

# the IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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LowRider tells you what you need

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Left: EngSoc Passport. Right: Fluid Mechanics. One of these books is fun. The other, not so much.

## EngSoc passport - Your passport to play!



NICK LAWLER  
PRESIDENT

While I was serving as VP-External back in 2004 I attended the CFES (Canadian Federation of Engineering Students) Congress in Victoria, BC. While talking about ways to improve EngSoc events, spirit, etc., I was told about an excellent program running at Carleton University in Ottawa. They distributed small booklets in all of their frosh kits. These booklets had all of the EngSoc events for the whole school term (Eight months, no co-op at Carleton). By attending events you got your Passport stamped, each valued a particular point value. By accumulating enough points you were able to purchase your "flight suit", which are basically coveralls with the Carleton EngSoc logo all over them. It was a big privilege to be seen in your coveralls, since you earned the points to do it.

I thought that was a great idea. The problem was doing it at Waterloo. Since we are changing every four months, and

are societies are separate, it would be very difficult to coordinate such a task. Furthermore, it's very difficult to pre-plan event days, months in advance, in order to have everything in time for printing. I put the project on the backburner until I became your President in January 2005. That same month I attended the 2005 version of CFES Congress, this time hosted by UofT. At this conference the

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*"... go out and get your Passport ... promote it to your friends"*

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University of Saskatchewan had made Passports, using Carleton's idea. This inspired me to make it here at Waterloo. I knew it would be a difficult task, but I knew my execs and I were up the task. As a result we planned the entire term during the Winter co-op term, and pushed the Passports into production.

For the Waterloo passports, I've borrowed UofS' prizes. Similar to old letterman's jackets, UofS' EngSoc gives out the letter "E" to people who can earn enough points. If you are able to earn 150 points, you will get a gold letter "E" with the term printed on it. 300 points gets you the gold letter, plus a black one. These can be placed anywhere you like, backpack, coveralls, leather jackets, you get to decide. The Passport is like your personal P\*\*5 contest. If you can get to that level, you are honoured enough to wear the patch.

You may be thinking, this Passport is only for the hardcore EngSoc types. Well, no it's not. It is a complete listing of our events, so if you are only interested in a few events, you always have a guide letting you know about them, and maybe in the process you can learn about others that you may like to do.

I call on every one of you to go out and get your Passport, they are available in the Orifice (CPH 1327) during business hours. Plus promote it to your friends and classmates, the time you spend earning your undergraduate degree should be both enriching and pleasurable. I'm sure you remember the motto from Frosh Week, engineers work hard and play hard, and this Passport is your passport to play.

## Coming to a POETS near you!



SHELDON PETRIE  
4A MECHANICAL

Another term is upon us and it is time once again to welcome you all back for what will be a great term.

For the term, the managers and programmers have been working to come up with new ideas for the programming schedule and to find new uses for POETS aside from a movie theater. It is hoped that it can become more of a lounge again, where people can socialize, play cards, and, as always, study.

But, first things first. The past 4 months have seen some big changes in a layout of POETS, most notably was the relocation of the large wooden table-tops from the sides of main seating area to the back where the dartboard and foosball is, and to the upstairs study area. Also, the main bar has had some fantastic work done to the countertop, with labels of all the popular and not-so-popular beers served in POETS placed beneath a plexiglass cover.

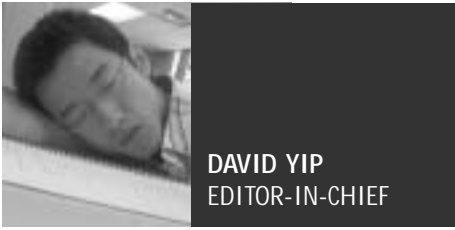
All of the work described above was done by the ever faithful B-Soc, but alas some work was also done by the A-Soc, mainly dealing with the sound system and the running of conduit to all of the speakers to protect the wires, and to verify that all of the speakers were working. The new IRS clock has been delayed several weeks and will hopefully be up and running by MOT at the very latest. It will feature the old clock in a new housing, and a brand new 5-year countdown to feature all current classes countdown. B-Soc has also bought a toaster for patrons to use, so we can finally toast our C&D bagels! Also, new metal bar stools have been brought in and the old ones have been relegated to the upstairs and back of the POETS.

Now for the programming changes we are hoping to implement. Starting now, there will be no more than 4 days of movie-based programming per week. Alternate programming ideas are also being explored such as an all-music afternoons, karaoke, SpikeTV day. In the event that these efforts fail spectacularly, movies will likely be returned, but we still would like to encourage people to come out to POETS and have fun. As always, Bar Services will be available on Thursdays and Fridays from noon till 4 pm.

POETS is always available for booking after 5 pm most days. Please see Betty in the Orifice to fill out a booking form.

Comments and suggestions can be sent to the POETS management at [poets@eng-mail](mailto:poets@eng-mail).

# Letter from the Editor



DAVID YIP  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Issue I. Issue I was a bit hectic. Having taken an enormously enjoyable and irresponsible trip to Florida, I showed up on campus a week late, cutting into production by week. The end result is what you see here, which I cannot say is too shabby, having managed to fill 12 pages with content. This is just as well, as BSoc editor James Schofield answered this issue's Iron Inquisition with "An 8-page Iron Warrior". Pictures take up a fair bit of this issue, serving the purposes of reporting a bit of news, indulging my photo habit, as well as taking up valuable space.

Now, the trip to Florida. Everyone else on the trip was blissfully unaware the world of co-op, and summer for them meant summer in the traditional sense, that is, no school. I was the only co-op student there, meaning I was the only one with three rapidly filling email boxes by the end of the trip, two personal ones and of course the one of this paper. A good trip however, we flew into West Palm Beach just as my classmates were starting ME303 and experiencing the dazzling introduction to partial differential equations. True to the occasion, we sampled some super good tropical beer, and went for a driving tour of West Palm Beach's poshest homes.

We drove down to Miami's famous South Beach, where unfortunately being a weekday, none of South Beach's noted skin show was on show.

We then headed down to Key West over US Route 1, where Arnold Schwarzenegger famously declared "Za breedge is ouuuut!" in the film *True Lies*. The spirit of Key West is idyllic, I'm not actually sure what people who live there do. Downtown Key West is souvenir stores filled with tacky souvenirs. "Florida invented tacky souvenirs!" claims my roommate, and I'm inclined to believe him. Key West is also filled with bars. Not having heard anything about Key West prior to going, I'm fairly sure that one of

the main attractions of Key West is the series of bars that are present.

We also waded out into the Gulf of Mexico with random bits of sea life, but as none of my companions had any background in marine zoology, they remained random bits of sea life. Still, every vacation has to end, and Friday at 3 am saw me at West Palm Beach airport again. Taking advantage of free wifi, I popped into my email boxes, and then it all began. MSN messages from the Waterloo set spoke of the whisperings that occurred at BOT of my disappearance. Emails asked when the



What the heck is that? I had no clue.

meetings where, when the deadlines where, how much are ads, etc, etc. All of a sudden it seemed the world was crashing down around me. Upon my return someone told me that rumblings of a replacement Editor had been heard, should the worst have happened, such as my untimely passing, or my dropping out, or failing, abduction, or any other unappetizing fate.

In hindsight a simple email would have avoided this whole situation, I could have designated the Assistant Editor to run the first meeting, etc, etc. These are all lessons learned, about coordination and communication. So. Communicate people, especially when an engineering student paper is at stake.

Monday brought the completion of my work report and IW meeting no. 1. My faithful contingent of 1B Mechanical students showed up, followed by a surprising number people later. Well, I tried to run the meeting the way I'd seen it run, pegging people for ideas, scouring the Internet, accepting drawings, asking the more experienced folk what they've seen

before. I thought back to my first IW meeting, and tried to ensure everyone felt somewhat included through the barrage of ASoc / BSoc jokes that I'm sure no first ear (or me) understood. More than once I asked myself "Wow, how did Andre [Previous ASoc editor] do it? It's been an hour and I have three article ideas!" Minor panic occurred sporadically in my head, though hidden under the calm composure practised through a few games of Texas Hold-em. "This leadership thing is no joke!" I mused, in one of my deep intellectual musing sessions. But it is through extracurricular activities such as school teams, papers, clubs and activities that something happens that old-timers call "building character." Because really, anybody can develop some sweet number crunching skills.

Anyway we have respectable issue on hand I think, a new LowRider (Now with pictures!), a somewhat odd description of how I could be potentially stalked by one of the writers, a pair of album reviews (I also recommend "Heart" also by Stars). The dislike of PDEng is also covered in both verse and prose in one issue; hopefully with feedback during the the PDEng feedback sessions, things will improve and future editors will be seeing prose and verse on the wonders of PDEng. So relax, flip through the paper, it's summer, and put on a tune. Take our new President's advice and grab a Passport, I think it's quite an idea really, and heck, come write for the paper and I'll initial your Passport for ya, it's worth 50 points towards the E. It's also my honour to welcome Architecture to engineering, hopefully we will see some written insights from them in coming issues.

Finally, I apologize for the rambling nature of this editorial, it comes through months of undisciplined writing on LiveJournal, and looming deadlines. Enjoy the paper!

#### Questions? Comments?

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

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

## IRON WARRIOR

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# YOU!

If you want to contribute ANYTHING AT ALL,

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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.

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# LowRider: All you need is LOW.



LOWRIDER  
3A SYSTEMS

Dear LowRider,

The paper and its readership are clamouring for LowRider. I'm afraid I can't hold them back much longer! Are you going to grace IW Issue I with your presence? If so, please let me know. Submit deadline is Sunday.

With Love,  
IW Ed.

