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the IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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**A U-PASS
FOR UW?
PAGE 5**



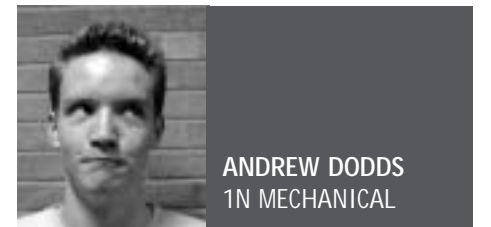
**GOOD-BYE
TO A FRIEND
PAGE 7**

IRON RING CELEBRATIONS



Fourth year engineering students received their iron rings last Tuesday at the solemn Iron Ring Ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, graduates paraded through the classes of their favourite professors, imparting their words of wisdom on the younger students. At noon, they moved on to POETS, to count down the final seconds of the IRS clock, before heading off to the ceremony.

India International Training Program



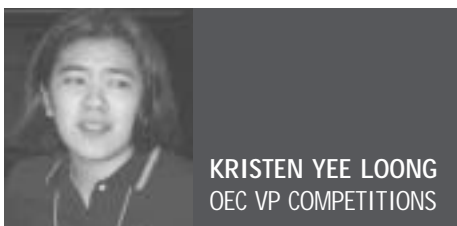
ANDREW DODDS
1N MECHANICAL

February 9th marked the beginning of the first run of the "TIET-UW ITP" (Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology – University of Waterloo International Training Program). After gathering at the airport, we set off for two flights and a long bus ride to get to TIET, and somehow we made it there safely, after over a day's worth of travel. There were many bumps along the way, but we made it, and it is most certainly worth it.

We 28 students have been set up in 5 guest houses located on campus in the Professor's residences. Our houses have locks everywhere, from slide locks on anything that opens to nearly medieval locks on our doors that you can see through, whose keys boast an impressive centimeter of blocks to lock out bad things. Our showers give only cold water, and so we must use a heater to heat 5L of water, which we pour into a big bucket and pour over our bodies with a smaller jug. Every day we are served three meals and an afternoon tea time and snack in these rooms, served by what we've started to call our servants, who are employees of a hotel restaurant catering our stay.

Continued on page 5 — see INDIA

Ontario Engineering Competition 2005



KRISTEN YEE LOONG
OEC VP COMPETITIONS

It is an undisputed fact that engineering schools all across the country have beef with each other, with the most fierce of rivalries situated right here in Ontario. It is no secret that engineering schools regularly seek opportunities to showcase their superiority over other schools. Therefore, it is only natural that the best of the best of Ontario engineering schools fight to the death every year at the Ontario Engineering Competition, or Compétition d'Ingénierie de l'Ontario (OEC-CIO). In case you were too busy studying for midterms and failed to notice the 200 non-UW students roaming the southeast side of campus, the University of Waterloo hosted

OEC 2005 on the weekend of February 11th-13th.

The annual contest kicked off on Friday with the High School Design Competition which welcomed students from local schools as well as from as far as Toronto. Students engaged in a futuristic conceptual design competition in the morning and a practical design competition in the afternoon. It was a day filled with excitement, tours and because of the low participation from local high schools, an intimate atmosphere was created allowing prospective students to easily converse with current engineering undergrads of various years and disciplines. Yay for UW Engineering Promotion!!!

Saturday - on to the main event:

OEC has several categories in which universities can battle it out. Each year, the host university strives to promote and improve the quality of the competition. This year, the Committee, led by Laura
Continued on page 8 — see OEC



A fraction of the spectators waiting in anticipation for the Senior Team launching

Letter from the editor



JAMES SCHOFIELD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the throngs of fourth years gathered in POETS last Tuesday at noon to count off the final seconds on the IRS clock, there were undoubtedly many graduating students sitting in classrooms, labs, or at home, completely oblivious to the events which were about to unfold. Whether due to ignorance, apathy, or a conscious desire to distance oneself from these festivities, many students abstained from participating in the traditional parading through classrooms.

Every year, the issue of the celebrations surrounding the Iron Ring Ceremony brings considerable controversy. Some students are unwilling to take part, a few professors complain about the disruption it brings to their classes, and the ever-present threat of cancelling the entire event in subsequent years lingers in the air.

This year being no exception, fourth year students donned their ridiculous costumes, and paraded around the school causing general disruption wherever they went. As an IRS security member, I followed some of these groups from class to class. For the most part, students seemed amused by their antics. Some profs joined in the fun, singing with the students, others stood by silently, hoping for an expeditious departure from the lecture room, and a handful became agitated and ordered the students to leave their classrooms. By and large, the minor disruption is welcomed by the students, and tolerated by the professors.

In considering whether to cancel this event, it helps to step back and take a look at this from a broader perspective. As engineering students, we work incredibly hard for five years of our lives to earn our degree. Waterloo's own literature warns us to expect to put in 60 hours a week between lectures, tutorials, labs, projects and homework, and it would be fair to say that for many of us, that 60 hour sugges-

tion is a bare minimum. With all the stress and anxiety that school can bring, we often take ourselves too seriously, and forget to have some fun at the same time. IRS is a once-a-year event that lets the fourth years celebrate their accomplishments, and hopefully helps the rest of us to lighten up a little. At the end of the term, will you look back and say, "gee, I wish those fourth years hadn't come into my class. I really missed having those five minutes of lecture"? Probably not. Hopefully you'll look back and remember the amusing grimace on your professor's face as the graduates declared to the class that force does not equal mass times acceleration.

As Dave Clegg wrote in these pages a few years ago, "though the primary goal of the day is to receive the ring in a solemn ceremony, this is also a monumental achievement for engineers who have worked to get there for the last five years, and they celebrate, in their own way, this achievement in their life.... The school visitation can also involve interrupting engineering classes and tutorials in session. This is part of the celebration that grads go through in order to mark the achievement of their day, and in most cases this disruption is tolerated. This is analogous to the way that newlyweds, their wedding party and their guests stream from the church to the location of the photos, honking horns and stopping traffic as they go."

There have been some concerns raised about the celebrations that precede IRS. Many of these are valid, and should be addressed. For example, every year, some non-engineering classes are disrupted, and the rambunctious fourth years are generally met with confused gazes from the non-engineering students who have no idea what is happening. This practice only serves to reinforce the negative stereotypes that many other parts of the campus hold about engineering students, and should be avoided as much as possible, by restricting the parading to the engineering buildings on campus. Minor changes such as these can be made without affecting the overall spirit of the day. However, to outright cancel the festivities is unnecessary, and in any case, it would

be extremely difficult to attempt to prevent a determined group of students from parading through the buildings.

It is understandable that some students might not want to participate in this behaviour. Many people have their own ways of celebrating the day. However, I cannot comprehend the apathy that some students show toward what is such a monumental day. I heard of one fourth year student who had no idea that the IRS clock in POETS was counting down to... well, IRS. While I will confess that during my first couple of months here, I did not grasp the significance of the countdown, I was startled to hear that someone could endure nearly five years here in such oblivion.

Apathy is a common problem in engineering. Many of us are here to simply trudge through our program, complete our assignments and labs, pass our exams, and get out as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, these attitudes are not easily changed.

Whether we like it or not, the value of our degree depends to a great extent on the reputation of the university. While the fact that we have an excellent co-op program and produce high-quality graduates goes a long way towards establishing the reputation of this institution, it's things like the Midnight Sun team touring across the continent, our ACM programming team winning a world championship or the OEC committee hosting a provincial conference that put the spotlight on Waterloo. It's also these non-academic activities that help to make our time at Waterloo something worth celebrating, and not just a monotonous stream of lectures, assignments, labs and exams.

Questions? Comments?

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

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IRON WARRIOR

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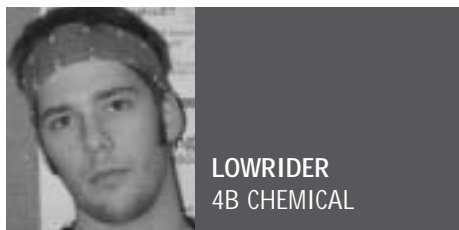
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YOU!

If you want to contribute ANYTHING AT ALL,

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

A LowRider a day helps you work, rest and play!



LOWRIDER
4B CHEMICAL

Dear LowRider,

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This bonus is only for select players. To claim this bonus you must make a deposit before FEBRUARY 14, 2005 23:59 EST using bonus code "REAL\$100" and play raked hands equal to 5 times the Bonus Amount within 30 days of making the deposit. For example, if you deposit \$100 today, you will get \$50 in bonus and you will need to play 250 raked hands before MARCH 13, 2005. Click on this link for further details.

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indicated below. Our Customer Care Department is open 24/7 and we look forward to serving you.

Sincerely Yours,
Online Poker Inc.

Dear Poker Inc.,

Thank you for this generous offer! Internet Poker is one of my absolute favourite things to do during lectures and other times when I have a computer around and maybe or maybe not important work to work on. It's one of the few things that we can actually do on the computers in the Chem Eng fourth year room, believe it or not. As much as I love internet poker, I don't like when idiots play stupidly. I've lost countless thousands of play dollars to idiots who have crap cards like "top" two pair, or three of a "kind" when all I need is 2 more hearts or triangles after the flop to get a 7-high flush.

In conclusion, I'm not really able to make this kind of investment right now, considering the shoddy players that are more than likely to win my money through sheer luck. Plus I'm pretty much broke.

—LR

Dear LowRider,

I eat peanuts every day. Lots of people

make fun of me, because I don't eat more traditional C&D snack foods like samosas and cookies. I need a good snack to go with my lunch. Peanuts are what I want. Am I crazy?

—L. H.

Dear L,

Relax, guy! Peanuts have vitamins and minerals. You shouldn't care what the people say. I did an online literature search and I found some interesting trivia for you. Apparently, some pH-D person did a study and found that you can do 200 push-ups if you eat peanuts a lot. I can only do about 143 at the moment, so you can count on me increasing my peanut intake to increase my push-up count. You can count on that for shizzle. As for your crazy question, I'm going to guess no. If you're anything like the average LowReader, then you're crazy for me — but not actually crazy per se.

—LR

Hey LowRider,

I think that it's BS that we only get 2 lousy days off for reading "week". Every other faculty gets a full week. I really want to have the time off to go somewhere cool with my friends, maybe Florida or somewhere else that's hot. I'd

like to start a petition. Can you help hype it up in your column?

—2A E&CE

Dear 2A,

I always get a kick out of you young students writing in, wanting to change to world with no thought put into it at all. Think about this for a second: If you got a whole week off for reading, then your profs would certainly give you a week's worth of work and reading to do. Personally, I'd prefer to keep the actual amount of work that I do to a minimum. The other thing is, when the heck would we have IRS? The last thing we need is thousands of artsies on campus to be jealous of the massive party and engineering tradition. There wouldn't be enough time in the day to properly accost math and arts anyway.

In conclusion, go back to your second year "work". Just be glad that we get any time off at all. Just think about the awesome 4 day long D&D game that you'll be able to have!

—LR

PS: (Wait for it...) Loser.

