

Feds Election  
Candidate Questions  
P.12-15



Love vs. Anti-Love  
P.5



Triumphant Return of  
Lowrider  
P.3

## Engineering Feds Forum

Jay Liu



3A Comp

It's election time! Feds election is next week. Don't forget to cast your vote!

The candidates that you would be interested in participated in an intense Q&A sessions organized by the Feds and EngSoc. Here is a succinct summary to let you know them better:

### Senate (Engineering)

**Mark Greco:** 3B Systems. Wants to increase communications between the Senate, EngSoc, and the students they serve.

**Emma Saask:** 3A Mechanical Eng. Wants to be the voice of the average engineering student.

### President

**Dan Colquhoun:** Expressed his views in an open letter posted around campus. Strongly against the current Feds political handling of bar closures.

**Andrew Dilts:** Wants to expand volunteer positions at Feds like EngSoc directorships. Against tuition deregulation. Wants better housing.

**Chris Edey:** Improve bars and housing. Introduce respectful image of Feds among students. Encourage student voting in local/municipal/provincial/federal elections.

**Alex Matan:** 4B Electrical Eng. Wants to build infrastructure of people. Improve networking between alumni and students. Improve frosh week.

### Vice-President, Administration & Finance (VP-AF)

**David Capper:** Increase Feds voting

turnout. Increase communication and visibility.

**Tracy Haynes:** Establishing amortization fund. Obtain own liquor licence. Improve part time Feds staff benefits. Improve student services, e.g. movie/game rental, on-campus grocery store.

**Robert Robson:** Introduce refundable fee system (students will decide). Introduce wireless networking at SLC. Introduce dividend system to share Feds corporate profits (no definite number). Lower Feds fee.

**Rob Schmidt:** Increasing Feds service spending.

### Vice-President, Education (VP-Edu)

**Aaron Lee-Wudrick:** Access to course critiques. Improve effectiveness of Co-op Student Council (CSC). Retreat from external organizations (e.g. CASA, OUSA).

**Liam McHugh-Russell:** Access to course critiques. For smaller class size (no guarantees). Wants to stay with external organizations.

### Vice-President, Internal (VP-I)

**Leo Dominguez:** Better services, eg nap rooms, bike services.

**Janna Hickson:** 4B Systems. More relevant election campaigns.

**John Fedy:** Better communication. Increase UW pride. Better clubs.

Elections will be held on-line at Feds.ca between Feb 7th to 12th. For more information, visit

<http://www.feds.ca/election/index.html> for links to polling stations and information on candidates. The candidates also maintain their campaign websites: Matan/Hickson/Schmidt at <http://www.feds2003.ca>. Robson at <http://robrobson.com/>.

Dilts/Haynes/Dominguez : [www.thefedsparty.com](http://www.thefedsparty.com). Lee-Wudrick: <http://www.aaronleewudrick.com/>.

## Basketball Tournament

Adam Pringle  
4B Electrical

On Saturday January 18, the PAC's small gym played host to the first Engineering Basketball Tournament since 1987. The eight participating teams showed off their skills throughout the day with many highlight-reel plays. While the competition was intense, everyone

enjoyed themselves. In the consolation final, Full Tilt pulled out a 22-13 victory over Basketbeer. The final game saw the Mudflaps overpower Hungover with a 40-15 final score.

The Athletics Directors would like to thank all of the participating teams, the referees, and the pink whistle for an exciting day. Mudbowl is next on Saturday March 1st - watch for details in the next few weeks.



We are the champions... the first place team



The runners up

## Winter ScHunt 2003 - Conquer the Campus

Sandra Lê



4B Systems

On Friday, January 24th, four teams tried to conquer the UW campus: Crazy Frosh Math (Young Math), Math-omania (Old Math), a Mech Eng team, and

the United People's Republic of New North Francoindojapamericanadagascar & Tobago (1B Soft Eng). It was the Winter ScHunt, organized by the 2A Systems class.

Rebaptised as ScHunt because of some possible ambiguous sexual reference in its name, this Havenger Scunt was another crazy 24 hours of pure fun where all the teams have to demonstrate much ingenuity and skills to win the events, show creati-

ity in answering the trivia lists and gathering the items for the acquisition lists, and impress the Gods. It was not much different from other previous Scunts, though it seemed quite watered down sometimes, from the point of view of an old scunter. Indeed, this term, nobody went on road trips, and the HQ visits were only done on campus (except for the Old Math team who treated the Gods with deep fried Mars bars!). There were no simultaneous events, with most of them running every 90 min-

utes. Quite a few events were cancelled due to a lack of participants. Nevertheless, I have to congratulate the Gods from the 2A Systems class for the good organization of scunt and their good co-ordination at making everything run smoothly.

By the end of the 24 hours, the mission

*Continued on page 9, with pictures. See Winter ScHunt.*

## Letter from the Editor

Jonathan Ng

4B Computer

Editor-in-Chief



## Changes Into Changes

Hello everyone! For all people who are interested, last Saturday was the Chinese New Year celebration. If you celebrate it (and even if you don't), I wish you all the best in your studies, as midterms are coming up soon. And since voting starts today, cast your vote now! It's important to make sure the people in power are the ones who represent you. Remember the feds.ca website, and the candidate sites on the front page.

Now for this week's issues:

## 1) Skiing, skiing and more skiing

There are so many ski trips going on this term that you could probably ski every week if you wanted to. The Engineering Society had one last week, my residence held one the week before, my class is holding one this week, and there are going to be a bunch more in March (when it's cheap). Skiing is really fun, and lots of exercise too! And it's really easy to learn! If you haven't done it before, you should try, and if you have, it's time to hit the slopes!

## 2) The rule of the elite vs. the rule of the common folk

The problem with power over another is everybody thinks they can do it the best. Think Bush. Elite think they're especially good, and the common folk they're better than the elite because they're

the majority. And thus, you get class warfare (not to mention that they're both trying to get into the elite class or stay there). Of course, the major issue with people in general is that they're oblivious to issues that do not affect them personally and while that is good because there isn't too much to overload their brain with, it means that some peripheral issues that are important often get unnoticed until it's too late. Other peripheral issues get misunderstood, and yet others are relegated to low priority. But once you dig deeper, some of the peripheral issues are really important.

## 3) Thinking ahead

It seems that I've been so busy that I don't have time to plan anything anymore. Engineering is generally so packed in terms of work and material that there is no time to think, but it's especially hard with the increased load that I have put on myself lately. I don't mind this increased load - in fact, I like it, but sometimes it's pretty stressful. However, I think that people will need to learn these sorts of things before they can be successful in life.

## 4) This feels like a blog sometimes

When you're an Editor and have many, many, many things to do, your editorial feels like a blog. Where you can express your ideas, views and opinions on a wide variety of topics. It's a warm spot amidst all the work. I've had a bit of a bias against blogs in the past, because I felt they were not up to par. However, there are many people writing blogs, including many professional columnists,

amateur columnists who provide quite different views on issues, casual bloggers, news filters (like Metafilter, Fark and Plastic), you begin to appreciate the diversity of news that's available to people who are connected to the internet. Everything from personal opinion to analysis of newsfeeds, there's something out there on the web that you could use.

I don't have that much to say this issue, especially because of the 3rd point I had made. So I wish you all the best, and there's only 11 days 'till IRS!

Questions? Comments?

We welcome letters and feedback from all our readers. Please email us at:

[iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)

the IRON WARRIOR

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Jonathan Ng

**Assistant Editor**  
Jay Liu

**Photo Editor**  
Cindy Zheng-Ming Bao  
Sung Hon Wu

**Layout Editor**  
Hiu Lam Yau

**Technical Editor**  
Winona Tong

**Webmaster**  
James Schofield

**Distribution Manager**  
Naoreen Hasan

**Business Manager**  
Vacant

**Staff**

Ryan Bayne  
Kiran Dhaliwal  
Joseph Fung  
Jason Griese  
Jeff Henry  
Janna Hickson  
Laura Jones  
Mike Kerrigan  
Illan Kramer  
Sandra Le  
John Olaveson  
Jose Penate

**Contributors**

David Clegg  
David Capper  
Dan Colquhoun  
Leo Dominiguez  
Chris Edey  
Vince Fazari  
Afsheen Khan  
Aaron Lee-Wudrick  
Josh Levitz  
Alex Matan  
Adam Pringle  
Stephanie Purnell  
Rob Schmidt  
Denis Viens  
Wendy Wenjing Wang

.....  
The Iron Warrior is a forum for thought provoking and informative articles published by the Engineering Society. Views expressed in The Iron Warrior are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Engineering Society.

The Iron Warrior encourages submissions from students, faculty and members of the university community. Submissions should reflect the concerns and intellectual standards of the university in general. The author's name and phone number should be included. All submissions, unless otherwise stated, become the property of The Iron Warrior, which reserves the right to refuse publication of material which it deems unsuitable. The Iron Warrior also reserves the right to edit grammar, spelling and text that do not meet university standards. Authors will be notified of any major changes that may be required.

Mail should be addressed to The Iron Warrior, Engineering Society, CPH 1327, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1. Our phone number is (519) 888-4567 x2693. Our fax number is (519) 725-4872. E-mail can be sent to [iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)

the iron warrior magazine

Created by...

Read by...

Written by...

YOU!

If you want to contribute ANYTHING AT ALL,

drop by our office (opposite the Orifice) or e-mail us at [iwarrior@engmail](mailto:iwarrior@engmail)

## Dear LowRider,



LowRider

4B Chemical

Dear LowRider,

I've been at my computer all afternoon and I can't get anything done. I thought it might be good to open Netscape but this window comes up saying, "Windows Installer: Netscape 7, Flash, Quicktime, Real, Shockwave, Winamp". It's been going now for about 2 hours and I don't know what to do. The computer is really slow and I can't do anything. Please help me!

-Can't do Work

Dear Can't do Work,

Don't worry, give it some time.

-LR

Dear LowRider,

I'm getting too much sex. I don't know what to do! I can't stop myself - I'm picking up anywhere between 2 and 4 new girls every time I go to Phil's and I'm not doing anything. I think it's my irrepresible charm and chiselled good looks. What should I do?

## "Cause I've been blasting and laughing so long that even my momma thinks that my mind is low."

-Tired from Too Much Lovin'

Dear Tired from Too Much Lovin',

Gee man, I don't know but, damn yo letter was sexy!! I know you are a guy and all but damn, I just can't stop thinking about you, you sound cute: Clearly you must see I am joking and totally see through your game. Why must you turn my column into a den of lies? I don't care what you say, ain't no engineering student getting that much lovin' at this school you know'm sayin'?

-LR

Dear LowRider,

Recently my house has been quite noisy at nights (I'm a first-year, still in Rez). Many people congregate to my floor, drink, make lots of noise and throw up in the stalls. I'm disgusted by this behaviour, as sometimes these parties go on long after 1 am. What can I do to get some sleep at night?

Sleeps-in-class

Dear Sleeps-in-class,

Did you get fooled by that scam last year that some frosh bought into? You know that "The Flying Dog" isn't the "Residence beside Revolution" right? Beware, this is the most elaborate and cre-

ative plot so far by W.C.S. otherwise known as the "Waterloo Cougars Society". Move out quick yo! Otherwise there will be cougars all over your jock dig?

-LR

Dear LowRider,

Now that I am in 4B, I've been seeing a lot of people from 8 stream I haven't seen in a long time. There is especially this one girl that I sort of liked in 1A. I don't know if she's single though. What should I do? I gotta do something or else I'll graduate and then I won't see her again.

Desperado

Dear Desperado,

No problem Home-Skillet! I ran into this before here is the algorithm, it's money:

1. Go up to her and sing that Usher song, "U Remind Me". Don't worry yo, all the honeys fall for this. You see, if the girl thinks that you don't want to get with her, she'll get with you! It's really that simple! Now to step 2:

2. If you were lucky, there were other girls around when you sang this song so you'll be pulling all the honeys in a couple of days (kind of like Prince). Anyway, by now you'll know if this is the girl (see

step 3).

3. Now ask her out! If you sang that song nicely, she can't say no. I bet you're thinking "What if she says no?". Don't worry about that dog 'cause LR's got you covered with just the right song to get you back on track: Biz Markie's masterpiece "You Got What I Need". When you get to the part "But you say he's just a friend, and you say he's just a friend.." she'll be talking a different tune know'm sayin'?