Dear Ed the Sock,

I'm back ladies and gentlemen. I'm here to stay. That old fart chemmie is long gone. Everyone just relax. Keep your pants on. You had better believe I'm gracing your pages Mr. Editor. Submission deadline? Come on now. Your worldly deadlines don't pertain to LowRider. You should know that. You'll get your articles you can be sure of that. With Love? Love is such a strong word. Do you love me like my Grandmother? I don't want none of that buddy. I think you should refer to your friendly thesaurus more often cause your grammar and punctuation and word choice and run-on-sentences are absolutely horrific. You should definitely take some lessons from me, you're friendly neighborhood LowRider. Love should only be reserved for such things like the LowRider Fan Club Groupie Chicks love for LowRider. Now we're talking.

\_LR\_

Hey Low Rider,  
You're hankerchief is super sexy and I love your column in the Iron Warrior - I just can't wait for the first issue to come out this term so I can read all the insightful things you say and swoon. I want to get my boyfriend a hankie just like yours, so that he can be as cool as you.

Where did you get it?

LowRiderSuperFan

Dear Groupie Chick,  
Let's get something straight here. A hankerchief is something that you blow your nose in. Like the one your grandpa carries around. Do you think I wear a red snot rag around my head? Come on now.

I'm glad you're feeling the BANDANA. You don't have to pretend you have a boyfriend Groupie Chick. Even if you had a boyfriend he wouldn't even be close to an eighth of a quarter of a sixteenth as cool as LowRider is.

Look for the story of the BANDANA nest issue.

\_LR\_

Dear LowRider,  
I love the University of Waterloo very, very much. Engineering is sooooo cool. ETRW! I barely passed my first term here but I got this sick tattoo of the tool the entire length of my back (Just between you and I it's a temporary one that my mom did

for me). It even has rigid and fifty inches written on it. I wanna be as cool as you someday and maybe even live in that Palace they call Unit 36. I also drive this sick honduh civic with a big pointless wing and sideways tin can exhaust pipe that sounds like it farts. It adds 59 horsepower. I want to be one of those super cool guys that wears those coveralls and looks tough chained to that extremely long wrench. Where do I apply?

-Illuv Skoole



Damn! Now that's LOW.

Dear Mr. School,  
Nice name buddy. You're hopeless. Go to U of T where you'll fit in better. I hear they have a great Breakfast club and a stupid little cannon. Don't waste my time.

\_LR\_

'Till next time keep it low kids.

Have a problem? Need advice?  
Email LowRider at  
[uw\\_lowrider@hotmail.com](mailto:uw_lowrider@hotmail.com)

## Engplay!

PATRICK BROWN  
4A MECHANICAL

Well, it's that time of the term again. The point where you ask yourself if you are just a one-dimensional engineer. Do you wonder if you have any talents other than being able to do a triple integral in your head? Can you do something besides translating binary code into English?

Now's your chance to find out. The Engplay is back!

Now, there is a distinct possibility that auditions may be over by the time you pick up this edition of the Iron Warrior.

Never fear. There are many ways to join in the fun. One of which is to come to the directors and producers to beg and plead to be able to help out with technical duties. We'll consider it for about a nanosecond or so, and then gladly take your soul for the rest of the term so that we can put on a play that rocks.

For those of you who came out last term to see the production we put on last term, all those laughs and great fight scenes were actually rehearsed beforehand.

We put in a lot of effort, and it showed in a pretty successful production. I would love to see the same thing this term. This is only possible with the hard work that students like you loyal readers are willing to take the time for. I hope to see many of you come out in auditions or to help out with sets, lighting and all other background duties that no one ever notices.

And hey, for those who become part of the Engplay Family, the party at the end isn't bad.

## The new pope Habemus papam



ANDREW DODDS  
1B MECHANICAL

Out of some 6 billion people on this small planet, over 1.1 billion of them call themselves Catholics. This means that they believe the words of the Holy Scripture, attend mass, and follow the Pope. Recently, John Paul II passed away after decades of papacy, marked by more beatifications (step 1) and canonizations (step 2, for sainthood) than his five predecessors, and over 100 visits outside the Vatican state to spread the Word of God to all people of the world. He knew that his time was up, refusing to have any help with surviving longer, save for the one feeding tube. Before he passed on, he managed to make a comment on the state of the faith: it has become too weak, and too liberal. The Catholic Church must stand strong and not waver on its beliefs and values.

After only 4 votes at the secret conclave of Cardinals, white smoke signified the election of a new Pope. Joseph Ratzinger of Germany, the first German Pope since the 11th century, was about to begin his papacy. Many wondered who might become the next Pope; would he be more liberal, would he be of a visible minority, would he be Canadian?

It came as a great surprise at first that after only 4 votes the election, with no clear frontrunner, was already over. It shocked Ratzinger too, who had prayed that he would not be chosen. "Evidently this time He didn't listen to me." What did not come as a surprise later was that the new Pope would hold fast to the conservative values of the church, and of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Ratzinger took the name Pope Benedict XVI, after Benedict, who in the world of Popes was not a man to rattle the faith, or to do anything to upset it. Some are upset with this continuation of conservative influence in the Catholic Church.

With ever-growing issues including AIDS in Africa, teen pregnancies, and the continued progress towards gender equality, many were hoping that the new Pope might address issues such as contraceptives, birth control, and women beginning to lead the faith as opposed to just following it. Others dislike the choice of a man who, although drafted into Hitler's Nazi army at 14, advanced through many divisions and only finally deserted mere months before the campaign of evil was brought to an end.

The choice has been made, and it cannot be changed. The Catholic Church has never been an institution of change, and with 1 out of 6 people on earth being followers of this strict faith, it would appear that the steadfastness and reliability of Catholicism still has something to offer the lost souls of men and women. At 78, Pope Benedict XVI will not likely be around for as long a papacy as Pope John Paul II, and so while his unwavering faith is not of contestation, there will be the possibility of change sooner than you think.

Truly though, if you do not agree with the leader, figurehead, or Voice of God for your religion, you would be best to rethink your allegiance; there is always a place for everyone in the world of God, regardless of which of God you subscribe to.

# Living the iLife: MATT ZULAK on the Apple iProducts



MATT ZULAK  
1B SYSTEMS

It starts innocently enough; "It's just an iPod," you think. Little do you know, that innocent looking iPod is a single cog in Apple's nefarious plan to win your heart, mind and wallet. But don't panic, there are certainly worse fates in life than to be addicted to Apple products.

Through a combination of excellent hardware, hip advertising and a dash of dumb luck, Apple, has come to more or less own the entirety of the MP3 player market. While this monopoly is impressive in itself, Apple's music players are only the beginning; referred to as "the

halo effect" by those in the know, the iPod was ultimately meant to build brand loyalty and public image for Apple, paving the way for further hardware sales. After all, if Apple could design such an awesome interface for a lowly music player, imagine what they could do with an entire computer. Indeed, now with a bevy of reasonably priced products such as the iBook and Mac Mini, Apple has been seizing disenfranchised Windows users and iPod fanatics left and right.

For the first time in the company's history, a combination of cheap hardware, a solid operating system and wide third-party support, has allowed Apple to produce a number of

viable alternatives to the Windows dominated world. Somewhat like the Matrix, it is difficult to explain what is so great about the Macintosh; however, fear not, I have done my best to transfer the rationale behind my raging Apple zealotry to paper:

1. It just works. By keeping an autocratic grip on its hardware, Apple can assure an unmatched integration between its computers and operating system. The result is a very consistent and intuitive user-experience. Hardware is almost always automatically detected without the need to install drivers and mundane tasks such as system maintenance are automated to ensure the continued operation of one's computer with absolutely no effort.



iPod.



Paul Bisanti (3A Mechanical) ponders poker behind sunglasses in POETS. Poker is one of the many non-movie activities planned at POETS this term.

2. The most metrosexual computers ever. One can give a number of compliments to IBM's ThinkPads, but pretty wouldn't be on the list; by contrast, the iBook is pretty like a girl. Apple's hardware is just plain better looking than anything else on the market. Smooth curves, inviting white plastic, and backlit keyboards are just some of the design niceties that Apple has included in their computers. I've lost count of the number of classmates who have wandered up to my iBook after lectures, just to 'ooh' and 'aah' over its curvy design and flashy operating system. This is the sort of computer that belongs in martini culture.

3. Unix without all the work. By virtue of its NextSTEP lineage, the Mac OS (OS X) runs atop a version of BSD called Darwin. In addition to bestowing a remarkable level of stability and power to the OS, OS X's unix underpinnings also make compiling and installing Linux software trivially simple. This provides the Mac with a practically limitless software library, ranging from powerful command line tools such as nmap and fortune to open-source staples such as the GIMP and OpenOffice to all sorts of esoteric technical software, such as VHDL simulators and statistical analysis packages.

4. 95% of all single women are attracted to guys who use a Macintosh. I can not stress this enough: 95%, guys.

Apple has managed to produce computers that are just plain better than anything else on the market. With iPods being as pervasive as they are (What's that? 92% market share), it is only a matter of time before the halo effect sinks in and dissatisfied customers make the switch away from Windows, because really, people deserve better.

And remember: 95% of all single women are attracted to guys who use a Macintosh; that's like, almost 100%.

iBook \$1639  
Mac mini: \$599  
iPod 20 GB: \$369  
All at CampusTechShop.

Send your arguments supporting AMD and Windows to: [iwarrior@engmail](mailto:iwarrior@engmail)

## Bonjour Brioche: French cuisine with attitude



CINDY BAO  
4A ELECTRICAL

Bonjour Brioche  
812 Queen St. East  
Toronto, ON  
416 406-1250

Entree + coffee or juice  
Plus tax and tip: \$15

While enrolled in co-op, we often found ourselves landed in unfamiliar locations. Besides the jobs themselves, the local atmosphere contributes as much to how well we enjoy the work term. For me, the encounter with culinary wonders often makes the difference.