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

The dark (unofficial) history of the Iron Ring



FRANCIS HOPE
3B ELECTRICAL

Some of you may be wondering, what is the significance of the Iron Ring, and what is its history? Or more importantly, why does it compel graduating students each year to get drunk, and dress in 'obscure' ways (like giant bears, transvestites and gym teachers from the 80's) while breaking into classrooms and disrupting classes in a comical yet off the wall fashion. Well, other than the reason that Waterloo has a strange effect on people that stay there too long, there is another reason..... A dark reason. I will tell you that reason, for I am going to tell you the secret of the Iron Ring, but at great risk to myself. You see the university has a dark secret and its history is linked back to the Iron Ring...

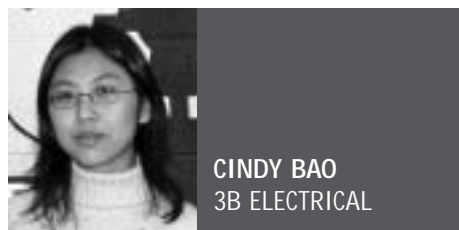
I was only made aware of the full horror of the Iron Ring a couple of days ago when I snuck into the Iron Ring ceremony as a security guard to see some of my friends graduating and to find out what was going to happen next year when I graduate. And the horrors, debauchery, and indignation I discovered rocked to the very fiber of my being. "Describe what you saw," you say. Well, it is not for the faint of heart. I will start with the facts that I discovered. Forget the history of the university that is propagated by 'the man' - the real history of the university is that it was made by a secret society called the Non-Existent Action Committee, or NEAC. This organization's goal is to take the brightest minds that they could get, break the 'student's' will (exams), stupefy them (incomprehensible lectures taught by professors that can't speak English), take away as many forms of distractions as possible (no women), brainwash them (boring lectures), pacify them (beer), reprogram them (com-

prehensible lectures), and train them to be elite but geeky warriors. Then, once the process is complete, on the appointed day, the students are programmed to do strange acts as a test to see if the process was successful. That day is IRS. The Iron Ring is placed on the recipient as a stamp of quality assurance. For those that have the ring, it is too late for them. Sorry Huy, you are dead to me now. But for the rest of you, there is still a chance.

Now, you may be saying "Francis, WTF are you smoking?" A combination of of mind altering substances, but that does not change the validity of case. You may also be asking, "what do they do with these 'soldiers' once they are trained? Don't they just go out and work or do graduate studies?" That is the beauty of the plan, they don't know it. They walk among the general populace until they are called to duty. The university also sells off some of these people to companies like cattle. Their biggest clients include Microsoft, ATI, PCL, CIBC, you name it. You doubt me? Go—if you look around, you will see company logos everywhere. Go to CEIT, 'CIBC lecture hall.' Coincidence? I think not. This is really a staple to show who the prospective students that are in the lecture hall belong to. Imagine being owned by a company and having their slogan tattooed on you. Like being owned by TTC and having their slogan printed on your forehead: "Ride the rocket." Or on a female, the Herr's slogan, "make Herr's yours." Or on a male, the Buckley's slogan, "Tastes awful but it works." Everyone in the school is branded to one organization or another.

The history of NEAC is tied back to the very conception of the university. NEAC is comprised of various companies, both foreign and domestic. It has been subtly building up its power base of students and perfecting its techniques. But it is not too late to stop this evil empire. Spread the word, keep an open eye and don't give up. For if discovered, you will be, tortured,

Some unromantic thoughts about Valentine's Day



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

Another Valentine's Day came and went uneventfully. Unless I count one of my midterms, before which I got all sentimental and started to leave my parting words to those close to me.

No, I am not feeling sorry about being unable to celebrate with the special someone around. Instead, I thought of those who are less fortunate in a not-so-noble way — the schadenfreude of seeing agonizing lovers trying to live up to the expectation of Valentine's Day.

What one ought to do in the name of love has been escalated over the years, so flowers, candies and teddy bears do not get very far nowadays. If you just started seeing someone, striking the delicate balance between showing you care and not being too pushy or clingy can put you at the wit's end. Think those who are in a serious long term relationship have it easy? Perhaps, except that they have already used all the ideas under the sun, only to feel the need to outdo themselves again this year.

The absolute worst is not having anything to reciprocate when presented with a gift. It not only can invoke a tantrum and

butchered and flayed alive. "Viva la Resistance" will live on.

...Oh no they are coming to get me, AHHHHHH! If when you see me next I am acting strangely, you will know what has happened.

a slew of questions about your (a) "not loving me" (b) having commitment-phobia (c) being cheap, but also bring a mix of guilt and embarrassment within you.

It happened to me over the holiday season once. After sheepishly admitting I didn't come prepared, I trod through the mall to look for a suitable present for the giver, who's notoriously impossible to buy for. Let this take place on the one day you are supposed to pamper the significant other, and surely you are doomed to the relationship hell.

Then the second thought struck me long after the day ended. The countless engagements that occurred overnight can

"Striking the delicate balance between showing you care and not being too pushy or clingy can put you at wit's end."

fill the wedding column of every newspaper with what reads like a fairy tale. Am I the only one not softened by those columns?

I am not denying it's a happy occasion, but the loving couple would have already announced the upcoming nuptial to

the family and friends in person, shared the juicy details of how he got on one knee, and let everyone have a peek of the flawless princess cut from Tiffany, perhaps even mailed out the wedding invitations.

For a wedding to be featured in the Times, for example, the guest list must have included all the family, friends, acquaintances, acquaintances of acquaintances, even the ex-husband of one's sister-in-law's second cousin. The real good reason to make it to the Society page is to spite one's exes in a glamorous way, to let them know that you mended your broken heart and are so over them.

One can only take the anti-romantic cynicism so far. Before you conclude that I am an embittered individual, known as the Scrooge of Valentine's Day, let me tell you that the last gift that made me "aw" was a bear, a Beanie Babies bear.

Engineering rituals and rites of passage

WINONA TONG
4B COMPUTER

The iron ring is worn on the little finger of the working hand of engineers who obligate themselves to upholding a code of engineering ethics and utmost professionalism. On February 22nd, I received my Iron Ring at the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer. The actual ceremony took place in the evening, but this momentous occasion is usually marked by a day-long celebration.

As is tradition at the University of Waterloo, the morning of the Iron Ring Ceremony began with a champagne breakfast with fellow senior year engineering students. After breakfast, the seniors changed into tacky costumes acquired from thrift stores and gathered in POETS for drinks. Alcohol found in unlicensed areas of campus was confiscated by the police. When the students were sufficiently intoxicated, they paraded around campus, disrupting the classes of their favourite professors.

The seniors spent the rest of the afternoon sobering up and grooming themselves for the Iron Ring Ceremony in the evening. For this segment, they shed their ridiculous costumes and donned their suits and ties. After the engineers were sworn in and ringed, they broke up into smaller groups for a nice dinner at some of Waterloo's finer dining establishments.

At 9:00 pm, the graduating class changed back into their gaudy costumes and reconvened at Fed Hall for a party known as the Iron Ring Stag (or IRS for short.) The Tool made an appearance at the party and the newly ringed engineers were permitted to touch it for the first time. In addition to this, anyone on the dance floor who was wearing an article of non-black clothing was stripped of the offending vestment. I'm probably the only one who finds great irony in behaving like a bunch of savages immediately following a solemn ceremony where the same people have obliged themselves to professional conduct. Keep in mind that about 75% of the people at the party were men, most of which are probably heterosexual, so nothing seriously kinky happened. However, there was a brawl that started as a result of someone tearing someone else's very nice navy blue sweater in half in front of the bar. The alcohol stopped flowing at 1:30 AM, and the music stopped promptly at

2:00 AM, so that everyone could still make it to class the next morning.

Did I mention that the \$25 cover charge for IRS covered the cost of a pair of black boxers? Not that I really want to know what happens when someone intentionally or unintentionally forgets to wear their standard issue undergarment, but it seems to have never been an issue.

Disappointingly, GradComm did not consider the fact that some girls may have received boxers that were several sizes too large, because they were only available in men's sizes. I couldn't opt out of the IRS boxers even if they were big enough for 2 of me. Even when I tightened up the waist, the pant legs were still wide enough for anyone to be able to see what was underneath when I was seated. Furthermore, there was no standard issue sports bra or anything to that effect. Did GradComm secretly hope that a few adventurous female engineers would accept a sole pair of black shorts as sufficient cover-up at IRS? However, if there was to be special garb for the girls, I wouldn't put it past the guys in GradComm to order black bikinis and G-strings for the ladies.

On a more serious note, participation in the tradition of ripping clothes off of one another is an invitation for sexual harassment. It's quite conceivable that in the height of the moment, some guy who is tearing clothes off of a female will decide (in a flash of drunken brilliance) not to stop at the black layer. Although men have long since evolved into civilized creatures, I can guarantee that chaos will ensue with a flash of female breasts amidst completely trashed male engineers, especially in the absence of a healthy balance of estrogen to keep the situation in check. Of course, a female engineer can go to the party wearing all black and stay sober so she can guard herself from being harassed, but the point of a party is to have fun without having to worry about these things.

With all of these factors combined, I have come to the realization that the Iron Ring Stag is a female unfriendly party. I'm sure that at some point in history only men part took in these rituals, but I can't help but notice that every "tradition" on Iron Ring Day up until the Iron Ring Stag is gender-neutral.

Although attending the party is completely voluntary, it upsets me that EngSoc didn't even pretend that their female colleagues were encouraged to participate.



I am aware of alternate definitions for the word "stag", and I know that exotic dancers are no longer "invited" to the party, but the wording still alludes to a party for men. Using the acronym "IRS" in official EngSoc literature doesn't work. Someone is bound to ask what it stands for. Would it hurt to start advertising the event as an "Iron Ring Party" (or IRP) just like all of the other engineering schools in Canada? It's also possible to make the "S" in "IRS" stand for something else. Iron Ring Spa has a nice ring to it: instead of getting pissed drunk, hungover and feeling like poo afterwards, you can spend the day lounging in a hot tub and getting massages so you can feel like you were born again. That's exactly what I did along with a male classmate of mine at Eden Salon and Spa in the University Plaza. Of course, if being pampered isn't your cup of tea, there's an endless list of other social activities that begin with the letter "S": supper, shindig, sports and sex... just to name a few.

How about offering smaller shorts (and not calling them "boxers") and selling optional black t-shirts as well so that no one is excluded? That would be a subtle gesture to indicate that the party is suitable for engineers of all genders.

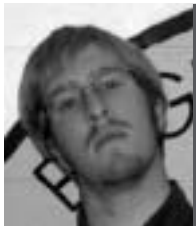
Any suggestion of changing the shirt-shedding ritual will be met with an uproar by those who hold it dear. Holding a separate Iron Ring Stagette at the Bomber is also a preposterous idea. Segregation is not

the answer. Has anyone thought of introducing a brand new, more inclusive ritual while gradually phasing out the old one? I'm certain that there are guys out there who think that IRS is pretty stupid too.

The fact of the matter is, no other engineering student society in Canada sponsors Iron Ring Parties with such distasteful customs and discriminatory practices. McGill, Dalhousie and the University of Victoria hold receptions following their Iron Ring Ceremony, the University of Toronto holds their graduation ball a couple days after the ring ceremony, Queen's goes clubbing, and students from all faculties at the University of Alberta are invited to celebrate with their engineers. Keeping The Tool sacred is a poor excuse for running the party the way it's done, because most of the year it resides in a place where unringed undergrads can defile it if they so choose. This is no mystery to the students who want to maintain the mysterious nature of The Tool, and the students who haven't figured it out by now... well, they simply don't care.

