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Where the Future Goes CUTC 2005



What does it mean to be an engineer? It is not an easy profession: first you need a solid education, and then you need real-world experience, otherwise you cannot be a good engineer. As a student studying at the best engineering school in the country, these facts should be very clear to you by now and since you are a student at the great University of Waterloo, you can fairly assume that the first part is going to be taken care of. Now what about part two? You have access to the most advanced university co-operative education system in the world, designed to provide you the necessary industry experience to get an edge over other engineers-in-training of other universities. So let us assume that part two is also covered. Yes? NO!

As many of you know by now (and you froshies will find out soon), the co-op experience does not necessarily resemble the real world in any way; au contraire, most co-ops get stuck with bitchwork until maybe their 3rd or 4th workterm. Even then, you may only be getting bitckwork 2.0 upgraded.

In principle, you should be graduating with a wealth of industry experiences; in practice, this goal usually falls short. Where else can you get a healthy supplement of industry exposure?

Four letters: C U T C

Since the year 2000, these four letters represented a unique opportunity for all undergraduate students across the country. These four letters meant opportunity to broaden your horizons, to stimulate your ideas, to skip a few days of school (or work), get a ton of free stuff and most importantly, to learn about stuff that will never ever be discussed in your classroom.

Co-chairs Hisham Al-Shurafa and Chris Tan co-ordinated a team of student organizers that spanned the country—the result was CUTC 2005. The 6th annual Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference convened January 20th to 22nd at the Holiday Inn on King (FYI: this was not an inn, it was more like a castle). Representatives from the leaders of the each industry interacted with the under-

Continued on page 3. See CUTC.

Using Your EngInuity to Protect an Egg



The 08SYS class attempts to protect their egg from inevitable disaster. Will it survive the treacherous drop from the balcony of POETS?

CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

The first EngInuity of the term was held on January 21. The event attracted 5 teams and featured one of the most traditional projects: egg dropping.

Each team was given a supply of wire clothes hangers, popsicle sticks, plastic straws, masking tape, tin foil cups, and the precious egg, and 30 minutes of time to work.

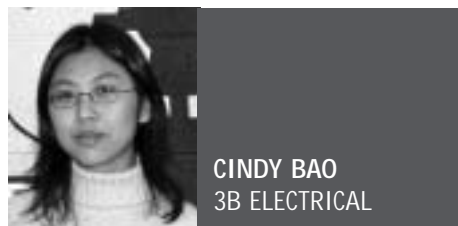
For the first stage, teams had to drop their egg from the balcony above POETS onto a target. All teams fared well, being sufficiently close to the target and all eggs except one (which had a crack) survived the gravity. Team Uncivilized Joystick was declared the winner for being right on target.

However, to add a bit twist to the challenge, the accuracy and safety of the egg parachuting are not the only winning criteria: a team's egg must also survive the impact of having a cinderblock dropped onto it afterwards, administered by Stacey Charlton, one of the EngInuity directors.

Teams tried many ways to minimize the impact, including encasing the egg with popsicle sticks and tin foil cups or suspending it with twines in two wired spirals. Despite all their efforts, only Team Discovery Channel's egg managed to escape the fate of Humpty Dumpty. Their pyramid structure managed to bounce off all cinderblock pieces, and the egg remained intact.

The EngInuity directors, Stacey Charlton and Ian Mackenzie, would like to remind everyone that the next EngInuity contest will be held in the CPH Foyer on February 4th.

Architecture Moving to Engineering



On Monday, January 17th, the University's Senate voted to approve the moving of the School of Architecture to the Faculty of Engineering from the Faculty of Environmental Studies.

The move will not be official until UW's Borad of Governors gives a final approval, which is expected to be one of the topics for its February 1st meeting. If granted, the actual moving is expected to take place May 1st, 2005, which is the beginning of a new fiscal year for the University.

While the discussion of moving has been going on for a long time, it wasn't until the fall of 2004 that the School of Architecture voted unanimously to leave the Faculty of ES to join the Faculty of Engineering. Both faculties supported the decision and ES expressed "[w]hile the faculty and staff of the Faculty of Environmental Studies regret that the School of Architecture has made the decision to leave the Faculty, they do not wish to oppose the separation and prolong the instability this action has caused."

The School of Architecture had historically been part of Engineering until the founding of the Faculty of ES in 1969. Among other universities in Canada, the administrative body of the School of Architecture differs from one to another. For instance, while U of T has its own Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and

Design, McGill's functions under Engineering, UBC's belongs to the Faculty of Applied Science.

The move will not affect the admission process or the curriculum for the architecture students. As Eric Haldenby, the director of the School of Architecture, pointed out, the curriculum is "subject to an extremely rigorous process of professional accreditation and must not depart significantly from our accredited programme"

Yet changes are expected to be made to the title of the degree the architecture students are earning. Currently, the graduating students are given the Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies, which will no longer apply after the moving. Whether they will be granted the Bachelor of Applied Science, as all engineering stu-

Continued on page 7. See ARCHITECTURE.

Letter from the Editor



JAMES SCHOFIELD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Recently, Dr. Lawrence Summers, President of Harvard University, generated considerable controversy. Speaking at an invitation only luncheon, Summers was commenting on possible reasons for the underrepresentation of women in the senior ranks of maths and sciences. He suggested that many women might not be willing to balance the demands of long hours of research with the responsibility of raising a family. Furthermore, and perhaps most controversially, he argued that genetic differences between the sexes may cause women to be innately less capable in fields of math and science.

In response to these comments, several audience members, including renowned MIT biologist Nancy Hopkins, left the room in disgust. Criticism of Summers' speech and calls for his resignation have been swift and widespread, and the story has attracted worldwide media interest.

Shortly afterward, Summers released a letter, attempting to clarify his remarks. In it, he expresses "I was wrong to have spoken in a way that has resulted in an unintended signal of discouragement to talented girls and women . . . While in recent years there have been some strides forward in attracting more women into the front ranks of science, the progress overall has been frustratingly uneven and slow. Spurring greater progress is a critical challenge. As members of a university, we should do all we can to recognize and reduce barriers to the advancement of women in science."

It is impossible to be sure whether Summers' comments accurately represent his beliefs, or whether they were simply misunderstood. No transcript of his speech was produced. However, what is certain is that women continue to be underrepresented in science, math, and engineering programs, from the undergraduate student level through to the ranks of faculty. Comments of this nature, from the President of a highly

regarded institution, do nothing to improve the situation.

The evidence to support Summers' claim of a biological difference which adversely affects a female's performance in math and science is shaky at best. Studies have shown that women and men use different components of their brain when solving math or logical thinking problems. A New York Times article, "Gray Matter and Sexes: A Gray Area Scientifically" (Jan 24, 2005) claims that men use significantly more gray matter, or neurons in the brain, to solve a problem, while women are more likely to rely on the white matter between the neurons. However, despite these biological differences, there is no significant difference in average math standardized test scores between the genders.

A much more compelling concern is the attitude that young girls hold towards math and science. In international standardized tests conducted by the Organization for International Cooperation and Development, 15 year old girls from all countries consistently expressed a much more negative attitude towards math than their male counterparts.

In terms of reading and writing tests, the situation is generally reversed; young girls tend to achieve results better than boys. There has been much speculation that young boys may not be as interested in reading because the books required for reading at the elementary school level are more likely to present a female role model, and to appeal to a female audience. It has been suggested that boys would show more interest, and thus perform better on reading and writing tests, if they were offered reading material with a more masculine appeal. One must wonder if there is a similar reason for the lack of interest girls show in math at such a young age.

Among females who achieve high scores on math and science tests, they are only about 60 percent as likely as males to enter a science or engineering program, according to Catherine Weinberger, an economist at the University of California. There are therefore a considerable number of highly intelligent and capable women who are abandoning the pursuit of a technical career. There are many reasons

why these women might be turned away from entering an engineering or science program. A guidance counsellor may discourage them from entering such a field. They may not see the value or the societal benefit to being an engineer—the profession may not have the same appeal as being a doctor, for example. Or they may have a perception that engineering is largely male-dominated, and unwelcoming to females.

It is not difficult to imagine why females might hold such a perception about engineering, and other technical fields in general. While reading an article this weekend about a presentation made by a senior female executive at Google, the vast majority of comments posted in response to the article were commenting on the physical attractiveness of the presenter. Clearly, to the majority of the people who responded to this article, the size of her bra was more relevant than the content of her presentation.

While I'm willing to give engineers the benefit of the doubt, and assume that these comments reflect the opinions of a small minority, it's quite easy to understand how a female considering entering an engineering program might come to a different conclusion and feel uncomfortable about pursuing a career in engineering.

Progress has been made in the past decade in attracting more females to engineering. However, because the problem is societal in nature, and stems from attitudes which may be ingrained at a very young age, the pace of change is extremely slow. UW's Women in Engineering Committee is actively involved in high school outreach programs to attract women to engineering programs. This is a good step towards instilling a positive message about engineering in high school students, but much remains to be done.

Questions? Comments?

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

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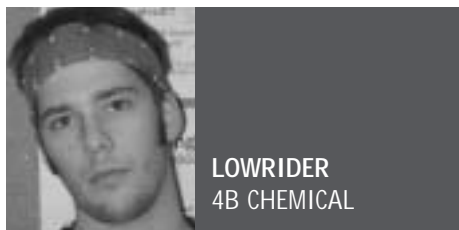
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LowRider's Advice on IRS



Dear LowRider,

Just like most of the other fourth years that I know, I'm completely and absolutely broke. BUT I really want to buy a yearbook and all that other stuff. I figure that I can afford either an iron ring and IRS, a yearbook, or to go to Gradball. Which one should I pick?

—Confuzed Comp

Dear Confuzed,

That's a pretty interesting question. Last term in my project course I think that some people learned about KT analysis for decision making but I didn't. Instead, the next letter after K is L, and the R is near T so I'm going to do some LR analysis instead.

IRS is pretty cheap, there's free shorts, you can touch the TOOL, and it will be a lot of fun, so it gets a 9 out of 10. An iron ring is all symbolic, but you should be able to steal one from a drunk person. The verdict is to sneak into IRS and steal a ring of some drunk engineer.

A yearbook (it should really be called the RIDGID BOOK) is meant to capture all of your most treasured memories from your time at Waterloo. But you're a comp, and your most treasured memory is probably that time you beat a level 80 dragon with your level 79 wizard on the river because of two running hearts. That's not in the book. You will find lots of pictures of me, some in colour, so that gets a 10.

Gradball is an easy scratch for you. I think it's on a Friday, and you probably never shower on Fridays. But I could be wrong. But I'm probably not.

—LR

Hey LowRider,

Glad you finally saw the light and ditched those sketchy A-Soc chumps for the infinitely better B-Soc.

Anyway, the next FEDS election is happening this term. Should I treat it with characteristic apathy and let 15% of the students elect another rum-guzzling president who is oblivious to Calculus and Neil Young, or stage a bloody coup d'etat and seize power in the name of Engineering?

Regards,
—Max Webster

Dear Max,

Don't make the mistake of thinking that I don't still hang out with A-Sockers all the time. However, in the interest of brevity, I will refrain from making fun of you for thinking that B-suck is better. We should just try to get along.

Continuing on to your question regarding the FEBS election. Let me ask you this: Do you really think that if they had a Prez who drank stuff other than vodka (or nothing at all) and listened to Neil Young all the time could do a better job of being Prez or not? Is that even a valid question? I'm pretty sure that it's not, because it doesn't make a lot of sense.

Thus, vote if you want, or know a candidate, or are offered a reasonable bribe. All I can promise is a special feature with the artsy who wins the top job, and the current Prez. Maybe even a special guest star. Don't worry about trying to seize what little "power" the FEBS have. Engineering already has a man on the inside, whose code name is the Software Senator.

—LR

Dear LowRider,

My buddy is a real player. Maybe even a Pea Eye M Pea... He has this one steady girlfriend when he's in school but has a bunch of ladies on the side for co-op. I'm not talking about a couple. I'm talking about like 7 chicks. Man, he could even get Material Girl if he wanted. He's in that really cool Engineering where they pick pretty colors and stuff. You know that really hard one. I wish I would have been bright enough to get in. Anyways, he's really smart about hiding his dirty little secrets but I think I'm gonna make him go down in flames. I'll probably steal his real girlfriend in the end. She's smoking! I'm so evil I love it! <insert evil laughter>

—Ian Gealous

PS: Do you find it odd that this one time, this chick bought me socks on the first date?

Dear Gealous,

You must be a Mechie. You guys are all the same. All you do is worry about women. Some of you even want to write books on how to pickup. I should write a chapter for your book. I'm way beyond your player friend. But he does sound pretty cool. Why don't you focus your efforts on torsion and gears and dry sump lubrication like a good little Mechie. Keep up the good work.

—LR

Yo LowRider,

You are totally the coolest columnist ever. I don't have a question, but just wanted to let you know what I think.

—R.M.

Dear R.M.,

I guess a letter like that doesn't really need an answer. I figured I'd just print it to stroke my massive ego. See you next week!

—LR

*Have a problem? Need advice?
Email LowRider at
uw_lowrider@hotmail.com*

He Can't Speak Mandarin...



There has been much debate and response to Philip Weiner's article that the *Imprint* published Friday, January 21, entitled, "He can't speak Mandarin, but he still wants to be your friend." Now usually I wouldn't even bother responding to an article, but this article has gotten such a strong response that I am compelled to comment on it. For those who haven't read the article, it basically states that groups tend to form between the different ethnic groups in the school, whether they are Asians, Caucasians, Blacks or Hispanics. It also went on further to say that the FEDS clubs further encourage this segregation of groups, and furthermore, that they provide no further function to the school, claiming that these groups are based on self-interest rather than anything else.

Now I just have to say that because a group of people hanging out happen to be of the same background does not mean that they only hang out with people of the same background. I have friends of many different backgrounds and ethnicities, and some of them do tend to hang out with people of similar race. Most people tend to hang out with friends that have similar backgrounds and interests. But they also associate with people of different races and different backgrounds. If you did find that there was a group of people that you knew that refused to hang out with people of a different race because of prejudice, would you want to know them anyways? Probably not. So why get stuck up about it? Move on.

I would also like to comment on a line in Mr. Weiner's article, which says, "Our beloved Federation of Students enjoys encouraging this racial segregation with clubs like the Korean Students Association and the Chinese Christian Fellowship." Now, in theory, the purpose of these student groups is to promote understanding of different cultures in the school, and to promote

friendship through common interests. That's the theory, anyways. Some students are from different countries or vastly different cultures, and may want to be around people with similar interests to minimize culture shock. They can then integrate into the university more easily. So to say that these groups promote hatred between different racial groups is ridiculous. Does that mean that I have to be Asian to join the CSA (Chinese Student Association)? I happen to be white. Is that okay? It sure is. I had a friend, who was the head of that organization, ask me if I wanted to come out to their events. There were various activities, all centered on learning about Chinese culture. If the clubs end up having only 'dance parties', it may be because they don't have enough money to run proper events, or maybe they have poor management rather than some huge conspiracy to segregate themselves. Furthermore, if there is a club that won't let you in because of your racial background, then is that a group you want to be associated with? There was one response to Weiner's article that said they should start a Caucasian Student Association. I hate to break it to you, but we are exposed to North American culture every day, so there is nothing more to gain from that organization. Let's face it- if there was a Caucasian Student Association started, it would probably end up just going to Louie's on a Friday's night. And if they were to have any cooking classes, it would be making Macaroni and Cheese.

Here is my final thought of the day. If you want to know people from different ethnic groups and backgrounds, then the only way you are going to break through any culture barriers is if you take the initiative to talk to them. And if you want to learn Japanese cooking, for example, join a club that does that, even if it is not specifically targeting toward your ethnicity. You may be pleasantly surprised.

CUTC

Continued from page 1.

graduate student delegates through keynotes, seminars, and special discussion forums (ThinkTank). Other events include TechPanel, TechShow, and TechExpo, all designed to give delegates the most unique exposure to the latest industry trends and all the possibilities to network with prospective employers.

This year's line-up of speakers, mentors, and industry leaders was noteworthy indeed. Topics ranged from talks of the tiniest of nanotechnology applications from the National Research Council to lectures from the Perimeter Institute about the vast indefinite edges of the universe and of course, everything in between. Where is the IT industry headed? What do corporations really think about outsourcing? What new innovations will launch the next big industry? As the leaders of tomorrow, where do we fit in the big picture and what is our role? All this was definitely worth the \$99 (or less since UW subsidized most of it).

Aside from the bombardment of insight and knowledge, delegates interacted with each other through social events, meals, and the Canadian kick-off of Microsoft's Imagine Cup 2005 competition. What better ways to meet your peers and build comradeship?

480 undergraduate students decided that this year, they will be getting their healthy supplement of industry exposure and diversify their education. When the future goes to CUTC 2006 next year, where will you be going?

— Sandra (Gray) Radcliffe and Steven Radcliffe, 1981 Civil

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

EngMarriage

Having read with great interest Mr. Dodd, Ms. Lockie and Ms. Neufeglise's views on EngDating, (Fall 2004, Issue 4) we thought we would provide our perspective on the natural evolution of this thread... EngMarriage.

We are both CivEng 81 grads. Way back in our fourth year, what started innocently as a partnership on two 4B project courses evolved into the unthinkable....a romance. Now times were a lot different then. There were only a handful of women in engineering (oh wait, maybe it isn't so different after all!) and were going through the stress of grad interviews in a very tight job market (again... maybe not so different). We kept our relationship basically a secret from all but a few tight friends until we came back for convocation. Boy, did the jaws drop then. Hopefully now, after more than 20 years of marriage, our classmates have finally come to terms with it.