So I thought it would be a good idea to share my knowledge of good (or maybe not so good) restaurants found outside the Kitchener/Waterloo region in case your next job takes you to one of the cities I have lived, which happens to be very few.

If you gentle readers have some favourite places of your own, please share with us through the Iron Warrior.

Ok, somewhere close to home sounds like a good to start. For Toronto's Queen Street, east is the new west. Even though new restaurants are opening rather frequently around the Leslieville neighbourhood these days, it is this tried and true establishment that really captures my heart (and stomach).

Bonjour Brioche, a café with a distinctive French accent, offers pastries and brunches. There is always a line of customers on a weekend morning. For a place where they can merely squeeze in less than ten tables, it gets rather crowded. In the summer time, a small patio is open on the DeGrassi St. side, which doesn't help much for the crowd relief. Yet, the food is always worth the wait.

The menu is fairly extensive and not the egg-and-bacon-and-home fries you find at some local greasy spoons. The gourmet sandwiches runs about \$5-7, but I admit that I have never tried any, not when they are more enticing items available. Scrambled egg on a bed of rosti potatoes and a slice of smoked salmon is a popular choice (\$8.50). Garnished with

chives, a dollop of creamy horseradish and a small drop of caviar, the presentation definitely whet your appetite. If you have a sweet tooth, there is the baked French toast (\$6.5 or \$7). It is very dense, almost bread pudding like, layered with cinnamon and caramelized sugar. It is recommended that you share it with someone as the portion is definitely generous compared to their other offers.

The café features soup, quiche, omelet and savoury tart du jour, written on the two chalkboards. The tarts (\$7.50), usually a selection of five varieties or so, are my personal favourite. The flaky pastry holds a trio of ingredients, (always one kind of cheese and two other what-have-you) generally creates a great harmony. The portion is small, but it is rich and packed with flavour, so every bite counts. On the side is a wedge of baguette and house salad. The vinaigrette, slightly sweet with a citrus touch (I always wanted to but never exactly figure out the ingredients), is a perfect match for the baby greens in the salad. However, for all my visits, the butter on my baguette is clearly straight out of the fridge and hard to spread.

Among the bakery selections, the

croissants and baguettes are their staple best sellers, but don't undermine their desserts, either. The very French almond pear pie is also memorable. Thinly sliced pear tops a ground almond paste similar to marzipan, all in a lovely pie shell, although it has just a bit too much sugar for my liking.

Unfortunately, a few things hold back the place from perfection. It appears more than one person have complained about the services. On the one occasion when I dined alone, my request for a glass of water didn't come until I almost finished my meal. As well, the place does not take anything except cash, which is a great inconvenience for a culture so heavily reliant on plastic. I will not even go into the details of the time I almost had to call home for rescue, even though it's a two-minute walk away. Last, you can take the gal out of the café but you can't take the café out of the gal. After a meal, you will smell smoky and buttery for hours from the heavily fumed air.

For a great meal, I am definitely willing to overlook the flaws and if you happen to be around the neighbourhood, remember to pay Bonjour Brioche a visit.

## POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

## Is PDEng valuable to students?

KRISTI HERLEIN  
1B CHEMICAL

Perhaps the most controversial issue facing the faculty of engineering at the University of Waterloo in the coming year is the question of Professional Development for Engineers, or PDEng, the mandatory online course which has caused outrage and almost-vandalism, from the most recent engineering cohort. Though considered an advantageous proposal if properly implemented; there are currently many problems regarding the new course's delivery.

PDEng was scheduled to end in March, leaving ample time for the completion of work reports, however final makeup assignments were due six days before the beginning of classes, and before all of the corresponding makeup assignments had even been marked.

Certain PDEng mentors were also described as behaving in an accusatory manner towards students curious about the status of assignments and due dates. Often, students had their sincere questions met with personal attacks on the grounds that those who had properly learned the material of PDEng would never have asked these questions.

Many students have complained about some of the course content. A large amount of the material is unnecessary and some students believe that this is a course which could have been finished in five modules, but was stretched over nine. The presentation is also flawed, it invites you to skim over the material and forget it as soon as you submit. A highly scientific poll shows that eight out of fourteen people passed the course by doing everything at the last minute and learned little of the content. Additionally, much of the content was available too late in the term to be helpful to students, forcing them to complete assignments about things that they had already learned in the first few weeks of their jobs.

"Checking in with Chris, Eric, Farrah and Yin"; this is a phrase that many first year students have learned to hate. It was my happiest hour in PDEng when I was able to criticize one of these fictional students, and his or her many mistakes, and receive marks for doing so. These characters were meant to show some of the mistakes students make on work terms, however Chris and Eric were so arrogant and unrealistic that they not only failed to represent the average engineering student,

but personally offended me by showing what the creators of PDEng thought would appeal to most students.

PDEng requires a 75% "average" to pass the course. This seems perfectly reasonable, because it ensures that you know your material. However, within each module of about 5 assignments, if you get below 75% on one assignment, you need to do the assignment again and complete an additional makeup assignment. This means that you could theoretically get 100% on four of five modules, a 70% on one of them, and you would have to do the makeup assignment and do the assignment over. That's correct. For a module where your average is 95%, you need to do two more assignments in order to pass the module. However, since you don't see an actual marking scheme until you fail a module and they show the scheme to you on a screen that you may not discover until halfway through the course, getting a perfect mark on four of five modules is not that realistic. In a more likely scenario, you could get 100% on two assignments that are simply marked for completion, 80% on two modules marked by the mentors, and 70% on a third assignment. In this case, your average would be 86%, and you will still need to redo the assignment and a makeup. This system could cause many people who are clearly competent to fail the course.

There was a student who was a PDEng mentor last term at the forum on Thursday to offer the perspective of the people running PDEng. He commented on the fact that 65% of the students completed every assignment with at least 75% on their first attempt. This seems to show that 75% was a reasonable passing grade for the course. However, someone asked whether this included makeup assignments. He replied that this statistic did, in fact, include makeup and final makeup assignments. Since you needed to pass all the assignments in all the modules to complete the course, this means that only 65% of students taking the course passed before their files were reviewed by the director.

PDEng suffers from inferior content and poor course development. It was presented in way that was of little use to most students, yet a few mistakes could put our ability to graduate on hold. Until these and the many other problems are addressed, the words, "PDEng: Good Idea, Poor Implementation" will be the most accurate words to describe this course

"Here's a benchmark. Good."  
- Eric Sellars - 1B Geo

## A mostly harmless movie review

FRANCIS HOPE  
4A ELECTRICAL

## The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

The trouble with doing a movie based on a book that has such a hardcore following, as "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" is two questions: Can the movie ever really be good as the book? Or if it deviates slightly from the book, then it is ruining the 'artistic integrity' of the original? Well to answer both questions, the movie not quite as amusing as the book,

and follows the book very well, but not perfectly.

Those who have not read the book or do not have a dry British humour (if you like TV shows such as Blackadder or the movie Shaun of the Dead you have a British sense of humour), as I do, may be a little little disappointed. The jokes in the film are very convoluted and strange but at the same time hilarious. There are a lot of inside jokes for people that have read the books, but the movie will also appeal to those that have not read the book too.

Now if you haven't seen the film and you have no idea what it's about from the strange tagline "Don't Panic" I will tell you what it is. The basic premise of the "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" other than "life, the universe and every-

ANDREW DODDS  
1B MECHANICAL

You may not know it, and probably don't notice it, but for all you '09 grads, PDEng is changing you. Don't be afraid. This is a good change. It will make you a better person, garner you much respect, and yes it will hurt like sitting through the last two Star Wars movies.

Back in first term, we were told about PDEng during special information meetings, maybe during GENE 10. They told us how it would make us into professional engineers, and garner us better jobs. It was even said that our seniors had requested the chance to benefit from the program, but no, it was for us and us alone. You may not agree with me, and sometimes I may not agree with me either, but I will still try to make you hate PDEng just a bit less if I can help it.

There was once a day when UW dominated the co-op field, where our students were the most innovative, respected, and productive around. That was years ago, and while we are the world's biggest co-op school today, we don't stand out as much as we used to. It's sort of like how everyone respected Stan Lee when he came out with Spiderman, but nowadays he's mostly seen as just another crazy senile old man. We need to separate ourselves from the pack, and take back the lead, and that is what PDEng is for. Surprising to many of you I imagine, you can actually put PDEng on your resume. Employers might not know what it is, but they'll be interested, and might just interview you to ask about it, and then it's your chance to use the program to full effect. Think about it: companies pay to send their employees to seminars to improve their business skills, and you're offering specific training in many of these skills for free! It's the kind of deal that they know is out there, but always miss out on, like the UW Gift Shop Leather Jacket discount day.

PDEng offers you either a learning experience, or at least a good reminder. How many of you 1Bs didn't benefit from it at all, between ideas on how to make good use of your time on the first day, how to put forward a good argument that your boss could respect, and the help provided to start off your Work Report topic? Yes, those mentors really do help. Sometimes

they were hard to get a hold of. Granted, if you start swearing at them, they will fail you, and you will have to write them an apology to pass, but I know others who asked them for help, and always got just what they needed, even if it wasn't totally PDEng related. It's nice having someone you can check in with who's been there before, for help dealing with that first big assignment or that unbearable co-worker.

Most of all, remember: this is the first time we've done this! Our trip to India was the first round, and we ran into troubles. From classes on the science of measurement, to winding up at a hostel one night that went all Final Destination on us in the worst way, there were problems. I've read through the list of complaints about PDEng, and all the complaints basically deal with the same idea: PDEng needs retooling. Yes, all first attempts do, just as many of us learned after our first midterms that we needed retooling with study habits. We know this, and we will address it. Don't be impatient: it will get better! Honest critiques help to improve the program, and one day it will become such a natural extension of UW Engineering that nobody will think twice about it.