IRS may very well be one of Canada's largest Engineering parties, but Canada's largest sausage fest is nothing to be proud of. If more women felt that the Iron Ring Party wasn't an exclusionary or potentially unpleasant experience, they would have participated. I'm sure the guys would have found the party more fun if more females showed up as well.

Is democracy at work in Iraq?



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

On January 30th 2005, citizens of Iraq held up their thumbs, stained blue with election ballot ink, as a sign that they were doing their part to make the democratic processes of their newly-'liberated' nation work. But questions remain—was this election really a reflection of democracy, are the people of Iraq really free to choose their own leader?

On February 17th, the election results were confirmed. Of the 275 available seats in the newly-formed Iraqi cabinet, 140 were won by the (Shiite) United Iraqi Alliance, the Kurdistan Alliance took 75,

secular Shiites took 40, and other candidates from smaller parties accounted for the remaining 20 seats. However, to confirm top positions in the new government, a two-thirds majority of 182 seats is required, so the United Iraqi Alliance will be required to deal extensively with other parties.

Voter turnout for the election has been notoriously hard to determine. The most commonly heard numbers are '8 million' and '57%', but these statistics could be interpreted in many different ways. It is no secret that many people in Iraq did not vote for fear of retribution from various sources, but it is uncertain how many of these people were registered voters, or how many simply did not register out of fear.

The Alliance is being encouraged to strike a deal with Sunni Arabs, who won five seats in parliament, in hope of ending

the ongoing Sunni-led insurgency in Iraq. Although voter turnout was hard to determine, many Sunnis definitely did not vote because of fear of violence against them, or boycotts of the voting system suggested by clerics opposed to the American invasion and occupation. Critics cite the entire Iraqi election as an attempt by the Shiites, Americans, and Kurds to suppress the Sunnis. The United Iraqi Alliance has generally been opposed to Sunnis, as many of them were connected with Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath Party, but the Alliance is being encouraged to put these differences behind them in the interest of national unity.

The main purpose of the current elected government is to draft a constitution for Iraq, so that new elections can be held later on. Since the National Assembly will only be in power for ten months, new elections are projected for late 2005 or early

2006. The prime minister will be the highest position in the newly-formed government, with a president serving a mainly ceremonial purpose. Current prime ministerial candidate Ibrahim al-Jaafari of the United Iraqi Alliance will be likely by supported by the Kurdistan Alliance in exchange for the appointment of Kurdish Jalal Talabani as President. However, Kurdish support is contingent upon a complete separation of Church and State in Iraq. "We will reject, and we won't allow, the establishment of a theocratic state" said Noshirwan Mustafa, an aide to Talabani. The other prime ministerial candidate is Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmad Chalabi.

The Prime Minister and the President, as well as all other positions, will be selected when the Assembly comes into session- this is expected to happen on March 1st.

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Should UW adopt a universal bus pass (U-Pass)?

In a referendum last month, undergraduate students at Wilfred Laurier University approved a universal non-refundable bus pass, or U-Pass. Beginning in September, all Laurier students will pay a \$40 fee (per term), and have unlimited access to Grand River Transit bus services, simply by showing their student card when they board a bus. GRT has pledged to significantly increase bus service, and add late night service on some routes, in consultation with Laurier's student union. Should UW adopt a similar universal bus pass?



JOHN OLAVESON
3A CIVIL

Many post-secondary institutions in Ontario offer subsidized bus passes to students. The small fee is added on to each tuition statement. The University of Waterloo does not have a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) system, but there is talk of adopting one.

What are the benefits of U-Pass? There are many. The University of Waterloo is part of a larger community, the city that surrounds it. The U-Pass encourages greater interaction between the university community, namely the students, and the expanse of the Kitchener/Waterloo region. Many students cannot afford to own vehicles, what with rising tuition and living costs. The U-Pass is an inexpensive means of transportation between the university and the malls, restaurants, theatres, and other points of interest in the city at large. Keeping a bus pass is much more convenient for students than always running to the Turnkey or a corner store to buy strips of tickets.

The U-Pass offers an alternative for students who do own vehicles as well. Small vehicles are expensive to own and maintain, especially in the winter. Gas, oil, tune-ups, new tires, and all the other repairs a car needs add up, and then add the insurance bill and parking fees. Cars are money-sinks. U-Pass is a once-a-semester investment that will save the headache of operating and maintaining a car. On icy days, of which there have been several this year, keeping the car at home and taking the bus will save the student the potential of a crash. Crashes mean even more money spent on repairs and increased insurance premiums.

Use of the bus also benefits non-driver students on rainy or cold days. The bus is a mobile shelter, protecting sorrowful students from the ubiquitous rainstorms of Waterloo. It rains every other day in Waterloo, it seems.

By leaving the car at home and taking mass transit, students will benefit the environment. One of the big draws of the bus is its environment-saving features. Only one vehicle will belch out exhaust instead of eight or ten.

The employment of a bus pass will benefit students less obvious ways as well. Students tend to cluster their living accommodations around the school. For convenience, laziness, or lack of available housing, or whatever the reason, it seems to happen. Student-dominated zones form, usually in low-quality locations (whether the students or the shabby houses came first I won't get into). By providing all students with a U-Pass, the borders of the student-occupied zone will expand and start to blur. Students will have the luxury to look for accommodations along whole bus routes. This brings many more houses into consideration during house hunts. Keep in mind too that houses farther from the university will cost less to rent, as the demand on these units will be lower, at least until the trend catches on.

What about students in residence? They won't be taking the bus to or from school.

What benefits will they receive from the U-Pass, besides being to travel to the mall with friends once in a while? Many first-year students like to go home on weekends. The U-Pass will provide them the means. A bus stops near the residences that will carry students straight to the Greyhound station in Kitchener. First-years get to go home without worrying about running out of money for tickets (because low cash is one reason students go home).

Consider one final reason to adopt a U-Pass system. Say you go out drinking with some friends. Say you end up going far away, say to a Cambridge bar, in your drunken stupor. How will you get home? All you have on you is your driver's licence, the remnants of your night's entertainment money, and your U-Pass. Do you walk? Sure, if you are an Olympic athlete. Grab that U-Pass and jump on the bus! You stay off the street, preventing you from stumbling in front of a car. You get yourself a ride home. And you get to do it again next weekend.

The precedence for a U-Pass for the university already exists. Wilfred Laurier University uses such a system. As part of

their deal, Grand River Transit offered them 800 hours of route time to schedule at WLU's discretion. With the proper negotiator, the University of Waterloo could gain a similar or better deal for its students.

The U-Pass system makes sense for the University of Waterloo to save its students money. Vehicles are expensive to operate, local housing costs are high, and bus tickets are costly to buy in small bunches. And who wants to walk home from Cambridge at four in the morning on a Saturday night, or would it be Sunday morning by then?



EDWARD TAN
3A COMPUTER

This non-refundable U-Pass is nothing more than another attempt to grab money. This is very different from the campus organizations that receive funding from student fees. Take the Imprint, for example. If I did not read the Imprint, I could always get my money back. This U-Pass fee however, is mandatory and non-refundable.

It is unreasonable to ask students to pay for a service they will never use. This is very different from, say for example, using tax money to pay for special aid programs. This is plain out telling students that they should pay so that other students can ride the bus at a discounted rate. If I lived on or near campus I would have no use for a bus pass. There are plenty of grocery stores within walking or biking distances. I suppose that taking the bus would be a safe way of getting home after a night of heavy drinking at a pub or club. However, this would require buses to run all across the city after 3 am, which of course, is not going to happen. This is essentially a fine for being able to find housing at a nice location.

This U-Pass also introduces many new problems. It will encourage more students to find housing off-campus. Now, during the fall term, this is actually a good thing because there is a shortage of on-campus housing. However, this is extremely damaging during the winter and summer terms when many rooms are vacant and entire residences are closed. This will cause campus housing to lose more money during the remaining eight months of a year. It is highly unlikely that they will just smile and accept the losses. It is far more likely that they will offset the losses by either raising rents during the fall term, or by introducing a mandatory maintenance fee for all students. If bus services are

increased along certain routes, this will only encourage landlords who have property nearby to increase the rent. They can do this because their property is now at a convenient location.

Some people may argue that the U-Pass will help improve the environment. This is an extremely shallow and near-sighted argument. The main support for this argument is that people who drive will now be motivated to take the bus instead. This is not always true, since a lot of people who drive to classes tend to live in fairly remote locations. If these individuals were to take the bus, it would require them to make quite a few transfers. This would be far too inconvenient and time consuming to make busing a worthwhile alternative to driving. On the other hand, there are currently many people who are jogging, roller blading, or biking to class. This is not only extremely beneficial to the environment, but it provides students with much needed exercise. However, if these students were required to pay for a bus pass, would they not be motivated to jump onto a big polluting bus instead? This is not only more harmful to the environment, but is also harmful to the health of numerous students.

There are currently far too few buses and bus routes to make busing a suitable traveling option for many students, especially if they live far from campus. One of the advantages to introducing a U-Pass is that it will allow certain buses to run more frequently. It may even result in establishing new bus routes all together. Taking the bus to and from campus will become far more convenient. Bullshit. Realistically, how many more buses or bus routes can the GRT introduce? It would be impossible to increase services on all existing bus routes and to create new bus routes to all remote locations in the Waterloo-Kitchener region. The limited increase in services will most likely occur in areas close to the university. Students who live in remote places are unlikely to experience any of these improvements. It is the people who live close enough to walk or bike to campus who will experience this "improvement".

Students already have enough tuition and fees to worry about. The last thing we need is another fee for a service that we will never use. If they let this pass, what's next, a mandatory fee to reduce the cost of beer at the Bomber? Actually, that's not a bad idea.

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.

India: The beginning of an adventure of a lifetime

Continued from cover

As for the culture here itself, it is just as different from ours as I imagined. There is the most grim poverty in the streets, a 6 year old boy motioning for food with one hand while holding his naked sister in the other, right next to fancy shops selling jewelry and cars. Here, the rules of the road are needed for survival. When both big and small roads have bikes, motorcycles, cars and trucks, you fight for survival. Side-view mirrors are folded in to allow cars to squeeze

through the tightest cracks. Ask us about it when we're back; the insanity and terror can't be written in words, only described with looks of horror and the inability to speak.

Everywhere we go, we get looks. They stop everything to stare at us, take photos of us holding their children, celebrate when we get involved in anything, and generally make us feel like celebrities. Many of us have had strangers on campus or at Punjabi pop concerts grab us to talk or dance, and have wound up

with phone numbers. Being mostly guys here, we've noticed that to live in a culture where homosexuality is nearly nonexistent and harshly disallowed by all changes you. We've all seen guys holding hands, hugging, grabbing each other's crotches and massaging their thighs and butts while riding on a scooter. It is a celebration of camaraderie that you simply don't see in Canada, whether you applaud it or cover yourself and run away from it.