The Globe and Mail did an article a number of years ago, entitled "Women Engineers: Dismantling the Myths". One quote says it all: "Mothers of daughters lament, "Who would want to marry a lady

engineer?" (I say, practical men looking for someone to split the mortgage or help diversify their portfolios.)

Men — just think of the possibilities... high earning potential, a mate who can actually understand geeky humour, comparable intellect and interest.

Women — see above.

Is it any wonder that studies have shown that about 75% of women engineers marry other engineers?? Who else would understand them so well??

And looking off into the future, think of the advantages to having this sort of gene pool to work with. It might result in...EngSpawn (i.e. Andrew Radcliffe, 1B ChemEng), or possibly the more puzzling outlier... ArtsSpawn (Stephanie Radcliffe 4A English) , or UndecidedSpawn (Kate Radcliffe age 12).

Now if we could just sell the PEO on giving volume family discounts on our annual dues, or to stop sending us that unwanted second copy of the periodical, we would be happy.

Comments on the Season that is Surely Lost Evolution vs. Creationism

VASANT SRIDHARAN
1B MECHANICAL

It was more or less one year ago when I was at home in my room on a Saturday, patiently waiting for a Hockey Night to remember from my Leafs. When the moment arrived, only memories can describe the incredible adrenaline that pumped me up for another great hockey game. But now, I seem to barely recollect those memories because two people have successfully purged (partly) my love of the game that once was great. Yes, I am talking about Gary Bettman and Bob Goodenow, two people who have left an everlasting black mark on the face of hockey. This lost season for will be the first one in any professional sport. The Stanley Cup will forever sport a blank space where the names of the 04-05 champions would have been.

The NHL lockout has managed to take a pass on starting the 2004 2005 season. So far there have been more than 688 games lost in the 129 days since this work stoppage began. This season is certainly lost; nobody would want to see a 30-40 game season where the Stanley Cup winning team will not be recognized as it should be.

The most profitable league, and the one with arguably the best financial system in pro sports (contrary to the atrocity that is Baseball) is the NFL, which works

with a hard salary cap. Its revenues surpass any and all other sports in North America by a wide margin. In the past 2 or 3 meetings that have taken place during the lockout, the NHL owners have hinted that they would like to adopt a somewhat similar system while the Players Association remain steadfast in their no-cap, no-deal strategy.

The fact is, the NHL is losing its already-greasy grip on its fan-base and its media because of this cursed labor dispute. Get this: the NHL hockey games have a lower TV rating in the U.S. than POKER!

Since Bettman has taken office, Canadian teams such as Winnipeg, and Quebec have moved to the U.S., a market now with 24 of the 30 NHL teams, and one that has time and time again shown its lack of support of the sport. The players, on the other hand, also openly display their incredible lack of interest on anything other than the number of significant 0s on their paycheck. Yet on their latest proposal, they seemed to agree on a 24% overall rollback on their incomes. The fact is, this had PR move written all over it. All they tried to do was try to get the fans' support which was wavering away from them. They obscured the intricate details of their so-called proposal, such as the fact that that 24% could easily be made up with player arbitration. The NHLPA also handily rejected the counter-offer from

the NHL that followed. On the third week of January, there was another 'talk' by representatives of the NHLPA and NHL, and of course it comprised of more jib-jab back and forth. No one backed down from their respective stances and we still lie on the same deep hole, looking up and seeing the days become darker and darker.

Another important question is, who is the real loser in all of this? It's us, of course. I was hoping to enjoy some great Saturday nights with some of my fellow hockey fans (well, Leaf fans), hoping to see Don Cherry's tirades, a couple of goals, and a couple of fights, and a win to top it off. But one term is gone, and so are more than 16 of those nights. As of now, catching the other 16 or so games does not look conceivable barring a miracle. But the two people who are heading this dispute do not seem to be taking any enthusiastic action in response to the blatant cries of hockey fans that care so much about this game.

What a piss-poor excuse for a business the NHL is. Comprised of two selfish stubborn-minded individuals with knowledge equivalent to a single-digit-year-old child. What a way to run a business. Unbelievable. No wonder the state of NHL hockey is in complete disarray. Almost makes you wonder why you were born during this dark era of hockey; makes you think why you are/became a hockey fan in the first place.



EDWARD TAN
3A COMPUTER

Many people out there like me, who were raised in a non-religious background, have always accepted evolution as the natural cause of things. We all believe that humans evolved from apes, although there is always that one person we know who has yet to make that evolutionary leap forward. We accept evolution as a fact. This however, is not true, because evolution is only a theory. It is a theory that was introduced to us in the 19th century by a Charles Darwin. Most religious people believe in the creation theory, which says that God created humans. This is why evolution is not taught in public elementary schools, although it is taught as part of high school biology.

Now there have always been debates between the religious theory and the "scientific" theory as to which one is correct. In the United States in the summer of 1925, a teacher was charged with illegally teaching evolution in school. Then, after evolution was accepted, religious groups have tried, unsuccessfully, to have evolution banned from being taught in public schools. However, in 2002 this debate was brought into the limelight in Cobb County, Georgia of the United States. Its school board had put stickers into all of its high school biology textbooks stating that the evolution theory was not a proven fact. It was like a disclaimer at the beginning of a movie warning parents that the movie may contain pornographic content, although I doubt any biology textbook would be as interesting. This move was viewed as a huge victory for Christian rights.

On January 14th of this year, a judge in Cobb County ordered the disclaimer stickers to be removed from all the biology textbooks on the grounds that they violated the country's constitutional separation of Church and State. This once again rekindled the debate. Apparently a man had sued the school board, claiming that the church was forcing their beliefs onto his child. Now this claim may be a bit excessive, but whenever I get into an evolution versus creation argument with my religious friends, my first argument is always, "weren't you forced to believe in evolution in our publicly funded high schools?" We always ask religious people not to offend others by forcing their belief system onto us, but in our zeal to promote science, do we not do the same things to them?

In my opinion, recent attention to this debate is due to a growing fear. Perhaps the fear with the evolution theory is that we're nearing the end of our natural evolution as human beings. Evolution works by having only the strongest of a species survive to pass on their genes, hence strengthening the entire species. However, as our technology continues to advance, the life expectancy of everyone continues to rise allowing everyone to pass on their genes. In essence, we now have hordes of people peeing into the gene pool and ending the evolutionary process. Maybe it is possible to use technology, such as gene manipulation, to continue the evolution of our species. That, however, is another article, maybe for the next issue.

Possibly the World's Biggest Opportunity



JEFF KAO
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

“So... what program are you in?” Engineers are pretty smug about who we are and where we're going in the world. We firmly believe that “the geeks shall inherit the earth”, and convinced that indeed, Waterloo engineers are leading that charge. We're innovators, entrepreneurs, intellectuals, and providers of the future (while possibly keeping a tiny part of it for our own profit). We may even have a hand in the largest industry in the world; a sector of the economy that's destined to grow and innovate far beyond our lifetimes.

Too bad if you're thinking about Information Technology - you just may be missing out on the big picture.

The biggest industry in the world isn't oil, manufacturing, or IT. In fact, it's larger than these industries combined. Producing and operating these things uses up more of the world's produced electricity and resources than any other industry. It's the biggest purchase that most people will ever make and the biggest drain on their money. The biggest and best kept secret in technology (and one kept mainly to civvies) is the construction industry.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of going to CUTC and attending a seminar of Dr. John Straube from right here at UW. A civil engineering and architecture professor, he's passionate about well-engineered buildings and certainly got my interest going. Sure, a steel girder or concrete column may not be as sexy as say, artificial intelligence or fusion energy, but the good engineering of buildings is more relevant and practical than ever. How can buildings be improved through a holistic approach to engineering? According to Professor Straube, the most practical benefits from good design are not a huge internet

pipeline connecting your appliances to the internet, or having TVs on your fridge. The real revolution in building technology is the green revolution (and yes, I'm referring to both the environment and to money).

Think about the costs and resources put into buildings. If the cost of operating buildings were reduced even by 5%, what would be the savings be to homeowners and businesses? According to the Toronto Star in 2001, the average electricity bill costs about \$92 per household per month. Ever had to live off campus? You've probably tried completely turning off the heat for the winter to save on your energy bill. Natural gas costs have risen over the past

“Most energy saving initiatives accepted by large companies pay for themselves in less than 2 years”

few years. Checking my parents' gas bill brings up a cost of about \$1400 per year (with most of the costs from the winter months). Altogether, that's a cost of about \$2500. Public buildings and businesses stand to gain even more savings as each energy saving reduces the strain on the rest of the system and compounds into even greater savings.

More importantly though and on a global scale, is the positive impact this could have on the environment. With all the talk about greenhouse gases and conservation of energy, now is a good time as ever to reduce the energy waste, both in newly constructed buildings and retrofit of old buildings. Developing countries are continuing to... well... develop. The larger part of the world still is in the process of industrializing, and if they take the same erroneous path that current first-world countries have taken, it would be pretty safe to say that the world would be in a hell of a lot of trouble.

By now, you must be wondering how much it costs to make buildings energy efficient. Certainly engineers are all pragmatists at heart, but the reality is that there are so many things that homeowners and companies can do to reduce the costs with a minimum initial investment. Lighting energy bills can be cut in half if you just replace 25% of lights in high use areas with compact fluorescents, plus it doesn't burn out and require replacement as quickly. These initial investments pay for themselves. Most energy saving initiatives accepted by large companies pay for themselves in less than 2 years, and that's equivalent to a 70% return on your investment*... Not even RIM manages to increase their value that quickly! The technology is cheap, and it's here. It's just a matter of providing enough incentive for people to go out to buy it and for builders to proactively provide it to the public.

Professor Straube believes that we need education about sustainable buildings, and that the obvious benefits will work themselves into the public consciousness. There are tons of resources out on campus for students to find out about how to save money and the environment at the same time (what a great feeling!).

If you want to find out more about this field, there is a Green Buildings lecture series being held throughout UW bringing to us some great sources from industry and academia. On February 8th, there is a great seminar called "Engineering & Business Innovations in Green Building Design" with Peter Halsall & Michael Pelton at DC 1302. Check out the WPIRG website (www.wpirg.org) for more info.

But as with anything, knowing about it is not the same as taking action. Don't take others' word for it. Try it out for yourself and see if you save any money. All it takes is screwing in a couple of new lightbulbs to save money on the 2GB compact flash memory, or extra RAM for your PC. We're taking little steps to changing the world... and what could be better than that?

*statistic from Professor Straube's presentation

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Abstinence vs. Safe Sex: The Engineering Dilemma



JOHN OLAVESON
3A CIVIL

Abstinence or safe sex? One offers a certain pleasure while the other offers certainty. No one has ever become pregnant and no one has ever contracted a weird and unpleasant disease from abstaining. Abstinence is a choice. It is a way of life.

Before this discussion goes any further, I must set out the definition of abstinence that I'll be using. Sex includes any form of oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse. Many people likely hold different definitions of what abstinence includes, but for the following discussion, this definition will suffice.

When a person chooses to abstain from sex, that person can rest a little easier. Abstinence ensures that an individual will not contract one of those nasty little STDs that are increasingly prevalent. Who wants to walk into the clinic to find out that your persistent cold is the fault of AIDS? And who wants little crabs crawling around your pubic areas all the time? Not only are these and other infections detrimental to one's health (in varying degrees) they are also very embarrassing.

We all know that sexual intercourse is the only natural way for a woman to become pregnant (artificial insemination is a whole other issue). Abstinence prevents pregnancy. Who needs to rely on the pill or a condom when abstinence will negate all worry? Sure, birth control is very close to perfect in preventing pregnancy, but accidents do happen. A defective or broken condom could end in a really bad day for a woman. The agony and the stress of waiting for a pregnancy test cannot be matched even by school (or so I've heard). A woman can avoid all the worry with a simple choice; abstinence.

Abstinence does not preclude having an orgasm. It only precludes having an orgasm by certain means. So you aren't going to have sex with your partner. There are other things you can do together. And no, I'm not talking about "talking" or "spending quality time together." Those things will happen or not on their own. No, I'm talking about something that is near enough to sex without breaking abstinence. As the Barenaked Ladies once sang in their song In the Car, "In the car / It was mostly mutual masturbation / and though we spoke of penetration / I would have to wait for someone else to try it out." One or both of the people in this song abstained, yet both people were able to enjoy their experience with other things, like "My tongue inside her ear."

Two people can share a sexual relationship while maintaining abstinence.

Tantric sex offers another way to experience intimacy with another without breaking abstinence. There is no physical stimulation of sex organs, yet the pleasure experienced by both partners rivals and can exceed the pleasure of intercourse, and can last for hours. Tantric sex is not easy to have like intercourse is (anyone with working equipment can have intercourse) but the rewards for the investment are worthwhile.

Abstinence brings another benefit to a relationship. Sometimes people have sex on a whim, like at or after a party. I could list many other ways for two people to end up in the sack within a day of meeting each other (or a day of starting to "date" each other, whatever that means these days). To put it simply, engaging with someone so soon could end up causing emotional, professional, or social damage. Say one of the partners expected more of a person after sex, like a phone call. What happens when engineering students have sex with one another, then later they meet in a professional environment. Yes, this future encounter might pass by smoothly. Or it might cause tension in one or both of the former lovers. Emotions intermixed with work makes for a dangerous situation. Say someone you had a one-night stand with became your TA later on. How would that affect your life? Quick couplings and separations (or even couplings without the separation) can cause undue emotional and professional damage.

If you don't have someone to share tantric sex or mutual masturbation with (since I doubt many people one might randomly meet at parties are willing or learned enough to engage in these), don't despair! There's a solution for you too. No, I don't mean prostitutes. Although if you could find one to mutually masturbate with, then I congratulate you. I mean masturbation. Simple self-satisfaction. I hear most guys do this anyway. It's an easy way to "relieve the stress" and have some fun at the same time. I learned two good techniques for this (sorry, it only applies to men, but you women have lots of vibrators and other toys available). As Peter Griffon (in an alternate reality) once said, "Microwave a bagel and have sex with it." Or go with the Friendly Stranger (check with the Urbandictionary.com if you really want to know).

Now you might be someone who adopted the Monty Python doctrine that "Every sperm is sacred." If so, then there's no helping you. You're stuck having lots and lots of sex or no orgasm at all. Women get around that quite easily.

Remember, you can have abstinence at any time, but you need a partner for safe sex.



EDWARD TAN
3A COMPUTER

Before we can commence this discussion, we must first define a few terms. First of all, we must determine what defines a sexual act. This may seem like a trivial task, but there are, in fact, many different interpretations. For example, from a biological point of view, sex is the act through which reproduction takes place. Meanwhile, our friend Jerry considers a sexual act has taken place when the nipple makes its first appearance. In order to continue this article, we will use the definition provided to us by the law. The law defines a sexual act as "contact between the penis and the vulva or the penis and the anus, and for purposes of this subparagraph, contact involving the penis occurs upon penetration, however slight; contact between the mouth and the penis, the mouth and the vulva, or the mouth and the anus; or the penetration, however slight, of the anal or genital opening of another by a hand or finger or by any object, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person". Now, some may consider this definition to be excessive, but I'd like to see you not pay a hooker by convincing her that a blow job isn't considered sex.

Next I must point out that there is no such thing as 'safe sex'- instead, it is safer sex. In other words, it's about reducing risks, not eliminating them. What risks are these? Well, they include STDs, pregnancies and marriage. Before I began writing this article about safe sex, I decided I would do some research so I wouldn't be talking about a topic that I know nothing about (read into this however you like). My first approach was to look up the word "sex" on the Internet. Although the results I found were very interesting, they were of no use for this article. Next, I decided to visit a health center, it was a very informative experience. Apparently, K-Y jelly is used for more than just wrestling. In addition, there is more to safe sex than just the condoms that were part of your frosh kits (for some people, they were the only things in your frosh kit).

There are a whole slew of gadgets and contraptions used to reduce the risks involved with sex. However, instead of making this an article about contraceptive methods, I decided that at this point, which was already a day past the submission deadline for this article, that I would focus

more on the benefits of sex instead. For example, there are many health benefits. In terms of losing weight, running 75 miles or having sex three times a week burns the same amount of calories, approximately 7500 calories. Sex, like exercise, releases endorphins. Endorphins contribute to the runner's high and reduces pain levels. In addition, it also helps the immune system by increasing the flow of certain chemicals in the body. There have also been studies that show people who have active sex lives also live longer. Now, before some of you get too excited out there, I must mention that these studies involved intimate relationships. A promiscuous sexual relationship may actually produce an opposite effect by introducing a sense of anxiety and fear.

Now some people may be wondering how come I haven't made any sarcastic remarks or used my satire humour, which are always found in my articles regardless of the topic at discussion. Essentially, I didn't want to make this another sleazy *Imprint* sex article. That is what prevented me from making such remarks as,

"Apparently, K-Y jelly is used for more than just wrestling."

"Instead of getting a flu shot, you should get a shot of a different kind". However, this wouldn't be an Ed article if I didn't give my completely unfounded opinion and blatantly invented theories as to why sex is better than abstinence. First of all, using the fact that a lot of people practice abstinence is not a good argument. There's abstinence by choice and then there's abstinence in Engineering, enough said.

Now, if you compared human beings to other animals, you'll see that we are made to get it on more often. Animals have mating sessions, where they only reproduce during a set time period. Pandas, for example, are only ready to mate one day out of every year. Now, you compare that to humans, well, people do it all the time. By practicing abstinence your entire life, you're suppressing what is natural. Now some people say that they're going to practice abstinence until they're married. Is it really a faux pas to have sex before getting married if people are getting divorced and remarried like it's the latest fashion? I mean, we look at celebrities as the role models for our children right? How many celebrities only marry once? In fact, how many celebrities practice abstinence until they're married?