But really, when it comes down to it, whether you're whining and moaning (in unpleasant pain of course) or just sitting back and taking it, you are benefiting from PDEng, whether you realize it or not. The TIET-UW ITTP in India was one of those things that no other university was doing, and we did it first.

Now on our resumes, it will grant us blue box safety, unlike all the other resumes from elsewhere that are identical in all aspects but that. In the same way, you really aren't that different from a U of T or Carleton Engineering student; your resumes look very much the same, and each school boasts its own impressive array of students. While PDEng may be up there next to cold Waterloo summers on your list of most hated things, it is something that employers respect, and will respect you for. Do yourself a favour here: hate it in private, hate it with a friend, but do the fucking work and get your co-op happy end.

**Editor's Note:** The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the authors, the Iron Warrior, or the Engineering Society.

Many of the issues noted by Ms Herlein have been voiced in the first PDEng feedback session on May 12.

Arthur Dent (Martin Freeman), Ford Prefect (Mos Def), Trillian (Zoey Deschanel) who is a human that rejected him at a cocktail party and just happens to be in outer space, the crazy two-headed president of the universe Zaphod Beeblebrox (Sam Rockwell) and Marvin (voice by Alan Rickman) a robot that has been programmed to have the emotion depression.

Is there going to be a sequel to this film? Probably, considering that there are 5 books in the series and they have only made the first film.

So is this film worth watching? Well it's one of those films where you really find it hilarious or mildly amusing, but is still worth watching or at least renting later on.

The main characters in the film are:

## Random horoscopes: Because engineers can get lucky too.



CHARLING LI  
3A MECHANICAL

If today's your birthday: Happy Birthday! You were singled out and blessed by the cosmos for having a birthday which coincides with an IW publishing date. That should be enough of a good thing happening to you. Lucky TV channel for the year: The Shopping Network.

Aries  
3/21-4/19



Don't walk into any brown or grey buildings this week, it could lead to bad things (such as labs or assignments) happening to you. Instead, hang out only at white buildings shaped like sugar cubes/wedding cakes. You will meet attractive members of the sex you prefer from a different faculty. Lucky numbers: 13, 6, 49, 1, 57, 34

*Note: The IW does not take responsibility for any money lost because of these numbers. The IW also reserves the right claim to any money won by the use of these cosmically lucky numbers.*

Leo  
7/23-8/22



In the middle of the week, you will pick a fight with someone close to you. Make sure to use all the emotional weapons you have been gathering. After the fight, you will be closer than ever and together you will journey to new heights in your relationship. Lucky item of clothing: Tiny and / or lacy undergarments

Sagittarius  
11/22-12/21

This week you should only apply to co-op postings located in cities starting with the



letter X, M or Y, lest you upset the karmic balance of the universe. The gods of co-op will be appeased and you will land the job of your dreams, or at least one that pays the average salary. Lucky colors: Puce and mauve

Taurus  
4/20-5/20



Someone you know will reveal an earth-shattering secret, make sure you lend an ear and a friendly shoulder to cry on. Don't forget the voice recorder (your multifunction phone / PDA should suffice) so you have potential blackmail material should the person run for public office or become a dean. Lucky days: Every day this week

Virgo  
8/23-9/22



Someone who is higher up in the academic echelon than you will praise you for your good works should you find the time in your busy schedule to do it. Worry not, this praise is completely unfounded and you will brush it off as yet another schmoie vying for your time and attention. Lucky accessory: Diamond stud-d pendant of your initial

Capricorn  
12/22-1/19



Contrary to popular belief, Capricorns are far from dull and boring. You will, in fact, show the world your wide and crazy inner club-kid this week. Be sure to do it in front of people who can possibly have an influence over your academic or co-op career. They will be sufficiently impressed. Lucky smells: Bergamot and Pine-sol

Gemini  
5/21-6/21

When computing this week, you will



encounter numerous irritating pop-ups. Pay attention to them, because one will lead you to a link which will drastically alter your life for the better, or leave you broke and the victim of identity fraud. You must use your good judgement and feng shui to choose between the two. Lucky health-food lunch: Organic peas and carrots on meatless hotdogs

Libra  
9/23-10/22



Someone unexpected will make contact with you this week. Take this astral opportunity and run with it, for you have nothing to lose when fate is on your side. Consulting with a knowledgeable entity will lead you to the answer. Lucky computer lab: Lever

Aquarius  
1/20-2/18



Your feelings are easily hurt this week. Relax and remember that you are better than the jerks who hurt you. Bundle up in some protective layers because this week will be emotionally and physically cold. Repeat the lucky song in your head for stress relief, and to block out your emotional anguish. Lucky annoying song chorus: "This \*stuff\* is bananas, B-A-N-A-N-A-S!" (Gwen Stefani - Hollaback Girl)

Cancer  
6/22-7/22



You are very motivated to work this week. This will lead to obstacles in your daily activities, however you can navigate the rocks of life with finesse and succeed where others have failed. Lucky brand name piece of clothing: Sean John

Scorpio  
10/23-11/21

You have reached a major turning point in your life, so take the time to consider your

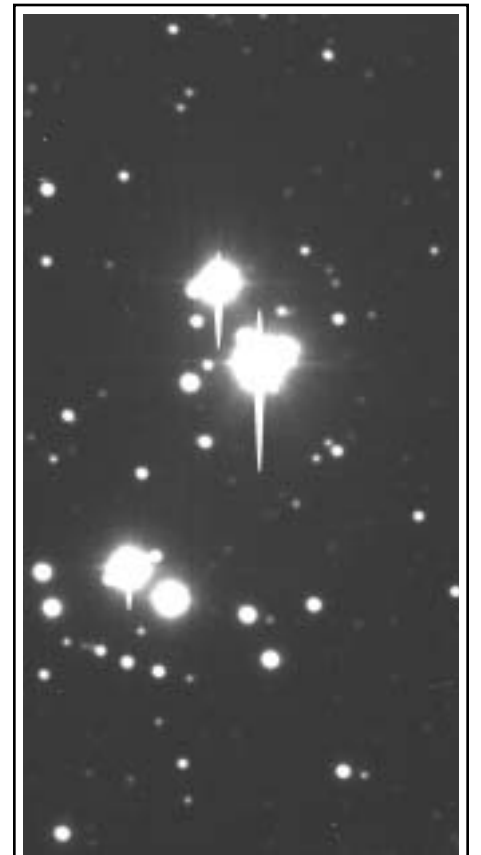


options before you make the final decision. You will not regret taking chances and challenging yourself. You will find the joy of living when you devote yourself to improving the life of others. Lucky magazine: FHM

Pisces  
2/19-3/20



Your appetite will be very variable this week. Make sure you store enough fat in your body to last the cool, rainy weather headed your way. Despite the May showers, you will develop an awesome tan from your computer monitor if you spend enough time surfing through online personals. Lucky online dating website: www.speeddateronline.co.uk



**Stars: Just because 43% of Americans believe in astrology, doesn't mean you have to.**



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

### WELCOME BACK

### Technical Speaker Competition

The Faculty-Level Competition will take place on **Thursday, June 2** at 10:30 a.m. in DWE 2534. The winner of the Faculty Competition will receive \$300 while all other participants receive \$50. Please contact your undergraduate office if you are interested in participating in the Competition.

Refreshments will be served  
Everyone is welcome

\*\*\*\*\*

### Debates

Please contact your department undergraduate office if you are interested in participating in the Sandford Fleming Debates. The winners of the faculty finals receive \$100 each and the runners-up receive \$50 each.

**DATE** July 4, 5, and 6  
**TIME** 11:30 – 1:00  
**PLACE** E2 - 3324

**Finals: Friday, July 8**  
**Noon**  
**Outside POETS (CPH)**

Refreshments will be served at the finals  
Everyone is welcome

## ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

### Engineering welcomes Architecture!



**NICK LAWLER**  
PRESIDENT

Finally, we've gotten around to updating the pictures on the walls, stay tuned as we get them in we will be making many changes to the pictures on the walls. My goal is to have all of the pictures up and ready for Alumni Weekend, June 4th and 5th.

We've got a few new initiatives planned this term, please see my article on the EngSoc Passports in this edition of the IW. I'd like to take this time to welcome the School of Architecture into the Faculty of Engineering. I look forward to working with the School, and their undergrad representatives, WASA (Waterloo Architecture Students Association) as we work together toward their smooth transition into the Faculty. I believe the move offers both the Faculty and the School with an excellent opportunity that will go a long way to strengthen us both.

That's it for me, I wish you all a happy and safe summer term, please check out the other exec reports for more information, and remember to pick up your EngSoc Passport today, it's your passport to fun! (And WEEF is good!)

Welcome back A-Soc! I hope you all had productive and happy work terms. Myself and my fellow exec members have a great deal of fun and relaxation planned for you to experience this term. I can start with POETS. I'm happy to announce that the POETS Patio will be fully licensed while Bar Services is serving starting May 26th and until the end of the term. You can now enjoy the refreshing sunlight, while having a refreshing drink. Also, the outside balcony, which can be accessed by the upstairs study area of POETS will be open 9am to 5pm Monday through Wednesday, and Thursday and Friday mornings (before Bar Services arrives.) We've purchased some furniture and tables for the balcony, so you can study, read a book or just plain relax.

### New online course critiques



**MELINDA HURD**  
VP EDUCATION

bought that nobody in the past has found at all useful. That would be hilarious. You could also scour the internet for scholarship money to make-up for the purchase of that new textbook. That seems tedious though. As luck would have it, scholarships available for an engineering student such as yourself will become easier to find and filter-through in the next week or two... keep your eyes open, more details to come! FREE MONEY!