To put it simply, we've begun the adventure of a lifetime. Anyone who

would give up this opportunity is passing up on a life altering experience. Next issue, I'll tell you of how the program itself is going, and what adventures we're having. Also, if you have any questions about India or the program, email them to itpquestion@hotmail.com and I will reply to the most common or interesting ones in my next couple articles. Until then, midterms may be long gone, but finals aren't too far off, so study hard and wish that you were with all of us out here in India.

New Year's Fireworks



GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

On December 27, astronomers were treated by some early new year's fireworks of galactic proportions. A super-magnetic neutron star SGR 1806-20 on the other side of the galaxy released a huge flash of radiation that was so powerful, it bounced off the Moon, lit up our atmosphere, and disrupted space-borne instruments and satellites. Solar flares are

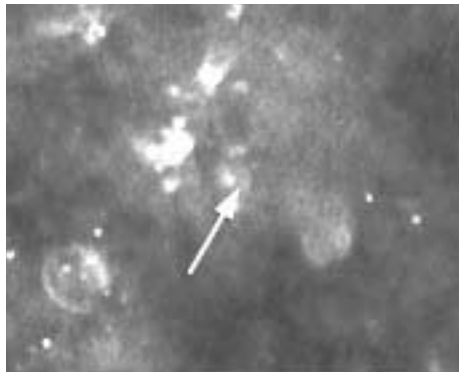


nothing compared to this: one calculation stated that SGR 1806-20 released about 10,000 trillion trillion trillion watts (no, that was not a typo). This event released more

energy in a tenth of a second than the Sun emits in 100 000 years.

A neutron star is the remains of a red giant that is several kilometres across, revolves very fast, and has a super dense core composed only of neutrons. Scientists believe that the star's extremely strong magnetic field rearranged the structure of star and subsequently released this unfathomable amount of energy. This is believed to be the biggest explosion to be observed by humans since the supernova recorded by Johannes Kepler in 1604.

The SGR 1806-20 neutron star is located in the constellation Sagittarius, which is in fact beyond the centre of our galaxy Milky Way, a distance of 50 000 light-years. Scientists say that if this "star-quake occurred" within 10 light-years away from us, it would have destroyed our atmosphere and turned the



planet into the world's biggest microwaved egg (and no one would be alive afterwards to put that in the book of world records).

The initial radiation flare did not last long, but an afterglow at longer radio wavelengths continues to emit from SGR 1806-20. This is caused by the shockwave of the explosion changing the energy levels of matter as it ploughs through space, continuing this fireworks display right through Chinese New Year as well (and the upcoming Persian New Year).

Aside, this Chinese New Year was probably the best one I ever had to date: how extremely lucky I was to get five midterm examinations all during the 15 days of the holiday. Happy new year to everyone!



TOM LEE
'88 SYSTEMS DESIGN ALUMNUS

Motorcycling has been gaining in popularity in recent years. These days, it's impossible to surf through the TV channels without running into a chopper show or two. Movies like Biker Boyz and Torque celebrate the contemporary version of the outlaw biker culture. It's pretty difficult to ignore ... and for many of us -- men, women, young, old -- it definitely has a seductive effect.

On May 13, 2003, Mirko Hroch, a first year UW Mech Eng student was killed in a bike crash on Trussler road. He wasn't an outlaw or a hooligan. He was a guy on a normal motorcycle out on a recreational ride. This is the dark side of motorcycling. Around that time, the Engineering Alumni Waterloo Area Chapter (WAC) was planning future activities for alumni and the university com-

DASC Conference Experience

PARISA MAHDIAN
4B COMPUTER

"Congratulations on the acceptance of your abstract for this year's conference." This was the email I received from Digital Avionics Systems Conference committee. It is always interesting to read published papers and attend IEEE and AIAA conferences but it is more exciting to have your own technical paper accepted and published in a prestigious institution; something I always looked forward to.

Not long ago, one of my friends suggested that I publish the VHDL (VHSIC Hardware Description Language) design and implementation that I worked on during my work term. Although it was a great idea, it seemed far from reality. After implementing and testing the design to the full functional stage, I decided to take it one step further and submit my abstract. Three months later, I heard from the committee and had to submit my final paper. Though it was a great experience to have something published, it was not

mittee. We found out that several of us had a common interest in riding. Last year, this common interest lead to the first WAC public service event called "Born to Be Mild!" -- a sensible introduction to motorcycles.

On Wednesday, March 23, 2005, 7 PM in E2-1303E, the event will be repeated. The evening will feature an expert panel from the police, rider training, insurance, and a dealer. This is your chance to ask questions like "What kind of bike should I get?", "Is it that dangerous?", "How do I do wheelies?" (hint: you don't). Bikes and equipment will be on display. As an added bonus, attendees will get access to an introductory booklet on motorcycles, specifically created for the KW region.

Students, faculty and staff are all welcome and the event is free. Contact WACboard@hotmail.com for more information.

an easy task. As always the submission date happened to coincide with my school project deadlines and final exam schedule.

Two months after the paper submission came the conference. Now that my paper was accepted, I had to decide whether or not I should spend the time and money to attend the conference. It took me sometime to convince myself that it will be a good experience to take the time from work and present my paper.

Minutes after arriving at the conference reception, I found that my paper had become one of the best papers of the conference. At that time, I realized the value of the time and work I spend on this project and writing the paper. Now that I look back on all the effort and time I spent publishing my first technical paper, I can very well say: "it was well worth the time".

I would like to thank the Sandford Fleming Foundation (SFF) for supporting me in attending and presenting my paper at the 23rd Digital Avionics System Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.



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

WINTER 2005 TECHNICAL SPEAKER COMPETITION RESULTS

FIRST PRIZE

Jeremy Daniels, Mechanical Engineering
"A Numerical Investigation of NO Formation in n-Heptane Triple Flames"

OTHER COMPETITORS

Laura McCracken, Chemical Engineering
"Mechanical Testing of Materials"

Vikram Aggarwal, Electrical and Computer Engineering
"Calculating the Logical Effort of CMOS Gates"

T. J. Kelley, Systems Design Engineering
"Boot Mounted Mine Detection"

SANDFORD FLEMING DEBATES

The Sandford Fleming Debates will be held from 11:30 – 1:00 on March 7, 8, and 9 in E2 Room 3324 with finals on March 11 at noon outside POETS in CPH.

Funding for these awards comes from engineering student contributions and depends on them for continuation

Good-bye to a classmate, a friend

JILLIAN GOLL
3A CHEMICAL

*Memories to give me peace
To give me strength when I am weak
To show me light when it is dark*

*You offer falsehood, fiery flame
Things easy gained are easy lost
True strength in pain alone is found*

*Without pain there is no joy
Without shadow there's no light
One's unknown without the other*

—From *The Flame*, by Patricia Vepari

You could hear the familiar laugh, no matter where you were in the classroom – everyone in the room knew it belonged to Patricia. You could sense the excitement that she had when she understood a cool new concept. You couldn't feel anything but happiness when she danced and clapped, that day that she found out she gotten her first co-op job two years ago. You could see the sparkle in her eye when she showed off her desk & the lab equipment she used when she worked on campus for her last work term. When Patricia was around, there was joy in the atmosphere.

Patricia Vepari passed away in the early hours of February 4, 2005, after a short battle with a meningococcal disease. Her parents, Rohit & Gertrud Vepari, drove from their home in Libertyville, Illinois, in time to speak to Patricia before she died, while some of her friends waited in the hospital waiting room. A memorial service was held in Waterloo on February 7, 2005, with some of Patricia's family, her close Waterloo friends, and her classmates, followed by a cremation. A second service was held in Libertyville on February 10, 2005.

Patricia was a third year chemical engineering student, whose passion was in biotechnology research. She was one of the top students in the class, and worked hard

to truly understand what was going on. Patricia had a keen attitude towards her studies, and was very helpful if her friends were having troubles in class. She was optimistic when one of her friends was thinking of giving up, and encouraged them to keep going. While her studies were important, she never lost sight on the people in her life, and would always be there if someone needed help, or just to talk. She showed such compassion towards those close to her.

While she loved chemical engineering, there were several topics that Patricia enjoyed learning about on her own, including religion, philosophy and politics. She loved to read, and once, told another classmate that someday, she wanted to have a house with a room devoted to books alone

– she wanted to read them all! In addition to reading, Patricia was a very talented writer, and at any time, she had a couple of short fantasy stories in progress, some in collaboration with friends, some being written by herself.

Patricia was a free spirit, a dreamer. She believed in love of all

kinds. Years of self-discovery led her to Paganism, and she viewed the world as Goddess and Mother. She took "Tree" as her middle name with her deep adoration for nature. She believed in reincarnation, and welcomed both life and death. One of her writings stated:

"I will never claim that Nature is all light and happy and fluffy white bunnies. Nature is harsh. Death is a part of Her. But so is Life. And Death and Life are a cycle, a harmony. They are two seemingly opposing forces that depend on each other. To see only one of the two sides, either life or death, is to have an incomplete picture of Her. And it is only that when we can accept both forces as being, well just the way things are, that we see the essential harmony of life."

Patricia had a strong sense of self, knowing who she was and what she wanted. She had strong beliefs that she valued.

"While her studies were important, she never lost sight on the people in her life, and would always be there if someone needed help, or just to talk"



She enjoyed friendly debates, and while she stayed strong in what she believed in, she always listened to what the other was saying. She loved life and lived it to the fullest, and enjoyed the little things that some of us take for granted.

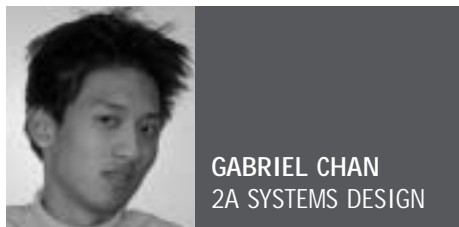
Patricia was a fantastic friend that taught us about what it means to live life, to enjoy life, and to show compassion for others, and will never be gone in our hearts.

She touched everyone she knew, and her life is a life worth celebrating.

*To where does it lead
This misty road?
Beyond the end of Desire
To the eternal rest
In the Moon's silver light*

—From *The Misty Road* by Patricia Vepari

Refuse to do nothing



GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

I have been labouring to the breaking point, I can barely afford a quality meal around here, and I want to collapse from exhaustion. Who am I?

A hungry student? NO!

The average university "hungry student" gets at least 3 square meals a day; about 12% of the world is dying to get even one meal a day. And the word dying is not used as a metaphor here. As a member of one of the most industrialized and socially advanced nations in the world, how can you make a difference?

Refuse to do nothing.

Join the 30 Hour Famine. The idea is that participants collect money from sponsors who support your initiative to stop eating for 30 hours. As a participant, you would experience the hunger that is prevalent throughout the developing worlds and the money you collect will go towards World

Vision, which will channel the funds to support programs in areas of need. World Vision helps communities increase their capacity to grow and prepare nutritious foods, with presence not just in developing nations such as Malawi, Tanzania, India, Nicaragua and Peru, but also disaster zones, such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand, and other areas devastated by the recent Aceh Tsunami. Such programs are reducing the levels of undernourished children and are contributing to the long-term, overall health of community members.