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.*

Why Is It Cool To Be An Engineer?



GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

If you know the answer to that question, you should help out with EngSoc's Exploration event. Now the real question is, what is that? Exploration is an event where children of grade 6 to 8 from the

schools of Kitchener-Waterloo come on campus for an evening to be more informed about what it means to be in engineering. Not the fact that most of us have livers of iron, but perhaps the fact that engineers are the only people on earth that can make almost anything out of iron (or steel etc). On Exploration Day, our visitors will be greeted with displays and presentations that will inform them about engineering.

This event will be occurring on March 14 (Monday) and we will need

you (i.e. the brightest engineering students in Canada) to help out at Explorations. As a volunteer, you would lead the tour groups along a specified route and do your best to keep our visitors educated and entertained for the duration of the tour. Some volunteers might become a "rover", who would be carrying walkie-talkies, a special hardhat, and (naturally) more responsibilities. We need around 100 volunteers, especially for the two tour times: 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm.

Why should you volunteer?

1. You get a free t-shirt
2. You get free food
3. You get to tell the younger generation why it is cool to be an engineer
4. The class that has the most volunteers will receive massive P**5 points

To volunteer, please join this listserv and send a message about what time you would like to volunteer at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Explorations2005/>

For Love or For Money — Why Are We Here?

IAN LEUNG
4B ELECTRICAL

Stereotyping is a very dangerous thing. Stereotyping leads to preconceptions, and preconceptions lead to prejudgments. Once you have a preconception about a certain group of people, you will have a tendency to judge them before even getting to know them as individuals. This is unfair, and most of us know this. So why do stereotypes still exist, and why do we insist on propagating them? Most importantly, are they even true?

I set out to search for the answer, using the simplest, quickest, corniest way I could find: A survey. Anyways, the stereotype that I chose to test was one that applied to us all. It gets to the bottom of our motivations for being here: our reasons for being engineers. If you crack open the *Big Book of Stereotypes** (Random House, \$14.99), there's a generalization that states that Asian people will tend to choose a practical, profitable area of study, rather than one that they actually enjoy. I know I did! This survey set out to test this stereotype. I started it two weeks ago, and now the results are in, and the votes have been counted.

As it turns out, this generalization is, for the most part, true.

The Data

This survey was conducted on 106 people: 53 of Asian decent, and 53 Caucasian. The term Asian refers to people who are visibly Oriental or Indian. Caucasian means "white". Some of the people surveyed were my friends in Elec. However, most of them were just random people from my classes, and off the street. Let's be realistic: I don't know 106 people, let alone have 106 friends. If you were ever approached by some random dude in the past few weeks, asking you to take part of a survey, then you were one of the 106. Be proud, you're part of an elite.

Although there is representation from all types of engineering, most of the engineers surveyed were either Comps or Elecs. This was due to physical convenience. By physical convenience, I mean that I have all my classes with comps and elecs, which makes it more *physically convenient* for me to survey these people, instead of schlepping it to some other engineering building.

Two weeks pass. I make about a hundred new casual acquaintances, and have a few interesting conversations about life. After all was said and done and Excel crunched all the numbers for me, it turned out that the generalization in question appeared to be true. Asians engineers in it for the money, either as their sole or major motivation, outnumbered Asian engineers in it for love by over 20%. Caucasian engineers doing it for love of the work outnumbered Caucasian engineers in it for the money by close to 40%.

There was also the difficulty of people who didn't really fit the categories. Most of the time when I approached people about the survey, they'd just give me a straight up answer. "Money". "Love". Done. I've had longer conversations with the guy that works at *Sunshine's*. "What you want?" C9. "Want Drink?" Yes. "For here, to go?" To go. Done. Some of the other people surveyed, however, took a bit more coaxing. A surprising number of people really just don't know what they're doing here. I'd ask them the question, and then I'd have to listen to a small chunk of their life story. Then I'd still have to clarify some things before finally taking their vote down. Just for the record, the "Money" category was meant

to encompass anything practical in nature. Not just money, but anything along the lines of financial security, power, and opportunity.

Over the course of the survey, I found that 14% of the entire group couldn't really fit anywhere, even after trying to talk it through with them. Motivated neither by love, nor money, this group just seems to be here for no particularly great reason. This group was equally divided between Asians and Caucasians. You could say that being directionless crosses all cultural boundaries. Naturally, I'm kind of in here too. This is the group of people who got in simply because they could, or because they had the marks for it. Does anybody remember being in high school, flipping through the Career Book, looking at the mark cutoffs, and picking the ones closest to your own? I'm sure I wasn't the only one who did this. I don't think.

That's it for the numbers. They have their flaw, but they're workable nonetheless. Now that you know where I'm coming from, we can now hopefully try to explain all of this nonsense. As a disclaimer, everything from the next section onward will be opinionated material. However, everything you've just read is factual, and actually did happen as stated here.

money? It's just plain impractical. For these reason (combined with many others that I totally don't know about), Asian cultures tend to value family, parental respect, and practicality quite highly.

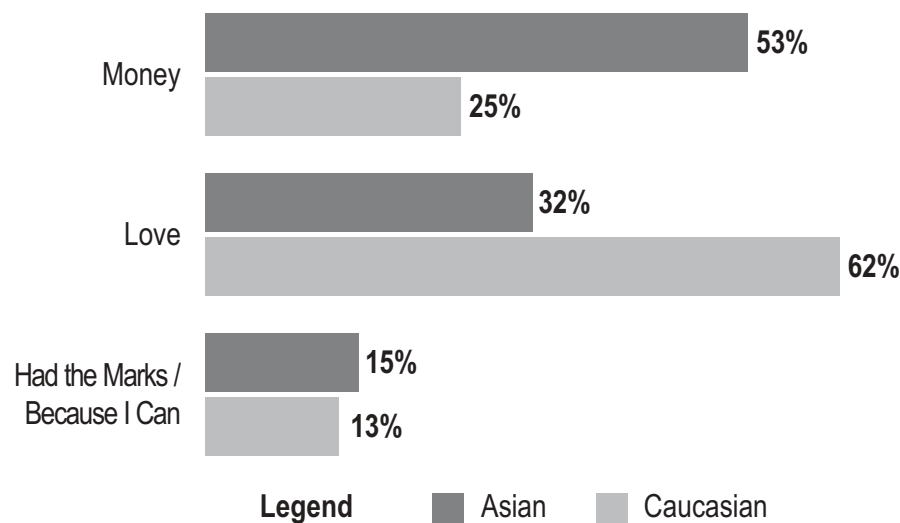
People with these sets of values will tend to enter practical areas of study, as a means to a well-paying and secure job. This is so you can support your parents when they get old, as well as your future family. This is very practical reasoning. Your family spends a lot of time and energy raising you, and it is your responsibility to reciprocate. Whether your motivation be love, honour, or guilt, pleasing your family is more important than pleasing yourself. The North American approach is to do whatever makes you happy, which is a bit of a foreign concept to me. Again, this is far from definitive, but it gives you a good overview and is marginally better than nothing. This also seems to be a good argument in favor of stereotyping based on culture. You see someone who looks Chinese, so you assume they were raised in this fashion and has this mindset. That's okay, right? Cultural profiling works, doesn't it?

Wrong. Cultural Profiling Doesn't Work Although the cultural influence is substantial, there's a lot more at play here

The point is, being first or second generation immigrants mean that you get the most direct teaching of your cultural values. Any subsequent generations of settlers will be taught a slightly watered-down version of these values, tempered with the ideals of North America. Thus, although our survey reflects the stereotype in question, future generations may answer differently when the cultural boundaries start to blur. When my kids and my kids' kids perform the same survey when they're in university, their results may return a more balanced result. That is assuming, of course, that they're not drinking themselves into oblivion. If they should take after their old man, they just might do that instead.

Most important is the influence of the individual. Everybody is unique, and unique people respond to stimuli in different ways. If you take ten distinct individuals, and raise them the exact same, with ten clones of the same parents etc, you will get ten different reactions to the parenting techniques. Although a culture may place a lot of pressure on individuals to succeed at certain things, or behave a certain way, the individual still has a choice to say "No". This ability to choose is what sets us apart from animals. For every half-dozen "Asian Engineers",

Are you in Engineering for money or for love?



Some interesting answers:

"When going into university, I put Engineering, Lawyer, and Doctor on a piece of paper. Then I closed my eyes and pointed at one. Now I'm here."
— 3rd Year Chem Eng

"When I was putting together my university applications, my friend bet me that I wouldn't make it into Systems. When I found out that I won, I was out of the country so there was nothing I could do to fix it."
— 4th Year Systems

"When I first got in to Engineering, it was for the love. Then as I went on I found that I really hated it. So now I'm in it for the money."

Explaining the Nonsense

For the sake of this article, I'm going to work on the assumption that this data is correct. In this case, we'll say that most Asian people are here for money or other practical reasons, and most Caucasian people are here because they love what they do. Now why would this be the case?

Maybe it's racial. Maybe Asian people are genetically predisposed to be practical. And maybe we'll get a full reading week off this term. I don't think so. Race has nothing to do with it. It is the culture that is the main determining factor.

Let's look at Asian culture. First off, India and China are the two most populated countries in the world. Most other Asian countries are very high on the list. Obviously, with a large population, competition will increase dramatically. With it harder to make a buck in the world, just to feed yourself and your family, you will tend to value what money you have. A large population can also lead to a tighter-knit family unit. Entire extended families have been known to reside in spaces no larger than a single-bedroom apartment. To survive, every member of the family works hard and makes sacrifices to provide for the rest of the family. Even if somebody *wanted* to leave, how would they? What space is there available for them to move into? And with what

than just how you were raised.

There's also a situational aspect to consider. The culture described above has been pretty consistent over numerous generations. However, the situation facing this culture today is quite unique. Our current state is this: Almost every Asian person in North America today is either a first or second generation immigrant. If you're Asian, then chances are either you, or your parents were the first ones to move to this country. It's kinda cool, you're like a pioneer. I know for myself, my parents were the ones that immigrated. They shipped themselves over for university, and met playing mah-jong somewhere. And for your information, they came in on a *plane*, not a frickin' boat.

The significance of this is that it marks the first time that Asian cultural values are applied in a foreign setting. These values were formed in response to one environment, and are now being used in another. New immigrants bring with them the values taught them by their homeland, and inflict them on their children. These kids don't see the reasoning behind any of these ideals, because they never went through the same hardships as their parents. All they see is little Jimmy playing outside while they're stuck inside doing extra math homework.

there's probably a few "Asian Rock Stars" out there. These are the guys who told his family to screw off, and did their own thing. When you're out in the street and you meet a random Asian dude, you can't assume that he's the "Asian Engineer", because the possibility exists that he's of the "Asian Rock Star" variety. The only way to know for sure is to talk to them, without preconceptions. Don't think of them as an Asian, Caucasian, or whatever, but just as a human being. Even in the polls, although 53% of Asians are in it for the money, 32% are doing it because they love doing it. A similar poll posted on the Elec 2005 website, (www.elec2005.com), actually showed that 64% of Asian people are in engineering mostly for love. Thus, there are still considerable amounts of people going against the stereotype, and you wouldn't know this unless you went up and asked them specifically.

In the end, it all comes down to the individual. No matter how you were raised or what your life is like, the bottom line is that every decision you make is your own, and nobody else's. Your decisions should be based on the person you are now, and the person *you* want to be. The things other people tell you or teach you is just advice. It's up to you whether you want to take it or not.

*The "Big Book of Stereotypes" is not actually a book.

Perspective of Religious Students on Same-Sex Marriage



MICHAEL SIMOES
2A CHEMICAL

Disclaimer: The students interviewed gave their personal belief with respect to same-sex marriages. Some of those interviewed will remain anonymous for protection of identity.

The purpose of this article is to put forth a religious perspective on same-sex unions/marriages, from those who are practicing their faith. The media has covered this issue only from either a "straight" person or a gay/lesbian person, and omits the religious person's opinion. When the media does, on occasion, bring a priest or a rabbi on TV to be interviewed about same-sex marriages, they never get the chance to fully speak their mind about the issue or the media puts a spin on what they are saying, or they are cut off by time restrictions. In this article, the people interviewed were allowed to say what was on their mind about the issue, there were no edits made to the content of the quotes, and there was no time limit. The religious people that were interviewed are from a wide basis of religions. The major religions have been covered, except Islam, which I could not find a person to interview. The Muslim Club was too busy with day-to-day activities to comment at this time.

Roman Catholic

Michael Simoes

I have always been opposed to the sexual actions of homosexuals, and when the debate on homosexuals being allowed to "marry" one another arose, I was even incited to write my MP and MPP telling them why I was opposed to same sex unions. So why am I opposed? Not because I am a homophobe (I am not afraid of homosexuals) or because I am some holier-than-thou president who thinks going to war is okay, but same-sex unions are destructive to society. I am opposed to them because it approves their sinful and illicit sexual acts. Homosexuals are human beings, and deserve to be treated and respected in society, but their sexual actions are sinful, and in violation of divine and natural law. This does not only apply to homosexuals, but also applies to heterosexuals, in which those same sexual actions are wrong and sinful. Everyone, heterosexuals and homosexuals alike, is tempted with the same desires—that is not sinning. But when one does act on those desires, that is where the sinning begins. It is equally wrong when heterosexuals do not live up to the teachings of the Church. When heterosexuals seek to sterilize their sexual union and instead make orgasm the ultimate goal of their union, one can see why homosexuals want to get married. For the Church, the goal of sexual union between a man and a woman is not sexual pleasure (there is nothing wrong with pleasure) but the human being (the husband or the wife) they are making love to.

Naturally, a man is made for a woman, and a woman made for a man. The male end goes into the female end. In an electrical socket, the male end of the instrument goes into the female end to give power to the instrument. If the male end went into the female end, or the female end into the male end, there would be no power to the instrument, it just does not work. How can a homosexual person procreate? They cannot, without the help of some unnatural assistance such as artificial insemination or genetic engineering. Marriage itself is life-giving, but homosexuals cannot bring forth

life. They can adopt a child, but that still does not make the homosexual marriage life-giving. Statistics and studies show that the best environment for a child to be raised is with a mother and a father, not two fathers or two mothers.

The argument of separation of Church and State, or human rights, is shouted out the instant that a Catholic person stands up and is opposed to same-sex unions. Homosexuals are forbidden to marry not because of their orientation, but because of their biology. In the sexual union between a man and woman, marriage becomes an icon of the Trinity (God in three Persons), which a homosexual cannot image. We are our bodies. Any attempt to divorce our souls from the fundamental orientation (yes, our genitals) is to embrace the ancient heresy of dualism (splitting the body and soul). The biological is personal. It is the body that shows us who we are and defines our call to sexual love.

The definition of marriage is between ONE man and ONE woman, to the exclusion of all others, a definition that has been upheld since the beginning of time. Now my question is, who are we, as fallible human beings, to be even allowed to redefine marriage? Marriage is, and will always be, a basis for the family, and an integral part to society. Not only that, but it is a holy institution, a sacrament in which God's graces are showered upon us. The government in 1999 supported the traditional definition of marriage, and now they are willing to change their vote. If it was wrong to change the definition of marriage then, it is still wrong to change the definition of marriage now.

Judaism

Anonymous

In Judaism, one of the 613 commandments prohibits two males from having sexual relations. (Source: Leviticus 18:22) This law is extended to prohibit same sex marriage between two males or two females. Torah-observant Jews view the Torah (Old Testament), as well as our Oral Tradition, as absolute truth, which were both the word of G-d* when he spoke on Mount Sinai. All of G-d's commandments are relevant to our lives, so in the same way that a parent would not instruct their four-year-old child not to drink and drive, G-d would not prohibit us from an act that no person desires to commit. So, when G-d commands us not to have relations with a person of the same sex, He is essentially saying that He will put people into the world and He Himself will give them those sexual urges.

So one must ask the question, why would an all-loving, all-just G-d purposely make a world of such frustration? Because the whole point is reaching our potential, personal growth, and having a relationship with G-d, and the way we accomplish it is through challenge. In each of our lives, we are given these challenges from G-d, and the degree of challenge is dependent on what our neshama (soul) is capable of handling/overcoming. If someone has these sexual desires, which G-d has forbidden, this means that a) G-d loves them so much and b) is concerned with their growth AND c) has the utmost confidence in them. So, anyone who is presented with this fundamental challenge MUST have an incredibly strong neshama, because most of us could not handle the intensity of the challenge with which they are faced.

Armenian Orthodox Christian

Harout Manougian

From a Christian standpoint, homosexuality is a sin and it is wrong. It is written in the Bible, and there just is no questioning that. Seeing as I sin too, I am no better off than someone who practices homosexual actions, the difference between me and a

homosexual is that I repent, I turn back to God, and ask him for mercy, while homosexuals praise their sin and are driven to show it off to everyone, pretending it is okay, when in fact it is not. If they sinned quietly in some private room and then repented, in God's eyes, there would be no difference between us. But, they do not; they have parades and constantly try to pretend that it is not wrong. They dare to say they have a right to a lawful, equal marriage, which is just preposterous from a Christian's standpoint.

Now, Canada's dilemma is that they do not want religion to set the moral code for society. Their ideology is that if two consenting adults would like to do something without bothering anyone, they should be allowed to. But if we're going to completely uproot institutions as old as marriage to be "politically correct", why would anyone stop at homosexual marriages? Why not polygamous legal marriages? Why not bestiality or incest? Today, there is no question that this is not publicly acceptable. The mere fact that it would be tolerated DOES BOTHER almost all members of society. It was the same scenario with same sex marriage 40 years ago. But due to the Liberal Party's policy of promising anything to please every voter class, we have gotten into the situation we are in today. That's my opinion as a Canadian citizen. Then, if it were legalized, would not same sex couples feel entitled to have children? After all, everybody keeps on telling them they have an equal union. How would they sort that out? Pay surrogate mothers? That brings in another whole new set of legal problems. And in this case, could somebody please think about the children? I do not care what rhetoric is being thrown around these days; the best environment for a child to be raised in is with a mother and a father. Ask any child from a single parent home if he or she didn't feel like something was missing.