Best of luck ese.

-LR

Dear LowRider,

Um, hi, it's me again, "Can't do Work". I'm still at the computer. These things won't install man!

-Can't do Work

Dear Can't do Work,

Man, y'all so stupid.

-LR

**Editor's Note:** "Dear LowRider" is open to the Waterloo Engineering Society for students who need answers to life's problems. It is meant as a forum for discussion and to inspire deep, sometimes philosophical, albeit simple yet enduring and metaphysical run-on sentences.

## The Real Way to Study for Midterms



John Olaveson

1B Civil

If you're reading this article, you'll get nothing out of it, except maybe a scrap of advice to give to a friend. The way I see it, if you've got time to sit and read this, then you either fit into one of two categories. You've done so much studying that you don't need to study further for your upcoming midterms. Or you're so screwed that you've decided to stop wasting time and just concede defeat. I know that latter type. They seem to make up most of my social circle (including myself; how do you think I have the time to write this?) So without further procrastination, I bring you some tried and tested (but maybe not true) study tips.

Tip 1, my personal preference: play video games. That's right, waste your time. Do you really think that studying for hours on end the night before your test will put much more information into your memory? Either you already know the material, or you don't. Study time before midterms is for review. So once you've looked over your notes (and formula/study sheets) you should be adequately refreshed. You can try some problems if you want, but there's

a trick to this too. You could do so many problems (or problems so hard) that you go over every single concept, just to prove to yourself that you know how to do everything. Or you could just do a few questions (possibly some homework questions you "saved for later" at some point during the semester). If you take the latter course, you'll have plenty of time to play games. If you take the former, you will end up with less time for fun. Also, you may also run into the difficulty of not being able to solve those super-hard problems. This will let you know what you can't do, but it will also undermine your confidence. There's nothing more terrifying than realizing the night before your test that you don't know how to do something. Likely you just missed a negative sign somewhere (like I always do) but you'll think you can't do the problem and then you'll be afraid of it on the test, thus hindering your performance.

Letting yourself fall into this trap is a bad idea! You can do that problem! You just need to go a wee bit slower when solving the problem and check signs as you go. This is essential for all those who are in Gene/Me 123 with me. All those circuits and their crazy sign conventions! Eesh! Or you can avoid potentially devastating occurrences like this and stick to the confidence-building easy problems.

Anyway, as I was saying some 300 words

ago, playing video games is a great study habit. It prevents your brain from becoming trapped in the endless cycles of worry. You can forget your woes and kick back for some much needed fun. You can do it alone or with friends, or even with people on the internet whom you've never met. Good old Battle.Net.

The game you choose depends on your personality and emotions. If you want to relieve some stress quickly, go with a shooter game like James Bond or Star Trek Voyager: Elite Force. Some hardcore action will relieve those worried nerves. If you prefer a more strategy-oriented game, my recommendation is anything from the Final Fantasy series (by the way, does anyone know how to get Excalibur in FFII? E-mail me, if you do). Or you can go with Civilization III, because you get to design a whole nation from the first city right through to total conquest. There are some people who indulge in sporting games. Mario Tennis is a goodie, from what I hear. Other titles include Madden 2002 and that's about it for my knowledge of sporting games. There's a good Olympic game for the Commodore 64, if you can find a system and the game.

But an all-around good choice for games to meet anyone's preference is SimCity. You get to design and build cities (sweet for Civvies like me!) and then, if you so decide, tax the people until they starve or

send aliens in to kill them all. There's nothing like watching a city burn to get your mind off exams.

If video games aren't your style, then have a snowball fight. Again, there's strategy involved. Where do you run, when do you throw the ball, who do you team with and who do you shoot in the back? And for those creative people, you can build snow forts for the other players, or craft snowmen, or make snow angels. I haven't seen or done that for a long time. Too long, I feel.

So anyway, midterms are no big deal. And of course, since you the reader are already set for your tests, you have more free time than others, so you can get a big head start on building your snow fortress for the coming campus-wide war. Just try not to get caught in a cave-in, 'cause then you'll likely miss those oh-so-wonderful midterms.

If you'd like more advice, I'll be on Village Green making snow angels. Catch you on the flip side!

**Editor's Note:** Did you really think that this is the real way for studying of midterms. The editor and the Iron Warrior are not responsible for any marks decrease that following this behaviour might cause.

## Word of the Year



Joseph Fung

3N Computer

This year at their meeting in Atlanta, the American Dialect Society selected "weapons of mass destruction" as 2002 word of the year.

According to Wayne Glowka, the chairman of the American Dialect Society's

new word committee, "the term goes back 50 years, but you can't turn on the radio or television without hearing about 'weapons of mass destruction'." Glowka, also an English professor at Georgia College & State University, explained that many of this year's new words reflected the growing fear of war in the Middle East. Words such as 'regime change', 'Iraqnophobia' (see explanation below) and 'weapons of mass destruction' all have to do with wor-

ries about war with Iraq. "So it hasn't been a very good year," he said. "Not as bad as last year, but not an 'up' year."

Last year, American Dialect Society chose '9-11' (pronounced 'nine-eleven' to reflect the date of the terrorist attacks in

Continued on page 5. See More Words.

## Point-Counterpoint

## POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

## Is Freedom of Speech Dead on Campus?



Joseph Fung

3N Computer

While I would be the last to say that the freedom of speech on the UW Campus is completely defunct, I would be one of the first to admit that it is dreadfully, perhaps even terminally, ill.

Freedom of speech should be exactly that - the freedom to say what one would. Some would have the student body believe that freedom of speech is very much alive and kicking - that the censors are merely trying to promote a polite form of expression. Furthermore, some would have us believe that on UW campus the enemy of free speech is the University itself. This is not so. The reason that the freedom of speech is in danger, is because the University administration, the organizations representing the students, and the students themselves are willing to see it destroyed.

The University administration is the most visible censor on campus. On Saturday September 1, 2001 Director of Residence Life, Leanne O'Donnell had all copies of the Imprint frosh issue removed from distribution points in UW residences. This was because of five humorous illustrations of clothed people in sexual positions. More recently, when students were planning to gather at the Bomb Shelter to discuss the recent serving-ban placed on Feds, the University administration forcibly closed the establishment, claiming that it was in the interest of student safety.

It does not take the world's most observant political analyst to see why these are clear infractions on the freedom of speech. And yet, the student

body is too willing to simply turn the other way, hiding behind a "What can we do? We can't fight against the University," idea.

It is not however just the University's powers-that-be are censoring the students. The Federation of Students - an organization dedicated to representing student interests - is equally guilty. Some readers may remember July of 2001 when the Federation of Students censored a number of posters designed and printed by UWSFL (UW Students for Life). Reacting to a few students' concerns, two of the posters initially approved were then rejected. One had the photo of an infant with the caption "Is this the face of the enemy?" and the other displayed the photo of a grown woman with the caption "Did I deserve the death penalty? My crime was that of being conceived in rape." For most students these posters were sensitive

rather than offensive, and did a good job of provoking thought and discussion.

Like the Administration, the Federation of Students is too quick to pander to the lowest common denominator in political correctness, essentially nullifying the freedom of speech.

Further evidence of this is the student body's quiescent approval of PACO (The Provost Advisory Committee on Orientation) rules. The Engineering cheer which contains profanity and references to alcohol was censored and became a rather foolish mockery of an entertaining way to boost student spirit.

A common practice at the UW is to first censor, then discuss. The Administration, the Federation of Students, and the censors themselves believe (or are simply trying to convince us) that by having a forum for discussion after censoring they are sustaining free speech on campus. The primary difference between these forums and the censored material is that the latter is closely supervised and is rarely as convenient as the original subject matter. An inconvenient monitored environment is not an environment conducive to free speech. It is an environment conducive to being quite and shutting up - it is an environment conducive to self censorship.

In all these examples the fault lies not with the censor, but with the students themselves - we are too willing to accept these restrictions. We are too willing to avoid offending anyone.

Students need to start thinking about what they want to say and simply say it. Administration needs to stop treating the University as if it were some kind of closed experiment where unstable factors must be eliminated. And everyone needs to understand that while being politically correct can and often will be a good way to avoid offending people, sometimes offending people is ok.

Enjoying the freedom of speech means that someone at sometime may be offended by what we say.

Let me say what I want - if you're offended, tell me. That is the spirit behind the freedom of speech. That is the spirit which is dying if not already dead here at the University of Waterloo.



Matthew Harper

Offstream Comp

Well, it turned out that I was asked to write an article that would convince you that Freedom of Speech is alive and well on our campus... hmm... that's a tough one... alright, I'll give it a shot.

There is a laundry list of instances of censorship at the University of Waterloo. Most of us remember the Imprint Frosh issue insert that was removed from all the frosh kit and Village Imprints, because it showed cartoons depicting fully clothed people in sexual positions. Frequent readers of Iron Warrior's Point-Counterpoint may recall my indignation at the restrictions placed on Frosh Leader's freedom of speech, thanks to PACO. Last of all, who could forget the beautiful black boxes that adorned one of my issue of Iron Warrior, from last term. These are just three examples of speech suppression that I am aware of. Remember, the very nature of speech suppression keeps it hidden from public scrutiny in most cases. So, who knows how deep the problem really goes?

Well, the situation certainly does look bleak, but it really isn't. Those three examples of heavy-handed stewardship are actually well justified. OK, two are justified. Removing the hilarious and harmless Frosh Issue insert was an indefensible action, in my opinion. However, crappy as they may seem, PACO rules do create a safer and more inviting environment for new students, which is a fantastic end that well justifies the distasteful means. I was an inside player for the black boxes situation. I'll spare you the gritty details, but suffice to say that a miscommunication resulted in a situation that required an eleventh hour solution. My personal opinion is that the temporary suppression of that information was entirely justified. What is even more important to understand about these situations is this: Had freedom of speech been allowed in those situations, undesirable consequences may have become more probable. Conversely, the suppression of free speech did not cause any negative results, except for the possible indignation of the parties under restriction. So, while these occurrences should indeed set off warning bells, under closer inspection, we see that these events are not cause for revulsion.

Where we need to be concerned are instances of free speech that allow us to know and discuss what is going on in the world and at our university. The very existence of the campus newspapers, which seem to print any opinion short of hate speech, is proof positive that outlets for free speech about these important subjects are not being gagged. As a past editor, I will say that it is a much more difficult job to find people willing to write than it is to sort out what subject matter is acceptable

for print. That is because we are free to print articles about nearly any imaginable subject.

Then there are the seminars. Off the top of my head, I can recall recent lectures and debates on the hot button issues of abortion, Sri Lanka's ongoing strife, and the effect on democracy of the war on terror. At Concordia University, a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu sparked a protest, which resulted in violent actions. Many Canadian universities have now started looking at restricting the subjects of public speaking events and academic seminars. I have not yet seen anything of that nature happening here at our school. I would not want to name specific groups, but looking at the roster of Feds clubs, there are a few pairs of clubs that would seem to have very different agendas. Despite the possibility for friction and worse between these student organisations, it seems that they are free to organize workshops and seminars that advance the agendas of their groups. Of course, this situation is ideal. Human beings, by nature, will always disagree with one another. Historically, we have formed tribes with people that we think have similar ideals as ours. One of the foremost purposes of universities is to

*"...there are a few pairs of clubs that would seem to have very different agendas."*

put all of our tribes together, so that we can share experiences with one another and realize that we belong to a larger tribe. At present, an open dialogue is happening and the scourge of censorship has not been applied to these discussions.

There will always be a give and take between freedom and security. As human beings interact with one another in less controlled situations, incidents of violence will naturally increase. There is a word for a person who always puts security above freedom: agoraphobic. The recent debacle of Feds losing their liquor license is an example of the insane notion of "ensuring safety" unduly restricting freedom. Happily though, I believe, this type of policy has not been applied to our freedom of speech at the University of Waterloo.

Nevertheless, we have seen instances, somewhat justified so far, that the UW administration can stomach an erosion of free speech. At this point, the level of free speech remains high, but we should all be vigilant and vocal in order to ensure that remains the case. At its core, a university is about the free exchange of ideas. If UW develops a reputation for limiting free speech, the value of our degrees will plummet. It is in no-one's interest to allow such a situation to develop. The powers-that-be want, first and foremost, to maintain the University of Waterloo's sterling reputation. So as long as the people who run the University continue to believe that the school's reputation is tied to the free speech of its students, our school will continue to be a nexus for people with disparate ideals, where we can share and learn together.