All jokes aside, there are some new developments from Senate that will be of interest to you if you plan on writing your final exams this term. Final exams will be 2.5 hours instead of 3 hours in August. There will also be 4 time slots per day instead of 3. Do not fret - there are rules in place to ensure that you will not have to write more than 2 exams in a day and they should not be back-to-back.

That's it for now. Party on.

Welcome back to campus and the many remarkable joys of life as an engineering student! The innovative every-day-is-a-new-posting system on jobmine is definitely hectic and the assignments - for those who go to class - are piling up already. Phew, I think I need a break from school.

Do you want to know something fun to do while you're avoiding classes, tutorials, and engineering work in general? You could check out the new online course critiques available on the EngSoc website and laugh about the textbook that you just

### Complementary education courses

**JASON JAGODICH**  
VP EXTERNAL

Welcome back engineers! First of all I would like to thank all of the 300+ engineers and friends who attended BOT. Good times were had by all!

We are off to a great start this term as a wide spectrum of P.O.E.T.S. improvements are beginning to take shape. In just under two weeks time the lower patio section of P.O.E.T.S. will be open Thursday and Friday afternoons. Security is required

during these time periods so wear your red shirts! Anyone interested in helping out with security should talk to myself or Mike 'the beast from the east' Buczkowski. The upstairs patio in P.O.E.T.S will also be open daily excluding Thursday and Friday afternoons.

Along with the patio opening, there will also be a new cabinet installed in P.O.E.T.S. This cabinet will house personalized beer steins which will be sold through Novelties.

As for external activities, there are

### VP Internal Activities Report



**MIKE BUCZKOWSKI**  
VP INTERNAL

Welcome back to everyone, especially to those who survived the hell of both 1A and those in my class the 2B or not 2B. As you can tell the summer term is already off to an amazing start with an incredible BOT! Those of you who were there thanks for coming out it was good to see a packed POETS as usual. Part'A'y Soc is definitely back in da House.

The exec have been working with the Administration to get the POETS patio open during beer hours on Thursdays and Fridays. This will be happening soon, but we need to arrange for security for this so e-mail the POETS managers (poets@eng-

mail) if you're interested. It will likely be rotating shifts so you won't have to give up a drink. You also get a sweet shirt! Second, the upstairs Patio will be open during non-beer hours for chillaxing.

There is tons going to be happening in the next two weeks: Engweek has happened as you are reading this so I hope you enjoyed it and the associated prizes... Today the SCUNT is going down next Friday (May 23/24), make sure you've got your team in, SE(x,y); is organizing it and they are going to do an amazing job. Those of you who don't know what SCUNT is ask an upper year. The Sunday after SCUNT (May 25) there will be a Wheelchair Basketball Tournament to raise money for charity, make sure you get your class teams in there is a sign up sheet in the orifice. Genius Bowl is June 1st as well so get your team ready for that.

Summer goes by quickly... good luck!

### Submit your budget proposals



**SABRINA GIOVINAZZO**  
VP FINANCE

Welcome back everyone! Hope you all had a good work term and are ready for summer. It's going to be packed with lots of fun things, making this a great term!

So EngSoc has all this money from students and nothing to do with it, right? It all goes into my bank account, and I sit and relax on the beach while you guys study away your summer! Not a chance! EngSoc has all of your money and gives it back to you! So how do you get a hold of this money? Easy! Be a director and submit a budget proposal! Directors organize amazing events and all you have to do is ask your VPF for some money to make it all happen! Budget proposal forms can be found in the Orifice and also online (left-hand side, click on "Society"). Then hand them into my mailbox by Friday, May 20th at 4:30pm. The budget will be read at the

next EngSoc meeting, Wednesday, May 25 and you can see where all your money goes.

My office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:30-1:30pm; Tuesday and Thursday at 3:30-4:30pm. I'm usually around the Orifice at lunch or after class and I always check in a few times a day. As always, if you can't get a hold of me, e-mail me (asoc\_vpfin@eng-mail) or leave a message. And if you need help filling out a form, I'd be glad to help!

For those of you who have already spent money and need to be reimbursed, make sure you fill out an expense form. These are also in the Orifice and can be found online. I know how poor students are and how fast you want your money back!

Also, don't forget to buy things in Novelties! Novelties has lots of great engineering things like clothing, steins, mugs and so much more! It's open everyday from 12:30-1:30pm, with Tuesdays from 11:30-1:30. So make sure you stop by and check it out!

And just to bug you one more time... **SUBMIT YOUR BUDGET PROPOSALS ASAP!**

Hope everyone has a great term!

are being offered. Please contact me if you are interested in attending.

Also, the E.S.S.C.O. (Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario) will be holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) from June 10-12 in Ottawa. Anyone interested in attending this event should again contact Gunnerz.

If you have heard about a certain event which may or may not involve a football and some mud, and may or may not be taking place on May the 29th you can sign up with Gunnerz.

*Continued from "Courses" left.*

three CE courses coming up this summer. CE courses are complementary education courses. These courses are run through combined efforts be the CFES (Canadian Federation of Engineering Students) and a host University. A listing of the courses is given on page 9. These courses give young engineering students the opportunity to learn about a topic which may not be covered in their curriculum. This summer three complementary education courses

### Upcoming Events from EngSoc

Sun May 22	Mon May 23	Tue May 24	Wed May 25	Thu May 26	Fri May 27	Sat May 28	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at <a href="http://www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca">www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca</a>
	Victoria Day	EWB General Meeting 5.30 pm at DC1302	EWB Discussion Group 5.30 pm at the Grad House WEEF refund end	Engineering Showcase at Conestoga Mall WEEF proposal start	SCUNT Enginuity II (TBA)		
May 29	May 30	May 31	June 1	June 2	June 3	June 4	
Wheelchair basketball (TBA)			Genius Bowl (TBA)			Alumni Weekend	

# Disc review duo - up and coming music



MATT ZOLAK  
1B SYSTEMS

## Stars - Set Yourself On Fire Arts and Crafts

Before I begin, it should be said that the English language is woefully ill-equipped to explain the concentrated awesomeness of Montreal's Stars. Montreal, the city formerly renowned for poutine and bagels, has silently and quite inexplicably risen to the forefront of the latest of wave of independent Canadian music. And unlike past Quebecois musical efforts, these latest attempts don't suck. In fact, against all odds, Montreal has fostered some of the best bands in Canada's sketchy history of popular music. Despite the run-away popularity of sibling Montreal indie groups, such as The Arcade Fire, Stars has remained quietly in the background, ignored by most of the music-listening world. Well, grab your tight hoodies, black-framed glasses and a sense of smugness, because with the release of their newest album, *Set Yourself On Fire*, Stars are finally poised to claim their rightful position next to Arcade Fire as the forerunners of Canadian indie-pop.

On paper, Stars' approach to song writing is nothing new: shy, shoe-gazing vocals (provided by Torquil Campbell and Amy Millan) atop airy guitars, bass and keyboards. Hackneyed as it may seem, there is something about Stars' execution

of this stock indie-pop formula that sets the band apart from lesser Canadian artists. Perhaps it has something to do with just how convincingly Millan and Torquil convey their characters on "Your Ex-Lover Is Dead"; or it maybe it's the band's effortless transition into downtempo-esque style in "The Big Fight". *Set Yourself On Fire* is an shining example of Stars' ability to excel on the merit of well-written melodies and clever, provocative lyrics.

Even from a technical standpoint, the band does not disappoint. Bassist Evan Cranley provides an incredibly melodic body to the album's songs, surpassing the other instruments in a number of tracks. Technically speaking, even the sound engineering has improved since the band's first album. *Set Yourself On Fire* has an incredibly polished feel; with only one exception, the songs flow smoothly from each other, spinning a story that seems to belong in the diary of a 20-something. On the whole, Stars' new album is a remarkably complete and cohesive effort, filled with enough witty lyrics and catchy hooks to satisfy anyone with the slightest inkling of good taste.

If Stars are any indication of the new direction of Canadian music, Quebec may yet redeem itself for Celine Dion and Mitsou.

*Set Yourself On Fire* is available on iTunes Music Store Canada, or any number of record shops. Also, Stars will be playing at Guelph's Hillside Festival on Saturday, July 23.

*Editor's Note: I also enjoy Stars greatly. Have not yet warmed to LCD.*

## YVONNE YIP 4A SOFTWARE

### LCD Soundsystem - Self-titled DFA Records

Well, well. What can I say about LCD Soundsystem? When Dave asked me to write a piece on their self-titled album, released in January this year, I told him that it would likely be an embarrassing essay of me gushing about my favorite album of the year. He responded "well, gushing is still a review". Now that I actually sit down and start writing, I'll try to not gush too much.

Yes, I admit that I am biased. I've been in love with the DFA sound since I heard the *Rapture* in 2001. Drum machines? Synths? Cowbells? Bring it on! When I heard that James Murphy, half of DFA's production team, is finally releasing a solo album, I was understandably excited.

I missed out on the 70s and 80s. I didn't hear Can until I became jaded from all the bands that Can influenced. I didn't know Daft Punk until they put out their massively overplayed and annoying single "One More Time". I know and love Joy Division, but I didn't understand the appeal of New Order until much later, when I discovered the slicker 90s synth-pop.

