Toronto Metropolitan University, McMaster University, York University, and the University of Ottawa.



Photo Credits:  
Gana Arumugam

To prepare for the K2B competition, it took a fair amount of time to determine what to execute. Specifically, the team needed to figure out what would be the best choreos to showcase. Eventually, when the choreos were selected, the group continuously practiced throughout late December (during finals and the winter break) to the eventual day of the competition in late January. In fact, they were having practices up to 5 hours in the Engineering 7 (E7) building just running through their sets and cleaning any scenes they performed. It was certainly a well-earned effort as they managed to rank as one of the top teams in the event.

Thushalan Mathan, a first-year chemical engineering student studying at UWaterloo is one of the members of the competitive team who won big at the Choreo Clash competition. He has been dancing with K2B Dance Studios ever since the opening of their studio and has developed into a professional dancer that has competed in high-level competitions. One of which was an international hip-hop competition called Hip-Hop International (HHI) which took place in Phoenix, Arizona. In fact, the K2B team he was a part of were the first Tamil dance team to be on that large of a stage internationally.

In terms of Gaana, he has thoroughly

enjoyed being on the team in his first year. He said that he knew a fair share of dancers before joining the team but still created strong bonds with members that he had first met on the UW Gaana dance team. Thushalan also mentions competitions such as the K2B Choreo Clash being a strong reason as to why the team grew a lot over a short period of time. He said, "A competition can do a lot for dancers. It's like you're doing a project with this team. You're for sure going to grow with that team and form a bond with that team. And for us, I think we grew and formed a great bond to let it out and have fun."

He also expressed the feeling of dancing with his fellow teammates, saying "When you dance, you can feel the energy of another dancer. If you do good and they do good, you can feel that energy vibing off. That makes you feel like you want to do more. On the day of the competition, every single person related to that."

All in all, the UW Gaana dance team hopes to use this competition as a launching point to continue their dominance as an incredible group of individuals expressing their love of South Asian culture through dance. For more information about the UW Gaana Dance Team, feel free to follow their Instagram (@wlwarriorsdance) to hear more about their upcoming events, competitions, and workshops.

# Engineering Student Packing List

## The Unknown Engineer

It takes a lot more stuff than just a tablet for notes to be a good engineer! We've compiled a list of the essentials that every engineering student should always carry. If you don't have these items, now's the time to stock up. Let us know if we missed anything!

**A rigid tool keychain:** We must pay respect to our Ridgid Tool mascot by carrying around a miniature version of it at all times.

**Purple dye:** You never know when the need for a quick purpling could arise.

**A copy of the engineering hymns:** We are not a cult! But those hymns are long and we need to know them for many of our large faculty events. It's always handy to have a copy of the hymns on our person.

**Emergency boat racing cup:** Of course, only for engineering students of age. But you never know when you'll need it.

**PPE:** Safety first, as always. That includes safety goggles, gloves, lab coats... the works. Whether it's a day in the chemistry lab or in the bay, we are all about safety.

**A Wrench:** Do we all know how to use it? No. But that's besides the point.

**Eng Soc Swag:** To show support for the Engineering Society who bring us so many events and opportunities.

**Calculator:** We should always have one nearby for all the calculus tests we're not allowed to use them on. Is it really an engineering party if someone doesn't drop a calculator?

**Favorite Energy Drink:** For those late night study sessions (or to satisfy your addictions).

**Arduino™:** For projects on the go.

**Raspberry Pi:** A fancy Arduino™ who's name will make you hungry.

**Matlab Handbook:** If Matlab is your favorite programming language, then you are definitely an engineering student.



# Group Projects Suck:

## Martha Speaks Vol. 3

Cathy Vi Quan, 3B Life Physics

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Do you hate group projects? Most students have experienced the horrors of a group project either in grade school or even now in university. Some of us (most of us) are introverted or socially awkward, therefore a group project is just uncomfortable. On the other side of things, a lot of us are afraid of getting a bad group and having to do all the work ourselves while our slacking groupmates take credit. If your groups are assigned then you can chalk it up to luck, but if you have to pick your own groups, it's mostly on you to recruit accountable groupmates.

Most of us want to be in a group consisting of our friends to make the work feel more fun, but that might lead to shenanigans. Although you might want to be careful working with your friends, as it might cause a tear in your group. All it takes is if your friend Fred doesn't do his part correctly or waits until the last hour to complete it; your friend Fred is now your most disliked person. I have collaborated with Martha Speaks on this article to provide advice on some common group project horror stories.