**Editor's Note:** Point vs. Counterpoint is intended as a forum for objective and thought provoking debate on various issues. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the author(s), the Iron Warrior, or the Engineering Society.

## What is Valentine's Day?

Jay Liu

3A Comp



Yes, it's here again. February 14. Valentine's Day. It's probably the first thing you marked on your calendar when you bought it. Preferably after Mother's, Father's, and Grandparents Days. Before Boss and Secretary Days.

You often ask yourself: is Valentine's Day really necessary? Was this day created simply to help large multinationals get even bigger while depleting your wallet just weeks before you part with your tax returns?

I don't read minds, so I don't know why this day was created. But I do know that this day is as symbolically important as anything else.

First of all, if you really needed a special day to show your affections to your special

someone, I recommend you to read a bookshelf of self-improvement books right away. Needing a special day to make her (/him) feel special is a regrettable thought and you should be ashamed of yourself. That's the same as needing Canada Day to feel Canadian. Or needing Thanksgiving to be thankful for everything you know.

Rather, Valentine's Day is about going the extra mile. There is no day that is more romantic than Valentine's Day. Well, maybe except Groundhog's Day if you love animals. At any rate, Valentine's Day is like New Year's Day. As people, especially us engineering students, become busier by the minute, pressured to over-achieve, Valentine's Day gives couples an excuse to get away from the cruel foreign world, and to settle into something warm, fuzzy, or intimately close. It gives two busy bees a reason to let down their guards for a while, and concentrate on what's truly memorable.

Granted, we do have Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, and all those other statutory holidays. However, Valentine's Day is unique in that it is the only day that

commemorates the magic of love, which, in its true form, has helped to keep this society sane, progressive, and civil. The love that Valentine's Day celebrates is the one that exists not because it was forced upon people by birth. Rather, Valentine's love is one that is developed between two otherwise complete strangers. It's the type of love that demands time, patience, and sacrifices from both parties to sustain itself. It is comprised of intangible factors of emotional dependence, physical attraction and professional respect. It then rewards its pursuers with a sense of satisfaction that cannot be bought from the most upscale store, described by the most eloquent poet, or expressed by the most talented artist. These are the special qualities about this love that makes Valentine's Day worthy to have.

Valentine's Day is not only for couples, however. In fact, the original tradition of Valentine's Day was a day for unattached prospects to find someone to share their time with. That happened when singles threw their names into a hat, and names were drawn to pair people up for the day. Other historical events included getting to

know the first person of your preference you see on the street, who will be your date for the next year, and hopefully beyond.

This gives another meaning to Valentine's Day. It gives singles an excuse to go out and get to know someone new. Finding a mate can be a frustrating and at times admittedly depressing process. For that, Valentine's Day, being a day of love, helps to lift someone's spirit by just being there. One can actually smell the perfume of fate that day, which is surprisingly close to the smell of Tim Hortons doughnuts. In any event, if you are waiting for things to happen, be more susceptible and proactive for a change. You are allowed to be different on Valentine's Day. After all, it's the one day of the year when passionate emotions are allowed to breathe and roam freely. If anything, Valentine's Day is the day when single people become more focused on their life than calculus. Turn thoughts into some action. Be open to the possibility that Valentine's Day will be the day that will change your life.

## The Anti-Love Conspiracy

Anonymous



Love exists. Not! There are different types of love between people, such as the love between a parent and a child, or the love between close friends. But the traditional love between a boy and a girl is anything but real love. I call this traditional love "couple love". The difference, dear readers, between a parent-child love and "couple love" is that the latter lacks all the necessary ingredients for real love. Real love (e.g. parent-child love), consists of affection, sacrifice, respect, gratitude, understanding, and of course, unconditional acceptance.

But couple love is anything but real love. Couple love consists of predefined concepts of what "true" love is, such as the traditional Cinderella fairy tale, and the expectations of a perfect mate, highly influenced by love propaganda (think about love songs, fairy tales, romance novels, icky gross boys cuddling with icky gross girls, etc). It involves unjustified assumptions about what the other person wants, highly influenced by the belief that telepathy exists, and of course, by the wild raging animal hormones. These qualities, folks, characterize couple love.

So let me simplify this for all you mathematically oriented readers:

Couple love = fairy tale + love propagan-

da + telepathy + wild raging animal hormones.

Couple love is nothing more than a stimulus that drives the ever expanding and increasingly profitable industry of love. Why is the market saturated with false ideas of what real love is, when the industry doesn't know what love is?

Can anyone really identify with the love portrayed in movies, books, and songs? No.

We think we are identifying with love, but in fact, we are identifying with what we believe love should be. In other words, all of us, including the cynical writer of this article, identifies with "couple love". I reiterate:

Couple love = fairy tale + love propaganda + telepathy + wild raging animal hormones.

But couple love, is in no way, and will never be, real love. We have already been too influenced by what the world defines to be love. No matter where we begin, our view on love is clouded by predefined concepts of what it should be.

Does a millionaire really pick up a hooker, fall in love with her, and marry her, à la Pretty Woman? I don't think so. Or does snobby rich girl fall in love with stinky poor lower class boy on a boat that sinks, with cheesy musical background "My Heart Will Go On" à la Titanic? No. It

does not.

Real life is much harsher. Millionaires don't pick up hookers, unless they are deprived and need rehabilitation. Snobby rich girls don't pick up stinky poor lower class boys on boats that sink, unless they are permanently stuck in a Titanic role playing game. Oh, and don't even get me started on the new wave of so-called reality love à la Bachelorette and Joe Millionaire.

Miss Bachelorette says she agreed to do the show to have a great story to tell her grandkids about how she met their grandfather. Case in point: Miss Bachelorette is corrupted by 1) fairy tale, and 2) love propaganda. Further, notice how Miss Bachelorette says she wants to have a great story to tell her non-existent grandkids. This

isn't even telepathy, this is psychic visions of a non-existent future. And finally, what is Miss Bachelorette doing every week? Finding a husband? Or macking with all the potential candidates - on prime time television! If this isn't wild raging animal hormones, I don't know what is! Call me crazy, but I am sure there are much easier ways to get a husband.

Smart girl, poor example. What is Miss Bachelorette saying to the rest of the single female species? If a pretty, intelligent, and independent woman like herself can't get a man in real life, then find one on TV?

***"Miss Bachelorette says she agreed to do the show to have a great story to tell her grandkids about how she met their grandfather."***

Founded in 1889, the American Dialect Society has been selecting words of the year since 1990.

This year, 'regime change' (coined by George Bush, used to mean 'changing a country's leader') was chosen as the most euphemistic word, not because of its connotations of Iraq, but because it is now

being used to express other leadership changes. "Like when a team fires a coach, they call it 'regime change'," said Glowka.

Other words that received attention were: 'Neuticles': a brand name for fake testicles for neutered pets. It was selected as the most outrageous word. 'Blog': an online log of personal events,

Sorry Miss Bachelorette, the last time I looked, getting your fix through TV are those infomercials on late night TV where some scantily clad girl dances around a pole.

So why this rant on Miss Bachelorette, if this article is about the fallacies of couple love? Because Miss Bachelorette is looking for couple love.

I reiterate:

Couple love = fairy tale + love propaganda + telepathy + wild raging animal hormones.

She has them all.

And what was our original premise? Couple love doesn't exist.

Sorry folks. You, and Miss Bachelorette, ain't going to find your couple love any time soon. In the end, she will find a guy, but whether or not she finds real love is questionable. Remember, any of Miss Bachelorette's ideas of love are false pretences of what she, like the rest of us, believe love should be.

The final conclusion? I'm sure there are many out there, who are so happily engrossed in sick make out sessions that the idea of love not existing is on the same level as blasphemy. But beware, all ye who believe in silly cliché messages like "love conquers all" and "love is eternal", for in all reality, real love is much harsher road, travelled by few.

derived from the two words 'web' and 'log'. It was voted the most likely word to succeed.

'Iraqnaphobia': means a strong fear of war with Iraq won most creative.

## More Words

...continued from Page 3.

Washington and New York) as it's annual winner.

Arts and Entertainment

Ryan Bayne  
Mutant Dog Creator

More Comic Pleasures

Mutant Dog Does Something Pointless

Ryan Bayne © 2002

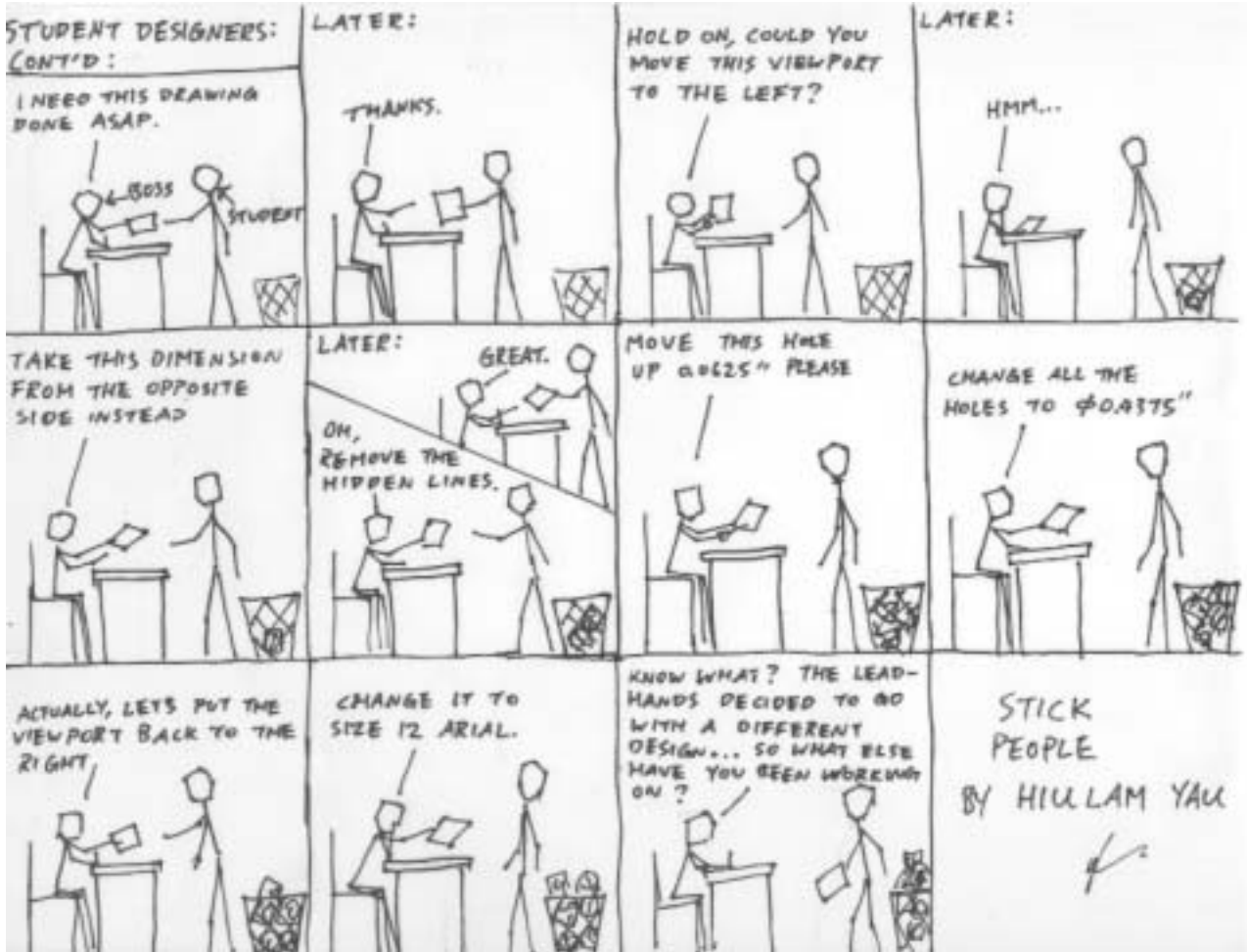


Hiu Lam Yau  
3B Mechanical

SILICON VALLEY HIGH



Winona Tong  
3A Computer



Retro Review: U2's "Best of 1980-1990"



John Olaveson

1B Civil

I was old enough to remember the impressions and emotions these songs produced in me when I first heard them. The songs that especially touched me and stood out for me were "Where The Streets Have No Name" from 1987's The Joshua Tree, "Sunday Bloody Sunday" from War, whose meaning, if any, is still being debated, and "All I Want Is You" from Rattle And Hum. I used to drive around in the streets of my hometown with dense forests, and listen to those songs over and over again. But this review is about the music, not me.