A same sex union can never be like a real marriage; why is there such a push to call it what it's not? Common law partners are already recognized. Homosexual couples should be satisfied with that. I dare any politician to hold a referendum on the issue. The majority of Canadians agree with me.

Hinduism

Anonymous

As a devotee of the Hindu faith, and a Canadian, I've always been taught tolerance and to be open-minded. Hindus spend their entire lives in prayer and worship working to achieve spiritual enlightenment and to transcend above the reincarnation cycle to be one with the universe. It shares with Buddhism the belief of denouncing all material possessions. We do not distinguish between right and wrong (aside from the obvious "sins"), and we encourage others to share their own beliefs and values. That's why I believe that sexual orientation, like race, religion or colour, should have absolutely no bearing on the rights afforded to a person. So I fully believe that same sex marriages should definitely be legally recognized by the state. I also believe that the church should recognize them as well, but that's a different argument. Besides, why concern myself with something that won't ever affect me?

Sikhism

Anonymous

Recently, the leader of the Sikh religion, Giani Joginder Singh Vedanti, has asked for all Sikhs to oppose same-sex marriages, since the Sikh code of conduct does not allow such marriages. Many of the Liberal MPs who are Sikh are now faced with a challenge on whether to listen to their religions leader and vote against the bill in the

House of Commons or to vote as Prime Minister Paul Martin has asked them to vote.

Religions and religious people across the country are affected by the decision to wed homosexuals. As stated, a referendum should be held on this issue, a decision made by the people. This issue should not be left to the politicians who have their own agendas, and the courts, who are not elected, but appointed.

Note: In the Judaism section, the use of G-d is to protect the name of God; if the paper is thrown out, it won't be disrespectful.

Architecture: Engineering Faculty Welcomes Move

Continued from page 1.

dents are, or a different degree, remains to be decided.

Starting with the graduating class of 2009, the engineering students are expected to complete a number of mandatory professional development courses during their co-op terms. When asked if the architecture students are also going to be participating in such courses, Adel Sedra, the dean of engineering, pointed out that those courses are geared towards the requirements of PEO. Nonetheless, he believes that acquiring those skills will be beneficial for all students seeking a professional career and thinks the possibility can be further discussed.

Although the immediate academic impacts on the students are minimal, Dean Sedra mentioned that he would like to see more interactions between the Department of Civil Engineering and the School of Architecture, possibly a new program of architectural engineering in the future.

Meanwhile, another focus is the kind of services the architecture students will be provided. Dr. Sedra assured the Faculty of Engineering will work hard to provide Architecture with similar services in terms of finance and administration, as the ones available to the existing engineering departments and their students. As ES senator Kari Johnston pointed out, The Faculty of ES has divided some of their resources, such as University Map and Design Library and computing supports, between Waterloo and Cambridge campus. After the move, Engineering is expected to step in.

However, many of the concerns over services are beyond what is provided by the faculty. For instance, in order to access health services, which most UW students take for granted, the architecture students must take a relatively long bus ride from Cambridge. Johnston mentioned that students, members of UW administration and service providers will be meeting in February to find solutions for this problem.

Aside from the university administration, changes may be needed on the student organizations' side. The architecture students will switch their membership from the Environmental Studies Society to the Engineering Society. As of the current time, the executives from both A and B societies have yet to find ways to manage the move. If any constitutional amendment is required for EngSoc, the changes must be presented to both societies at least two general council meetings before voted by the summer's Joint Council meeting.

Despite the many more efforts required for a smooth transition for from ES to Engineering, IW would like to add its welcome to all members of the School of Architecture.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Paul & Paula Plummer Award Nominations



KARIM LALLANI
PRESIDENT

A month has just flown by and midterms are right around the corner. If you want to take a break from studying, you should definitely check out the EngSoc events that are taking place in February. For full event listings, make sure you check out the EngSoc website.

From February 11-13, the University of Waterloo will be hosting the Ontario Engineering Competition (OEC). Universities from all over Ontario will be competing for a chance at cash prizes and to represent Ontario at the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC). I'd like to commend the chairs of the conference, Laura Mooney and Sharon Attwood as well as their committee for doing a fantastic job so far, and I'm certain that all participants will have a fantastic time. For all of you participating in the competition, I wish you the best of luck! Make Waterloo proud!

As you may or may not know, the School of Architecture will be moving from the faculty of Environmental Studies to the faculty of Engineering. I'm not too certain what this means for the Engineering Society as of now, but I will definitely be following up on this matter. I've already made contact with the execu-

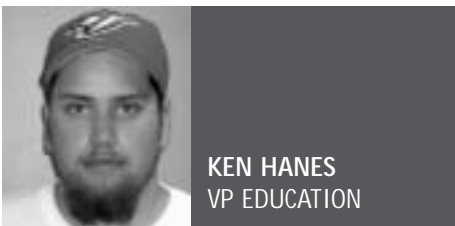
tive members of the Waterloo Architecture Students Association (WASA), and I hope we'll get together soon to discuss the matters at hand.

In the fall term, a 4th year UW student, Arda Ocal put together a compilation CD called Warrior Nation. The CD features musical talent from UW students, staff & alumni. It's only selling for \$5 each, so you should definitely check it out. The proceeds of the CD are going towards creating a much-needed award for spirited UW undergraduate students. The CDs are on sale in the Orifice, and may also be on sale in the CPH foyer through GradComm. There are only a limited number of CDs remaining, so get yours today.

If you're graduating this year, please read on. The Paul & Paula Plummer award nominations will be taking place at the 2nd EngSoc meeting (Feb 2). If you miss the meeting, you can e-mail me your nomination (bsoc_prez@engmail) by Friday February 11. By nominating someone, you (or someone you appoint) will be required to give a one minute speech at the 3rd EngSoc meeting (Feb 16) as to why the nominee is deserving of the award. The awards are given to fourth-year students who have demonstrated an overwhelming level of commitment to EngSoc throughout their years at UW. The award will be presented at Grad Ball to a chosen few. This award is the most coveted and prestigious award presented by EngSoc.

That's it for now. Good luck with your midterms.

Vision 2010



KEN HANES
VP EDUCATION

And now, for the moment you've all been waiting for, exec article number two! This week has been insane, with five assignments and a lab due, none of which I had started on by Sunday night, so needless to say, the last thing I feel like doing right now is writing an article. But, here goes nothing!

Dean Sedra, and the planning department are hosting an information session for Vision 2010 on Thursday (February 3). Just as a quick recap, Vision 2010 is the six year plan the Dean's office has undertaken to attempt to be the hands down, number one engineering school, (in both undergraduate and graduate studies), in Canada, and within the top ten in North America. The session will take place from 4:45 until 6:30 in CPH 3385, and for a little encouragement, it will include pizza and drinks. A major part of the planning is to include undergraduate input for both the faculty and the departmental level. This session will include a presentation by the Dean and a question-and-answer session after. The Dean's office is hoping for as much student input as possible, so come on out and learn a little about what's going on. Start thinking about how you think the faculty and your departments can

best use, and increase the available resources to achieve their goal for the future.

There are a couple of interesting education matters to note from the Senate meeting on January 17. First off, if classes are cancelled within the last week of class due to an emergency closure, (aka, a really big snow/ice storm), the classes missed can now be rescheduled for the first day after classes end, before the examination period begins. Secondly, the final examination schedule has been changed. Instead of the usual, three, three hour time slots, there will now be four, two and a half hour time slots for final exams in a day. The reasoning is that there have been too many fire alarms pulled during exams and the PAC has a special evacuation procedure. It is also difficult to proctor large exams in RCH and MC, so they want to have as many exams as possible in the PAC. It was also stated that no student can have two exams in a row, that no student can write in the last time slot on one day, and the first time slot on the next, and that no student can write more than two exams in a day. This will take place beginning in the spring term.

So anyway, that's all the big news for now. Keep up to date for more resume critiques, debt load surveys, lots of workshops, and continuing news on everything you want to hear about. Remember, any questions or concerns, feel free to track me down. I'm usually in the C&D, the Orifice, or POETS. Hope to hear from you soon!

Habitat For Humanity: February 28



CHRISTINA WATERS
VP EXTERNAL

FYIC, H4H and OEC FYIC (First Year Integration Conference) is Feb 4th - 6th and should be a blast for all of the first year students that are going. The conference allows the first years to learn about all of the organizations that EngSoc is involved with. They are also given the opportunity to meet other first years from various universities and learn how their respective EngSocs function. They will also receive a presentation from OSPE and PEO. This conference will be a wicked time, so watch for their after conference reports.

H4H (Habitat for Humanity) is a go for this semester. It will be run on the

28th of February and will be a day to give back to the community. We tend to get so wrapped up in our school work and our social lives, and therefore forget about the exterior community. This is a chance for us as engineering students to make a difference in someone else's life. Please come out and support this wonderful event and great opportunity to expand yourself.

OEC (Ontario Engineering Competition) is a competition, and it's about engineering...for those of you who couldn't guess it from the title. It is being held on the 11th-13th of February and I encourage everyone to come out. It will have competitors from other schools in multiple disciplines. This will be your chance to come out and see why Waterloo is the best...and why the other schools try to make fun of us all the time. Hope to see you there!

That is all from me, and as always, any questions, feel free to ask :o)

Budget Unveiling Today at EngSoc Meeting



DAVID JOHNSON
VP FINANCE

I will make this as quick as possible. I am currently working on the first draft of the budget. The budget will be unveiled at the Second EngSoc meeting, on Wednesday the 2nd. How exciting! Most likely, there will need to be a fix-up here and a fix-up there. So if there is a problem with the budget, please send a pleasant e-mail to let me know. Thank you. If we don't pass the budget on Wednesday night meeting, it will be done at the third EngSoc meeting February

16th.

Donations!

Because I am working the budget now I don't know exactly how much we will have for donations.

Donations requests are DUE Wednesday February 9th at 4:30pm. Donation request are requests for funding, submitted by engineering student projects and initiatives. Donations requests consist of a letter explaining the group, its connection to engineering, how much money they want, and what it will be spent on. These letters can be left in my mailbox in the Orifice. They will be put onto overheads for the EngSoc meeting so please make them presentable.

That's all. And remember- "Lack of money is the root of all evil." George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

Arts Week, Texas Hold 'Em Tournament



ANDREA RAYNER
VP INTERNAL

Hello again! It was so nice talking with you in the last IW that I decided I should do it again. Now that we're into February everyone should be settled, and ever started some midterms, I know I have.

There is just too much to talk about this time, since you won't be hearing from me again until March. There is an EngSoc meeting tonight, and one again on the 16th, Arts Week will be going on all of next week, the special events directors are working towards a Texas Hold 'Em tourney on the 21st, and the athletics guys have the ice booked for

hockey on the 24th. IRS goes down on the 22nd, and hurrah, hurrah, OEC is the weekend of the 18th.

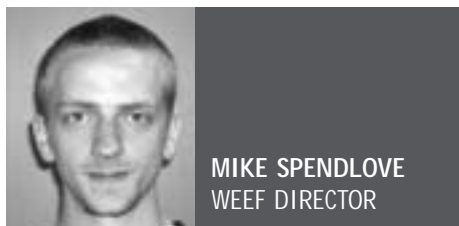
We've started to get the first event forms sent out, and have even gotten some back, which is very exciting. I'm going to see what I can do about making that process easier.

You may have noticed that a few of the mailboxes in the Orifice have brightly coloured name tags, that's just to make your life easier. The Exec mailboxes are in a neon redish colour so they can't be missed. Just a note for all of the mailboxes, when you locate the box you're looking for, put your mail in the box UNDER the name, just follow the arrows!

In closing, I would again like to leave you with a few words of wisdom: 20% of all publications sold in Japan are comic books. Seth Cohen would sure fit in!

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

WEEF Proposals Being Accepted Until Feb 28



MIKE SPENDLOVE
WEEF DIRECTOR

A quick update:

- Proposals for WEEF funding are being accepted from now until 5pm February 28th. As with other terms, this is a final deadline and cannot be extended due to the work that goes into preparing these proposals for printing.

- A week or so after this deadline (exact date TBC), WEEF will hold a information session for Funding Council reps featuring a 2 to 5-minute presentation about each WEEF proposal. (As with the past two terms, I highly recommend all presenters attend a special seminar to be given the week before on how to make an effective WEEF presentation.)

- Changes to WEEF bylaws have been proposed. Included in the changes are allocations for more money to be spent each term, as well as for the creation of a concrete policy document that will clearly identify what types of proposals are eligible for WEEF support. A special funding council meeting will be called next week to discuss and approve such changes. Please email weef@engmail if you are a WEEF class rep and have not received an email by Thursday, Feb 3rd.

- WEEF will hold an Annual General Meeting on March 14th to allow members (i.e. UW engineering students) to keep abreast of WEEF purchases, policies and finances. This is also an ideal time for any interested students to give us feedback or to address the WEEF board directly. More information will be posted here or on the website in due course.

Stay tuned for refunds statistics as well as results from our survey to improve WEEF! Good luck on midterms, and remember to get those proposals in!

CECS Important Dates

February 2

Job Fair 2005 10 am – 3:30 pm, RIM Park, Waterloo

February 3

Career Services Workshops:
Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills – Don't stop at the fundamentals; you must also prove your skills in the interview. Here is your opportunity to practice and improve. NOTE: Please attend only if you can stay the full two hours. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 4:30 – 6:30 pm, TC 2218.

February 7

Thinking about Graduate Studies? Find out the steps to apply to graduate and professional schools. Program research, applications, references, interviews and the admission process will be discussed, as well as scholarship options. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 2:30 – 3:30 pm, TC 2218.

Mastering the Personal Statement: Learn how to write a winning personal statement when applying to graduate and professional school programs. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30 – 4:30 pm, TC 2218

February 8

Job Search Strategies: Special Session for International Students International students will learn best approaches to search for work in Canada after graduation from UW, including visa requirements. NOTE: first hour of session covers general job search strategies; last half hour details visa requirements. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 4:30 – 6:00 pm, TC 1208

February 9

NEW Personality Dimensions: Explore your personality preferences and how they relate to different kinds of careers – work, the people, the environment. NOTE – Participation is limited to 25 students. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30 – 5:30 pm, TC 2218
Business Etiquette: Proper etiquette is crucial to a successful job search and to your career. This workshop will cover dining etiquette as well as appropriate behaviour at interviews, employer receptions/sessions and other networking activities. Register

online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 5:00 – 6:00 pm, TC 1208

February 10

Career Services Workshops:
Job Search Strategies: Learn the “how to” of job/work search, networking, and employer research. Creative and traditional methods are explored. NOTE: Much of this information is similar to the CO-OP 101 Job Search session. Co-op students should attend only if they need a refresher. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30 – 5:00 pm, TC 1208

February 14

Career Services Workshops:
Letter Writing: Learn how to use letters to your advantage in the job search. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30-4:30 pm, TC 1208
Résumé Writing: Discover techniques for writing an effective résumé. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 4:30-5:30 pm, TC 1208

February 15

Architecture job postings available at 6 am
Career Services Workshops
Successfully Negotiating Job Offers: Increase the odds of getting what you want when negotiating salary and other details related to the job offer. NOTE: This workshop is geared towards graduating students. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30 – 4:30 pm, TC 1208

February 16

Career Services Workshops:
Career Decision Making: After this session you will be in a better position to assess yourself and your “fit” in the world of work. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 10:30 am – 12:00 pm, TC 1208.
Architecture job postings close at 11:59 pm

February 17

Career Services Workshops:
Interview Skills: The Basics – Understand the fundamentals of successful interviewing. NOTE: Much of this information is similar to the CO-OP 101 Interview Skills session. Co-op students should attend only if they need a refresher. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca

terloo.ca 2:30-3:30 pm, TC 1208
Interview Skills: Preparing for Questions- Discuss and learn from taped excerpts of actual interviews. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 3:30 – 4:30 pm, TC 1208
Using JobMine to Rank tutorial, 4:30-5:30 pm, AL 113 Architecture job postings available at 6 am

February 18

First interview cycle rankings available at 6 am on JobMine; to be completed before Feb. 20, 11:59 pm
Co-ordinators available for ranking consultation; 10:00 am – 12 noon, and 1:00 - 3:00 pm, various offices in TC. Check at CECS Information Centre.
Architecture job postings close at 11:59 pm

February 22

Daily co-op job postings begin for remaining interview cycles
Co-op job match results available at 11 am for students who had interviews in the first cycle

February 28

Meeting for students not matched, 4:30 pm, various locations

March 1 – April 15

Weekly co-op interview cycles begin for students not yet employed for the May-Aug 2005 term. Rankings are available every Thursday evening and Friday morning. Match results are available every Friday morning following the close of rankings.

March 1

Acceptance of employment meetings for students who were matched in the first interview cycle
Information meeting for students who are going on their first co-op work term, 4:30 pm, TC2218

Career Services Workshops:
Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills – Don't stop at the fundamentals; you must also prove your skills in the interview. Here is your opportunity to practice and improve. NOTE: Please attend only if you can stay the full two hours. Register online at www.careerservices.uwaterloo.ca 2:30 – 4:30 pm, TC 1208

March 2

Acceptance of employment meetings for students who were matched in the first interview cycle.