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**Q:** My 3 best friends and I just finished a group project. One of them waited till the last hour to complete their part and completely missed the mark on what it was supposed to be. This group project was worth 15% of our grade and although we passed, their poor work tanked our guaranteed 100. I am no longer speaking to them and my other friends are saying I should forgive them and join their group again for the next project. Should I forgive them and find a new group, or should I drop the friend altogether?

**A:** I would be pretty upset if my friend did that to me too. Although there may have been other reasons for your friend's actions, you could speak to all of them about how you feel. Maybe you do not need to get rid of your friends, but maybe working together isn't the best for your relationship.

**Q:** I just finished a group project and one of my members had a huge ego. They wouldn't let anyone do anything on the project and would complain about the only one doing anything. They don't tell the profs or TAs, but it is really annoying. It sounds like a dream, but I was genuinely interested in the topic and had a few ideas on how it could have been done. They've been assigned to my group on the next project as well, what should I do?

**A:** It's great that you are passionate about your work. I recommend you talk to them about it and try explaining that this is a topic you are really interested in and have lots of ideas on what you both could work on. They might be used to a working environment that is more independent, so talking to them about collaboration is a good idea. You guys could end up being friends and come up with even stronger ideas.

**Q:** I am in a lab that requires pairs. I had a partner in the first experiment but he found someone else for the second experiment and onward. That means there's one more person who doesn't have a partner and we became a pair. I am about to do the third experiment, is it wrong for me to hope he doesn't have a partner again so that we are automatically paired?

**A:** Absolutely not! A lot of us are introverted and are shy when it comes to approaching people. There's nothing wrong with wanting to be partners again since it is tough to warm up to a new person. It might seem a little malicious or "sad," however it isn't a big deal and I'm sure they will enjoy being your lab partner again!



**Q:** My lab partner keeps spilling our solutions and derailing experiments. They erase my labels on the glass and they get mixed up. Since most of them look like water I cannot tell what liquid it is anymore. One time I measured a solution perfectly to the exact amount needed, and when I brought it back, they tried to grab it and spilt it on the bench.

**A:** Speak to your partner about it, they could be naturally very clumsy or disorganized. You both could work out an agreement where you do the pouring, measuring and labelling, and your partner can do data recording and observations, whichever works for you guys.

**Q:** I'm currently in a 3 person group project that's supposed to last the majority of the term. We're in the design stage of the project right now, and my two group members argue about everything. It doesn't matter what we're doing, they will find something to disagree on in our design. Outside of the project they seem to get along, so I'm not sure why they can never agree on anything. I feel like I'm stuck in the middle of their arguments, any suggestions?

**A:** This sounds like a difficult situation. When it comes to the project itself, try and suggest compromises for the design that will incorporate both of their ideas if possible. If the disagreements feel like they're getting to be too much for you (which it sounds like they are), you could try bringing up the issue to them individually and see why this keeps happening. Maybe from that you can discuss as a group to find some common ground.

**Q:** My lab partner is always late. At first they claimed they overslept, but then it kept happening. They seem to conveniently show up after I've done all the hard parts of the experiment. The last straw was when they simply just didn't show up to our lab last week with no explanation to me, or that the prof was aware of. We keep the same partner for the entire term, so I'm stuck. Should I call them out?

**A:** If you have never spoken to them about it before, try to talk to them first before lashing out on them. If you have mentioned it before, then I would recommend a more direct approach to it. It is unfair to you that you do the majority of work alone, most labs won't even let you in if you come in late!

*Have questions or need advice from Martha? Send your submissions to [theirironwarrior@gmail.com](mailto:theirironwarrior@gmail.com) for a chance to get an answer from Martha in a future issue!*