Best of 1980-1990 provides an introspective look into the music of U2. The band is capable of writing and performing in a range of musical styles: Classic rock,

semi-orchestral music, loves songs, and country music all find a place among U2's extensive repertoire. The Irish band has few limits. Fortunately for the music, U2 limited itself from using excessive synthesizer sounds. The CD sounds like it could be modern music, not over ten years old. The earliest songs still see radio air time.

The lyrics found in these tracks are quite prosaic and inspiring. Here's an excerpt from 1987's "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For."

*I have kissed honey lips  
Felt the healing in her finger tips  
It burned like fire  
(I was) burning inside her.*

I have spoke with the tongue of angels  
I have held the hand of a devil  
It was warm in the night  
I was cold as a stone.

Of course, all the lyrics are great, but the Iron Warrior isn't giving me enough space to reproduce them all. The lyrics sound much better with the music, anyway.

So go buy the CD! It's well worth the money. I'd be surprised (and angry) if you find a used copy somewhere, but with U2's Best of 1990-2000 now available, the first "best of" is now at clearance prices. Well, it was when I last saw it. Go U2!

Well now, it's been too long since I last listened to this wonderful album, which was yesterday. It features the best hits from U2's first decade of albums. I have no idea how the CD was limited to 14 songs (plus one bonus track!) considering the mass of excellent music the band has produced. The material is of the highest quality I've ever heard.

I was fortunate when I first heard this CD.

## Superbowl... What Superbowl?

*Illan Kramer*  
3B Electrical

You've read all the articles, you already know the score. The Bucs won. Who cares?

In another pomp and circumstance display of the NFC's supreme supremacy over AFC (with a few exceptions over the last few years), the Superbowl was another laugh.

My afternoon began with a bus ride from Toronto to Waterloo after visiting the family for a day. On the bus, I realized that the old-school days of the "media week" of Superbowls gone-by no longer existed and the game was that afternoon. I finally got

home and promptly opened my ICQ to see what my friends were up to for the game.

Turns out that some of them had rented out POETS for the game and I was welcomed to come watch it on the big screen. I made it just in time to miss the Oakland field goal that put them ahead 3-0. The other guys were betting a buck on everything possible: "I say that Oakland has a three-and-out. Any takers?" or "Who wants to bet that the Tampa Bay offensive line has more sweat on its collective ass than Oakland's?" The constant betting was annoying during the first quarter while a football game was still taking place. From the second quarter and on, the betting provided a welcomed excuse to turn my eyes from the TV.

The betting stopped and all viewers were

silenced when Shania Twain went up on stage wearing what can only be described as a gift straight from the heavens. I don't remember which songs she sang. Few men will. That diamond-studded bra (or whatever it was that was studded on that thing) showed off the most impressive cleavage of the week with the possible exception of Sarah from Joe Millionaire when she got in the hot tub. The rest of the halftime show consisted of a much less visually impressive No Doubt vs. Sting set that consisted of songs no younger than 10 years old.

The game got so exciting for a minute that a bet actually came up "10-1 that Oakland comes back." Nobody took the bet. This happened, you see, at 34-3. In case you're scoring, the largest deficit ever overcome in the Superbowl that resulted in a win was

10 points. Eventually the game was over and the Tampa Bay defense was heralded as "great" even though statistics show that "9 out of the 10 Superbowls that have been between a top 3 defense and a top 3 offence have gone in favour of the defensive team." This fact was no doubt followed up by some obvious or stupid remark by John Madden.

My night continued after the game with an exciting trip to a lecture hall to catch up on some homework. I couldn't help but think about how unsatisfying the game was, despite the fact that I was working hard at understanding control systems. I figured that maybe the hockey or basketball season/playoffs would quench that thirst for a quality athletic championship game. I guess I'll have to wait at least another 4 months for that to happen.

## Selected Poems

*Wendy Wenjing Wang*  
4B Computer

### The Soliloquy of a Snowflake

The distance between heaven and earth,  
Is the journey of my life.  
My companion is the gale.  
My guardian is the freezing cold.  
Water made my body and soul.  
Born on this endless night,  
Falling towards this lonesome road.  
Is this what ALL  
My life in stores for?  
No!  
Look at that street lamp.  
Unselfishly it illuminates me with its radiance.  
My flying colours shine in its brilliant glow.  
I am glistening, swirling and dancing!  
My beauty is watched,  
My happiness is envied.  
I fly towards the halo of light,  
Knowing my life will soon end.  
With no regret,  
I melt away under the brightness and warmth of light.  
With joy,  
I am reborn  
Before death,  
In splendor and fervent delight.

### Williams Coffee Pub

Holding tight,  
A cup of hot chocolate.  
Take a sip.  
Let the sweetness  
Touch my lips,  
Soothe my heart,  
And melt like ice.  
The spread of warmth  
Moves swiftly across my cheeks,  
Dyeing them red.  
In a borrowed corner,  
I hide.  
A small table in the café,  
I sit by.  
Outside the window,  
Fogs in colour of dusk blend with endless darkness.  
Snowflakes,  
Like fire-flies,  
Dancing under the street lamps.  
They bloom and fall,  
One by one  
One by one...  
Time is dripping away,  
Lost amidst the clouds of rich aroma.

The sleepy lights,  
Oozing the romance of the weekend,  
Gently beaming in gold.  
More than the eyes can see,  
Mixtures of colours—people pass by.  
Non-stop for the ears to hear,  
Layers of sounds—people talk on.  
Slowly I drink,  
Silently I taste,  
Enjoying,  
The luxurious break from school work.  
Holding on to,  
A simple fulfillment.  
I am  
Clinging to,  
The stolen warmth of cold winter.  
The gathered peace from chattering noise.

### Enlightened

To be calm is to seek nothing,  
Unrest is what yearning brings.  
Be not amazed,  
If wanted in vain.  
Be not excited,  
If unexpected is obtained.  
What looks like a possession,  
May be as free as if it had wings.  
Perchance one remembers certain things,  
Possibly one forgets these things.

### Teacher

*-for our memorable teachers and professors*

Our faces blurred across the years.  
The classroom,  
Filled as the new come,  
Emptied as the old go.  
You may not remember us.  
There are so many of us,  
Only one of you.  
But throughout the years,  
Your voice remains lively,  
Your teachings vivid still.  
Your influence holds  
Perhaps even in times of our lives,  
When we stand in front of crossroads.  
Some say  
You are a gardener of young souls.  
At the end of our last lesson,  
We clapped our hands to say goodbye,  
We clapped our hands to say thank you.  
You may not remember us,  
But we remember you.

*John Olaveson*

1B Civil



### Cinderella

I walk along the leaf-covered ground,  
Cold wind slashing at my face,  
Extremities long since gone numb.  
This is a dance I well know.  
I've heard this music before,  
I've been to this ball before.  
The path is the same,  
The steps are the same,  
The clouds of dead leaves spread all around  
Are the same.  
I could sing along with the orchestra  
If I could stop my teeth  
From incessantly clacking together.  
I can't even enjoy the sound of my own voice  
Raised to produce great harmony.  
If only the venue would change,  
If only the song and the steps would change,  
Then...  
I don't even know.  
I've been here too long to know what it's like  
To be in another story.

### Ocean

A salty wave envelopes my toes  
And steals yellow sand from my feet.  
The pale yellow sun strokes my face  
With firm and fragile fingers.

A gull cries across the bay  
In a language I cannot hear.  
The white bird circles in a white sky  
As white rain crashes past its wings.

The grey ocean charges forward  
On the heels of the grey wind.  
The dark tide rises under the dark clouds  
To sweep me away into the black sea.

## Events

## Shuttle Columbia Breaks Up in Re-Entry

**Joseph Fung**

**3N Computer**



The Crew of Space Shuttle Columbia

**Rick Husband, Commander**  
45 years old and from Amarillo, Texas, Husband joined the space program in 1994. He was formerly a test pilot and enjoyed singing.



Michael Anderson



William McCool



Michael Anderson

At 1pm EST on Saturday February 1st, NASA released a statement to the effect that communications with the space shuttle Columbia were lost at approximately 9am that same day. The shuttle was scheduled to land at 9:16 am.

The shuttle, carrying seven crew members, crashed in central Texas under the watchful eyes of thousands of witnesses. While most of the debris landed between Waco and the Louisiana border, authorities all across Texas and New Mexico were alerted of explosions. This is the first space crew NASA has lost during a re-entry activity. All previous tragedies, such as the 1986 Challenger explosion, have occurred during take-off.

Although no terrorism is currently suspected, security was tight as the investigation into the cause of the fatal tragedy is launched. One member of the crew - Ilan Ramon - was an Israeli astronaut. A colonel in Israel's air force and former fighter pilot, Ramon was Israel's first man in space.

While the cause of the explosion is unknown, details are being posted to <http://www.nasa.gov/>

**William McCool, Pilot**  
From Lubbock Texas, 41 years old and also a former test pilot, this was McCool's first flight. He became an astronaut in 1996.

**Michael Anderson, Payload Commander**  
43 years old, from Spokane, Washington, Anderson loved flying but disliked being launched. Chosen as an astronaut in 1994, he traveled to Russia's Space Station Mir in 1998.

**Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist**  
41 years old, an immigrant from India, Chawla was selected to be an astronaut in 1994. This was her second flight.

**David Brown, Mission Specialist**  
From Virginia and 46 years old, Brown once had a summer job as a circus acrobat. He joined NASA in 1996.

**Laurel Clark, Mission Specialist**  
Also 41 years old, from Racine Wisconsin, Clark joined the space program in 1996. Her primary responsibility was to assist in the shuttles science experiments.

**Ilan Ramon, Payload Specialist**  
48 years old, Ramon became an astronaut in 1997. He moved to Houston in 1998, and his home was Tel Aviv.



Kalpana Chawla



David Brown



Laurel Clark



Ilan Ramon

## ECE 4th Year Design Symposium

*Wendy Wenjing Wang*  
4B Computer

### The UW ECE 4th Year Design Project Symposium 2003 --to all of us who participated in the 4th Year Design Project Symposium

(written during the symposium days)

Your hands play with magic.  
Your mouths speak of fantasies.

The watching eyes widened with intrigue.  
The listening minds thrilled by the possibilities.

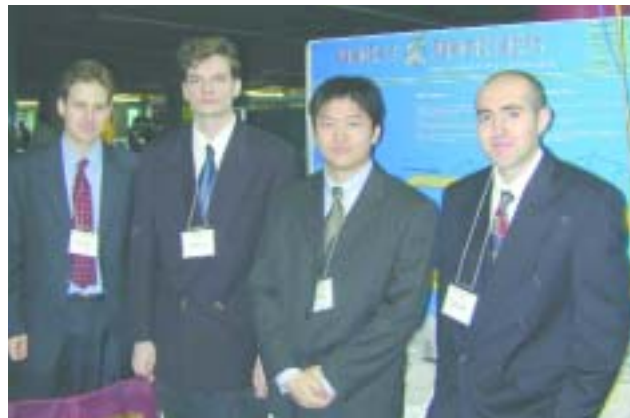
Feel the soaring wings of our imaginations.  
Look at the breathtaking colours of our dreams.

This is what power feels like,  
Excitement runs in our veins.

Countless sleepless nights, we remember.  
To the sweet smell of success, we drink.

The world,  
Stand still!  
Here come our creations!

I stand in front of the wonders.  
I look into the future.  
I see the ways the whole world will change!



Virtual Reality Voice Recognition



Wireless GBA



SoundBaker



BT Cruiser



Fire Rescue Robot



Home Monitoring System



# Winter ScHunt 2003

...continued from Page 1.

was accomplished and it was obvious that everybody had had much more fun than sleep during that night. It is important to point out some good actions that granted many points to each of the teams. Old Math, with the experience of some ex-Gods from Scunt of the Nerds (after winning Scunt in Fall 2001, the Math team was allowed to run it last Summer), knew how to please the Gods. Young Math, with a lot of energy and quite a big turn out, invited the Gods to play human Risk on a world map made of duct-tape on the floor of the MathSoc comfy lounge. The Mech team put most of its efforts into technological creations and presented, in the early

hours of Saturday morning, a 5-feet long and 7-feet wide cardboard and duct-tape biplane. All throughout ScHunt, the Softies' perseverance and determination were only comparable to the length of their team name: many of them were present at the events, and they were the ones able to conquer the biggest parts of the campus.