Upcoming Events from EngSoc

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca
30	31	1	2 EngSoc Meeting #2	3	4 FYIC (Feb 4-6) Enginuity #2	5	
6 Super Bowl Sunday	7 Arts Week (Feb 7-10)	8 Co-op Skills	9	10	11 OEC (Feb 11-13) Election Forum	12	

My Big Fat Ancient Greek SCAvenger hUNT



GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

It has been a long-standing tradition at the Faculty of Engineering for its students to engage in a 24-hour marathon of madness every term. This is known as Havenger Scunt. If you notice carefully, it is just a mix-match of the words "Scavenger Hunt". If you have been to Scunt, you would notice that its name does not fully describe the scope of this event.

As the victors of the previous B-soc Havenger of Hearts, the 2A Systems Design class were the co-ordinators of this term's activities, as an ancient Greek-themed Scunt:

In Ancient Greece (i.e. University of Waterloo) all is not well. Thanks to yet another affair of Zeus', Hera has finally had enough and thrown him off Mount Olympus, resulting in chaos down on earth. In fact, Hera bears such wrath for the human race (Zeus' fling was with a shepherdess mortal named Monicus Lewinskus) that she plans to destroy all humans with terrible snowstorms and freezing cold temperatures. Only thanks to the grace of Athena has human existence been spared so far, but she cannot hold Hera's fury at bay for much longer. Athena, being a Rhodes Scholar with a 5.0 GPA, conceives of a plan to help the mortals of Ancient Greece win over Hera...

(Introduction, Scunt W2005 Manual)

The great cities of Ancient Greece were to have a series of competitions to test wits, agility, art, discourse and ingenuity, all in Hera's honour. If they perform very well and please her, Hera would change her mind and not destroy civilization as we know it. Eight great cities rallied to her call: 1B Mechanical, 1B Computer, 1B Civil, 2A Chemical, 3A Software, 3B/4B Mechanical, Science, and Math.

Scunt started off with an introduction of the scenario by the Scunt gods, Broadway-style. Next, each of the teams presented their own skits to entertain the gods. A majority of these shows were not suitable for younger children, but since



this is a university, it is highly improbable that younger children would be around (hopefully UW's your-future-prof child geniuses were not wandering around RCH at the time).

Aside from a huge acquisition list of items to find, each team had a ton of trivia to solve and special events waiting for their participation (and a chance to perhaps settle their rivalries). Although the weather is definitely a limiting factor to the scope of how ridiculous our activities can be, there was a wide variety of wacky events lined up for the 24 hours.

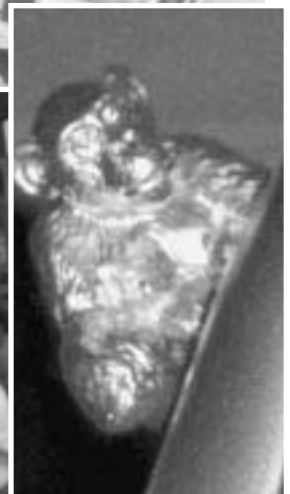
These events ranged from winter fun, such as Winter Biking, Snow Soccer, Snow Fortress, and B.F.S. (involves big snowball), to intelligent competitions,

such as Mind-Breaking Chess, Diplomacy, Egg Drop, Design Challenge, Age of Mythology, and Full Contact Calculus. Those who were eager to put their money on the table (or in this case, their teams' points) satisfied their thirst for gambling with Olympic-sized Texas Hold'em Poker and a few rounds of HK Mah Jongg. There were also general events; that is, generally fun and hilarious events, such as Dance-off Challenge, Iron Chief, Mao, and Calvin Ball.

Scunt is not Scunt without a roadtrip. In the Odyssey, teams were required to trek to downtown Toronto and find locations and souvenirs to bring back. Some of the challenges included: walking to the top of CN Tower, play hockey at Nathan Phillips Square, sing Abba songs at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, take a picture with a VJ at Much Music, and some other crazy random stuff.

The 24 hour marathon of madness was finally concluded with a toboggan race outside RCH and DWE. Each team constructed their own toboggans and raced them down the snowy slope. It was a rather amusing episode.

If you had no idea what the heck half of those events were, you are missing out on one of the most enjoyable experiences of your university life. Therefore, you should participate in Scunt and find out! Be sure to sign up the coming fall term.



Official Scunt Events

Basketball
Battle of the Gods
B.F.S.
Bigger And Better
Blocked Passage
Card Search
The Cubic Puzzle of Rubicus
DDR Competition
Design Challenge
Diplomacy
Dodgeball
Dominoes
Duct Tape to the Wall
Egg Drop Challenge
Full Contact Calculus
Generals' War Council
The Gods Must Be Crazy
Greco-Thumbian Wrestling
Greek God Build Off
Human Pyramid
Iron Chef
Labyrinth
Lego Build-Off
Many Made One
Mao (Card Game)
The Marathon
Midnight Snack
Mindbreaking Speedchess

Mini Hit-Ball-With-Stick
Mr. T's Got Some Bad Tartarus: Who Wants to be an A-Team Millionaire.
Multi-Way Soccer (in the snow)
My Big Fat Greek Family Feud
Name that Tune
Name Them or Be Smote!
No Decibels Barred Pictionary
Olympic-Sized Mah Jongg
Olympic-Sized Texas Hold'em
Philosopher for a Day
Puzzle Poetry (Orpheus Descending)
Recycled Furniture
Roche / Papier / Ciseaux
Rock and Roll Jeopardy
Snow Coliseums
Snow Fortress Construction
Statue Contest
Terpsichore's Dance Off
Toboggan Race
Tongue up the Volume
Tune that Name
Twister
Winter Biking
Would You Rather?
Zeus n Hades: Super Smash Brothers & Mario Kart 64



Official Results

FIRST PLACE

2A Chemical (Chemikazes)
 participation in all events
 enthusiastic
 cheesecake bribe
 Snow Biking
 B.F.S.
 Marathon
 Design Challenge
 Egg Drop
 smoked everyone in Calvin Ball

SECOND PLACE (TIE)

1B Mechanical (Mechalomaniacs)
 good showing for a small team
 good trivia and acquisitions
 high-spirited

Math

great participation (as always)
 Name That Tune (as always)
 Dance Dance Revolution
 Full Contact Calculus
 God-Bribe: Commodore 64 !!
 amazing house visit!

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

3A Software (Softcorps)
 Rubics Cube
 One-Man Duct Tape to Wall

1B Comps (60" Joysticks)
 really good roadtrip
 60" Trojan (also their green toboggan)
 dodgeball
 nice try at Diplomacy

1B Civil (Uncivilized)
 good acquisitions
 nice road trip
 nice breakdancing

3B/4B Mechanical (Old Mechs)
 spirited
 Dance-off Challenge was awesome
 Pictionary
 good stamina (being so old...)

Science
 most wins in Mah Jongg



The Indian Experience Cometh I'm Ready to Be a Twixter



ANDREW DODDS
1N MECHANICAL

Almost everyone who's reading this right now has many things to occupy their time. Given that most of you are engineers, it's probably a battle between studying for midterms, working on projects, possibly working on one of our fine teams or newspapers (*cough*), and depending on whether you're a girl or a guy, either deciding who to go out with next, or debating whether or not you should even bother. If you're one of the 28 students going to India a week from now, you're busy with many preparations, and if you're me, you're fearing retribution when you return to campus.

Truth be told, preparing for this has been an on-off stress overload for us. Back in December, there was the stress of the interview process, a 5 to 10 minute phone call that would seal our fate, coupled with the fear of being stuck in another McJob for 4 months and have no co-op credit to show for it. Desperate measures were taken in the interviews to seal our spots, and when all the questions I had prepared for weren't asked, I was forced to use my connection to the Iron Warrior as leverage, wondering what might get others a spot on the list. A couple of students even gave such convincing enough interviews that we have non-mech-related engineers coming along. I'm not sure how one can apply welding and machining knowledge to chemical engineering, but I'm sure some chemical projects next term might have some interesting spice to them.

After the nerve-wracking experience of talking to the faceless fate gods of Prof. Bedi and Janet Metz of CECS, we still had a long road ahead. We had to fork over \$500 a mere few days after making the list. Thank goodness UW is footing the rest of the bill for us poor 1N students. We

also had to make arrangements to get to the airport on our own, causing students provinces away to foot a nice additional bill. The most stress came from having to send over our passport so we could get our Visas taken care of. Without that, we are nothing.

To begin our trip, we will arrive in India after a day of travel (with a long stopover each way in Amsterdam *wink*). From there a long bus ride will take us to the minute 500K town of Patiala, luggage possibly falling from the roof along the way. In Patiala we will stay in 5 Professor residences at the Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology, a university in a town filled with education. There we will spend our time divided between learning in class about CAD, metrology (I dare you to consult a dictionary), and blueprints, and in the shop learning machining, welding, and other ways to injure ourselves, hopefully broadening our education in the process to heights we could not attain had we been fetching lattes or manning photocopiers elsewhere.

"Our biggest interest non-academically will be to absorb the culture. We will be on a campus where most of us will stand out like the girls in our first year classes."

Of all the excitement going on, our biggest interest non-academically will be to absorb the culture. We will of course be on a campus where most of us will stand out like the girls in our first year classes. We will be given a host family to visit and to help us learn of the world in a new way. We will eat only food with an Indian heritage, occasionally taking a trip home with the comfort food we've smuggled into the country or have searched for hours in town to find. We will even get to tour various cultural sites every other weekend.

One of my relatives told me of the defining moment in his life, when he visited Japan, and saw what the real world was like. I hope that we can all find something like that in India. But for now, while you all have the fun of education, feel sorry for the 28 of us like me, stuck home with nothing to do but lie around in our pajamas all day and try to escape every night. Tune in next issue, early March, when you'll find out along with us what it's really like out there in the real world.

shrieks- usually such anguish is not heard in the Engineering buildings until the Frosh get their 1A midterm marks! All the time, his mother was speaking to him in a calm but frustrated tone, trying to find out what was wrong.

Needless to say, the crying kid was a strange sight. People turned their attention away from Egnuity to watch the kid. Even the din of bottles and conversation in POETS dimmed a little bit as the child carried on. The question was on everybody's mind: What was a kid doing in CPH? Why was he here? And most importantly, why was he crying?

The answer was: nobody knows. Not the kid's mother, not the bewildered engineering students standing aghast at the spectacle before them, not even the kid himself. That's right- the kid had been crying so loud and so long that he had forgotten what he was crying about. He was caught up in the moment, throwing a tantrum on the bench.

To try and mitigate this problem, his mother tried the sly tactic of walking away,



KEVIN QUAN
4B ELECTRICAL

This week's Time Magazine has an article about "twixters". What are twixters? Although it would seem to make a lot of sense, they aren't actually people who collect Twix. They are people in the twenty-something age group who aren't kids anymore, but haven't yet become adults in the sense that they aren't ready to settle down and start a family. I think the best way to describe a twixter is one who has just graduated from university.

It seems that in the last 20 years or so, western civilization has stopped marrying in the early 20s and delayed marriage for almost ten years. During these extra ten years of freedom, they've been bouncing between jobs, trying new things, travelling, sleeping around, and most importantly enjoying their lives. Of course, they're not completely wasting their lives; they're picking up practical life skills that school hasn't exposed them to, and saving money by living at home. The article cites that 20% of twixters are still living at home at age 26, double the percentage that lived with their parents in the 70s. The norm of a 40-year-old, balding geek with a big beer belly living in the basement of his parent's house is not so far off anymore.

A second reason for the increase of twixters is that it's become difficult to be economically independent by your early 20s. Most new graduates coming out of university at age 22 or 23 are burdened by student loans and will have to end up carrying more debt to buy a house and a car. The thought of raising your progeny without a stable income doesn't seem to appeal to most people.

Being an engineering student at Waterloo does have its advantages. While our program lasts longer than other universities, we end up with fewer student loans (those 15% per year increases in deregulat-

ed programs don't really help!), and we pick up those valuable life skills over Co-op. We shouldn't have problems to the same extent that twixters do; but unless you're lucky and well-off, you will still have to save up before you can build a home for your family.

It would be unfair to say that being a twixter didn't have its advantages. When you're not tied down with a family, you have so much more freedom. Can you imagine having to bring your wife to a strip club in Vegas? Neither could I (but if you could, then she's a keeper). Without a home, you have no responsibilities. All your income is disposable, so you can buy the latest high-definition portable plasma media centre that you've been salivating over. And perhaps the most important thing, if you don't sleep at night it's because you chose not to, not because your

goddamn baby keeps crying and waking you up.

I made a joke near the beginning by saying that a twixter is someone who has just graduated from university. I'm in 4B so this is my last term as an undergrad and I can confidently say that very few people really know what they will be doing a year

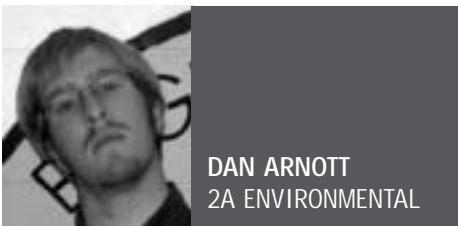
"20% of twixters are still living at home at age 26, double the percentage that lived with their parents in the 70s"

from now. Oh sure, people have plans to travel, or maybe they even have a job, but these seem like putting off the inevitable decision rather than taking the next step and getting on with your lives.

I remember being in OAC (a long time ago), and I had to make a life altering decision; I had to decide where to go for university. I could've stayed at home and attended the University of Toronto, or I could move out and go to Waterloo (or I guess to some of those other universities which can't compare to the high quality education I received here). The consequences were huge, but the conclusion was reached relatively quickly.

This time around, the decision is not as easy as it was in high school. University and Co-op were supposed to help us decide what we're going to do, but it seems most likely that if you're in fourth year and clueless about what you're going to do in the future, you will, for better or worse, end up as a twixter.

IW Exclusive: The Crying Kid Incident



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

If anyone was in the CPH foyer outside of POETS on Friday, January 21st, chances are the first thing that they noticed was not the line of students outside the C&D waiting to pay for the delicious treats, nor was it the people chatting on benches, the sunshine streaming in from the clear blue sky outside, or even the strange and wonderful devices being built by the teams competing in Egnuity. The first thing they probably noticed was the Crying Kid.

That's right. There was a crying kid in CPH, dressed up in a little snowsuit, in the company of what appeared to be his mother. He looked about 4 years old, and he was having a miserable time. Weeping, wailing, making indistinguishable groans and

knowing her son would follow. Follow he did, until he was right in front of the table the 2A Environmental class was constructing their Egnuity contraption on. Here, he threw himself onto the salt- and sand-covered floor, and proceeded to kick and roll around for a while, still screaming at the top of his lungs. At this point, his mother picked him up, brushed the salt off of his snowsuit, and carried on. And the Crying Kid of CPH was gone, out of our lives forever.

Looking back, one has to wonder: What does it all mean? Did the mother perpetrate some perceived injustice by not letting him buy a tasty doughnut from the C&D? Did he just pick that particular time to throw a tantrum? Did some shaggy, unkempt engineering student with questionable hygiene scare him? No one knows for sure. But one thing we do know- how good it would have felt to lie right down on the floor of CPH and throw a tantrum, just like the good old days, to be once again absorbed fully and completely in our own unhappiness.

Knowing her son would follow. Follow he did, until he was right in front of the table the 2A Environmental class was constructing their Egnuity contraption on. Here, he threw himself onto the salt- and sand-covered floor, and proceeded to kick and roll around for a while, still screaming at the top of his lungs. At this point, his mother picked him up, brushed the salt off of his snowsuit, and carried on. And the Crying Kid of CPH was gone, out of our lives forever.

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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 to schedule your shift.

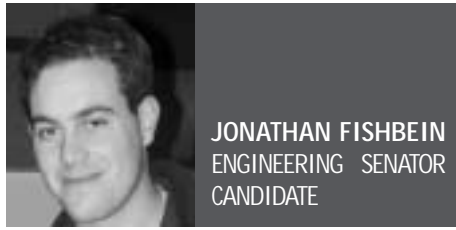
Feds Election 2005: February 15-17

Engineering Undergraduate Senator Candidates

IW NEWS BUREAU

Campaigning for the 2005 Feds Election is now underway, and students will head to the polls in two weeks, from February 15 to 17.

In this issue, *IW* presents a Q&A with both candidates for the Engineering Undergraduate Senator Position. A list of all candidates and important dates is also included. Be sure to attend one of the candidate information forums to learn more about their platforms, and cast your ballot on election day!



JONATHAN FISHBEIN
ENGINEERING SENATOR
CANDIDATE

What do you hope to accomplish as Engineering Undergraduate Senator?

The one major thing that I want to accomplish as Engineering Senator is to get engineering students more involved in senate issues. The job of an undergraduate senator is to represent students to senate. The only way that I could do this job properly would be to engage engineering students and ask them what they think about the issues. I plan to keep engineering students apprised of senate issues by announcing senate happenings at EngSoc meetings, holding meet-your-senator forums and even writing articles in this newspaper. If engineering students are aware of what is going on at senate then their views on these issues can be well represented to senate.

What do you think are the major issues facing the Faculty of Engineering?

The major issues facing the Engineering faculty today are the rising cost of engineering tuition and differential tuition fees. Engineering students have seen tuition increase significantly in the past few years. This is compounded by the fact that the

engineering program has been deregulated, meaning that the university can basically charge whatever it feels like for tuition. As engineering students, we need to ensure that the growth in our tuition fees is kept to an acceptable level, so that an engineering education here at Waterloo can remain affordable and accessible. The second issue I mentioned is differential tuition fees, and this is when the university charges different tuition rates to students in different faculties for the same course. This means that if you as an engineering student choose to take a distance education arts course on your work term, you will be paying more for this course than an arts student who is in the same situation. This seems like an obvious unfair cash grab by the university administration. Engineering students should not be punished with more debt when other students can get the same thing at a lower cost.