## Want to join our team?

Come to our meetings every Tuesday at 6pm

### LOCATION:

Douglas Wright Engineering (DWE)  
Room 3520 & Online

### Roles Available:

Writers  
Artists  
Editors  
Photographers  
Social Media Team

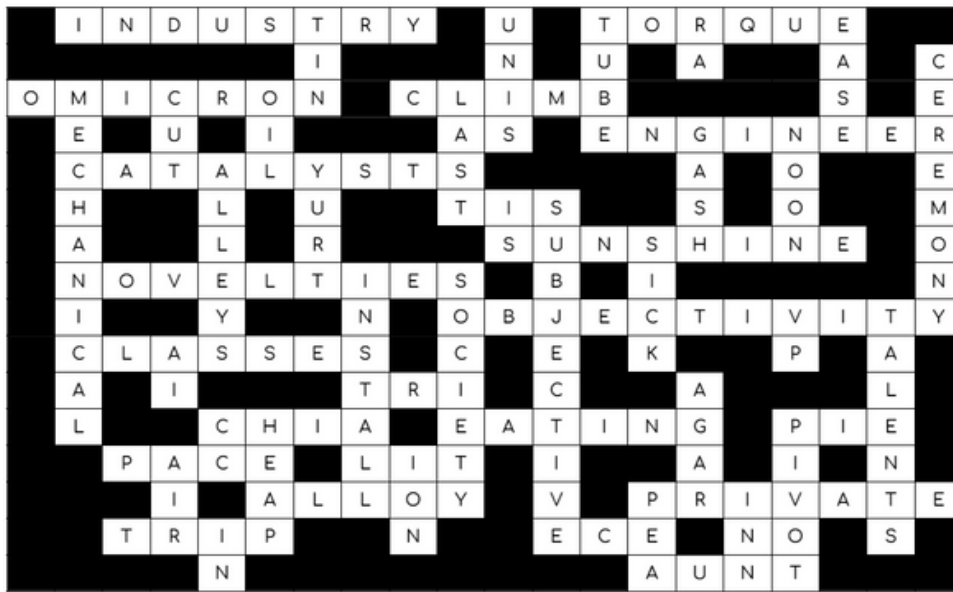


THE IRON WARRIOR

 @theirironwarrior\_uw

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# Answers to W2024 Issue 1



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5	3	7	8	1	9	6	2	4
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9	2	4	6	1	7	3	8	5
6	1	3	8	4	5	2	9	7

SUDOKU  
#2024-03



## THE IRON INQUISITION

*“How afraid of Waterloo’s Unofficial Mascot (Geese) are you?”*



“A solid 7.4 out of 11.”  
JASON, 1B BIOMEDICAL



“We stay six feet away from geese at all times.”  
ALEXA, RYLIN, SERENA & MAGGIE, 3A BIOMEDICAL