I vaguely feel that LCD Soundsystem doesn't exactly belong to this era, that it is a collection of influences, but I can't put my finger on it like all the other reviewers, like how they say "Movement" sounds like the Fall and how "Too Much Love" sounds more like Daft Punk than Daft Punk. Speaking of Daft Punk, you may have already heard the first track, "Daft Punk Is Playing At My House" (I've heard it on the radio, between sets at concerts, and at our favorite hole-in-the-ground bar Phil's), a dance anthem telling the tale of a kid who waited 7 years and 15 days to get Daft Punk to play at his house, and how he moved all his furniture to the garage to accommodate them. With lyrics like that, analog synths, and the cowbell solo, what

is there not to love? And that is what LCD Soundsystem is all about (almost): dance-floor-friendly beats, retro references, self-consciously funny lyrics, and flawless production. To be honest, I rarely get through the entire album when I'm listening to it these days, preferring to listen to "Tribulations", the five-minute guitar dance-fest and the highlight of the album, on repeat. I have spent an entire work day last term listening to this song. No, I'm not sick of it yet. The bass-heavy, weird, noisy "Thrills" nestles between "On Repeat" and "Disco Infiltrator", both dance songs perfected according to the LCD formula. "On Repeat" is straightforward with a steady beat, and the vocals takes a jab at radio station playlists, but "Disco Infiltrator" is the better of the two, and not only because it has "disco" in its title. To elaborate on my earlier "almost", the album does contain non-dancesongs.

Midway through the album is the slower Beatlesque melodic number, "Never As Tired As When I'm Waking Up" (with lyrics that areas emo as LCD Soundsystem gets, by the way). The reverberating "Great Release" closes the album as grandly and lushly as it deserves.

If 9 tracks aren't enough, there is a bonus disc containing LCD Soundsystem's previously released singles---all of them ridiculously long and in your face---and b-sides. You may hear how "On Repeat", on the album proper, has its roots in "Yeah", and perhaps think that "Losing My Edge", with its slightly pathetic lament "look how cool I was", has even better lyrics than "Daft Punk Is Playing At My House".

Let's face it. There's a side to all of us that wants to dance without abandon. That is why people sing in the shower, why clubs make so much money off alcohol. LCD Soundsystem is intelligent enough to listen to, and primitive enough to get your feet moving. All the dancing aside, perhaps the real reason why I am so in love with the album is that it screams "I really, really, really love music!" So do I, James Murphy, so do I.

## FRANCIS HOPE on his cheap summer rental



FRANCIS HOPE  
4A ELECTRICAL

Now some of you may be first time students, or are renting a property somewhere on campus. I am here to tell you how to get the cheapest rental possi-

bles for getting a cheap rental that's in reasonable condition.

Firstly, on the summer term, the university has the least number of students. This means that students that are leasing for the year have to find someone to sublet their room for the summer term, or they lose money because they have to pay for the rental without anyone using it. This means that students who have not found someone to rent their place by the end of April are desperate to get someone to rent there place and are willing to put up very cheap rentals. If the prices are still high then you can haggle with them a bit but don't do it too much or you'll piss them off. Posters are posted about the school around April for really cheap rentals so they are not usually hard to find. The only issue is that they may be far away from the school. Since it is the summer term this should not be an issue but if you are willing you can find a place that is close by but still cheap.

I managed to sublet a place in WCRI

from someone else for \$280/month with utilities and furnishing included, which is awesome. And if you are really lucky / lazy like me you will have a roommate that is doesn't mind doing the dishes.

But there are some things to watch for when renting a place. The first is that utilities are included. If they are not then you have to pay for gas and electricity on top of what you are paying. The second is how credible the place you are renting is. If you are renting a place off campus you do not know what the tenants that you are renting off are like. You may get a landlord that is a real dick. But there are some things that you can do to make sure you don't get a landlord like that. First, is to talk to the existing tenants and see how the landlord is. Generally you get a pretty good idea of what the person is like from talking to the existing tenants. Secondly talk to him in person. You can get a pretty good impression of what he is like from talking to him/her. If he seems like a jerk, chances are he is a jerk. Thirdly is to check if the house is registered under the University's off campus housing. This means that the university will have the history of previous tenants and any complaints. Furthermore, if you have any issues with the housing the university can help you out.

If you do have any issues with the landlord or the place you are renting even if you are not renting from a house, under the off campus housing list you can take

the issue up with the Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal which is an organization that resolves housing disputes.

Ontario Rental Housing Tribunal  
<http://www.orht.gov.on.ca>  
UW Housing and Residences  
<http://www.och.uwaterloo.ca/students>



### Student rental: Because there are no beaches in KW.

ble for the next summer term because most of you probably already have a house. What to look for a what to avoid. This is pretty much a testament to how cheap I am. So here are the basic princi-

## ENGINEERING SOCIETY



Did you know you can earn valuable P\*\*5 points for volunteering time at the C&D? Email Mary Bland at [mbland@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mbland@engmail.uwaterloo.ca) to schedule your shift.



## Behind the timidity: The new Editor-in-Chief



CAROLYN SUTHERLAND  
1B MECHANICAL

**Editor's Note:** This an entirely fictional and somewhat odd account of how one IW writer found the rationale to stalk the Editor-in-Chief.

Private Eye Carolyn here. I have been hired by a victimized individual to keep close tabs on the unknown but terrifying David Yip. Apparently he tried to hold her hostage one summer night, but was busted and is currently on probation at the K-Dub. The woman in question feels her safety is threatened by his ungodly lack of police supervision, so she has called in the best of the best to assure her lifespan will hit 30.

The first night of investigation begins on Tuesday May the 3rd, 2005. My objective is to see if Yip has truly reformed his evil ways, or if he should be put behind bars. The following events have been closely detailed and documented, in order to unveil the madman that is Yip...

10:09 pm: Stationed outside Yip's dwelling, if it can be called that. Zoom lens attached to camera and microphone amplifier in place.

10:56 pm: Yip is still inside. Unable to pick up anything from the microphone but static. Reminder to exchange it at Radio Shack tomorrow, or do wheelies in their parking lot if they refuse.

11:19 pm: A silhouette in the window verifies Yip's presence inside. His appearance is of the classic villain; a hunched back, a monocle, a black top hat and cape. His sporadic bursts of maniacal laughter can be heard.

12:35 am: Yip is still in his residence. He must be cooking up some dastardly plans to ruin Christmas or something, the fiend!

1:22 am: Hunger pangs strike. Wendy's drive thru, where you can eat great, even late.

1:34 am: Delicious burger. Visual check verifies Yip is still inside.

2:39 am: The lights inside have been extinguished! Has Yip gone to sleep, or it a decoy?

2:43 am: YIP HAS LEFT THE BUILDING! Pursuing on foot! Due to his eerie ability to blend into the shadows like the creeper he is, tracking is difficult.

2:57 am: We've entered the University of Waterloo campus and are currently heading north along Ring Road. Yip prefers to use the shadows of the wooded sections to hide his grotesque form from

the unsuspecting public.

3:03 am: Yip has entered the sleaziest of buildings; E2. Fearing for the safety of the janitorial staff and the late-nighters, I pull the fire alarm and begin pursuit on foot. Oddly, the alarm does not activate.

3:04 am: Yip senses he is being followed and attempts to flee through the WEEF lab. His run is like that of a crazed Yeti. The fire alarm is still silent.

3:09 am: Yip's creepiness helped him evade my deadly combat skills in the darkened WEEF lab. He manages to exit the lab and heads towards POETS.

3:10 am: No trace of Yip can be found in the CPH foyer. POETS and the C&D still locked. I double back in an attempt to catch the monster.

3:11 am: MM lab clear, EngSoc office clear, IW office-AAAH! It's Yip! No, no, NOOOOooooo \*THUD\* ...

3:24 am: Regain consciousness. The stealthy Yip had hidden in the Iron Warrior office and managed to ambush me with a stack of well-written, thought-provoking and entertaining Iron Warrior papers! That dastardly deed gave him plenty of time to escape, and likely gloat over his cowardly victory. There's no way of catching him now.

3:26 am: Exit through E2. Curse those electrical engineers! The fire alarm has

still not gone off since the hunt began. Even if it does go off later today, it will be too late. The public is at his mercy for another night. Double-vision dissipating, but a horrible headache has kicked in.

3:45 am: Drop into Sobeys and pick up some ice and some extra strength Tylenol.

That ends the first night of supervision. Unfortunately, the menace was able to escape me that night, but he will not be so lucky the next time. Until then all I can say is board up your doors and windows, and sleep with a rifle under your pillow.

### CEC Courses

For more information on these, please see the VP External Report, or email [jjagodic@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jjagodic@engmail.uwaterloo.ca).

**Building Career Skills**  
July 20-24  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Extreme Nanotechnology**  
August 21-28  
Simon Fraser University  
Vancouver, British Columbia

**Biomedical Engineering**  
August 21-28  
Ecole de Technologie Superiere  
Montreal, Quebec

## RIM founder donates \$50m to UW

JOHN MORRIS  
UW NEWS RELEASE

The University of Waterloo (UW) today announced receipt of another "magnificent" gift from Ophelia and Mike Lazaridis.

Ophelia and Mike Lazaridis have personally donated an additional \$17.2 million (incremental to their \$33.3 million donation last year). The additional gift will fund three exciting and related initiatives: 75 per cent towards a shared new facility housing the university's Institute for Quantum Computing and Nanotechnology Engineering Program and the remaining 25 per cent towards an endowment to attract the very best foreign graduate students involved in quantum studies. Each student will receive a \$20,000 scholarship from the endowment, and a President's Graduate Scholarship equivalent to full tuition, currently valued at \$13,770.

Mike Lazaridis is the university's Chancellor and the Founder, President and Co-CEO of Research In Motion.

"The University of Waterloo is once again blessed by our Chancellor's outstanding commitment to our university's mission," said UW President David Johnston. "This is a magnificent gift to the university and will be used for developing outstanding national programs, researchers and grad students in quantum computing and nanotechnology engineering."

Lazaridis said: "Ophelia and I are grateful to be in a position to contribute and we are proud to see this important research happening within our community and country. We believe accelerated research and education in Quantum Computing and Nanotechnology Engineering will change the technological landscape and benefit mankind for generations to come."