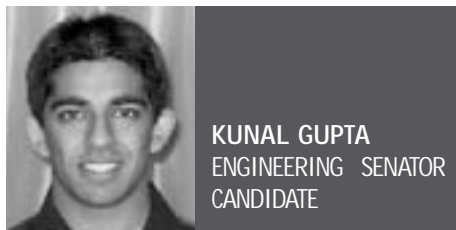
What relevant experience do you have that qualifies you for this position?

I have gained a lot of experience through my time here at Waterloo that qualifies me to become your next senator. To be an effective senator, you must have a firm grasp of academic issues and understand how universities operate. In the past I have served as Vice President, Services and Development for the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario (ESSCO), where it was my job to speak on behalf of the engineering students of Ontario on vari-

ous education issues. Working on the ESSCO executive team, I not only got to learn about how universities are funded, but also how different universities in Ontario operate. I have also served as Vice President, Education of the Engineering Society here at Waterloo and successfully negotiated with the engineering faculty to release the results of the faculty-wide course critiques to students on the internet. Additionally, I am currently a FEDS Engineering Student Councilor and am currently serving my second term on the FEDS Education Advisory Committee. All of these positions that I have held prove that I have the knowledge, the experience, the leadership and the determination to be an excellent engineering senator.

How do you plan to fulfill your senate responsibilities while offstream on work-term?

Anyone who knows me is aware that if I commit to a project I will give it my all. The same is true for senate. I plan to attend all the senate meetings while I am off-stream and will only take co-op jobs that will allow me to do this. In fact, I am on a work term now and deliberately took a co-op job close to Waterloo so I could run for senate. While being a FEDS councillor, an EngSoc executive and an EngSoc class representative, I have had an exemplary meeting attendance record and I plan to continue this for senate.



KUNAL GUPTA
ENGINEERING SENATOR
CANDIDATE

What do you hope to accomplish as Engineering Undergraduate Senator?

I feel it is important to first highlight that I will be an Engineering undergraduate student for the entire duration of the Engineering Undergraduate Senate term (May 05 - Apr. 07) that I am running for. As a representative for the Engineering undergraduate students, I will address the major issues facing our faculty and express your ideas and concerns to Senate.

What do you think are the major issues facing the Faculty of Engineering?

One issue that both our faculty and the faculty of Mathematics face is the current motion to align our reading week and pre-examinations days with the other faculties. As it stands, we have a shortened reading week and end classes earlier; however, Senate is currently considering extending the reading week to an entire week. In addition to this, the Professional Development for Engineers program has raised a lot of questions from students and its launch this year will be something to pay close attention to.

What relevant experience do you have that qualifies you for this position?

This past year, I have served as an Engineering Councilor on the Federation of Students, and was also elected to the Feds Internal Funding Committee for 2 terms. Apart from being a Feds Councilor, I am currently the Co-Chair for the Entrepreneurs' Association (500 members

strong) and was the founder of a national conference, Impact, which aims to promote entrepreneurship at a student-level. Before Waterloo, I had been very active at the high school level. As Student Council President of the largest high school in Eastern Ontario, I had led an important traffic safety program and several successful fundraising initiatives.

How do you plan to fulfill your senate responsibilities while off stream on work-term?

I plan to stay up to date with the Senate meetings and committee meetings with the aid of the minutes and by providing my suggestions or comments on the agenda ahead of time. Constituents in the faculty of engineering can reach me at anytime by email, regardless of where I am physically. In the coming year, I will be on-campus for the Summer 2005 and Winter 2006 academic terms.

Election Calendar

Tuesday, February 1st
Election Campaign Begins at 8:00AM.

Wednesday, February 2nd
MathSoc Forum
3rd Floor Lounge 3-5PM

Thursday, February 3rd
Architecture Meet And Greet
Arch Building 12:30-1:30PM

Friday February 4th
Media Forum
SLC Great Hall – 1-3PM

Monday February 7th
Arts Forum
ALH113 – 2-4PM

Wednesday, February 9th
ES Forum
ES Coffee Shop 1-2PM

Thursday February 10th
Student Leader Forum
SLC Great Hall 1-3PM

Monday February 14th
Great Hall Forum
SLC – 10AM-1PM

Tuesday, February 15th
Voting Begins 8:00AM

Wednesday, February 16th
Voting Continues

Thursday, February 17th
Voting Ends 8:00PM

2005 Feds Election Candidates

EXECUTIVE

President
Andersen, John
Basir, Nada
Hunt, E. J.
Johnson, Mark

VP, Administration & Finance

Cake, Nick
Farrakha, Ahmed
Gilbert, Yasid
Jermyn, Matthew
Lam, Carmen

VP, Education

Bender, Howie
Kandavel, Parthi
Naini, Bobby
Pop, Andreea

Vice-President, Internal

Bowman, Lee
Bowman, Sabrina
Lam, Lawrence
Satkunarajah, Anitta

COUNCIL

Arts

Borrelli, Pat
Butalid, Renjie
Daley, Kate
Hayle, Steven
Mihalcea, Ciprian
Minaker, Jeff
Mohamed, Jameel
Rehmani, Rida
Zaidi, Faris

Engineering

Fishbein, Jonathan - Acclaimed
Strickland, Matt - Acclaimed

Environmental Studies

Zakrison, Michelle - Acclaimed

Mathematics

Felix, Adam - Acclaimed
MacKinnon, Ian - Acclaimed
Sekhon, Ajaybir - Acclaimed

Science

Allie, Robert - Acclaimed
Shang, Lily - Acclaimed

St. Jerome's

Besco, Randy - Acclaimed

SENATE

Senate – Math

Felix, Adam
Logan, Eric

Senate – At Large

Austin, Matthew
Hayle, Steven
Kosztyla, Robert
Wheatley, David

Senate – ES/IS

De Riggs, Caustan
Hastings, Stuart

Senate - Engineering

Fishbein, Jonathan
Gupta, Kunal

Senate – AHS

Bazley, Claire
Evans, David

UWAFT: The Quest for Sustainable Mobility



QUOC HUY T. LE
4B ELECTRICAL

Whether you're a tree-hugging environmentalist or a rich Texan oil tycoon, there's no denying that the world's oil supply will not last forever. Clearly, alternative sources of fuel must be sought before the inevitable occurs.

Fortunately, Waterloo has its own team looking into this problem. The University of Waterloo Alternative Fuels Team (UWAFT) has been around since 1996. It is a student run organization that "researches, designs and implements vehicle designs for use with alternative fuels." UWAFT not only tries to make alternative fuels a reality, but they also attempt to integrate them into practical solutions.

One of their earliest alternative fuels was propane, a low-emissions by-product from the refinement of natural gas and oil.

You may have seen a black decaled Silverado driving around. The aptly named *Al C. O'Holic* is UWAFT's truck that runs on E-85 (a fuel mixture that is 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline).

Currently, UWAFT is participating in a continent-wide three-year competition known as *Challenge X*. Participating schools must modify a GM Equinox, a sports utility vehicle, to minimize energy consumption and harmful emissions. At the same time, teams must meet or exceed the car's performance. Teams are permitted to use a number of fuels such as biodiesel (a fuel manufactured vegetable oils and animal fats which can be used in conventional diesel engines), ethanol and hydrogen.

There are a number of participating universities who have opted to use hydrogen in a combustion process to drive the engine. Waterloo, on the other hand, is the only team that is attempting to implement a hydrogen fuel cell, a device that mixes hydrogen fuel with oxygen from the air to form water and electricity. This system has the advantage of being more efficient

and completely clean. The downside with this system is that the technologies involved are relatively new as well as extremely expensive.

Fortunately, UWAFT has many sponsors. The major ones include GM, for the use of their vehicle, the US Department of Energy, Natural Resources Canada (NRC) and Hydrogenics, a Mississauga-based corporation focused on producing hydrogen fuel cell technologies.

Another major part of UWAFT's mandate is to educate the public about alternative fuels. After all, making the people aware of the need for alternative fuels is important if society is going to make the transition away from fossil fuels. UWAFT's Outreach program is geared towards public education through events and media coverage.

On Friday, January 21 of this year UWAFT had representation at the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference (CUTC) TechExpo where Outreach had a chance to inform undergraduate students about alternative fuels. On February 10th UWAFT will be at the

Centennial School Science Fair to talk to middle schoolers.

UWAFT is always looking for new and excited volunteers to help out. For more information on the team and on how you can join, please visit their official website at www.uwaft.uwaterloo.ca. Or you can email any inquiries to them at uwaft@eng-mail.uwaterloo.ca. To find out more about the *Challenge X* competition visit www.challengex.org. You can also visit the business team homepage to view an informative video about UWAFT's participation in *Challenge X* at www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~tjmali.



Tsnuanmi Relief Engineering Projects

Come hear firsthand experiences of the tsunami devastation from UW students who were present in affected regions when the disaster struck.

Find out how engineering students can get involved in long term relief efforts.

Thursday, Feb 3
11:30am - 12:30pm
RCH 101

Free snacks provided! Photos, video clips, and personal stories will be shared.



Sandford Fleming Foundation
E2 3322, ext 4008, sff@engmail
www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff

Technical Speaker Competition

The Faculty-Level Competition will take place on **Thursday, February 10** at 10 a.m. in E2 – Room 3324. The winner of the Faculty Competition will receive \$300 while all other participants receive \$50.

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 March 7, 8, 9
TIME 11:30 – 1:00
PLACE E2 - 3324

Finals: **Friday, March 11**
Noon
Outside POETS (CPH)

Refreshments will be served at the finals
Everyone is welcome

And Allah Said Return to Thy Parliament

Dutch MP Returns to Parliament After a 2-month Hiatus



CHUN LAM
3B CHEMICAL

On January 18, 2005 Dutch MP (Member of Parliament), Ayaan Hirsi Ali, member of the Far Right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) in the Netherlands, returned to parliament amidst a standing ovation from the sitting members in Parliament. 'Dear Ayaan, welcome back in our midst. We missed you,' the speaker announced; 'It's great to be back' she replied. Ms. Ali had been under police protection in hiding from posted death threats against her from elements of a fundamentalist Islamic group which had murdered movie producer, and great nephew of tripped out painter Vincent van Gogh, Theo van Gogh in November 2, 2005. As a result, the whole event was supervised by a prudent security entourage, carefully screening public gallery viewers. Now for most people in North America, this event wouldn't receive much fanfare, as most North Americans are apathetic of North American politics, let alone the politics of a country that they have little to no social ties too. However Ms. Ali is well known in one community especially, the community of Islam; and she's high on the list of public enemies.

To understand this distaste by certain members of the Muslim community, one must delve into her past. Ayaan Ali was originally born in Somalia but moved around to several other Sub-Saharan African countries due to her father's dissenting views of Somalia's military strongman ruler Siyad Barre. Her parents were devout followers of Islam, and had arranged a marriage with a distant cousin in Canada for her in 1992. Since this was not to her approval, she fled to the Netherlands, applying for asylum, which was approved, and eventually becoming a citizen. Years later, after attaining a Political Science degree at Leiden University, she worked at a centre-right think tank called the Wiardi Beckman Foundation, where she researched in ways to integrate immigrant women, especially Muslim women, into Dutch society. During her time in the Netherlands, Ayaan still had distaste for Islam from her past experiences, and so she became an outspoken critic of Islam for its treatment of women. In her discussions, she has always highlighted fundamental differences between Western and Islamic culture, and in interviews she always refer to "The Koran, and it is the verse which says women should obey the male members of their families – their fathers and their husbands – and if they do not do that, then the husband may beat his wife." In some of her more controversial comments she had referred to, but later recanted, that Islam was 'backward' compared to today's Western society (in Dutch culture 'backward' has a harsh negative connotation); and that the Muslim Prophet Mohammed (i.e. equivalent of Jesus in Christianity) was a perverse man and tyrant. Ayaan eventually took her suffragist message to the political realm where she became an elected MP for the centre-oriented Labor Party (or PvdA) and then defected to the VVD. On another note, Ayaan also lobbies for the abolishment of female circumcision in the world, which occurs mainly in Sub-Saharan African countries, like

Somalia. An ancient ritual, with possible female populace submission intentions, female circumcision is when the female sex organ, the clitoris, is surgically removed from the patient. This was done on the grounds of preventing women from being consumed with sexual desires, thereby keeping her chastity for her inevitable future husband. Ayaan herself is a victim of this unnecessary cruel procedure.

Ayaan's crusade of awareness of Islam's poor treatment of women lead to a collaboration with now-deceased producer, Theo van Gogh. Theo van Gogh, considered in the Netherlands as their Michael Moore, produced a film called Submission that was written by Ayaan. The 10 minute short film tells a fictional story of a young Muslim girl who is forced into an arranged marriage with a man who physically abuses her, who is also raped by her uncle, and is later punished for falling in love with another man. In the film the girl wears a transparent gown which shows lash marks on her back, and across her body painted passages from the Koran, which the film says justifies violence against women.

Though the movie is brief, it portrays a distinct and very negative message against Islam. As a result, a huge uproar from the Muslim community resulted over a movie which they felt was blasphemous and hateful. Also, from their involvement, Theo van Gogh and Ayaan received numerous death threats. Unfortunately for Theo van Gogh, those threats became a reality on November 2, 2004 in Amsterdam, where he was shot dead by Mohammed Bouyeri, a 26-year-old Dutchman of Moroccan descent. Upon murdering Theo van Gogh, Bouyeri then pinned a 5 page note on the chest of Theo van Gogh containing religious rhetoric from the Koran and stated inevitable death for all 'non-believers'. It also specially threatened Ayaan with death. Dutch police have apprehended Bouyeri and 10 other Moroccans in connection with van Gogh murder, and it is apparent that the 11 people involved were extremist Muslims and may have possible connections to other extremist groups, though this is pending further investigation.

Theo van Gogh's death has had major implications in the liberal country; the people have felt that this murder was an attack on the right of free speech, and so have responded using somewhat violent and irrational methods. In the weeks following van Gogh's death, there have been numerous attacks on Islam oriented buildings such as mosques and schools for retribution of van Gogh's murder. At this time of unease between the Muslim and Dutch communities, Ayaan left her post as an MP for a secret location under police protection to protect her life, but more importantly, to prevent an escalation of tensions.

So how would this apply to Canada, or anywhere else in the western hemisphere?

The location of this conflict is of importance in terms of social/political culture. The Netherlands is one of the most liberal societies in the world. In the Netherlands homo-gender loving individuals can be legally married (A law which I totally expect the Canadian government will pass this week), soft drugs (i.e. Marijuana) are legal and can be purchased in licensed shops and cafes, prostitution is a legal, taxable profession, and euthanasia is legal. The country is open many immigrants and typically accepts a majority of asylum-seekers. These liberties are on top

of the other rights all western societies have (i.e. right to free speech, right to equality). In my opinion, the openness and enlightenment of the Netherlands is a model of how to run a society; and I would like the Dominion of Canada to be as progressive as the Netherlands. With death of a movie director for making a film critical of a religion, it has fostered a greater sense of disillusionment and distaste for immigrants and tolerance within the Dutch population. But more importantly, these feelings lead to accusations by the public against the mainstream government that the government had ignored the rise of this threat to Dutch society. This unfortunately leads to the electing of extremist political parties (such as the VVD in the Netherlands, the Nationalist Front in France, or the Freedom party in Austria) which feed off this wave of emotion. Unfortunately, these extremist political parties tend to restrict the rights of certain peoples or the entry of certain people into the nation, thus destroying tolerance, the single most important concept in a rational, enlightened society. Hence, seeing an extremely enlightened society react in such a harsh and totalitarian manner sends a message of hopelessness in the attempts of tolerance of humans with differences. Now personally, in my own opinion, killing Theo van Gogh in such an open society was the worst action fundamentalist Muslims could have done, as it discredits their organization, and subjects them public scorn. It would have been more effective if they had maintained a more political battle against the movie, using the media to rebut the claims of the film. But in defence of the Muslim community, the majority of Muslim countries are typically in the unstable third world (with the exception of a few countries in the Middle East), where the use of physical force as a political lobbying tool is common. Hence, these immigrants have been socialized to use violence.

However, I believe that fundamentalists of any religion are never compatible with progressive societies. This is due to the fundamentalist's refusal to question their religious texts; a hubris which I think is fatal. Religious texts, whether they be the Bible or Koran, are historical documents which, over the centuries, have been revised to fit the 'victors' or powerful societies of the time, and passed down to future generations. As a result, there are numerous contradictions and hypocrisies within these texts. Hence, by believing what the texts say will lead to irrationality, which leads to degradation of progress. For a religion to be effective, it must be able to adapt new ideas that are rational. And to adapt, religion must permit questioning and criticism, as criticism leads to sound, rational ideas and actions. Ayaan said there is always room for religion in open society as it respects democratic values such as freedom of speech and conscience. So the Muslims in the Netherlands must accept that their religion is open to criticism and questioning, and that they must use their minds, not guns, to rebut the criticism and become integrated with Dutch society. As for the Dutch public, I hope cooler heads will prevail and this violence against Muslims shall cease, as you cannot defend free speech through the use of violence against a group, for you will become the oppressors and hypocrites of your own rage. If this conflict ceases and tolerance between the Muslim and Dutch communities results, then the Netherlands will be an example that a multi-religious society works.

Ed's Bathroom



EDWARD TAN
3A COMPUTER

While surrounded by the inescapable Waterloo nerds (what good does two girls in your class do?), it's good to seek the comfort from a warm toilet seat as you expel different forms of food and drinks. Time to head to the john.