The wonderful gold-plated Scunt trophy was handed out, at the end of a long (and almost) sleepless night, to the Softies team, the United People's Republic of New North Francoindojapamericanadagascar & Tobago, who will have the great honour of organizing the next Scunt venue this fall.



Fore!



Want to bet I can touch my toes?



Oh baby, I need my concrete pillar so badly...



Duct Tape Plane



The New North Francoindojapamericanadagascar & Tobago Flag



Trophies are good



Hello everyone, how tired are you?

## Engsoc

## ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

## President Report



Dave Clegg

President

Welcome to the end of the first month. I hope that everyone has settled in well. Midterms are right around the corner, and I'm desperately trying to study. I swear I am! Maybe the curve will pull me through.

So what's been going on lately? Not that much. The Bomber is still closed, but the Feds and the UW Admin are talking. No indication of any progress yet, but at least we know that the stalemate has been broken. I will continue to update you guys as I hear more, but for now, nothing's being

said publicly on either side.

For those of us worried about the events running at the Bomber and Fed Hall this term, we have taken measures to make alternate arrangements for them. TalEng has been rescheduled to March at an alternate location, and the Dean and I have co-signed a letter to both Feds president Brenda Koprowski and Director of Business Operations Bud Walker asking for Fed Hall to be opened for IRS on February 18th. We are optimistic that both sides will be able to make this concession, but if they don't, your Gradcomm has made alternate arrangements at another location in town and IRS will still happen without a hitch.

The EngSoc budget that passed at the January 22nd meeting involved some expenses for capital improvements.

Though many of these are dependent on external sources of income, such as the Student Life Endowment Fund, we'll see some of these improvements sometime this term if we're lucky. Some of the projects being considered include new security measures in the C&D after the break-in earlier this term. They also include new speakers, improved tables and study spaces in POETS, as well as Orifice upgrades to Nexus from Polaris. The Orifice will also attempt to expand its services to students by a) offering a phone in the conference room in the back so that students can sign out the back room for conference calls; b) adding a scanner for the new on-line exam bank (and other uses), and c) upgrading the EngSoc laptop to a useable piece of equipment. Currently the laptop is running Windows 3.1 (yes, you heard me right), and we hope to replace it to make it more relevant to stu-

dents who are looking to borrow the laptop for presentations and such. Sadly, we seem to be playing catch-up right now rather than expanding, as most of these projects are repairs, replacements or maintenance on items that have fallen into disrepair or into obsolescence over the years. Hopefully, subsequent executives will continue to make the services of the society increasingly relevant and available to the students of this faculty.

Not much more to say this week. I hope to see you at the Semi-Formal on February 15th and the D.U.S.T.E.D. on February 8th (send me an email - bsoc\_prez@engmail.uwaterloo.ca - if you don't know what this is). If not, I'll see you on the other side of the midterm week!

## Vice-President External Report



Steph Purnell

VP External

Life has been really busy around here lately, and it only seems like it's going to get busier! We're off to Toronto this weekend for the First Year Integration Conference. FYIC was developed four years ago as a means of introducing first year engineering students to the role of the Engineering Societies at the school, provincial and national levels. FYIC is also used as a medium for exposing students to some of the issues facing both engineering students and professionals, as well as for allowing first years to meet stu-

dents from other schools and learn about their experiences, both academic and social. This year, the conference is being hosted by the University of Toronto and promises to be a great time.

Hopefully, you have had a chance to catch our Bridging the Gap lecture series these past couple of weeks. The lectures showcased some of the cutting edge research being done right here at the University of Waterloo. Our presenters were Professor Brodland and Professor Armitage. If you missed these presentations, stay tuned for another one coming soon.

The Ontario Engineering Competition was held at the University of Western Ontario from January 31 to February 2. Congratulations to all our competitors! If you had a good experience at the competi-

tion and would be interested in seeing OEC brought to Waterloo for 2005, come talk to me or email me at bsoc\_vpext@engmail.uwaterloo.ca.

Other events to watch out for: Valentine Candy-o-grams (buy them before Feb. 14); Shadow Days (Feb. 25-26); the International Pie-Throw — good to get even with your housemates or friends, all in the name of charity (Feb. 26-28) and National Engineering Week (Mar. 1-9).

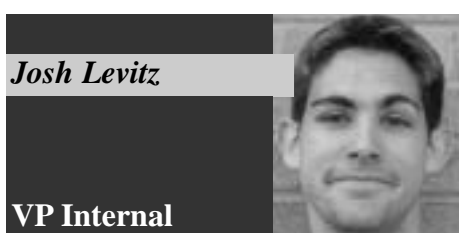
Nominations for EngSoc Execs are fast approaching. For all the people who are considering running for an EngSoc executive position, I would like to tell you how much fun I've had being VP External, and I encourage you to run for this position in particular. A VPX goes to at least four conferences throughout the year, where

you meet people from other universities around Ontario and all over Canada. As well as having a lot of fun, you take part in dealing with important issues that face engineering students today. You are also in charge of activities that are external to the EngSoc, such as charity and Women In Engineering events. I've had a super term as VPX; I've made so many friends and learned so much about engineering life beyond UW. I take pride in being the official representative of our Society and I know anyone who decides to take over will have great experiences, too.

That's all for me! Keep smiling,

Steph P.

## Vice-President Internal Report



Josh Levitz

VP Internal

Hey BSoc,

Hope all is well in the school and social world. I can tell you that the last two weeks without bomber has been killing me; I apparently developed an addiction to a bar, but I'm getting through

it slowly. Just in case some of you don't know, midterms started this week so it may be time to start doing some work!

Because of midterms, we don't have too, too many upcoming events, but the one's we have are good one's (as always). Friday night we have a trip to see the Toronto Rock lacrosse team so sign up in the orifice RIGHT NOW (stop reading after my article and go!). Saturday night we have the DUSTED trip to a small establishment in a small town and they won't be expecting us! If you don't know what it is email me and i'll give you the full

details, but sign up TODAY in the orifice if you want to go. We have an empty week next week for a midterm break, but sunday the 15th is the semi-formal so buy you're tickets in the orifice; it's a great way to celebrate the day after valentine's day for those with significant others who mistakingly forget the actual day on the 14th. The following week has IRS on the 18th and then our nice reading week - oh, i mean reading days (for you first years who didn't know, we only get the Thursday and Friday).

One other note for those of you consider-

ing running for Executive positions for upcoming terms, nominations begin this Thursday (the 13th). Start thinking about that, and more info will be out soon.

Time for me to start studying for midterms so that's it for me. Let me know of any of complaints or question by emailing me at bsoc\_vpint@engmail. Good luck in exams and see you around.

Josh "I've saved so much money since the bomber shut down, but I'm still not happy about it" Levitz.

VP Internal

## WEEF Director Report



Denis Viens

WEEF Director

I didn't get around to writing an article for the first issue because I was too busy with the GNCTR team, but now that we are back, here's my first article of the term.

First of all, let me introduce you to the WEEF team for this term:  
Tania Bortolon – Purchasing Assistant  
Cinzia Cattallo – Promotions Assistant  
Erin Young – Accounting Assistant  
Katherine Chiang – Webmaster  
Mary Bland – Superstar!

We are hoping to get more promotion this year so that all students will be more aware of the GOODNESS provided by WEEF. As of now, the refund period is over. I do

not have complete statistics yet but a total of 971 students took back their contribution.

As for WEEF reps, thank you all for getting back to me. I will set up the first meeting soon so that we may discuss the term.

Proposals will begin being accepted on February 3rd and will close on March 7th. Please check the website for proposal

guidelines. Please note that all proposals require a hard and a soft copy. And as a reminder for some, late proposals will NOT be accepted, under any circumstance. If you have any questions, don't be afraid to drop by the WEEF office or send me an email at weef@engmail.

Denis Viens  
WEEF Director

## WIE Committee Welcomes Women to Join Hands

*Afsheen Khan*

Initiative Developer for WIE

In today's transforming world of science and technology where engineers are at the forefront of change, we are still confronted with issues such as a traditionally low percentage of women enrolled in engineering. Only nine percent of professional engineers are women compared to an average of 45 percent for all occupations (Canada Job Future, 2000). The Council of Ontario Universities reported that 29 percent of all first-year engineers were female in 1999. Engineering is still considered as a male-dominated profession due in large

part to a lack of awareness, misinformation, and traditional stereotypical views. These issues need to change. Women form more than half the population and have their own insights into society's problems and needs. Engineering is about solving problems. To do that properly, engineering - like any other profession - needs to include the expertise and perspectives of both women and men.

There are many other obvious reasons for women to choose engineering as a career. According to "Studying Engineering" by Raymond Landis, a career in engineering offers:

- Job Satisfaction
- Variety of Career Opportunities

- Challenging Work
- Intellectual Development
- Potential to Benefit Society
- Creative Thinking
- Professional Environment
- Technological and Scientific Discovery
- Prestige
- Financial Security

Opportunities abound for women engineers at the University of Waterloo. The Dean of Engineering has supported the Women In Engineering Committee (WIE), which serves to co-ordinate, educate, and set up various events and programs for women. The aim of Waterloo's WIE committee is to encourage young girls and women to consider careers in engineering,

mathematics, science and technology. The major goals of WIE are to increase public awareness of the need for female contributions to the field of engineering, and to provide a forum for the exchange of opinions and experiences regarding education, training and employment for women with interests in engineering. The University of Waterloo Women In Engineering Committee is a platform for female engineers, and all women engineering students, faculty, and alumni are encouraged to join. The involvement of women engineers on the WIE Committee should help accomplish the long-cherished goal of bringing others into the world of science and technology by being mentors and role models for them.

## ESSCO Discusses Pathways: Is OSPE Helping New Canadians or Harming Engineers?

*Joseph Fung*

3N Computer



Nicole Rutledge, the Vice President External of Lakehead University's Engineering Student Society, recently expressed her concerns about OSPE's (the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers) new Pathways program.

Rutledge put forward that the minimum weekly wage of \$600 set in the program is too low, so that engineers willing to work for \$31 000 per year will decrease wages for all engineers. Additionally, she brought attention to the fact that this program will increase the number of employed engineers in Ontario, thus decreasing wages for engineers regardless of the minimum wage.

After several months of planning and negotiations, last August saw the approval of the Pathways plan - a plan that hopes to help foreign-trained engineers earn their P.Eng designation. This program includes six weeks of classroom training on communication skills, and then places them in two six-month work terms to give them practical experience as part of the Canadian workforce.

Participants in the program are also required to have a certain level of English proficiency and must be members of the EIT (Engineer in Training) Program run by the PEO (Professional Engineers of Ontario). This program received \$750,000 in funding from the provincial government and is intended to become self-sufficient as foreign-trained engineers will be required to pay a tuition of \$3,300 plus GST.

Currently, there are many countries who do not have agreements with the CCPE (Canadian Council of Professional

Engineers) so the engineers that come from these countries lack the work experience, and possibly the necessary training, to be licensed as Professional Engineers in Ontario. The Pathways program is generally seen as a large step towards helping those immigrants who have an engineering degree but are not allowed to practice as Professional Engineers.

Rutledge and others, however, are concerned that supporting the employment of engineers at such a low income bracket (employers involved in Pathways must agree to pay a minimum wage of \$600 / week) would not only make it impossible for these international arrivals to live, but would also dilute the pool of engineers in Ontario.

While Rutledge does have some support, others have been quick to support the program and to point out that members of the program are not actually engineers - and would therefore not result in any such dilution.

"Pathways project participants are not engineers," said Jeff Henry the University of Waterloo Engineering Society 'A' Vice President External.

"If they are not engineers then they lack the ability to perform unsupervised engineering. A P.Eng must still play a role in any work these international arrivals [do]." Henry asserted that a better parallel would be drawn between Pathway participants and the current Engineers in Training.