Bob Harding, outgoing Chair of UW board of governors, said: "Mike's generosity is without parallel and it ensures that the University of Waterloo will continue to be a major player in these critical areas of scientific exploration. We are very grateful for his vision and commitment, both for empowering Waterloo and its future plans, and for helping to ensure the nation's place among global leaders in fundamental research."

Plans for a new facility to house Quantum Computing and Nanotechnology Engineering research and teaching are already well underway. The new building will be situated in the centre of the university's campus.

Quantum computing is one of the most important new areas of technological research in the world. It involves harnessing the power of atoms and building quantum computers with transistors of atomic size. Scientists

believe this technology will aid many discoveries, including unbreakable cryptography, unparalleled high precision measurement devices, computers with mind boggling power and a better understanding of the microscopic world. Nanotechnology engineers and scientists assemble, manipulate and control materials at the atomic and molecular scale to fabricate structures, devices and systems that have novel properties and functionality. Applications include ultra-fast and high memory capacity computers, new materials of incredible strength and cell size probes for biomedical investigations.

The attraction of students of the highest quality to quantum research will give tremendous support to creativity and research output in this field of research, while also enhancing the capacity of the Canadian economy through the infusion of talent, new discoveries and potential commercial spin-offs.

## Midnight Sun VIII ready to race

NIHARIKA BHARGAVA  
UW NEWS RELEASE

The University of Waterloo's "sun-worshipping" team is looking forward to the North American Solar Challenge in July as the Midnight Sun VIII is being readied to race.

Participants in this year's North American Solar Challenge will make history as the first solar-car racers to cross an international border. The race also sets a new standard for length -- 2,500 miles (4,022.5 kilometres) -- beating the 2001 and 2003 challenges by more than 100 miles (160.9 kilometres). It remains the longest solar-car race in the world. There will also be the most teams from outside the United States, with 10 from Canada.

The challenge is normally held every two years within the U.S., but in this special international edition of the race, students will design, build and race solar-powered cars across the United States and into Canada.

The race begins in Austin, Tex. on July 17 and will finish July 27 in Calgary, Alta. Teams from universities, companies and organizations around the world will compete in what each hopes will be the fastest solar-powered car. It will follow U.S. Route 75 and the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1), with checkpoints in Weatherford, Tex.; Tulsa, Okla.; Topeka, Kan.; Omaha, Neb.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Fargo, N.D.; Winnipeg and Brandon, Man.; Regina; and Medicine Hat, Alta. before reaching the finish line in Calgary.

The race is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, its National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Natural Resources Canada. Although Canadian

teams have been involved in races for many years, this year's sets a new mark for Canadian participation.

UW's team will travel to Topeka, Kan. for its first official event on the weekend of May 14-15. The Topeka Qualifier will put the car through scrutineering and on-track events.

It will be checked over by the North American Solar Challenge inspectors to ensure the car is safe and complies with the regulations. After passing all inspection stations, the team will put the car on the track in an attempt to qualify for the race.

The Midnight Sun's latest reincarnation's aerodynamic body is complete as well as the frame. It has been painted and the solar array and battery pack installed.

UW's current team hopes to do as well as the one two years ago in the race involving 20 teams travelling for 11 days along old Route 66 from Chicago to Claremont, Calif., east of Los Angeles.

The Midnight Sun came in third with an elapsed time of 58 hours, 18 minutes and 20 seconds, making it the top placing Canadian entry in the event, having repeated its ranking in the race two years previous. The Queen's University team was seventh, while McGill University finished ninth and the University of Toronto eleventh.

*"This year's [competition] sets a new mark for Canadian participation."*



# PDEng - Adapted from Dr Seuss

ERIC BLONDEEL  
1B CHEMICAL

That PDeng  
That PDeng  
I do not like that PDeng

I do not like it here or there  
I do not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

Would you like it if it's online?  
Would you like it at work term time?

I would not like it if it's online  
I would not like it at work term time  
I would not like it here or there  
I would not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

Would you want it while employed?  
There's modules here you might enjoy

Not while I'm employed  
All eight were not enjoyed  
Not if it's online  
Not at work term time  
I would not like it here or there  
I would not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

Would you, could you, if we say  
We will not let you graduate?

I would not, could not,  
No matter your threats  
Let all of my failures  
Fall square on your heads

You'll take it how we make it  
And you'll like it too  
How many ways can we say  
We have power over you

I would not, could not, learn from thee  
You're only good, for bullying me  
Not if it's online  
Not at workterm time  
Not while I'm employed  
No modules enjoyed  
I would not like it here or there  
I would not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

With a forum? With a forum?

Could you, would you,  
With a forum?

Not with a forum,  
Why can't you see  
Just give me Eng, but no more PD!  
No more online  
No more work term time  
No more while I'm employed  
No more modules not enjoyed  
I will not like it here or there  
I will not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

Say, just 2 to 3 hours, that might turn in to six  
We promise those hours aren't ones that you'll miss  
I've had it up to here can't you see  
I'll not waste another hour, or minute on thee  
No Eng with PD!

I'll tell you again  
No Eng with PD!  
It just has to end  
No more online  
No more work term time  
No more while employed  
No more modules not enjoyed  
I will not like it here or there  
I will not like it anywhere  
I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends  
Would you, could you, with no feedback?  
I would not, could not  
Don't you get that!?

Come on, do make-ups!  
Just resubmit

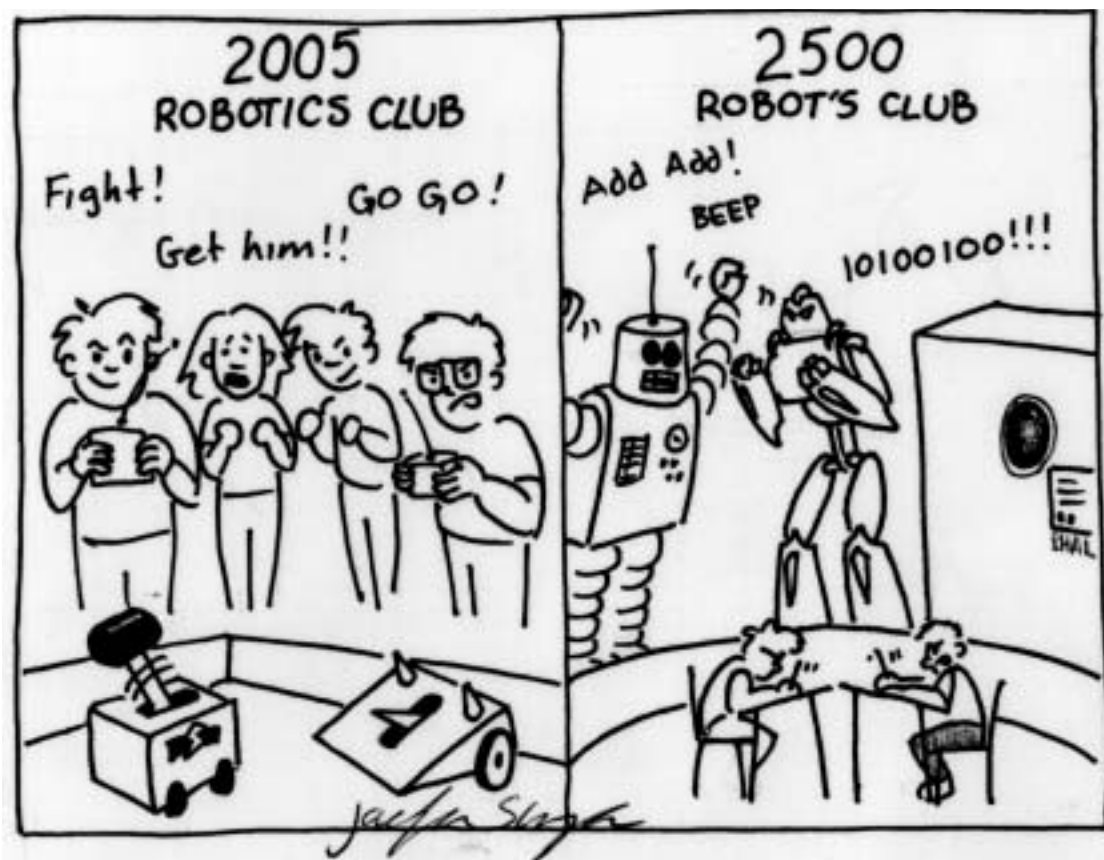
I do not like to resubmit  
When I don't know what's wrong with it  
Please take away Eng with PD  
And just leave me Eng  
Or leave me be  
No 2 to 3 hours which turn in to six  
Please no more Eric, Yin, Farrah or Chris  
Not with a forum, not ever again  
No eng with PD, it just has to end!  
No more online, no more work term time  
Not while I'm employed  
Eight modules not enjoyed  
I do not like it here or there  
I do not like it anywhere

I do not like PD with Eng  
I do not like it, or the message it sends

YANG SUI  
3A MECHANICAL



JACLYN SHARPE  
1B MECHANICAL

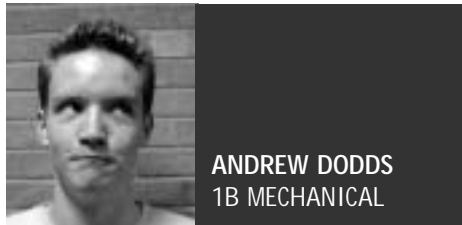


## Do You Have Something to Contribute?

Drop off your poetry, cartoons, drawings, photos and anything else artistic in the "Arts" box in the Orifice, or email them to [iwarrior@gmail.com](mailto:iwarrior@gmail.com)

Submissions may be published here in *The Iron Warrior*, and earn you valuable P\*\*5 points for your class!