“The geese are afraid of us.”  
SAHEED & VISHAL, 1B MECHATRONICS



“Depends where on campus.”  
TEJAS, 1B MANAGEMENT

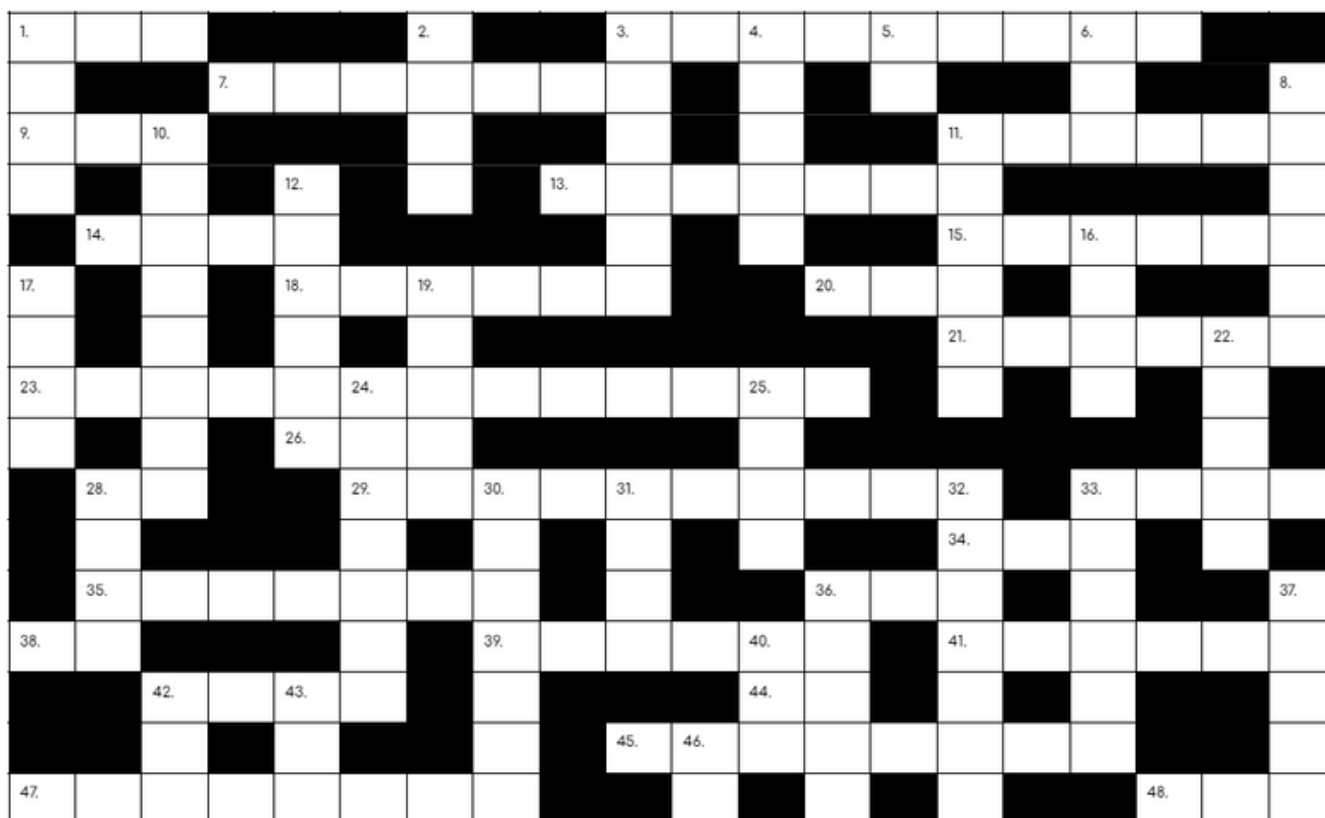


“Not scared, more so annoyed.”  
DEMIR, 1B MANAGEMENT



“Bare.”  
SHANE, 1B MANAGEMENT

Check out our instagram for even more Iron Inquisitions @theironwarrior\_uw



**Across**

1. Talking to the prof when you have a question.
3. Lover's science?
7. Biomedical Engineering Industry, briefly.
9. Mediterranean, for example.
11. Counsel
13. \_\_\_\_\_'s law, equation for electrostatic force.
14. 'In the \_\_\_\_\_' by the Village People.
15. Thief.
18. Play based on students using WaterlooWorks.
20. Flightless bird.
21. Answers signed QED.
23. A calculus professor, for one.
26. Voice amplifier.
28. Publisher of the JLA.
29. More than jeans, less than a ballgown .
33. Consequence of a swift kick to the shins.
34. A long, distinct timeframe.
35. Golden State player.
36. A place to park a car.
38. Turned \_\_\_\_.
39. The Iron Warrior Advice Column, she speaks.
41. A popular holiday dinner bird.
42. Weld two parts together
44. '\_\_\_\_ you like it', William Shakespeare play.
45. Visit to the doctor.
47. An element with atomic number within 89 to 103 range.
48. Automobile.

**Down**

1. Transition word when you're adding onto your previous point.
2. Organic structure containing xylem and phloem that has leaves.
3. Alloys of the 24th element of the periodic table.
4. An extreme form of ostracism.
5. Horror movie from 2017 starring a clown.
6. Only first-year exclusive residence at UW.
8. Black and white striped prey.
10. An adjective to describe someone who is very attentive to detail and good at interpreting data.
11. To stop suddenly.
12. SYDE'S IW Horoscope on 2024/03/04 was to design one of these.
16. A large stack of bound paper.
17. Take a huge \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The sum of the diagonal of a matrix.
22. A gas or a liquid.
24. A military operation.
25. Prefix relating to air/aviation.
28. 12 hours after dusk.
30. Thessalonike
31. An honest decision free from prejudice, favoritism and self-interest.
32. March 7th in Poets from 6-8, this club held an event.
33. Making rounds.
36. Herdsman's cord.
37. \_\_\_\_\_ security.
40. Straw.
42. Avro Arrow, for one.
43. Annoying sounding barrier on campus.
46. Lofty greeting?



Technology | Business | Real Estate



I am a technology and business lawyer. I attended the top schools in Canada including the University of Waterloo and Osgoode Hall Law School. I have degrees in Engineering, Law and an MBA.

I worked for leading technology firms in North America including Microsoft, and Amazon. I am an entrepreneur at heart, and over the years, I have led and sold tech firms, directed business incubators, and have taken ideas to market. I am partnered with various incubators and universities including Spark Centre, DMZ, Accelerator Centre, Communitech, The Hatchery at the University of Toronto, The Forge by McMaster University and the StartUp Lab at Wilfrid Laurier University.

In short, I understand your world, your anxieties, and your needs. I will use this passion and experience to represent you and protect your interest in all aspects of the law. Let's connect for a complimentary legal consult.

**Suresh Sriskandarajah** BAsC, BA, MBA, JD

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