Henry's support for the program is evident as he sees it as "a furtherance and broadening of the profession to more people, encouraging more people to become professional engineers - just like the EIT program."

The Pathways program aims to train 240 engineers by the end of 2003. For more information on the Pathways program, visit <http://www.pathways.ospe.on.ca>.



Sandford Fleming Foundation  
E2 3322, ext 4008, [sff@engmail](mailto:sff@engmail)  
[www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff](http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff)

**Engineering Debates:** Will be held March 10, 11 and 12 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in E2 Room 3324. The finals will be held outside the POETS on March 14 beginning at 12:00. Please plan on participating or attending. Refreshments will be served at the finals.

**Student Travel Grants:** Available to students participating in technical conferences. Please check our web-site for further information.

**Technical Speaker Competition:** All students are invited to participate in the Department Competitions. The presentation should be based on a work term experience, including one or more satisfactory written reports, but not necessarily the most recent report. If you are interested in participating, please notify your department's representative. The faculty-level competition will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> in DWE 2534 beginning at 10:00. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### The John Fisher Award for Leadership

The John Fisher Award for Leadership is made to a graduating student who has shown outstanding leadership throughout the student's academic career in activities that relate to Engineering Education. These leadership contributions can be associated with the Engineering Society, the Departments, the Faculty and the Sandford Fleming Foundation, and with other activities with a professional orientation. Nominations for the John Fisher Award can originate from student groups, faculty members and others. Nominations should document the nominee's outstanding leadership and other contributions. The award consists of a certificate, a citation and an honorarium of \$1,000. All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the Foundation by April 1. Please contact the Sandford Fleming Foundation office for further details.

*An organization devoted to the advancement of engineering education.*

## Feds Elections

# Feds Election Questions - Know Your Candidates

A list of question was sent to each candidate to gauge their platforms and abilities. Here's how they responded:

### Presidential candidates:

#### Chris Edey's Responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I am a fourth year planning student (co-op) and I have been fortunate enough to be involved in a number of interesting groups throughout my time here. I am probably most proud of my work with the Government Affairs Commission over the past five months. As commissioner, I played an important role in moving the issue of student housing up the city's agenda and in educating students as to why rents are going up, quality is going down and why all the houses seem to be miles from campus. There's still a great deal of work to be done in this regard, but at least we're off to a good start. I have also served as Imprint News Editor, an Environmental Studies Frosh Leader for three years, as the Communications Director of UWSP and as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. I've learned a lot and met many interesting people along the way.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: The purpose of the Feds is to represent and advance student interests in all areas and spheres of importance. I see that as the primary purpose, secondary roles are to promote student life on campus, provide services important to students and to operate businesses that cater to what students need and want.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: Other than the reason of having a say over what happens to the Feds fee you pay every semester is that the people who are elected will be representing students and speaking on their behalf with administration, the city and many other bodies that can affect the everyday lives of students. I think that students would want to make sure that the best person for the job is chosen.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: Well, I have already been very active on an issue that affects almost everybody at this university, off campus housing. I have presented at council, met with the city planners and spoken with neighbourhood associations surrounding the university in an effort to dispel the stereotypes students must deal with and to try and find some common ground in seeking a new deal regarding student housing. The fact that I have a head start on one of the most important issues that must be dealt with over the next year makes me different. Also, I have outlined a clear plan with set goals and a plan to reach each one of them. What do I add? Persistence, creativity and dedication. Once I start something, I finish it and I am open to different ways of reaching important goals. This is what I think I can bring to the Federation.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: We can make better use of the Feds website to convey information to students, the introduction and implementation of the Feds TV project (which John Fedy has discussed at length) will aid in making sure students are kept up to date about what is happening, where it is, and how they can get involved. Also, by being 'out and about' more often, the president can have some more personal contact with students to find out what they want the Federation to be doing and what issues are important to them. It would be financially difficult to set up Feds sub-offices around campus, but better communication and outreach can overcome some of the difficulties associated with the centralization of Feds activities in the SLC.

Q: When you talk about Council Reform, what specifically is the problem of the Feds Council, and what are going to do to solve this problem?

A: When I see council, I see a body that has not yet reached its full potential. It can be inefficient and absenteeism has been an issue. I want to put a renewed focus on committee work, so that small groups of councilors can focus on an area that they take more of an interest in so that issues can be discussed in depth and detail before they come before council as a whole. Some efforts have already been made in this regard and I want to finish the job. I also want to have an executive summary of the goings on of council compiled and distributed after every meeting so that students can quickly find out what is on the council agenda and what their councilors are doing.

#### Alex Matan's Responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I have been active in engineering since my first day of class in Fall 1996, including class rep, directorships, big, huge, huge, big, VP-Internal, IW web editor, SFF debates, Ontario Engineering Competition, Gen E 121 TA, drama actor & producer, and speaker. Outside engineering, I have sat on Senate and Senate Undergrad Council (SUC), and I am the founder of the Muskoka Club and Radio Waterloo 2. I have also done an exchange at Lund University in Sweden, where I witnessed different approaches to education and student organizations.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: To improve the fortunes of students by the most efficient means possible.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: I think you should vote, and vote for me, because my connection-building vision is one that will directly benefit you and the entire school in the short and long term. Connections, and the resources they bring you, often make the difference between success and failure and my pro-

posed searchable skills/interests/experiences directory will help you now and long after you graduate. It will give you instant access to the knowledge base and contacts of thousands of students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: What differentiates me is that I am putting forth a vision that pushes this school to the next level in its development by concentrating on things we can do for ourselves that are fully within our control. By adding networking, cultural enrichment, and community building to our school's existing strengths in such areas as co-op and the high quality of students and faculty, Waterloo students and alumni will enjoy a strong competitive (or co-operative) advantage in whatever they chose to do.

I am adding an entrepreneurial approach to my position. You are paying for a president, and the president should lead the organization in innovative directions that benefit you.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: One of my major platform items is to stage more in-your-face cultural and enrichment opportunities. So I am proposing we transform the pathway between SLC and SCH into a cosmopolitan city street during lunch hours, so you can catch UW's talented musicians, actors, guest speakers, and debaters at a place and time where you can't miss them. We can also bring profs and other guest speakers into cafeterias and to lineups. Why not learn Japanese while waiting in the OSAP line?

Q: What is your vision of the campus culture after your term is up? Also, a large part of your campaign is based on multiculturalism. How about the people (few as they are) who refuse to take part in a multicultural society?

A: UW will be a place where brilliant people with brilliant ideas talk to each other and share their insights, are aware of each others' capabilities and make use of them, are stimulated by a vibrant cultural environment, and where the young and old complement and mutually educate each other. In other words, a proper university.

#### Dan Colquhoun's Responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I'm a 4B Computer Engineering student. I've been an Engineering student since F97. My education has included 6 great workterms, two of which were in a European country. I've had the opportunity to work with lots of different people, and manage a few projects as well. Prior to Waterloo I lived in Nova Scotia, my home.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: Services, businesses, student representation. It's a full plate.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: Why wouldn't you want a say in who runs your businesses and services, and represents you to others? I'd say the issue is education, rather than apathy. Once people know the important role the Federation plays, they seem to be more keen to get involved with selecting the executive. And just because you're graduating this term doesn't mean that the Feds have no impact on you. Think of the recent media generated, and think about the message you want delivered in future about your alma matter. Send the message you want that voice to be reasoned, rational and cooperative, like the students of UW.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: Character traits: Pragmatic, cooperative, diligent and scrupulous. These are all part of who I am and are things I am committed to bringing to the job as President.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: Indeed. I haven't been up that way often in the last few years myself. I don't want to focus effort on 'getting people to the SLC,' but like lots of other candidates, I hope to get more online via the feds.ca website. Along with daily updates in news and information, I'd like to see a calendar of events to go along with the Clubs listing. I'm sure the VPs also have good ideas for how to make feds.ca a better 'one-stop-shopping' source for campus news, information and discussion.

Q: You keep mentioning there are mistakes in the management of feds businesses. What plan do you have to correct this?

A: The business management takes its direction from the policies and stance put forth by the exec. I plan to be more firm in our commitment to meeting all the applicable regulations relating to the operation of our businesses, and I plan to refocus the running of our businesses so they better benefit the students of the University, not the community at large. For the moment, this boils down to creating the position of the Compliance Officer within the Feds (or equivalent), and restricting non-student attendance at our pubs with a 1-to-1 signed in guest policy. This would help bring responsibility back to the Feds and the student body in a way that is manageable and trust-building.

#### VPI candidates:

#### Leo Dominiguez's Responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: Service Coordinator of Off-Campus Dons (Winter 2002 to Winter 2003), Member of the University of Waterloo Co-Ed Varsity Cheerleading Team (Fall 1999 to Fall 2002), Federation Orientation

## Feds Elections

Committee Member (Orientation Week 2002), Orientation Leader for Engineering and Off-Campus Dons 2000, Orientation Leader for Off-Campus Dons 2001, Member of the Off Campus It's (Y)our Neighbourhood Committee, Treasurer of the University of Waterloo Photography Club (Spring 2001), Imprint Staff Spring 2001, Federation Hall Staff Fall 2003, Avid Bomber Bum since 1999, Off-Campus Don 2000 & 2001. This is just a small part of my experiences, these are just the ones with an official title.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: The official mandate of FEDS aside, I think that FEDS is the support structure for the student body. It informs, involves and is the source of pride for many students. FEDS provides services, clubs, commissions, and a unifying vision for all students.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: Because otherwise you'd lose your bitching rights. If you don't care about issues that affect your daily life enough to spend under 2 minutes voting online then you don't get to talk about what you don't like about Waterloo. You don't get to say "co-op sucks" or "i hate lineups at the bomber" because you didn't bother to let your voice be heard.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: What makes me different? My experience, my ideas, my passion. My experience speaks for itself. My ideas are fresh and new. My passion is apparent in how I carry myself and how I deal with issues.

My experience is listed above. My ideas are: Reviewing and expanding the effectiveness of all the FEDS Clubs, Services & Commissions, creation of a FEDS newsletter and campus-wide events calendar in the SLC to better inform students, improved advertising for FEDS events, building up warrior weekends, a better FEDS Volunteer Recognition System that includes club memberships and a points system, Clubs Corner in the SLC and start the Club Of The Week, and the creation of a Nap Room on-campus

My passion is:  
It is my personal mission to ensure all students open their eyes at least once during their time here. I want them to look up and take notice of all the diverse clubs, services, and commissions this university has to offer. I want people to take part in their university. I want people to take pride in UW.

I aim to be approachable and friendly; on a first-name basis with as many students as possible. I aim to be informed; to share this information with anyone and everyone that will listen. I aim to be dedicated to the clubs, services and commissions; the first person to arrive and last to leave from any meeting or event.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: My FEDS newsletter can be distributed where ever there is room for a stack of

paper. This includes POETS, computer labs, etc. Also an electronic online distribution of the newsletter will help reach people that can't go to campus once in a while.

Q: When you talk about a points system for the Feds Volunteer Program, what are going to be incentives to participating? Do you plan to institute tiered award systems, years of service, etc?

A: In terms of incentives I don't want to promise, BMWs and bling-bling when I know I can't come through with it. It is my goal now to implement a low cost system, however if when elected I find that there is room in the budget for it I plan on upgrading these incentives. Also I don't think the money value of the prizes is of large concern - the current volunteer base is just that a volunteer base. They are not paid (which I can't do anything about) nor are they recognized (which I CAN do something about). Recognition is the purpose of this program, to applaud the volunteers that make this university what it is. And hey, if by recognizing people officially they can put it on their resume that's fine too.

In my experience as a member of 10+ clubs, a don, and a service co-ordinator I have found that it is the same people volunteering for things over and over again - this system will help those who volunteer on a regular basis and those who don't. Those who don't will be given incentives to come up and spend some time with these organizations. Those who do can build up points to reach larger incentives and rewards. There will be a tiered system, but not by year but by level of involvement.

### Janna Hickson's Responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I've been a Feds Student Councillor Twice. The second time I was on the board of directors. I was VP Internal for EngSoc A. I have been a huge twice, and a Big once for frosh week. I have sat on University committees, such as the Senate Scholarship and Student Aid Committee.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: The Federation of Students are supposed to be our advocates to the University administration and various levels of government. They also coordinate a lot of the extra-curricular activities on campus.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: I think people care, but they just don't know enough about the positions or the individuals running to feel like they can cast an informed vote. Just yesterday, a friend told me that they don't know enough about certain positions and would hate for a random vote to be the deciding vote.