The UW 30 Hour Famine will run from 5:59pm on Friday, March 11th to 11:59pm on Saturday, March 12th. During this time, participants will drink only water and eat nothing at all. Events will be held for the participants in the SLC during the famine period. Some of these events include: a 2-hour comedy session featuring comedians from Toronto, a 4-hour concert featuring local and campus talent, performances from a variety of groups, a keynote address from World Vision, dance workshops, games, movies, and prizes.

Sign up for the UW 30-Hour Famine—refuse to do nothing. Contact Tim Szeto / Kevin Li at uwfamine@gmail.com

Some Facts about World Hunger

World population that suffer chronic malnutrition:
800 million
Population of Canada:
31 million

Percentage of children in Canada who are overweight: **33%**
Percentage of children in developing countries who are underweight: **36%**

North American annual spending on fast food: **US \$100 billion**
North Americans annual spending on pet food: **US \$25 billion**
North American annual spending on foreign aid: **US \$18 billion**

A way in which you can make a difference: **30 Hour Famine**

Students Showcase Engineering to the Public

TANEEM A. TALUKDAR
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

Engineering students will be at Conestoga Mall on Thursday, March 3rd to raise awareness about engineering and technology and to encourage young people to consider careers in this field.

Student groups and projects, including UWAFI, Mini-Baja, Formula SAE, WARG, Clean Snowmobile, and Women in Engineering, will be on display at the mall from 9:30 am to 9:00 pm as part of Waterloo's contribution to National Engineering Week. EngSoc's beloved wrench mascot The Tool, will also be on display.

There will be a PEO booth setup with information along with lots of free stuff! For more information, please contact any of the Directors for this event: Sameer Rehman: srehan@engmail, Sonya Chang: s7chang@engmail, Kristen Yee Loong: kayeeloo@engmail, Taneem Talukdar: taneem@dheo.com.

Team Waterloo

University of Waterloo A

Entrepreneurial Design:

Alice Malisia
Matt Millard
Melanie Stern
Beth Vary

University of Waterloo B

Corporate Design:

Preet Shihn
Huy Le

Entrepreneurial Design:

Jack Nowinski
Mark Nowinski

Senior Design:

Byron Anderson
John Ones
Jamie Callender
Christopher D'Angelo

Editorial:

Jeff Alfonsi

Entrepreneurial:

Candra Whitesell

Ontario Engineering Competition 2005

A full recap in case you missed any of the action

Continued from cover

Mooney and Sharon Attwood, took OEC to a whole new level with the addition of the Senior Team Design category, never before attempted in OEC history.

The inaugural competition tested senior students to create a device to carry a payload, launched from the third floor of the Davis Centre, towards a target below while remaining airborne for as long as possible. Though it seems that aerodynamics and accuracy would be the greatest test, teams found the task of actually getting their device to clear the end of the launch ramp to be the biggest challenge.

Among a string of failures, it was none other than the team from Windsor who prevailed (Hey, they gotta have some glory!). Carleton followed up with second place while Waterloo B-Society came in third.

Waterloo A-soc and B-soc had an excellent showing in all categories (Senior and Junior Team Designs, Editorial and Explanatory Communications, Parliamentary Debates, Entrepreneurial Design and Corporate Design). UW representatives managed to bring home hardware for all just about every category.

As the duty of an engineer is to society, to make the world a better place, one of the greatest feats of the entire competition came in the Corporate and Entrepreneurial Design categories. Two teams representing Waterloo B shared the Social Awareness award, which is awarded to the team with a project that would have a tremendous effect on society. In Corporate Design, Preet Shihn and Huy Le accepted the award for their work on an Implantable Tumor Pressure Monitoring System (also winners of third place in the category) while in Entrepreneurial Design, Jack and Mark Nowinski were rewarded for their development of the Universal

Handheld Biopotential Medical Device. The Nowinski brothers were also the recipients of the Technical Excellence Award.

Just when they thought it was over, first and second place winners in each category will represent Ontario at the Canadian Engineering Competition on March 3rd through 6th at the University of Calgary. The University of Waterloo wishes good luck to Jeff Alfonsi (Editorial Communications), Alice Malisia, Matt Millard, Melanie Stern and Beth Vary (Entrepreneurial Design) as they represent UW Engineering this weekend against the best in Canada.

More importantly, the event could not have run as smoothly as it did without the help of all the volunteers who DEFINITELY deserve more than a pat on the back for not only giving up an entire Saturday of studying, but also for

arriving promptly at 7:00AM. Free meals and T-shirts are strong motivators.

While there were ups and few downs of the competition, Craig Duffield put it best with his words of wisdom to the high school competitors: "The scores don't matter, they're just a bunch of numbers that we made up. These score sheets are feedback and learning tools for you as students, people and presenters. It's what you learn and take away from the event and how you improve in the future which counts."

For most, from organizers to competitors, the Ontario Engineering Competition was a first. Through broken laptops containing Corporate Design presentations, successes of sailing to first place in Senior Team Design, the adrenaline of having an event that you planned for a year with an awesome group of students executed near perfect, and finding yourself completely amazed, motivated and inspired by your peers, these are the memories that will last a lifetime.

"UW representatives managed to bring home hardware for all just about every category."

Official Results

Corporate:

1. RMC
2. Queens
3. **Waterloo B** – Social Awareness Award

Entrepreneurial:

1. **Waterloo A**
2. Ryerson
3. UofT

Waterloo B – Social Awareness & Technical Excellence

Junior Design:

1. RMC
2. Carleton
3. Queen's

Senior Design:

1. Windsor
2. Carleton
3. **Waterloo B**

Editorial:

1. **Waterloo B**
2. Ottawa
3. UofT

Explanatory:

1. Carleton
2. Toronto
3. **Waterloo B**

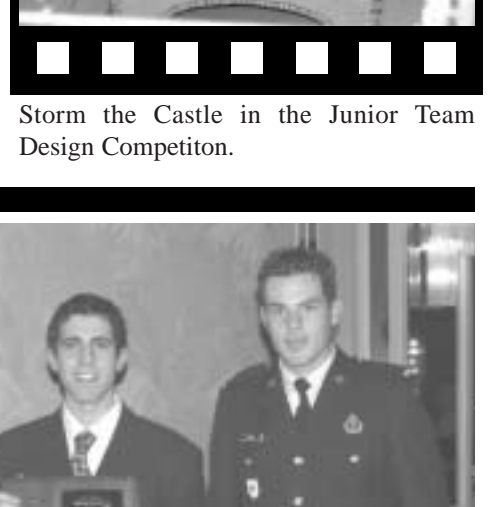
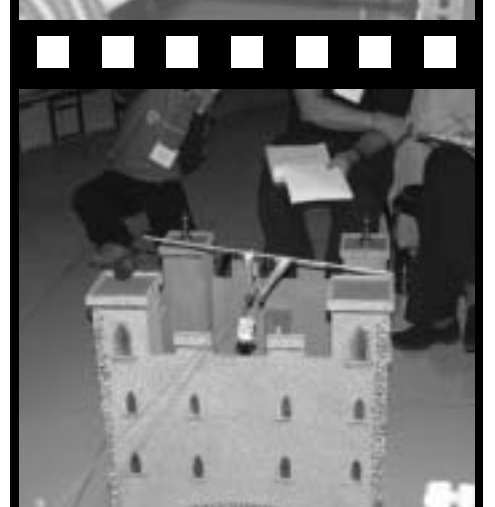
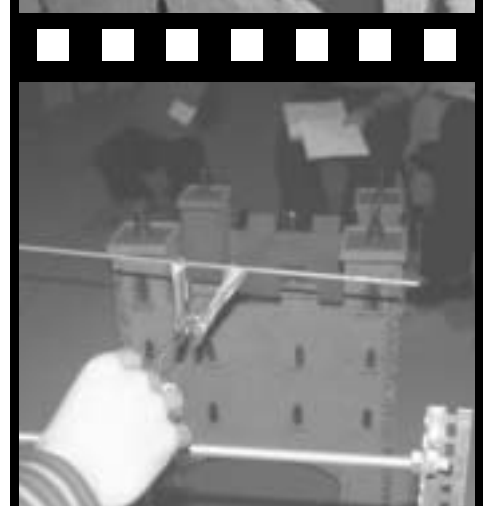
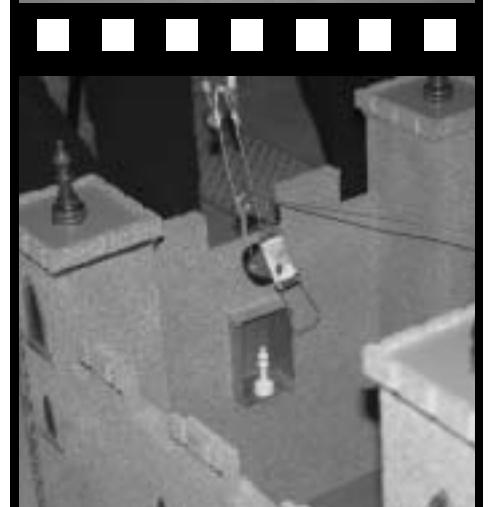
Debates:

1. Carleton
2. RMC
3. UofT / Queens

Preet Shihn and Huy Le were awarded the Social Awareness award and 3rd place in Corporate Design.



Jack and Mark Nowinski received awards for Social Awareness and Technical Excellence.



Jeff Alfonsi accepts 1st place in Editorial Communications.

Storm the Castle in the Junior Team Design Competition.



OEC 2005 Team

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairs:

Laura Mooney - 4B Systems
Sharon Attwood - 3A Civil

VP Competitions:

Kristen Yee Loong - 2A Systems
Jay Turcot - 3N Systems

VP Logistics:

Gary Yau - 2A Systems
Haoie Xin - 4B Systems

VP Sponsorship:

Chris Blake - 3B Systems
Michelle Hur - 3B Systems
William Lam - 3N Systems

VP Hospitality:

Amy Gill - 3B Chemical
Jessica Wang - 4B Systems

VP Finance:

David Johnson - 3B Systems
Angela Maclean - 3N Enviro-Civ

VP Communications:

Brandon Malleck - 2N Civil
Emilie Lam - 3A Bioinformatics

COMPETITION ORGANIZERS

Senior Team Design:

Graham Cranston (3A Civil)
Sonya Chang (2A Chem)
Erin Antcliffe (1N Mechatronics)
Ash Charles (2A Mechatronics)

Junior Team Design:

Kevin Van Ooteghem (2N Civil)
Charles Fung (2N Civil)
Josh Schembri (2N Civil)
Mike Trotman (2N Civil)
Ben Peacock (2N Civil)

Explanatory/Editorial:

Brandon Malleck (2N Civil)
Angela Maclean (3N Enviro-Civ)

Corporate/Entrepreneurial:

Christina Waters (3B Chem)
Emily Seng Yue (3B Elec)

Debates:

Chow Lin (4B Comp)



Waterloo A-Soc members, Alice Malisia, Matt Millard, Melanie Stern and Beth Vary, brought home first place for Entrepreneurial Design.



Judges grill the entrepreneurs from U of Toronto.