# Stephen Harper - Too cool for school?



ANDREW DODDS  
1B MECHANICAL

If you haven't already heard, our government is in trouble again. Our loonie slowly falls as the world looks at all the confusion in Ottawa, and it is our well-being that hangs in the balance. Right now, the Conservatives are hoping that this might be their chance to break into office after over a decade of Liberals in power. Is it time for them to go though? We've all heard about the sponsorship scandal. We all know that it was deep reaching. We all know that money was wasted in trying to keep Quebec nationality up. We've heard about all we can take of the sponsorship scandal of the Chrétien government.

Why don't we stop for a minute to think though? Can we trust the alternative found in the Conservatives? How did they get to where they are today anyways? Well, there were a dozen of them, under the Progressive Conservative title, led by a past-his-prime ex-PM, but he left because they couldn't muster any power in the polls or in the House of Commons. He was succeeded by the 'handsome' conservative young blood McKay, now a hot item with one of the richer younger prettier female MPs: Belinda Stronach. There was also at that time a right wing party to balance out the NDP: the Canadian Alliance. They had a leader that was pleasant, looked good

zooming up in a wetsuit on a jet ski, but who overall did not get much done or shine any positive light on the party. He got moved to a less important post, foreign affairs critic, as the new guy came in, Mr. Stephen Harper.

What became of these two now extinct parties? Well, upstanding Mr. Harper managed to convince Mr. McKay to switch out on one of his biggest issues pushing him to PC leader: not banding with the Alliance. The promise was broken, and the two parties merged. Despite having only a handful of MPs to the Alliance, official opposition at the time, the merger took the new party to form the Conservative party of Canada. This "wolf in sheep's clothing" ploy enabled them to appear reasonable and desirable while allowing the ex-Alliance to keep its grassroots values.

It's interesting to note that at one point, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty gave the Liberals bad press (even though the two are completely unrelated in all but philosophy) by breaking campaign promises. It seemed they couldn't spend all the money they wanted to, since when they came into office, the 'surplus' of the departing Conservatives tallied up differently than they had stated before losing the election, becoming a multi-billion dollar deficit. No great protests were heard over that. Some often tout Ralph Klein as the shining example of Conservative mettle. Despite having been an alcoholic and skilled in the art of saying the wrong thing at the wrong time, he is said to have done wonders for Alberta with his conservative ideals. Perhaps he should be appointed

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without election to become the new Premier of Newfoundland. After all, it's unlikely that his success in Alberta had anything to do with all their oil and wealth. Conservative mettle could certainly spruce up the dilapidated economy of Canada's youngest province.

Now let us put aside all mystery surrounding Mr. Harper, all preconceived notions of his true character. He was a Liberal as a youth, then he moved on to the Conservatives. Quickly tiring of Mulroney, he moved on to Manning and his Reform party (famous for proudly renaming themselves to CCRAP once upon a time), and became their young up-and-coming leadership work. Still unable to settle, he left before the new millennium to abandon all political parties. He was often heard saying that he loved the policy work, but never being the centre of attention. Not quite what you'd expect from the now-leader of the official opposition.

It seems that now is the perfect chance for the Conservatives to regain power. Mr. Harper clearly sees the fragility of the government, and knows that now is his one chance to make it, for with time current issues will die down and, as with all minority governments; the Liberals will

work with all the other parties to bring about great things. After all, without minorities, we would be without universal health care, old-age pension, and the drastically low price of post-secondary education. The Conservatives are trying to hide the initial signs of great things: the great "sell-out" of 4.6 billion dollars of change to the budget. What do you think of it as a cash-strapped university student when you realize that it provides 1.5 billion each for affordable housing and tuition reduction? It is the collaboration of minority governments that brings about change, not the utter dominance of one sole party with nobody to answer to.

Mr. Harper sees the Jenga tower teetering, on the verge of collapse. If we all looked away to give him some privacy, he'd kick the whole thing over like a foul-tempered child. He doesn't want to see it settle comfortably, and to have Mr. Martin

built the tallest most impressive tower that's been seen in years. That wouldn't be good for the Conservatives at all. A few days after IW hits the stands, it is possible that he will have succeeded in stifling our best chance for real progress and innovation in Canadian politics. If he does, I hope you'll consider joining me at the polls later on, not only to increase our abysmal 50% turnout from the last election, but to show Mr. Harper that he's not too cool for school.



Harper: Truly better?

*"famous for proudly renaming themselves to CCRAP once upon a time"*

## Charobeam cooks: To cool down



CAROLYN SUTHERLAND  
1B MECHANICAL

Summer is here, and with it comes the muggy air and sweltering heat. Need to cool off? Try this quick and easy recipe that uses everyone's favourite fruit (if it is a fruit...) avocados! Not only are avocados delicious in sushi and guacamole, but they are full of the healthy oils a student's mind needs to not fail C++.

### Cold Avocado Soup

Prep: 10 minutes  
Cooking: 15 minutes  
Serves 4

- 2 avocados
- 1L of milk
- 1 finely diced onion
- 3 tbsp. flour
- butter
- croutons

1. Mash the flesh of the avocados with a potato masher and liquefy in a blender with the milk.
2. Sauté a finely diced onion in butter in a saucepan until lightly

- coloured.
3. Add flour and the avocado/milk mixture to the pan and mix to form a béchamel-type sauce. (Basically a cream sauce.)
4. Let simmer until thickened.
5. Chill and serve with croutons.

If you're really lazy, you could just throw some milk and some avocados into a saucepan and mash them while you cook it, but that's up to you. Thanks to that internet thing for the above (theworldwidegroumet.com).

Tell me if avocados are a fruit at csutherl@engmail.



Avocado before mashing.



Imprint columnist Kaleb Ruch (3A Mechanical) keeps his brain running after classrooms were evacuated for about an hour and a half on May 12 after a minor chemical spill.

# Hygridizing: Easy environmentalism



DAVID YIP  
3A MECHANICAL

Hybrid has been a pretty big buzzword lately. Hybrid vehicles once in the form of cool but sadly impractical vehicles such as the Honda Insight, and evolved into the surprisingly desirable Toyota Prius and ultra-luxe Lexus RX330 hybrid. Even testosterone-fueled drivers of manly Chevy Silveradoes and Ford Escapes can get their iron in hybrid form. The US military is also considering hybrid vehicles to save fuel costs.

Now, by switching one letter, the next

wave of tech-driven environmentalism is afoot.

The word is "hygrid". It describes the increasingly mainstream trend in homes and businesses to supplement their grid-based power with sources in their backyard such as wind and solar power. Across the United States, some 185,000 households have switched from the grid to their own homegrown, renewable energy. Most folks are installing solar panels on the roof or the occasional wind turbine, but they stay connected to the power company to be on the safe side.

This trend has been facilitated by the rapid decline in the price of solar power. As recently as 1980, the cost of using solar panels to turn sunlight into electricity was \$1 per kilowatt-hour. By 1995, that figure had fallen to 33 cents. Thanks to advances

in technology and changes in public policy over the past 10 years, however, the cost of solar has nearly halved again and continues to fall, according to the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Solar thermal - using sun energy to heat water - now costs in the range of 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, one-tenth of its price 25 years ago. And more progress appears to be on the way. Companies such as KW's own SSP Solar Power are working on solar cells that can be mounted on flexible sheets, increasing the possible mounting locations for solar cells. Homeowners then use their solar cells or turbines to power their homes and storing the excess energy in batteries. In calm or dark days, the energy in the batteries is used, and finally, if that runs dry, then the home draws from the grid. Excess energy that cannot be stored in the batteries can be sold back to the grid for energy credits.

Policy changes have also helped homeowners move to hygrid. Many states now offer rebates to homeowners who purchase and install equipment related to energy savings. Up until recently, selling energy back to the grid was not even legal.

Even real estate developers have begun building a series of hygridized developments in a number of states. The amount of solar energy captured is expected to quintuple by 2010.

The current way of utility generation, with a central plant distributing energy over long distances, requires large amounts of infrastructure in the way of power lines, etc.

Hygrids are decentralized, not requiring as much infrastructure, maintenance, territory, or armies to defend any of those, all while polluting less. As society tends to decentralization the way of buying locally, sprawling suburbs, in information distribution such as podcasting, P2P networks and blogging, energy distribution is following suit.

*Adapted from an article at wired.com*



Toyota Prius: Easy, stress-free environmentalism. Is hygriding next?

## profQuotes

"I would feel like I've failed you if the class got higher than a 65% average on the midterm." (To the class about a midterm on which he had to bell the grades up 11% to ensure the class had a 65% average)

- Fieguth, SYDE 372

Student: "I can't visualize that"  
Prof: "Well I can visualize it perfectly"

- Fieguth, SYDE 372

"They had a problem in Germany: They lost World War I."

- Cozzarin, MSCI 261

Student: "What is a hyperplane?"  
Prof: "The whole universe at this instant in time is an infinitely thin hyperplane that separates the four-dimensional combination of time and space into past and future"

Student: "Well I can't argue against that..."

Prof: "You aren't meant to argue it. You are meant to sit back and accept it as truth!"

- Fieguth, SYDE 372

"This course is going to teach you very something important. It's called knowledge."

- Cozzarin, MSCI 261

*The Iron Warrior welcomes prof quotes! The requisite deference to mathNEWS for the idea has already been given last term.*

*Send them in to iwarrior@engmail.*

## the Iron Inquisition

Richard Hui, 2B Chemical

## The answer is "sketchy". What is the question?



"What is Eric's face after too many fixes?"  
-1B Enviro Geo



"What is the stuff at the bottom of your fridge?"  
— 1B Mechatronics



"What is Kitchener?"

—Knights of Ni: Team A



"What is Rajat's robot dance?"

—Bond, Chemical Bond



"What are girls?"

—Knights of Ni: Ultimate Team B



"What is Bond, Chemical Bond?"

— La Resistance