Obviously, the people reading this article are doing something to be better informed. Why should people take the time to read articles like this? Well, mostly because you invest money in this corporation each term and you should expect responsible managers.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: One of the most important duties of the VP Internal is to be a liaison between different student groups and the Federation of Students.

My communication strategy is very different then my competitors. They both propose new means of communication, while I believe that we have to first take better advantage of the communications channels already available.

Every year someone proposes that the Feds should have a newsletter. But what about papers such as the Iron Warrior, Imprint and online discussions such as uwstudent.org? I think the VP Internal should put a priority to contribute to the news sources that people already read.

Also, I will put a priority on attending society meetings. As the paid liaison to the societies and someone who is supposed to represent student interests, I think it is important for the VP Internal to take advantage of these opportunities for two-way communication with the students at large. This will be difficult, but not impossible. I know that a past VP Internal did this and it gained them a lot of credibility.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: Well, this will start by attending the society meetings. I will also take better advantage of the volunteer easels that the Federation of Students usually move around campus. I intend to give clubs the opportunity to put information about themselves on one side of the board.

Q: How do you plan on encouraging people to become leaders? Under your platform, you have many ideas to reward the leaders that are currently there, but I see nothing on encouraging the people who want to be leaders into becoming one.

A: I have to be realistic. As VP Internal, I'm not going to be able to touch everyone directly. Part of the purpose of the mini-conference is to help existing leaders recognize and develop potential within their own organizations.

### VPed candidates:

#### Aaron Lee-Wudrick's responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I am a fourth year Economics and Political Science student. I've done a lot of things on campus - written for Imprint and uwstudent.org, worked for Campus Rec, been a Watpubs coordinator, been a part of Economics Society and the Political Science Students Association. Of everything I've done, the achievement I'm most proud of is raising \$100,000 for UW working for Alumni Affairs.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: The Feds are our student government, so their mandate is to represent students to the administration, city and other external groups, as well as run businesses and provide services that students want and need.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: Because the Feds have a much bigger impact on your time at Waterloo than you might notice. If you ever go to a bar, buy a used textbook, join a club, you are being affected by the Feds. And even if you don't do anything, the Feds are using your money (as I've noted with CASA and OUSA)

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: My solutions are 100% concrete, measurable and realistic. No one will have to wonder if I am doing what I have promised, because you can check them all off - yes or no. I am planning to focus my energy on doing things that the VP Ed is fully capable of doing - not making well-meaning but impossible to achieve promises.

I'm going to add visibility to the portfolio. I want students who have concerns about lobbying, co-op or academics to know what the VP Ed is the person to go to.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: We can't force people to get involved - we can only show them that there are opportunities. The Feds bulletin boards are currently in disarray; if the Feds used them in a standardized way across campus, students would know where to look to get information.

Q: What do you believe are the biggest problems of OUSA and CASA, being that you believe they should not be funded with our money?

A: OUSA (Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance) and CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Associations) are two groups with noble goals but little practical effect. The biggest problem with them is that they are totally unsuccessful at doing what they are supposed to do: keep tuition down. You don't have to take my word for it - just look at the rise in tuition over the last 10 years. Virtually every VP Ed before me has pledged to work with OUSA and CASA to get results, and they've all failed! I think it's time for a change in approach - since I firmly believe the best way to force real changes in education is in provincial and federal elections, I'd focus much more on educating students about different political parties' education policies.

### VPAF candidates:

#### Rob Schmidt's responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: background:  
a.. uwstudent.org -- co-founder, visionary and developer. I thought it could work and made something that did what we wanted. RCW brought it to popular attention and helped keep the crowds entertained.  
b.. internet streamer -- I set up the streaming for Feds Student Council meetings and CKMS. Also video streamed CUTC with uws.

*Continued on page 14. See Questions for Candidates (part 2)*

## EWB/Campus

## Hemp, Dams and Rock-et Fuel - A Look at the EWB Conference



Kiran Dhaliwal

2A Electrical

As my ECE 250 prof so succinctly puts it, many students go into engineering because they like science and math but want a better shot at a job than math can offer or can't stand the sight of blood as required by med school (his words, not mine). Nonetheless, there are some great engineers who know exactly why they do what they do - that's to make this world a better place. EWB, or Engineers Without Borders, is an international organization that brings professional engineers, students and other technically skilled people together to tackle some of the plaguing technological problems of the third world.

The honour of hosting the second annual National EWB Conference from Thursday January 30 to Saturday February 1 fell on our own university this year. Although many of the activities were reserved for

delegates or members only, UW students were able to attend a couple of fascinating talks by invited speakers and see demonstrations of some projects being implemented by EWB on Friday. One presentation that caught my interest was the one for "Red R", Registered Engineers for Disaster Relief, an agency of professional engineers and technicians who can be called on by the UN or an NGO (non-governmental organization) to assist a disaster-stricken country with reparations. I was surprised to learn that many of the countries being helped lacked a single professional engineer in the whole nation. The engineers presenting Red R retold stories about how challenging and diverse some of their previous assignments had been, but helping to rebuild a community was always a rewarding experience. Some other EWB-related projects include hydrogen fuel cells, revolutionary water damming operations, and educating nations about proper use of nuclear power and cleaner methods of waste removal in third world nations. A proposal that drew a lot of curiosity was one for the practical usage of hemp in agricultural communities. Zaileen Alibhai, a UW Chemical

Engineering student who is quite knowledgeable in the "various uses" of hemp, proposed making clothing, paper and rope from this durable, organic plant. Hemp plants can apparently be eaten (in forms other than magic brownies) as well. This plant can produce flour and edible whole seeds and has several nutritional benefits over regular flour. This project is just one example of how an interesting idea can someday be implemented to help out another community in the world.

In addition to the project demonstrations, there were also two guest talks on Friday that were open to the general public. The first, by a government worker from Information Communication Technology, addressed the issue of introducing new technology to third world countries. In his opinion, "Third world countries don't need our charity or welfare. They want access to technology and information (knowledge). They have the potential to do something and yet no resources. Western countries are trying to assimilate the young breed of these developing nations by forcing them to study in North America, rather than funding and developing the developing

world's universities and letting the people learn in their own land. Thus, we as engineers must work against this and take the knowledge to the people rather than have a handful of them come here and end up staying for good."

The EWB conference is a good reminder of how fortunate the Western world is, and how valuable our engineering knowledge can be. One UW student volunteer at the conference shared his motivation to become an engineer and to join EWB in particular. This individual was born and raised in a rural village lacking any means of telecommunications, electricity or even paved roads, which we take for granted everyday. He hopes to introduce a wealth of knowledge and technical experience to communities like his that can dramatically benefit from such wealth. While the typical student member of EWB may not have prepared as solid a plan for changing the world, this club does represent the compassionate side of engineering that often gets overshadowed by stereotypes of engineers being enterprising, factual and uncaring professionals.

## Engineering in International Development: One Piece of the Puzzle

---

Vince Fazari

---

From January 29th to February 1st, 300 people came to UW from across Canada and around the world to listen to amazing speakers, partake in group discussions, display engineering development projects, and, of course, have loads of fun! For those of you who don't know about Engineers Without Borders, EWB is a registered charity that is dedicated to international development and has sent over 40 EWB student volunteers to live and work in developing communities around the world. It has 21 student chapters across Canada. This past weekend, our local UW

chapter hosted EWB's second annual national conference.

As engineers, we all learn how to integrate and build things, but when it comes to international development, it takes more than math skills or handy hands. For example, building a new clean water facility in Africa is just the first step. Then you have to teach all the villagers how to wash their hands! In international development, cultural, economic, environmental, social, and political issues are often the deciding factors for project success. This conference provided the perfect forum for engineering students to gain this understanding and figure out just how the engineering piece fits into the big puzzle of international development.

The four days were filled with active and insightful events. There were panels on topics such as engineering and peace, economic development, and water filtration. Delegates also formed small groups to express and debate their views in various interactive workshops, and keynote speakers talked about development in Afghanistan, development as an engineer, "Assets Based Approach to International Development" and Doctors Without Borders.

There was the "Poverty Dinner" where the delegates were randomly assigned to the 1st, 2nd or 3rd world. The 1st ate a full course meal with dessert on comfy SLC couches while the 3rd ate their spoon full

of rice off the floor. This really brought the lesson of world disparity close to home. In the end, we all learned something... and the 3rd were happy to get more food! Speaking of food, this conference always had more than enough food, and I was glad to see the leftovers were consistently sent to feed the hungry.

Congratulations to the conference co-chairs Scott Giffiths and John Cuddihy (both 4B Systems) and all the organisers! It was a phenomenal conference!

If you're interested in learning more about EWB, check out the website: [www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca) or email the local chapter at [waterloo@ewb.ca](mailto:waterloo@ewb.ca)

## Questions for Candidates (Part 2)

...continued from Page 13.

c.. Imprint volunteer-at-large -- started in 1997 and have written a number of articles for all sections of the paper. News Editor, SysAdmin, Director, Treasurer, Vice-President.  
d.. Feds Student Councilor -- sat on By-laws, Policies and Procedures.

these answers taken from:

[http://feds2003.ca/modules.php?op=mod\\_load&name=Sections&file=index&req=vi\\_ewarticle&artid=2&page=1](http://feds2003.ca/modules.php?op=mod_load&name=Sections&file=index&req=vi_ewarticle&artid=2&page=1)

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of Students, in your opinion?

A: In my words, the Feds help use the collective influence (both fiscal and political) of undergraduate students at the University of Waterloo to assist them in their university experience. We run businesses and services that they want to use.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: You should vote because it is your money. I'm not going to make you vote but if you have taken the time to read the Iron Warrior to find out about the election then you are probably already going to vote. If you haven't then you aren't reading this and I won't be able to convince you otherwise. I don't think that not voting is the same as apathy. Students are interested in the issues.

I also wrote an article for Imprint called "The Myth of Apathy." Students aren't apathetic, they are bored and unengaged. We need to work to hear their voice because it is most certainly there. (link to article <http://imprint.uwaterloo.ca/story/33>)

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: I know more about this position than my opponents. I have done the research. I've investigated the Feds through Imprint and [uwstudent.org](http://uwstudent.org) since 1998 when I wrote my first story on the Feds budget. I've participated in the on-going political discussion that makes up the Feds and have a good understanding of its past and potential future.

There are two things I will add to my position: technical competency and disclosure. I know a lot about computers. I use Linux and manage a number of Linux servers. I'm also a web/database programmer (primarily php/mysql) and I'm prepared to use that experience to improve the Feds current technical challenges. Second, I'm interested in giving students access to

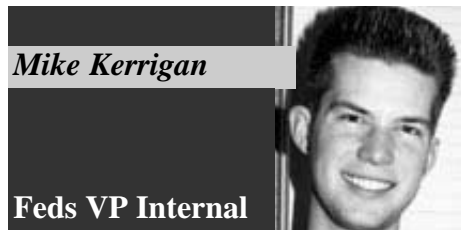
more information about how their businesses run. I'm interested in posting raw and month-end numbers for all our businesses. I believe disclosing this information will give students a sense of ownership over their businesses they don't currently feel and employees the feedback they need to excel.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: The centre of campus is not the SLC. I know this as a former engineer. I also know this as a current math student. Most students have habits and many of those habits keep them close to their own facul-

Continued on page 15. See Questions for Candidates (part 3)

## Bar Closures on Campus



Mike Kerrigan

### Feds VP Internal

For those of you living in a cave, on January 20th 2003, the university told the Federation of Students that they could no longer sell alcohol at their establishments. The shutdown of the campus bars is unprecedented in the history of our institution and has caused a considerable amount of stress for the Feds, the university administration, the bar staff and students across campus. There are a number of issues that students on campus are confused about that need to be explained.

#### New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve, the fire alarm at Fed Hall was pulled by an unknown patron, driving all of the 800 participants outside. Four fights broke out at different times while the staff tried to dissipate and manage the crowd. All the fights were successfully stopped by the staff. At a slightly later point, three men approached another man in the parking lot next to Fed Hall, got into an altercation, and beat him severely. His life was threatened, but he has since recovered well and is currently in rehab at the hospital.