EWB Co-Founder, Parker Mitchell, was the keynote speaker at the closing banquet



ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

National Engineering Week

KARIM LALLANI
PRESIDENT

I hope everyone enjoyed their reading days! As most of you know already, the 4th year students finally got their iron rings on February 22nd. So, congratulations to all of the 4th year students. A special thank you goes out to Dave Marentette for being in charge of security for the day of IRS. Dave and his team did a spectacular job keeping everything in control throughout the day.

The Paul and Paula Plummer Award recipients have now been selected for the 'B' society. The results will be announced

at Grad Ball on Friday March 4th.

There are a lot of events going on this week, because it's National Engineering Week. Keep on checking the EngSoc website to keep up-to-date with all of the events that we're running. The biggest event that is coming up is the Bus Push. I hope we have a really good turnout for this event. This event is our way to give back to the K-W community. The media always covers the event, so it's important that we have a good turnout and we raise a lot of money! This year's charity is the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Pledge forms are available in the Orifice, so pick yours up today. There are great prizes that you can win depending on how much you raise. By raising just \$25, you'll get a free bus push t-shirt and you'll be able to participate in the event. I hope that we raise over \$7500. So, make sure you support the cause!

TalEng, Engineering play

ANDREA RAYNER
VP INTERNAL

Greetings and salutations once again. With midterms over for most, it's good to see you all around. MOT went off well and March has begun. We are currently in the middle of EngWeek, as you can probably tell by all the wonderful events being run at lunch. Friday marks Enginuity #3, I highly encourage everyone to try and get a team in, the events thus far this term have been awesome, and it is always a good time.

TalEng will be happening on March 15th at the Bomber, sign up sheets for

acts should be kicking around, prizes this year going out to not only best acts, but the worst as well. Some of you may have noticed that the Texas Hold 'Em tourney hasn't happened yet, but its with due cause. The directors are currently trying to find out ways to make sure the event is legal. That's a good idea.

The engineering play is fast approaching and promises to be a good one, the cast and crew have been hard at work since classes began. As well, the Semi-Formal plans are underway and looking good.

And in closing, I hope everyone enjoyed their reading days, and I would like to leave you with this little bit of information: In Vermont, the ratio of cows to people is 10-1. Kinda like the ratio of guys to girls in engineering, actually maybe even better!

EngSoc budget passed

DAVID JOHNSON
VP FINANCE

Hello Fellow Engineers, have you noticed how the days are getting longer and longer? I have and I like it.

You know what else I like? I like the fact that our Winter 2005 Engineering Society Budget has been passed! Directors, you should now know how much money you can spend! Copies of the budget are available in the Orifice and on the Webs site.

You know what else I like? I like the fact that the Engineering Society Donations of the term have been allocated. Exciting!

(For breakdown, see table below)

Now for something Very important! If you are a director and you are spending money, you should be submitting expense forms on a regular basis. The longer it takes to hand your forms in the longer it will take to get your money.

If you all wait till the end of the term, its going to take a very very very long time for you to get your money.

Great, that's it.

You know what else I like? The fact that this report is done now.

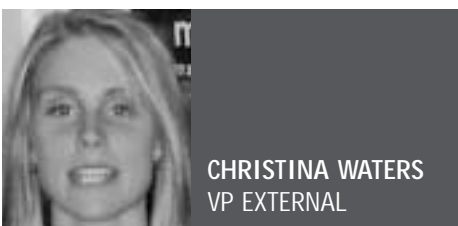
David Johnson
VP-Fine-ass

EngSoc Donations Breakdown — Winter 2005

Waterloo Space Society	\$0*
Grad Comm	\$200.00
Hexplorer	\$100.00
CUBE	\$200.00
STEP	\$250.00
FOC	\$300.00
Midnight Sun	\$150.00
Formula SAE	\$100.00
Robotics' Club	\$100.00
EWB	\$100.00
Total	\$1,500.00 (not \$15,000)

*Nobody showed up at the Meeting

National Engineering Week is this week

CHRISTINA WATERS
VP EXTERNAL

The first years held their own at FYIC (First Year Integration Conference) at Ryerson University from Feb. 4th-6th. Essentially, a numerous amount of first year delegates were crammed into a Toronto hotel room for an extremely beneficial conference. Waterloo's first years won the scavenger hunt as well as the design competition portion of the conference. This conference was a worthwhile experience that they all enjoyed.

On a sadder note, H4H (Habitat for Humanity) had to be cancelled due to lack of interest as well as some students complaining that they would have to work outside in cold temperatures... hopefully this will roll again in the Fall and all of those who were upset at the fact that you may get dirty and cold during the building of a

house, can come out and sunbathe while the rest of us help those less fortunate.

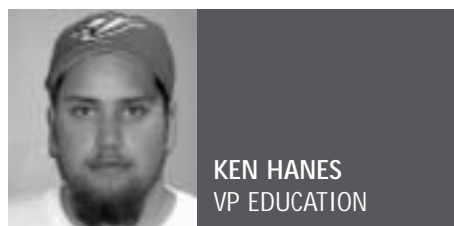
This week is National Engineering Week (NEW). Feel free to get involved in some of the K'Nex work shops that will be held for children in the Waterloo area, or get involved with some of the activities that will be happening on campus. Look for High School kids touring our halls during the Shadow Days, watch out for Bus Push, Explorations and Pi Week. All more fun to come!!



Lastly, this weekend (March 4th, 5th and 6th) is the PEO-SC (Professional Engineers of Ontario Student Conference). There are a lot of Waterloo students attending and even more on the waiting lists. This conference has generated huge interest, which is exciting because it is encouraging that so

many want to become professional within their future profession. The conference will cover topics such as professionalism, ethics, student involvement, discipline direction and many more. Any questions about this conference or anything else you feel like chatting about, feel free to contact me.

Give your feedback for Vision 2010

KEN HANES
VP EDUCATION

So, what's new and exciting in the world of the VP Education, you ask. Well, as you read this, "Reading Week" is over, the majority of you are done your midterms, and hey, there are only four weeks of school left before finals. That's right, four weeks!! This term has flown by, it's unbelievable. Hopefully, everyone got away for a few days at the end of reading week, and now it's time to bear down, finish off the term, and get ready for a summer co-op.

All right, and on that note, let's get this show on the road. Vision 2010! Thanks to everyone who took the time to come out and listen to Dean Sedra's info session. For all of those who didn't, check out the Vision 2010 website, figure out who you should be talking to and start giving them your ideas for what needs to change in the Faculty of Engineering, and specifically your department. The website is: <http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/%7Edeans/web/planning/>

As of right now, I would appreciate it if class reps would come and pick up

their debt load surveys. P**5 points will be given out for the top three classes in participation. Other upcoming education matters include several workshops and course critiques, so stay up-to-date. Oh, and for soon-to-be fourth years, 356 days until IRS!!

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.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

WEEF Participation Rates — Winter 2005



MIKE SPENDLOVE
WEEF DIRECTOR

Welcome back after much needed reading hours- I mean days...

Here are the WEEF participation stats for this term. Overall, a 70% rate overall is not too bad, especially for a winter term. While there are a quite a few first or 2nd year classes with high rates, I think a big round of applause should go to Erin Young and the 4B Enviro-Chem class for a wicked 100% rate that blew everyone else out of the water, especially the other

4th years! It's great to see a class so eager to give back to the school.

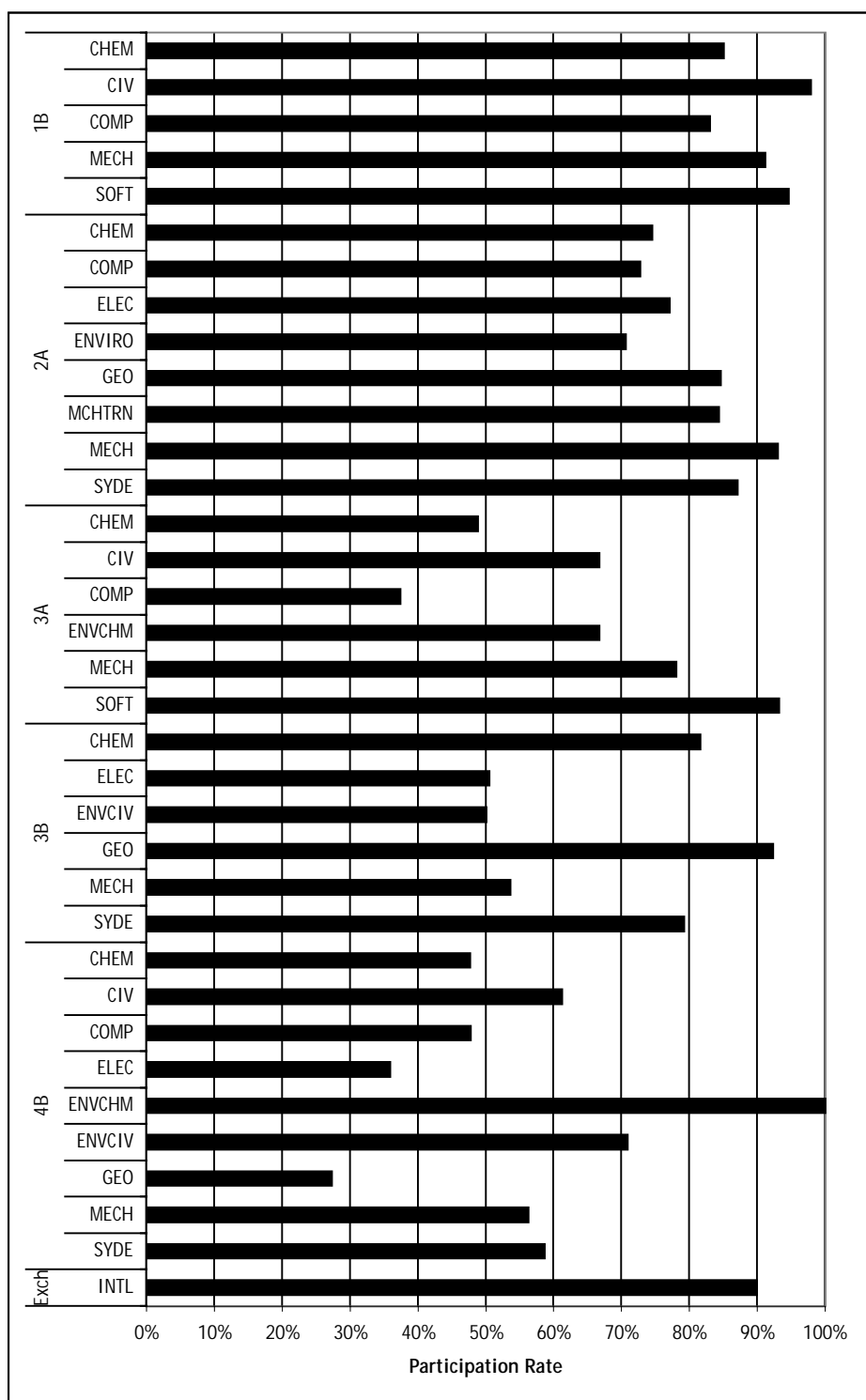
Other WEEF News:

- WEEF Proposals were due by Monday, Feb 28th.
- On Thursday, March 3rd, WEEF Board members Chris and Jeremy will be hosting a workshop in how to give an effective proposal presentation. If you have submitted a proposal, or are thinking of doing so next term, I highly recommend this session. It should be in RCH-211 at 6PM, but check the website for confirmation.
- WEEF is GOOD!
- Proposal presentations will be this Monday, March 7th, starting at 6 PM in RCH 211. If you're presenting, you'll get an email from me with your

scheduled time. Please arrive punctually, as you may not get heard (and thus, funded) if you arrive late or not at all. If you are a WEEF rep, you'll be needed for the whole thing, but paid well for your effort in food.