Okay, I'll stop now before Cindy kills me. However, I must thank Cindy for it is she, with her bi-weekly articles discussing various culinary delights, who inspired me to write my own column about expelling various culinary delights. Specifically, I will be discussing the bathroom (instead of the kitchen).

The bathroom itself has evolved literally from nothing more than a hole in the ground, to a multi-billion dollar industry. Multi-billion dollar industry? That's right. Even the common private bathroom has created employment opportunities for countless people. The toilet itself is a gold mine, from the scientists who design the newest low flow toilets to the people who make those fluffy toilet seat coverings.

In this issue, we will cover another lucrative bathroom business: the bathroom advertising business. A washroom is in fact an excellent place to place an ad, because the person can't go anywhere until they're done and chances are they have nothing else to do. That's why I was surprised at the lack of ads in our University's washrooms. The only place where I was able to find any ads was in the SLC washrooms. The DC washrooms are used quite frequently yet there are no ads there. There is great money-making potential in these washrooms.

You can actually tell a lot about a particular institution based on the ads found in their washrooms. This could be a new area of research called bathroomology. For example, when I worked at a college during one of my previous work terms, I noticed that the majority of the ads in the washrooms sold condoms. Not just any condoms of course, but the state of the art, ultra thin, high sensation ones. Meanwhile, here in Waterloo, we have ads for credit cards and various business opportunities.

There are, however, some ads that I would consider inappropriate for washrooms. There's this one ad in the SLC main floor washroom that's asking for donations while people are urinating. In addition, there is a picture of an opened hand. But I would not consider this to be the most inappropriate ad. The last thing I want to see in a washroom is an ad selling Campbell's chunky style soups. There are many of these ads, featuring various slogans, in the washrooms. I would consider the worst one to be the one on the second floor SLC men's washroom. It's slogan is "Crack one open [and a window if you have a roommate]". This ad is positioned so you'll see it just as you walk out of the stall.

That's all the room I have for this issue, but be sure to check out next issue's topic as we explore various luxurious bathrooms and compare them to the men's washroom in the SLC after a Bomber Wednesday.

Witnessing Devastation of the Tsunami First-Hand

SURESH SRISKANDARAJAH
3B ELECTRICAL

I was very excited to have the opportunity to return to northeastern Sri Lanka where I could work on various humanitarian projects. However, all my plans were shattered by the tsunami that struck Southeast Asia. I had visited along with a group of students from all over the world including 11 University of Waterloo students. We were visiting various regions of the country together to see what help we could provide. As part of this trip, we were supposed to be in Mullaitivu, one of the worst affected regions. However, our plans were postponed at the last minute due to heavy rain experienced in the area the night before. When I found out about this tragic event, the first thing that crossed my mind was that it could have been me, underwater right now.

Immediately after we learned about the event, all of us students wanted to do as much as we could to help in any way possible. We gathered all the money, clothing, medical supplies, and jewellery we possessed. A few of us were able to reach the affected regions shortly after the first wave hit. It was an unbearable scene to see truckloads of human bodies being carried out. Survivors were displaced in schools which were used as refugee camps. In these camps, we saw hundreds of children who had lost their parents and parents who had lost several children.

The day after, our entire group split up to work with various refugee camps where people were displaced. We were able to purchase a few items with the money we had gathered. Food and clothing for children were among the items we provided to the affected people. Other than that, all we were able to do to help was to comfort the survivors, visiting the classrooms and assuring them that the international community will come to help in their time of need.

During my time there, I saw very little help being provided to those in need. The only organization present was Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO), which was looking after the displaced people in the refugee camps. I also saw many members of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) assisting with clearing bodies in the Mullaitivu area. But in terms of media, there was no

foreign media present in the northeast for the first few days after the tsunami. Even after the first couple of days, there were only a handful of media agencies that had come to the region. At this point, I started working with the foreign media that was coming in. I spoke about my experience and offered to guide them through the affected regions. However, even the media that came, completely missed out on the initial aftermath of the tsunami.

The lack of aid in the Northeast bothered me to a great extent. I did not see much aid coming from outside during the 2 weeks I was there. The aid received from other countries and International Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) was unilaterally being redirected to other regions by the Government of Sri Lanka due to the political tension with the Tamil people in the northeast. Regions of the country which are controlled by the government received ample aid due to the media coverage and reporting by the government. This angered me greatly, since I witnessed the lives of thousands of children being neglected. These children were forgotten and ignored simply for being born in the "wrong" region of the country. This is not how human life should be treated. I did not know what I could personally do to help these people who needed all the help that could be provided; yet nobody else seemed to hear their cries. There are so many stories I've heard and witnessed during this trip which distraught me to a great degree.

Going back to the northeast for the second time this year, I was looking forward to visiting the children of Senthilir Illam. These are the children that became deeply attached to me during my last trip. I had about half of my suitcase packed with chocolate and toys to give to the 170 children at this orphanage. Unfortunately, only 30 of these children were able to survive the ferocious waves which took thousands of lives. I went to the location where this center was situated and could not bear to look at the scene. I saw pieces of children's clothing hanging on trees, and broken toys on the ground. Hearing the stories of how some of the dead bodies of these children were found stuck to trees and under bridges nearly killed me. My memories of playing with them, eating with them from the same plate, sleeping on the same mat on the floor, singing, and tak-

ing photos together all came back to me overwhelmingly. It was extremely difficult for me to just leave this seemingly desolate location where the sound of children laughing used to ring in the air. Yet, I had to leave, to contribute as much as I could to help the people who had survived this horror and required assistance.

When I came back to Canada, I was shocked to see the amount of help that was provided by Canadians. It made me proud to be Tamil Canadian to see the amount of media coverage the tsunami was given. Unfortunately, there was not enough of this media coverage in the northeast to witness and report the devastation based on first hand experience. I was not also able to see this aid reach the people who needed it so desperately.

This is when I decided that I needed to explain the horror I witnessed and the lack of aid being given to the northeast part of Sri Lanka. During the press conferences held immediately after our arrival, I explained the situation to various media outlets. My plea was to go and report on the devastation of the northeast as well. These are people who had been neglected during the war and are continuing to be treated as subhuman even during a time of such devastation. I urged the Canadian government, along with the rest of the international community, to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism which would ensure that the aid sent by Canadians are in

fact being distributed equitably to all the affected regions of Sri Lanka.

To me, our duty does not end by just giving a donation to look after the immediate needs of these people. We must continue to monitor the areas the aid is going to, to ensure that they are receiving all the aid we are sending. Furthermore, we must look after their long term need. They possess such a bleak outlook about their future, because they've lost their assets, family members, houses, and everything else they had. We need to start working towards rebuilding their long term infrastructure. Please take a moment to reflect on everything I have shared here and spread it to friends and family members. It is important to work on long term rebuilding projects with organizations such as TRO. Students can also be engaged in knowledge transfer projects which would aid in the restructuring of the community.



Book Review: No Way To Treat A First Lady



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

Surely I am not the only one frustrated with our neighbour south of the border. Rather than letting myself be affected by the negative emotions, I found a healthier outlet in literature. The 2004 Thurber Prize for American Humor winner, Christopher Buckley's "No Way to Treat a First Lady" has proven a delicious read.

The setup is very promising for a political satire. After a night of "entertaining" a state guest, actress and singer Babette Van Anka, in the Lincoln Bedroom, the President of the United States of America returned to his own room at 2:30 AM, where the First Lady and an argument awaited. The next morning, the commander in chief was found dead in bed.

The First Lady, Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler MacMann, was charged with assassination (hitting her husband in the head with an antique Paul Revere silver spittoon). For "the Trial of the Millennium", she hired the country's top lawyer Boyce "Shameless" Baylor at a rate of \$1000 an hour. To complicate the matter, Baylor happened to be her ex-fiancé, who she broken up with in order to marry Kenneth Kemble MacMann, a Congressional Medal of Honors-winning Vietnam War veteran and the future president.

At first glance, you recognize some familiarities in the more major characters. For instance, the iron-handed First Lady, who was determined to run public office, met the philandering president back in law school. Yet, one mustn't be too hasty to draw of the conclusion as who they are in real life. The author quickly pointed out that Mrs. MacMann (or Lady Bethmac, as the media call her) is "a far cry from Hilary Clinton, who contented herself with taking care of her husband and giving the occa-

sional tea for Congressional wives."

The real focus of Buckley, however, is not his characters, but taking the American justice system and the media to the extreme. It takes Baylor four months to select the "unbiased" jury using a questionnaire that requires six-hundred-plus answers. He hires an ex-CIA psychologist to document a minute-by-minute reaction of each juror and raises objection every five minutes over the likeness of the usage of metric system in testimonial statements.

The media's reaction reminds you of nothing less than the O. J. Simpson case. It doesn't stop there. Not to miss out, the publishing world later provides the recap with endless supply of books (e.g. The Second Cousin of Juror Fourteen: My Story). Furthermore, who can stifle a laugh over the self-proclaimed environmentalist and Middle East peace ambassador Babette Van Anka?

While it's all about the United State vs. Beth MacMann, the author knows better than to write over 200 pages of judicial

drama. Just as you are getting tired of the excessively verbal courtroom battles, the events take another turn. Although they aren't always necessarily the cleverest and sometimes lack the effortless fluidity of the opening chapters, they certainly keep your interest to see the rest of the plot unfolds, especially given Buckley's witty narrative.

Back to my previous point. When I say the author wasn't putting emphasis on his characters, I mean it. Although the novel doesn't demand real, complex personalities, I can't help but feeling that too many of them fall victim to the cookie-cutters. Mrs. MacMann initially projected the image of an iron hand wearing a silk glove, yet as the trial progresses, my mental picture of her was replaced with that of Laura Bush.

"No Way to Treat a First Lady" isn't something you read too hard into, but it definitely makes you laugh hard. Given all the stress from school and four more years of Bush administration, I need American political satires more than ever.

ECE Fourth-Year Design Symposium



On Wednesday, January 19, over three hundred graduating Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) students showcased a total of 82 projects during their Fourth Year Design Symposium at Davis Centre.

Running from 8:30am to 8:00pm, it certainly was a long day for '05 ECE students. Aside from demonstrating their innovations and answering questions from hundreds of curious students and faculty members, each group also did a 20-minute presentation and Q&A period,

which was evaluated by an ECE professor.

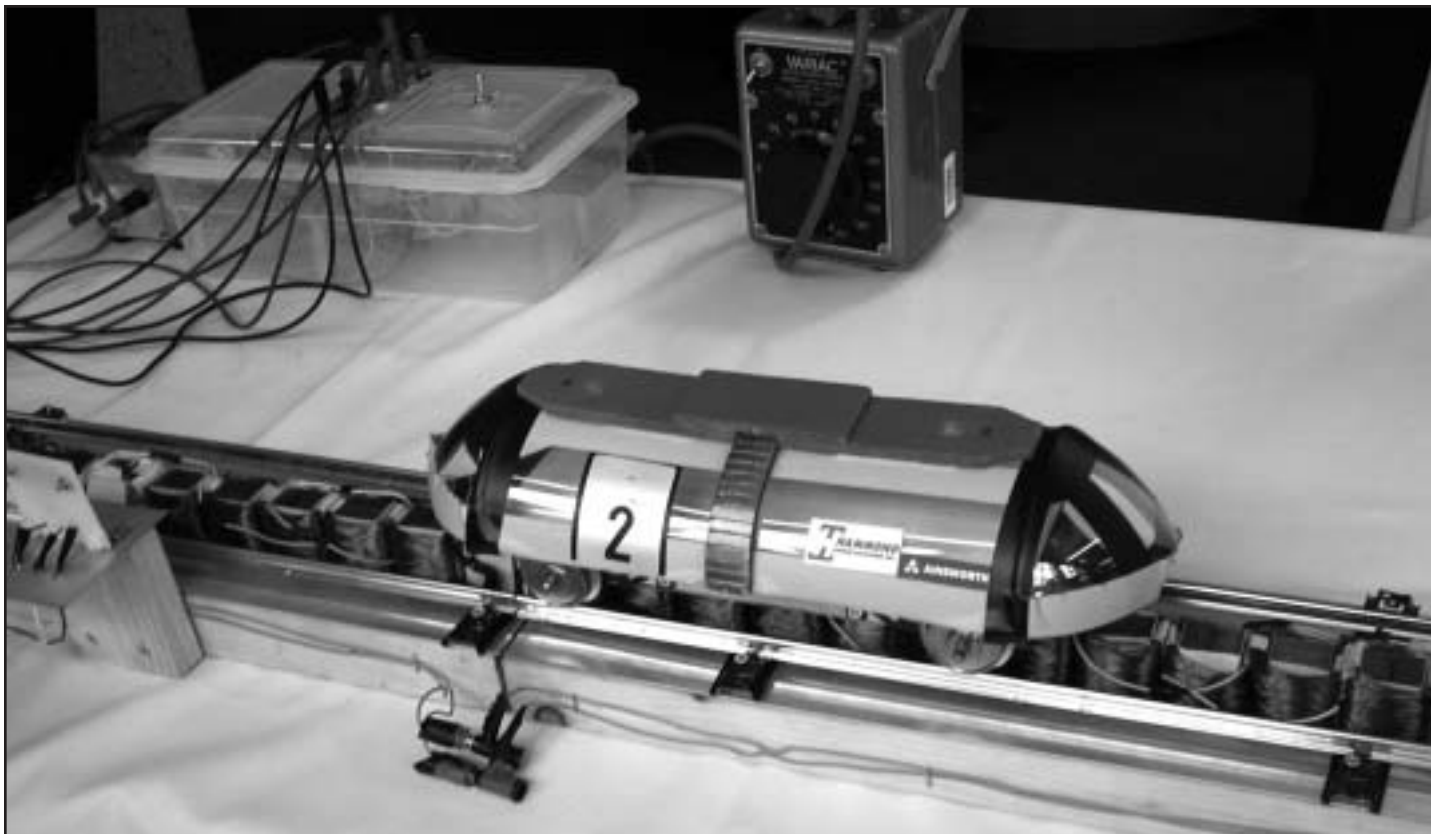
The types of designs covered a wide range of categories, from robotics to wireless communications to power systems, among others. Businesses will find the voice-activated automatic camera pointing system useful for video conference. Can someone build me a real-sized Parking Accident-Reducing Controller for my next driving test?

While many design projects were fuelled by the needs of industry or problems one encountered during a work term, others were conceived purely for the convenience of student life. With Wireless PC-TV, you can watch videos played on your computer on a TV screen, without physically moving either device if they happen to be in different rooms of the house. Finally, forget about going to the Bomber - if you are busy working in the lab but want to pick someone up, Portable Wingman is your pal. It carries your personal criteria to automatically check for compatibility between you and a potential mate.

The symposium marks one of the biggest milestones for an ECE student's undergrad career. Each of the projects is the product of several months of brainstorming and hard work, and countless cups of caffeinated beverages. While many of the prototypes may not be the most feasible at the moment, or may need to be refined for mass-production, it surely shows that the graduating class is ready to meet the challenges of the real world with fresh ideas and the necessary skills.

Top: Gordon Chiu, Chi Chi Chen, and Jennifer Hwang demonstrate their Voice Input Navigation System which provides voice-interactive driving directions.

Left: Ernest Leung, George Lee, Hang Che Lam, and Hong Man Bao's Magnetic Train uses the concept of a linear motor to propel a train by an electromagnetic field.



Nelson Hu and Adrian Bourassa demonstrate their group's Automatic Camera Pointing System, a device which uses multiple microphones to triangulate the location of the speaker and adjusts the camera accordingly.

Extra Panties?

See 'Twenty-Three' at the Upstart Festival!



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

Hey, do you ever get a craving for a rock opera? Are 'Tommy', 'Jesus Christ Superstar', and 'Hedwig and the Angry Inch' just not cutting it for you anymore? Tired of pompous, overblown productions that have no real connection with the youth of today? Then Twenty-Three is the rock opera for you!

Written and directed by Waterloo residents James Barr and Moses Bogart, Twenty-Three is playing this week and next as part of Waterloo's Upstart Festival, with various showtimes from February 4th to 12th at Studio 180 in Hagey Hall. The promotional material says it all: "Twenty-Three is a rock opera extravaganza about maturing; about discovery; about sex. It is a handbook for young adults who question their direction. It is a script for actors who can't find their roles. It is like RENT, without the AIDS. Make sure to bring a change of panties, because you will get wet."