We are unaware of any actions that we could have taken that would have prevented this from happening other than not have an event, but the university used this event

as a justification for taking much management control over our bars. They made two main claims to support their action: that there was no management in place on New Year's, and that we were in violation of sign-in policy.

In fact, there was management in place. The full-time manager left in mid-November, so while we hired a new full-time manager, two staff with a combined eight years of Fed Hall experience became joint managers. Both were present at the New Year's event. As for sign-in, we've moved away from the traditional sign-in procedure to using license swiping machines. As well, since the fall term, certain events, particularly concerts, have been open both to students and the community to make them financially viable to run. We informed the university of this change before enacting it.

#### Management Conflict

On Monday, January 6th, a few hours before Fed Hall was to open for Fed 102, the university called a meeting with the Federation of Students. At that meeting, they demanded that a new management structure that they had crafted be implemented, or they would immediately shut down our bar operations. At that time, we decided to accept the arrangement, but we would not sign an agreement instituting it indefinitely because the new arrangement violated previous legal agreements we had with the university.

We contacted our lawyer and had him draft a letter to the university expressing our

concerns about the forced arrangement and asking the university to account for it. A letter from the university's lawyer came back, which did not address our concerns or the legal agreements that had been violated. We sent another letter restating our concerns and asking for them to be addressed. We stated that we would not continue with the management arrangement forced on us under duress by threatening the closure of our bars.

This ultimately led to a meeting being scheduled by Amit Chakma with the Feds President on a Friday afternoon for the following Monday morning. It fell on the time of our weekly executive meeting. When the other executive and General Manager learned of the newly scheduled meeting, we became worried that this meeting would parallel the meeting we had earlier, only that this time, nothing short of signing the agreement would keep the bars open. We asked him to get an agenda from the Provost for the meeting so we'd know what was going to be discussed, but he refused. Either the Feds President met him at the scheduled time, or a decision on our operations was to be made without us. We decided that attending would only legitimize the tactics they were using to force us accept the arrangement they wanted, and thus refused to attend.

We received a letter that afternoon explaining that our establishments would no longer be able to serve alcohol as of midnight, January 20th, 2003.

#### Our Response

The response of the Federation of Students has perhaps been the most controversial part of the whole ordeal. Many people have stated that we should be working in a more conciliatory manner with the university and that we are currently destroying our relationship with them. The relationship was destroyed when the university decided to use strong-arm tactics with us to get the management changes they wanted instead of by discussing issues of concern with us. Conciliation cannot occur when one party will not acknowledge that legal arrangements have been broken. People are right when they state that the Feds are greatly overpowered by the university, but they are wrong to believe that we cannot win battles against them; we're equals in the eyes of the law. I have personally spoken very strongly about the potential of taking the university to court, which has concerned some students. This is not the option we would like to pursue, but it must be out there. Much of the reason our public response has been so strong and radical is to ensure that the university believes we are willing to go that far. If they didn't believe so, they might make an attempt to 'call our bluff', forcing legal action.

The campus bars will return to the students soon, and we would like nothing more than for them to be open. However, we will not trade the long-term viability of our operations for a short-term solution to get them open. The Bomber and Fed Hall have been an integral part of campus life for decades, and they shall be for decades to come.

## Questions for Candidates (Part 3)

...continued from Page 14.

ty. I want to be where the students are. I intend to continue visiting places on campus where students are, as we all have done this campaign and get their feedback on important issues to the Feds.

Further, I think the internet can provide the bridge necessary for students to get involved in their student union. I look forward to hearing their views online at feds.ca in the same way we hear students views at uwstudent.org already.

Q: When you talk about the Software Development Service, the biggest hurdle seems to be technical support for the software after the software is completed. This is why the University hires external companies to do this and I was wondering how you would address this.

A: I think the support argument is an underestimation of what open-source software can provide. First, I'm proposing the service be sustainable itself. Both volunteer and co-op students will be involved in the continued maintenance of this code. Further, open-source does not preclude outside contractors, it just allows for the Feds to seek out new contractors when need arises. Since the source is open we can use either a paid contractor from an outside firm or a student volunteer to maintain the code. That the Feds will be involved at the top-level will provide the organization link necessary to make it succeed.

A number of organizations use custom

web code already. EngSoc's webpage is dynamic and uses php. MathSoc's exam bank is another example. These students are working all over campus individually and I want to assist them in their goals by providing them resources and connections. It would be foolish of me to ignore the well-established infrastructure like the Computer Science Club in this goal. I hope to work with them and other like-minded students and organizations to provide the skill and education necessary to make this a success.

#### David Capper's responses:

Q: What is your background? What have you done?

A: I am a fourth year planning student in 4B. I have been an active student leader here at UW over the last four years. These are some of the accomplishments I have had in that time: Residence Don at Ron Edyt Village, Federation of Students Orientation Committee Chair for the Faculty of Environmental Studies, Imprint Photo Editor, Faculty of Environmental Studies Frosh Leader. Outside of school I am very passionate about two things snowboarding and photography.

Q: What is the purpose of the federation of students, in your opinion?

A: I believe the Feds is an organization that is elected to represent the interests of the students. I believe it is the responsibility of the Feds to provide strong, visionary leadership and to act in a manner that is accountable and fair to the student body.

Q: A very important topic is the issue of student apathy. Why should we vote?

A: Everyone in this school should vote in order to strengthen the validity of the organization chosen to represent them. It is extremely hard, for Feds, to be taken seriously when the representatives have been voted in by 12% of the student body. I encourage everyone to vote for whom they think is the best candidate.

Q: What makes you different from the other candidates running for your position? In addition, what are you going to add to position?

A: All the candidates that are running for the VPAF position are, in my opinion, are fully qualified for the job. I think however that I bring people skills to the position. Dealing with students, in a multitude of ways, has been a great part of my University experience and I think that this has provided me with a thorough understanding of the concerns of students. I am going to add a more creative spin to the role of VPAF. I think the position does not have to be one of number crunching and accounting rather it can be one where creative ideas for advertising the Feds businesses and services.

Q: I notice that there can be a lot of things we miss if we don't go to the SLC all the time (which actually does happen for quite a number of students) what are your plans to reach out to those people?

A: My platform calls for greater communi-

cation and visibility amongst students at UW. With this goal in mind I feel that I will be able to reach all corners of our University and will not be restricted to the SLC. This will best be achieved by getting out, being where the students are and being involved in the things that matter to students. I have been doing this for the last four years and I truly believe that it is something I will carry into the position of VPAF.

Q: You talk about Ground Zero as a possibility of new ideas. What about increasing advertisement of the current Ground Zero facilities? They seem to be perfectly fine, yet it's not crowded. Why?

There have been a number of attempts by previous executives to find ways in which to increase student use of GZ. These have however failed. Some of the solutions have been to increase advertising, decrease the hours of operations and change the products being offered, these however been unsuccessful in increasing student usage. In my mind that illustrates that students do not value, or get use out of a service like ground zero. I believe that Feds have been subsidizing GZ for too long and should make a change to the service being offered. Lets find a solution that students will value, one that they will use and more importantly one that can operate in a sustainable manner without the need for operating subsidies.

**Editor's Note:** Other candidates were not available for comment, but please visit [www.feds.ca](http://www.feds.ca) and look at their platforms and issues as well.

## Events

## Waterloo Stands Out at OEC

Jeff Henry

## Offstream Comp



Twenty-nine of our fellow engineering students had their sights set on the Ontario Engineering Competition held at the University of Western Ontario over last weekend. They arrived fired up and ready to knock down the competition, to show the rest of the province Waterloo Engineering prowess - and they did not come home disappointed.

Tuesday's daily bulletin touted "Engineers triumph in competition" as we came home with trophies in four of the six available categories: Editorial Communications, Explanatory Communications, Parliamentary Debate, and Entrepreneurial Design (the others being Corporate Design and First Year Team Design).

As parliamentary debate category participant Bobby Naini put it: "As all of the contestants at this year's OEC event could attest to, it was a [truly] exciting and memorable event ... that once again served to reinforce the outstanding quality of the students who participated."

Indeed, the best came from as far as Queens and Lakehead to compete for glory and gold. Well, not exactly gold, but \$6250 in total prize money will help many of the competitors afford that 15% tuition increase - at least for this year.

But the entire weekend was not spent in competition. From the Opening Banquet, through the enthused employer booths at the Career Fair, to the Awards Banquet and the activities that followed the events, the serious competitors were on breaks, using the many opportunities to make contacts, relax, and enjoy the experience.

For all of you who thought about turning in an application and didn't, remember to watch for announcements next fall. Who knows, you could win big in competition or you might meet your next coop or post-graduate employer. You will definitely have a good time.

Congratulations to all who competed this year (complete listing below). And for Jay Detsky, Laura Naismith, Amy LaFrance, and Heidi Collins: best of luck at the Canadian Engineering Competition in St. Johns, Newfoundland.

- Explanatory Communications of complex technical issues or processes:  
Jay Detsky (SyDe) - Real-Time Magnetic Resonance Imaging (1st)  
Edmund Ng (ComE) - Full-Rate Speech Compression in 2G Wireless Systems

- Entrepreneurial Design of a marketable product or service not currently available in Canada:  
Laura Naismith, Amy LaFrance, Heidi Collins

(SyDe) - EMG Simulation and Data Acquisition (2nd)  
Dimpy Gupta, David Maslach, Mei Kueen Tamkei (ChE) - Nimbin Scale-up  
Gabriel Chan, Samer Sawaya, Joanne Tong (SyDe) - Greenhouse Planning and Management Application

- Editorial Communications of personal viewpoints on social, economic and environmental consequences of current technological issues:

Sonya Konzak (ComE) - Tar Sands Oil Extraction (3rd)

Jeff Alfonsi (SyDe) - Kyoto Now! Kyoto How?

Grant Woolliams (EE) - Clean Electricity: Emerging Reality or Environmental Dream?

- Parliamentary Debate of a previously-

undisclosed resolution:

Lawrence Lam, Bobby Naini (ComE) (tie 3rd)

James Gannon, Geoff Rawle (SyDe) (tie 3rd)

Mohit Sharma, Matt Stevens (ChE)

- Team Design by first-year engineering students presented with a previously-undisclosed design problem:

Stephanie Chow, Devin Koopmans, William Lam, Panu (Jay) Turcot (SyDe)

Lisa Chen, Matthew Ho, Puneet Khanduri, King Y. (Kevin) Yip (EE)

- Corporate Design of a solution to a problem faced by a recognized Canadian corporation:

Nick Cristello (SyDe) - Hexplorer 2002: A Six-Legged Walking Robot



Professor Roydon Fraser of UW, the OEC Advisory Board and the Sandford Fleming Foundation with some of Waterloo's award winners at the OEC. Left to right: Professor Fraser, Lawrence Lam, Bobby Naini, Sonya Konzak, Geoff Rawle, Heidi Collins, Laura Naismith, James Gannon and Amy LaFrance. Absent: Jay Detsky.

## the Iron Inquisition

James Schofield, 1B Computer and Naoreen Hasan, 2A Chemical

"What do you think about the online strikable fees system?"



"Bad idea. No one's going to pay if you make it too easy."

Justin - 3B Systems



"Terrible. It seems typical of PC organizations. Fees are good for maintaining the network of the school."

Amy Lafrance - 4B Systems



"Bad idea. Think Quest."

Andre Masella - 1B Comp



"Why not? Easier to get your money back."

Mark Hemsworth - 4B Mech



"Advance in Technology = One Step Closer to Self-Annihilation of the human race."

Chun Lam - 2A Chem



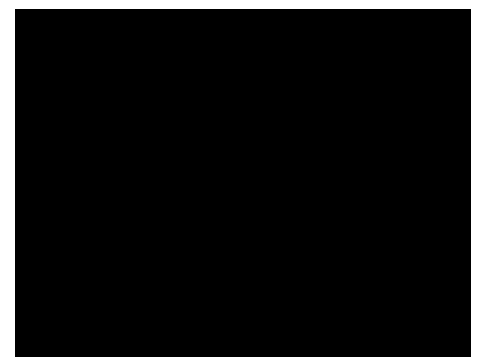
"Definitely Handy!"

Tania Hercun - 4B Chem



"I think some fees should be optional but doing this may cause services to suffer."

Jade - 2A Chem



Ed: Due to service cutbacks we had to leave this space blank.