- Funding Council (aka WEEF reps) will have a meeting on Wed. March 9th to decide where funding is going this term. If allocating \$70,000 isn't enough incentive to come along, there's also the free food.

One last thing: WEEF will have an Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 14th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the WEEF lab. This is open to all engineering students, faculty, staff and alumni. Aside from a presentation of the year's participation rates, funding decisions and policy changes, the AGM will be a forum for feedback, so if you're interested in how WEEF works, or have suggestions/constructive criticism, come along and be heard.



Dept	Term	Refunds	Participate %
Chemical	1B	12	85.00%
Chemical	2A	13	74.51%
Chemical	3A	21	48.78%
Chemical	3B	12	81.54%
Chemical	4B	33	47.62%
Chemical	Total	91	69.67%
Civil	1B	2	97.85%
Civil	3A	25	66.67%
Civil	4B	26	61.19%
Civil	Total	53	77.45%
Computer	1B	18	83.02%
Computer	2A	24	72.73%
Computer	3A	99	37.34%
Computer	4B	128	47.76%
Computer	Total	269	54.94%
Electrical	2A	22	77.08%
Electrical	3B	52	50.48%
Electrical	4B	59	35.87%
Electrical	Total	133	54.61%
Environmental-Civil	3B	10	50.00%
Environmental-Civil	4B	7	70.83%
Environmental-Civil	Total	17	61.36%
Geological	2A	2	84.62%
Geological	3B	1	92.31%
Geological	4B	8	27.27%
Geological	Total	11	70.27%
Mechanical	1B	8	91.11%
Mechanical	2A	6	93.02%
Mechanical	3A	18	78.05%
Mechanical	3B	32	53.62%
Mechanical	4B	60	56.20%
Mechanical	Total	127	72.63%
Mechatronics	2A	16	84.31%
Mechatronics	Total	16	84.31%
Software	1B	5	94.57%
Software	3A	6	93.18%
Software	Total	11	93.89%
Systems Design	2A	11	87.06%
Systems Design	3B	16	79.22%
Systems Design	4B	31	58.67%
Systems Design	Total	58	75.53%
Environmental-Chemical	3A	3	66.67%
Environmental-Chemical	4B	0	100.00%
Environmental-Chemical	Total	3	89.66%
Environmental	2A	10	70.59%
Environmental	Total	10	70.59%
International		11	89.91%
ALL	TOTAL	810	69.56%

Upcoming Events from EngSoc							
Sunday Feb 27	Monday Feb 28	Tuesday Mar 1	Wednesday Mar 2	Thursday Mar 3	Friday Mar 4	Saturday Mar 5	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca
	National Engineering Week (to Feb 4)	Engineering Shadow Day	Engineering Shadow Day EngSoc Meeting 5:00 pm, CPH 3385	Engineering Showcase at Conestoga Mall	GradBall EngInuity #3 Noon, CPH Foyer	Swing and Salsa Lessons Car Care Workshop	
Mar 6	Mar 7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12	
				Etiquette Seminar	Semi Formal Dance	Bus Push 2005	

Album review: 'Real Gone' Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

R.I.P. Hunter S. Thompson



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

Real Gone, the latest album from gravelly-voiced singer/songwriter Tom Waits, is definitely an 'alternative' to pretty much everything else out there right now. Those who don't know Waits's work will probably have to listen to it a few times to get the "what is this stuff?" look off their faces, and even longtime Waits fans will be a little surprised.

Even if you've never heard of Tom Waits directly, you've probably heard him at some point. He provided guest vocals on the studio versions of Primus's 'Tommy the Cat' and 'Coattails of a Dead Man', and has formed a sort of symbiotic relationship with them, with members Les Claypool, Brain, and Larry Lalonde appearing on several of his albums, including Real Gone. Waits has been releasing albums regularly since 1973, constantly changing his style, from the drunken emotional balladry of the Closing Time days to the edgy jazz/rock/blues avant garde of Rain Dogs and Swordfishtrombones to the spooky Bone Machine and Black Rider albums to the decadent and bizarre orchestration of Blood Money and Alice. Although he has alienated fans along the way, his music has never gotten stale, because he changes it up all too often.

Real Gone represents yet another departure for Waits. There are no keyboards of any sort anywhere on the album, even though they have been important to Waits's sound since the very beginning. No piano, no organ, not even one lousy harmonium. Whether this was intentional, only Tom can say. But the album is stronger for it—on the louder tracks, the gap left by the keyboards is effectively filled by fuzzy guitars, vocal scatting, and even turntables (played by Waits's son Casey), and the ballads on the album are all the more beautiful for their sparse, keyboardless arrangements.

The album opens with 'Top of the Hill,' a cacophony of turntable scratches, percussion, and Waits's nonsensical grunting, with a single-string guitar riff playing annoyingly overtop. Fortunately, the album gets immediately better—on the second track, 'Hoist that Rag', Brain and Les from Primus give Waits a hand with the anthemic tango-blues track, while guitarist Marc Ribot busts out a sweet solo.

The subject matter on the album is characteristic Waits- tales of love, despair,

revenge, infidelity, death, the lore and legend of the sketchy underbelly of a mythical America that may or may not exist. The narrative track 'Circus' is a prime example of this, and on 'The Day After Tomorrow' Waits takes on the War on Iraq, but in the wistful humanistic fashion that only he can muster.

Some of the tracks can simply be described as noisy- in particular, 'Metropolitan Glide', 'Shake it', and 'Clang Boom Steam'. The latter is an effective track; the first two are not. Wait's vocals are almost painful to listen to, and the tuneless rhythm provided by the instruments can get annoying after a while. However, the disturbing 'Don't Go Into That Barn' is Waits at his creepy best, as he tells the tale of a forbidden barn over bluesy guitars and ominous background vocals. And 'Make it Rain' and 'Baby Gonna Leave Me' are sublime examples of Waits's off-the-wall blues-rock, and Les Claypool provides an incredible bass line on 'Baby Gonna Leave Me', while Marc Ribot's guitar is nothing short of incendiary.

The ballads really stand out on this album. 'Trampled Rose' tells the story of a jilted lover, 'Green Grass' is a quiet, understated song that is quite literally a love poem from beyond the grave. 'Dead and Lovely' almost has a Nick Cave feel to it, musically as well as in terms of the subject matter. And the ethereal background vocals on the beatnik narrative 'How's It Gonna End' will make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.

But by far, the strongest track on the album is 'Sins of the Father', the nihilistic anthem of a wanderer raising his prayers (or his fist) to the heavens above. This track is ten minutes long, longer than most Waits stuff, but it feels completely natural. The melancholy guitar and banjo intertwine perfectly, and when the reverb-soaked second guitar comes in, it's just beautiful. The percussion is understated, but contains that trademark clunkiness of Waits albums, and the periodic radiator 'sighs' make it seem like you're sitting in the bar of some dark old hotel at three in the morning, whiskey in your hand, listening to the guy next to you relate the events of his sad, strange journey 'down to the pond'. That's what a Tom Waits album is all about.

Real Gone is definitely a good name for the album—when you listen to it, you're not sitting in your residence room in UWP doing Calculus or writing IW articles. You're somewhere else entirely—out on the road, riding the rails, gazing at some beautiful woman of questionable morals from across the bar, out in the woods, checking out some spooky old barn... you are Real Gone.

NEIL DAMGAARD
3A CIVIL

Hunter S. Thompson killed himself with a shot to his head from one of his numerous pistols on February 20. He was 67. Considered one of the last great American writers and journalists, he was also known as the godfather of "Gonzo journalism" (defined in Wikipedia as "a style of reportage where the reporter is intrinsically enmeshed with the action, rather than being a passive observer"). He frequently wrote in a stream-of-consciousness style, though his was a consciousness relentlessly altered by the consumption of large quantities of controlled substances. Like some others of his generation, he transformed drug abuse from a hazardous habit to a way of life.

He had become involved in the local political scene at his hometown of Aspen, Colorado, an experience he said made him realize that there was some "serious fun" in politics. He began reporting and commenting on the political scene in the mid-sixties, and continued doing so up to the most recent election. He had been a part of the San Francisco sixties, and this era left an indelible mark on his political views. In his best known work, Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, he lamented the passing of the hippie revolution and its "sense of inevitable victory over the forces of Old and Evil":

"There was no point in fighting - on our side or theirs. We had all the momentum; we were riding the crest of a high and beautiful wave. So now, less than five years later, you can go up on a steep hill in Las Vegas and look West, and with the right kind of eyes you can almost see the high-water mark - the place where the wave finally broke and rolled back."

Many of his more modern political criticisms were nothing if not astute. Among them he could be found dreading the effect of fundamentalist Christianity on the White House policy. He expressed alarm over what he called the "downward spiral of dumbness" of the American people, and suggested that the current administration's disinterest in promoting education might be linked to their desire for ever greater control and power. Another issue he found worrisome was the disintegration of the right to privacy, which entered the scene with the Patriot Act following the events of September 11. He described the American political system as an "oligarchy," and suggested that the Republicans were exploiting democracy to wage war for the benefit of their

friends and sponsors in the military-industrial complex - basically, in order to get rich.

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas might be the finest example of his work with Gonzo journalism. Seen through the first person of Thompson's alter-ego Raoul Duke, it is the description of his and his attorney's experiences as they are sent on assignment to cover the Mint-400 off-road motorcycle race in Las Vegas. It's evident, starting from the book's second page, that journalistic objectivity isn't going to be its strong point:

The sporting editors had also given me \$300 in cash, most of which was already spent on extremely dangerous drugs. The trunk of the car looked like a mobile police narcotics lab. We had two bags of grass, seventy-five pellets of mescaline, five sheets of high-powered blotter acid, a salt shaker half full of cocaine, and a whole galaxy of multi-colored uppers, downers, screamers, laughers... and also a quart of tequila, a quart of rum, a case of Budweiser, a pint of raw ether and two dozen amyls.

The rest of the book is a list of hallucinations and escapades. They drag race on the Strip in their rented convertible. They alternatively flood and burn their hotel rooms, and order room service as if preparing for a six-month siege of the city. They remain in Vegas after the race to cover the National District Attorneys' Conference on Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, to which they show up drunk and stoned. They go off-roading through the desert in a rented Coupe de Ville in order to get to the airport on time. And so on.

In short, Fear and Loathing is the story of two people who get f***ed up a lot and do lots of crazy shit. But it is also more than that: it tells how, for all the protagonists' blazingly irrational behaviour, they are not overly conspicuous. Certainly not in Las Vegas, probably not in America, and perhaps not in a good many parts of the world. Scattered throughout the book are glimpses of a place where reason has been overthrown; in its place are found apocalyptic religion, concupiscence, paranoia, greed, palpable fear, and everything else that, for reasons which cannot be comprehended fully, have made the US the most feared and envied nation on earth. Really, despite the trunkful of drugs (which they have to start rationing a half-week into the trip), the two central characters don't even stand out. It is this insight that makes Fear and Loathing essential reading. That, and it's very funny.