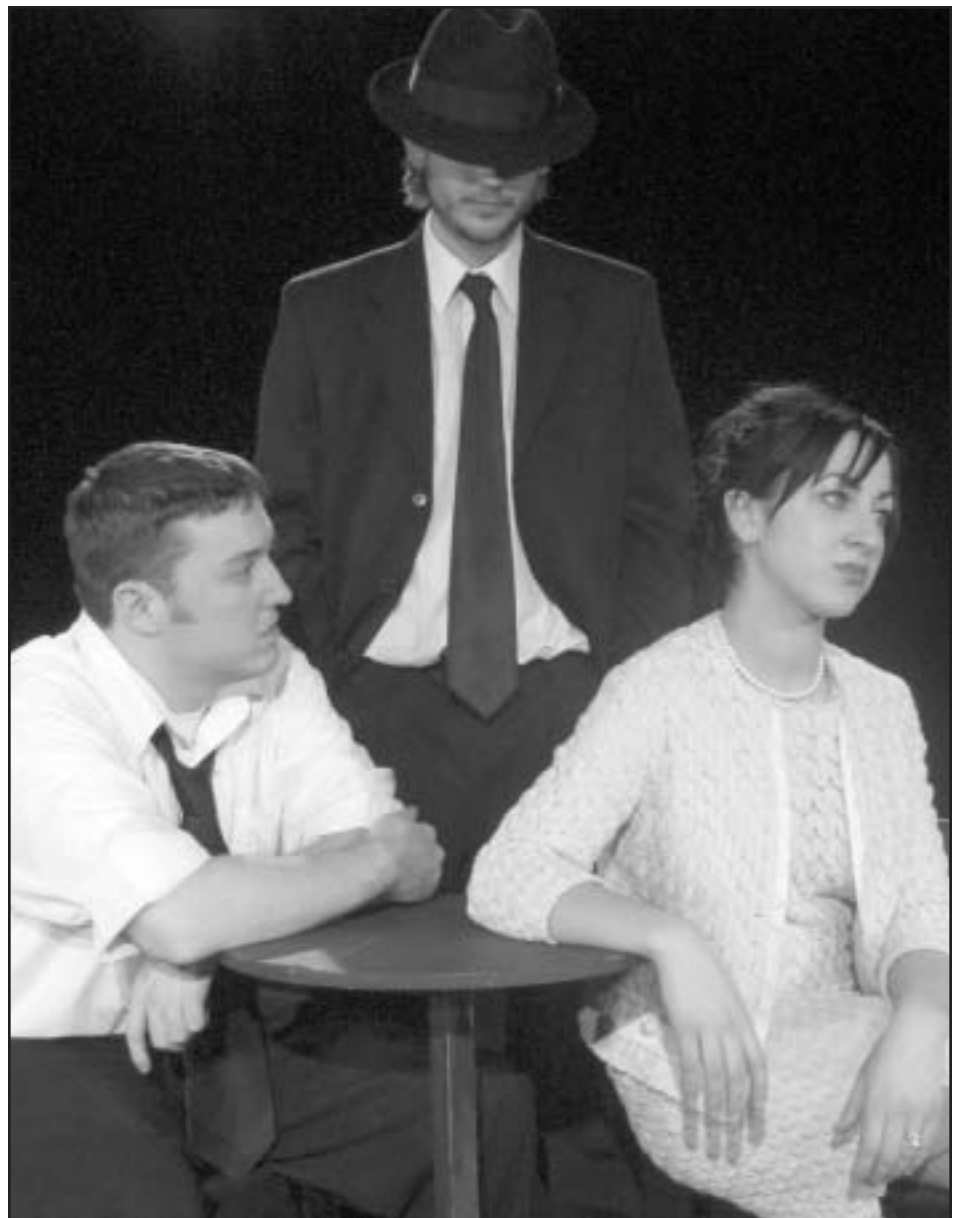
While that may sound like a pretty bold claim to make, Bogart and Barr are

up to the task, having performed the play before at the Rivoli in Toronto as a part of the Peaceful Fusion festival. And of course, the subject matter is about as relevant as it gets- what do we do when we finally get out of here? Get a job? Fall in love? Have sex? Join a rock and roll band?

Yes, there is a live rock band taking part in the show- and they're right on stage too, not shoved in some orchestra pit. Barr and Bogart's own band, K-W scenesters Dramaturg, are providing the live soundtrack to the play, as well as interaction with the characters, which will surely make the play innovative and entertaining.

The cast of five includes Kandice Seymour as Rosie, Colin MacLellan as the evasive Tom, Dramaturg's second guitarist Jeff DeSchiffert as Jim the graduate student, and Jessica Isard and Jennifer Yorke as the choruses. The stage is being aptly managed by Jill Smith, and Andrea Ferguson is the show's sound engineer.

The Upstart Festival, a celebration of small theatre at UW, is now in its second year. Featuring many plays, such as Bipolar/Bare, Left the Office, Starfall, Kate Herself, and On the Side, the festival is sure to prove entertaining for all. More information is available at www.drama.uwaterloo.ca. But me, I'll be there for Twenty-Three. And I'll have an extra pair of panties. Er, ahem...



Upstart 05 Festival

location

University of Waterloo, Hagey Hall, Studio 180

dates and times

February 2-4 & 9-11 @ 7:00 pm

February 5 & 12 @ 2:00 pm through 11:00 pm

tickets

February 2 & 9 : \$5 ** Wednesday Night Special ** (2 plays)

February 3-4 & 10-11: \$10 (2 plays)

February 5 & 12: \$15 (4 plays from 2:00 through 7:00 pm)

February 5 & 12: \$15 (4 plays from 7:00 through 11:00 pm)

February 5 & 12: \$25 (8 plays from 2:00 through 11:00 pm)

Box Office: 519.888.4908

more information

For more information about UPSTART 05 go to drama.uwaterloo.ca.



Cindy's Kitchen



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

While surrounded by the inescapable Waterloo winter (what good does two reading days do? Not enough time for a trip to Mexico, or even Seattle), it's good to seek the comfort from a warmer climate in the form of food and drinks. Time to head south.

Sangria

It probably comes as no surprise that everyone has his or her own preferred ingredi-

ents when it comes to popular punches. The appeal of sangria really lies in its versatility; use whatever is on hand and you really can't go wrong. S

Besides red wine, feel free to add 1/2 cup of brandy, sherry or fruit-flavoured liquors, like peach schnapps or raspberry vodka. Add a couple tablespoons of sugar if it's too sour for you and you are not watching the waistline, but make sure it's the very fine granulated kind. Peach, mint, lime, and exotic tropical fruits are also recommended by various recipes I have seen.

1 bottle chilled dry red wine
1/2 cup orange juice
1 oranges, cut into thin rounds
1 lemon, cut into thin rounds
1 appls, cored and cut into 1/2-inch

chunks
1 pear, cored and cut into 1/2-inch chunks
1 cup cold club soda
Ice

In a large pot or bowl, combine the wine, brandy, orange juice, and sugar and stir until the sugar dissolves.

Add the orange, lemon, and lime slices, the apples, and pears, and refrigerate until well chilled, about 1 hour.

Remove from the refrigerator and add the soda. Serve in glasses over ice.

Ceviche

This dish is very easy to make. The key is very fresh fish. When marinated with lemon juice, the acid actually denatures the proteins in the fish, a similar effect as cooking it over heat.

Besides the fish and lemon juice, which can be substituted for lime or a combina-

tion of any citrus fruits, all the other ingredients are quite flexible. For example, corn kernels, avocado, and tomatoes all go well with the dish. Feel free to toss in coriander or mint leaves. If you are among the brave souls who embrace spicy food, add a bit cayenne pepper or some jalapenos to give it a little kick!

1 pound fresh skinless snapper fillet, cut into cubes
1 lemon, juiced and zested
1 green pepper, finely diced
1/4 red onion, finely diced
1/4 cup whole parsley leaves
2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a non-reactive bowl, mix lime juice with fish. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Add the rest of the ingredients and season with salt and pepper. Serve with tortilla chips or crackers.

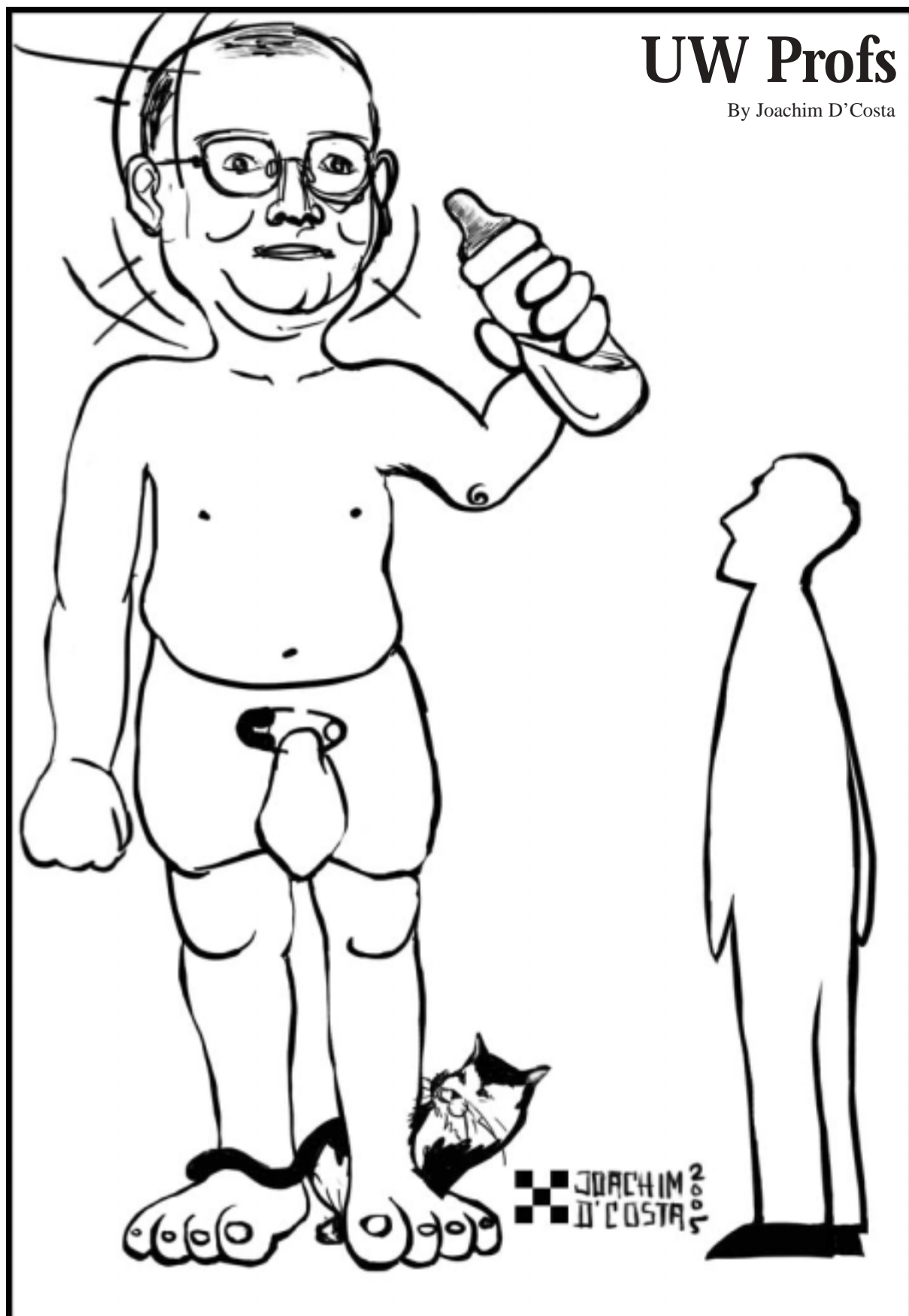
ARTS CORNER

Decision Deferred

By Andre Masella, 3A Computer



By Edward Tan, 3A Computer



Mars in My Hands

By Rahul Bhardwaj, 3B Electrical

In what you would call meaningless
 I sat on the floor
 In what would be deemed useless
 I sat on the floor
 No remorse in a sense of death
 So cold to feel your breath
 Place what I have in your hands
 And I sat on the floor
 Your hair, in strands....
 Right next to what was meaningless
 I sat and listened
 Little one, slain at half a dozen
 The Pain !!! Taken by those insane !
 There was once a dream, so delicate so
 gentle
 A dream I had and carried,
 A dream I loved
 A dream to which I wanted to get mar-
 ried,
 Now I sit on the floor and drink my sor-
 row,
 Those who gave me life,
 Destroyed my tomorrow.....

A New Love Sonnet

By Dan Arnott, 2A Environmental

I love you, but I will not count the ways
 Unless I choose to count my waffle-
 squares.
 I won't compare you to a summer's day
 But use metaphors easier to bear.
 I love you like I love my breakfast, dear,
 You're delicious, and last me through the
 day.
 Coffee you are to me; your eyes so clear
 You need no caffiene to drive sleep
 away.
 Like orange juice, you are my vitamin,
 You comfort me like softly buttered
 toast.
 Like golden pancake batter is your skin,
 My dear, you are the one I love the most!
 And for fear that you will my love refute,
 Don't even get me started on grapefruit.
 (.Y.)

**Do *You* Have
 Something to
 Contribute?**

Drop off your poetry, cartoons,
 drawings, and anything else
 artistic in the "Arts" box
 in the Orifice.

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

EWB...A global player?



MIKE SPENDLOVE
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

Engineers Without Borders — the fastest growing charity in Canada and the creation of UW engineering grads George Roter and Parker Mitchell — has come a long way in 5 years. From the infamous scribbled notes on the back of a napkin in a coffee-shop, EWB now comprises over 10 000 members from 23 university chapters across Canada, and currently sends over 20 short-term volunteers and 10 long-term volunteers abroad each year to further the mission of promoting human development through access to technology. EWB's exponential revenue growth speaks to its growing success: \$3250 to \$931,581 in only 5 years, and that's on top of immeasurables such as inspiring Sarah McLachlan's recent video World on Fire. (See the video at www.worldonfire.ca.)

For any EWB member, the annual conference is an excellent forum to explore new concepts in development, to share chapter best practices (e.g. fundraising or outreach techniques), and especially to hear and discuss where the organization as a whole is heading. This past conference in Vancouver was no exception with some excellent discussion regarding EWB's future, and even some discussion as to the future of NGOs as a whole.

A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is primarily identified by its independence from the public (or government) sector and from private or corporate interests. While the term does not necessarily imply non-profit, the majority of NGOs operate for non-financial motives (such as the public good) and

include think-tanks, advocacy groups such as Amnesty International, charities, PIRGs, humanitarian organizations and more. But without governmental powers or a strong consumer base, how and why do NGOs even exist?

In the case of EWB, you could ask: "How does one improve the quality of human life in the world?" Through efficient use of resources, well-researched strategies, generous donations, an army of passionate and committed volunteers and the combined ingenuity, intellect and creativity of students across

"Through efficient use of resources . . . and the combined ingenuity, intellect and creativity of students across Canada, EWB has reached out to hundreds of communities."

Canada, EWB has reached out to hundreds of communities around the world. Whether it be increasing education enrolment, providing clean water and sanitation, researching alternative energy sources or improving standards of living, the impact at a community level can be significant and long-lasting. But faced with facts like "over a hundred thousand Africans die each week because of preventable diseases," such successes can seem infinitesimally small in the grand scheme of things. Even an internationally-respected (Nobel Peace Prize laureate) NGO such as Médecins Sans Frontières (a.k.a. Doctors Without Borders) would be pushed to provide adequate treatment for every needy person in a single city of a developing

country. That, ultimately, is the job of that country's government.

But continuing with that line of thought, when a governmental leader wants to improve a situation, where can they get accurate, unbiased policy recommendations? If a president or a prime-minister wishes to redesign their country's health care system, who can they trust for advice that is not motivated by financial gain or political manoeuvring? Who can provide specialized, compassionate and well-researched advice to get the job done right and equitably? You guessed it, NGOs!

A few years ago I remember my shock (you could almost call it an epiphany) when I read how MSF was now being consulted by various African governments on health policy. Perhaps it speaks more of my ignorance, but I always imagined NGOs to be relatively inconsequential compared to the money behind corporate interests. Seeing how a charity had grown to become a governmental advisor blew my mind as I realized the influence of NGOs by virtue of their expertise, commitment and credibility. Last week, I had a second such epiphany when the co-CEOs of EWB announced that this 5-year-old and primarily student-based organization had received a call from the World Bank. In an effort to improve it's effectiveness, the WB asked EWB to send two interns to Haiti to help rebuild the Haitian water system. In only five years, an idea scribbled on the back of napkin now shows the potential of a global player. As an engineering student, I leave you with one question: What are you waiting for?

If you want to be part of this growing movement, please visit our web site or come along to one of our regular general meetings or discussion groups. We encourage students from all faculties to participate; currently, 1/3 of our chapter executives are non-engineers.

www.uwaterloo.ewb.ca

OEC 2005

Opens Its Doors to UW Students, Faculty, and Staff

February 12, 2005, will see the Ontario Engineering Competition return to the University of Waterloo. This year promises to be a great competition, with excellent entries from engineering schools across the province.

The competition is organized into seven categories, designed to showcase not only the technical aspects of engineering education, but also social awareness and proficiency in public speaking. The Entrepreneurial and Corporate Design categories involve projects of a senior caliber. Explanatory and Editorial Communications require engineers to effectively present a topic of a technical nature, while the Junior and Senior Team Design categories test the ability of teams to think quickly to design a solution with limited time and supplies to a challenging problem. Parliamentary Debates, likely the most entertaining of the competitions, displays critical thinking skills in an intense and impromptu public speaking contest.

The competition also involves a career fair, with booths from all of the competition sponsors. The OEC organizing committee invites all University of Waterloo students, faculty, and staff to come and experience the displays, presentations, and career fair. We hope you'll join us for a great day of events!

Important times to note:

9:30am – competition presentations start, corporate and entrepreneurial design booths on display

10:00am – career fair opens in DC Fishbowl

1:00pm – afternoon presentations resume for editorial and explanatory communications and parliamentary debates

1:30pm – Team design presentations begin (Junior team design in RCH, Senior team design in DC Foyer)

3:00pm – Career Fair closes

5:30pm – Final debate

6:30pm – Competition finished

the Iron Inquisition

Cindy Bao, 3B Electrical

What are you going to do for Valentine's Day?



Love should be expressed everyday!
— Luke Andrews, Alex Evans, Jacob Weber, and Chris Gomez, 4B Civil



Operating systems project.
— Ron Chan, 3A Comp



Study for midterms together.
— Matt Mohan & Jen Nafziger, 3B Geo



Sit in the washroom and cry.
— Rishi Anand, 4B Elec



Compose a love letter on DP 7th floor
— Tony Kao, 3B Elec



You don't want to know...
— Rahul Bhardwaj, 3B Elec & Chris Olekas, 2A Comp



I don't know... Do you have a sister?
— Dave Girodat, 3A Civil



Spooning.
— Jae-Suk Ahn & Cameron Bruce, 3A Mech