Book review: I don't know how she does it



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

While in North America, we have Sex and the City and more recently, the Desperate Housewives, it is the Brits who are beating us in the chick-lit; just think Bridget Jones and the Shopaholic Rebecca Bloomwood. Maybe we just don't read enough; yet how does one explain that those books repeatedly make our best-seller list?

However, one somewhat disturbing fact about the genre is that most of the

protagonists are single girls. They have no obvious professional ambitions, are obsessing over their appearance (weight or outfits) and end up with a successful man à la Cinderella. Furthermore, there is always another woman who works along side the aforementioned Mr. Right, trying to catch him by proximity and in the opinion of our heroine, is "a complete cow."

Therefore, I was more than glad to see a change of scenery in Allison Pearson's "I Don't Know How She Does It: The Life of Kate Reddy, Working Mother." From the outside, Kate has it all. She's a fund manager at Edwin Morgan Forster, one of London's top financial firms. She married a good-natured architect Richard Shattock (she kept her maiden name) and has two children Emily, 5 and Ben, 1.

Yet, there apparently is such thing as having too much. Her job requires her to juggle 5 currencies in 7 time zones, taking business trips at a moment's notice. She roughens up store bought pie so it looks homemade for her daughter's school Christmas party and forever feels guilty for not being there for the children's bedtime.

The narration is in the form of diary entries. Not mere coincidence, because similar to Bridget Jones, it was first written as a column in the London Evening Standard. But instead of less cigarettes and less shopping, her resolutions are centered on more sleep, more time with the kid and (gasp) more sex (in fact, any sex at all).

Neurosis has become a stable trait for

the main characters of chick-lit and Kate is no exception. However, hers were laced with sarcastic one liners and cynicism. ("Any woman with a baby has already committed a kind of adultery.") For anyone who's tired of the unnecessary stupidity of other heroines, it is definitely a change.

You really don't have to live Kate's life to identify with her. Although it's not about a manipulative nanny, disapproving in-laws and adorable yet ever-so-needy children, anybody with a type-A personality who juggled assignments, exams, extracurricular activities and sleep will know exactly how she felt at times.

Despite being much more realistic than having a fairy godmother who arrives

Continued on next page

My playlist is better than your's



KEVIN PO
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

Alright, now that I have your attention, let me first state that my taste in music is not better, just different (or not so different . . . in that case, you're cool.) Every few weeks, I peruse the other campus newspaper, *Imprint*, looking for some new tunes. Lately, I've realized that I have no interest in the songs they write about, so I've decided to write my own little column about bands that I like and, hopefully, you will too.

Instead of the typical column that lists songs then bands, I will discuss five bands and showcase a few songs that I really enjoy by them. If you are interested in sampling music by these bands, I recommend visiting Pure Volume (<http://www.purevolume.com>) and listening to songs off their respective pages. Now let's get started:

Say Anything

(<http://www.sayanythingmusic.com>)

Sounds like? Ownage.

This band hails from Los Angeles, California, and is the brainchild of Max Bemis and Coby Linder. Their first release is titled "...is a Real Boy" and was originally supposed to be a rock opera, but turned into an album that provides insight into "scene" music today. This band has a very catchy sound. Although they use the standard guitar, bass, drums and sometimes piano arrangement, they have a unique, quirky, yet pop punk style in every

song. Their lyrics are also far different compared to the mind-numbing mainstream rock acts out there today, such as Simple Plan and Good Charlotte. One would expect the song titled, "Alive with the Glory of Love," to be a sappy love song for a girl. However, upon closer examination, it tells a story about young love during World War II and relates themes from Max Bemis' background. The song also has an infectious beat that will have you tapping your toes for hours. Say Anything is able to capture broad ideas and keep you smiling at the same time. I find myself laughing at the first few lines of "The Futile" whenever I'm studying. Overall, Say Anything's debut release is stellar and all songs are worth mentioning. I highly recommend "Alive with the Glory of Love," "Red Cat/Yellow Cat," "I Want to Know Your Plans" and "Admit It!!!"

Jimmy Eat World

(<http://www.jimmyeatworld.com>)

Sounds like? You already know.

Jimmy Eat World has been creating some borderline emo music for a number of years, so I will not go into detail about their history. Their debut album, "Clarity," had an energy and ethereal feel to it not found in their later release "Bleed American," the album with the incredibly popular song, "The Middle." Their latest album, "Futures," is currently one of my favorite records. Songs such as "23" build on the sound they developed in "Clarity" and add a greater amount of pleasing chord progressions. Jim Adkins' voice has an inherent sweetness that makes almost every song in the album enjoyable. Unfortunately, Futures also has some fairly forgettable filler, such as "The World

You Love" and "Just Tonight." However, songs such as "Kill" and "Work" set this album as one of the best of 2004. I recommend "Kill," "Work," and "23."

Saosin

(<http://www.saosin.com>)

Sounds like? Fast, intense guitars with some high pitched singing. Essentially, they're the male versions of Ashlee Simpson.

Pronounced "Say-OCEAN" and based in Newport Beach, California (Yes, the OC) these guys put out a great EP in 2003 titled "Translating the Name." Comprised of five tracks, each tune flows from one to the other seamlessly. Songs such as "Lost Symphonies" and "Translating the Name" combine heavy guitars with high pitched vocals that send chills down your spine. Yes, there is screaming, but it's all tasteful. Saosin has also written some incredibly funny rap songs. "Show Me Yo Bootyhole" epitomizes all that is wrong with mainstream rap music today, poking fun at Eminem and the numerous T&A videos that flood MuchMusic and MTV. They have a new record coming out later this year, with a few band member changes. For now, I recommend every single song off of "Translating the Name" as well as the acoustic version of "Seven Years."

Over It

(<http://www.overitonline.com>)

Sounds like? Southern California pop punk, but better.

Over It has been playing high energy music since the late 90s. Some may wonder, "Well, these guys are just another generic rock band." True, they are generic, but they are great at what they do. In the past, Over It has released strong

albums with complexity that sails far ahead of more mainstream acts such as New Found Glory, and Simple Plan. The introduction to "Fall" will hook you onto this band, while "Wrong Way" and "Worry Bomb" have such catchy choruses that you will be humming them for days. Over It has a new album titled Silverstrand that will be released on March 8th, so I recommend "Siren on the 101," "Partner in Crime" and the "Intro" off this new cord.

Dallas Green

Sounds like? Alexisonfire, without screaming and with an acoustic guitar.

If you haven't guessed already, Dallas Green is the other singer in Alexisonfire (the one who doesn't scream.) Although his vocals often take second string to the screaming in Alexisonfire, they are perfect when combined with an acoustic guitar. Strong songs from this guy include "Save Your Scissors" and "Casey's Song."

Extra Stuff

Here are some albums to look out for in the coming weeks or months:

- Over It – Silverstrand
- Acceptance – Phantoms
- Millencolin – Kingwood

Here are a few albums you may have missed this year that are worth mentioning:

- Armor for Sleep – What to Do When You Are Dead
- Anberlin – Never Take Friendship Personal

That's all I have for now. Next issue, I'll move into the world of ska, dance, punk (all forms) and some other random stuff that sounds good. For all we know, a certain Swedish dance sensation may make the list.

Cindy's Kitchen: Tour of Europe



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

Being confined within the University never stopped my appetite for culinary variety. Now, I am ready to leave the New World for a taste of the Old.

Forget about the argument on whether French women get fat or not, eating for pleasure is the end itself. Shopping for fresh, local produce at the market sounds almost therapeutic as the winter blah hits one in the face. Perhaps I have romanticized the continental way to food, but their cuisines surely activate one's imaginations.

Boeuf Bourguignon

Adapted from Julia Child

It seems there is no better way to learn a French dish than from the lady who taught the Americans to cook the French way back in the 60's. It will be my way to pay tribute to the grand dame, who passed away last year.

However, I do admit I find the exact instructions from her somewhat too complex, especially the part about making your own beef stock and braising the onion, so I simplified them to store bought stock and sautéing the onions with the mushrooms.

- 1 1/2-2 pounds boneless beef
- Cooking oil, as needed
- 1 cup red wine
- 1-1 1/2 cup beef stock
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 cup tomatoes

- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- 1 1/2 cup quartered mushrooms
- 1 cup onions
- Salt to taste
- 1-2 tablespoons flour
- 1 tablespoon butter

- Cut the beef into 2-inch cubes and pat dry, as damp meat will not brown properly.
 - Add a thin film of oil to a large frying pan over medium high heat. When hot, brown as many pieces of meat as will fit in a single layer without crowding.
 - Turn the beef frequently to brown all sides, about 3-5 minutes; then transfer a large sauce pan.
 - Add wine, stock, tomatoes, bay leaf, thyme and salt to the beef. There should be enough liquid to just cover the beef, add more stock and wine as needed.
 - Bring everything to a simmer; then turn the heat to low and slowly cook for about 2 hours, turning and basting the meat a few times until fork tender.
 - In a frying pan, sauté onions and mushrooms until the onions are translucent, and add them to the beef, cook about 5 minutes.
 - Take out the beef onto a serving dish. Then thicken the juice with a blend of flour and butter paste, pour over the beef.
- Makes 3 servings.

Risotto

When making this Italian comfort food, there are two important things to keep in mind. The first would be the type of rice. It must be the short grain variety, mostly commonly Arborio, in order to create a creamy

texture while maintain a slight bite. Long grain rice will only give a mushy product.

The stock used also affects the quality of the risotto. It is ideally homemade, but I won't assume anyone will bother. I generally used the kind available in a can or a carton, the powered or cubed broth base should be used as a last resort.

The dish is very versatile, so almost any vegetable or meat works. The ingredients used to contribute flavours, as opposed to appearance, such as celery, shallots or carrots, should be added early one during the sautéing phase. Others, like mushrooms or asparagus, can be blended in while cooking. More delicate ingredients, for example, seafood, or the ones you want to be clearly identifiable and distinguishable when the risotto comes to the table are best added near the end, so that they aren't broken to bits by the stirring, or overcooked in the pot.

- 3 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup Arborio rice
- 1 cup dry white wine or dry vermouth
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped flat leaf parsley
- Salt and black pepper, to taste.

- Bring stock to a simmer in a stockpot over medium-low heat; reduce heat to low. Meanwhile, in a heavy-bottomed pot, heat the butter (or use part butter and part olive oil) over medium heat. Add the onions and cook until soft and translucent, about 10 minutes.
- Add the rice and cook over medium-high heat for about one minute, stirring to coat with the butter. Add the white wine and stir until the wine is absorbed,

about 30 seconds.

- Add the first addition of simmering stock, about 1/2 cup. Stir until most of the liquid is absorbed. Add another addition of stock and stir until most of the liquid is absorbed. Repeat this process until the mixture is creamy and a bit loose; the rice should still have some chew to it. The process will take about 20 minutes.
- Turn off the heat and stir in the chopped parsley and the grated cheese to taste and season with salt and pepper.

Makes 2 servings.

Book review

Continued from previous page

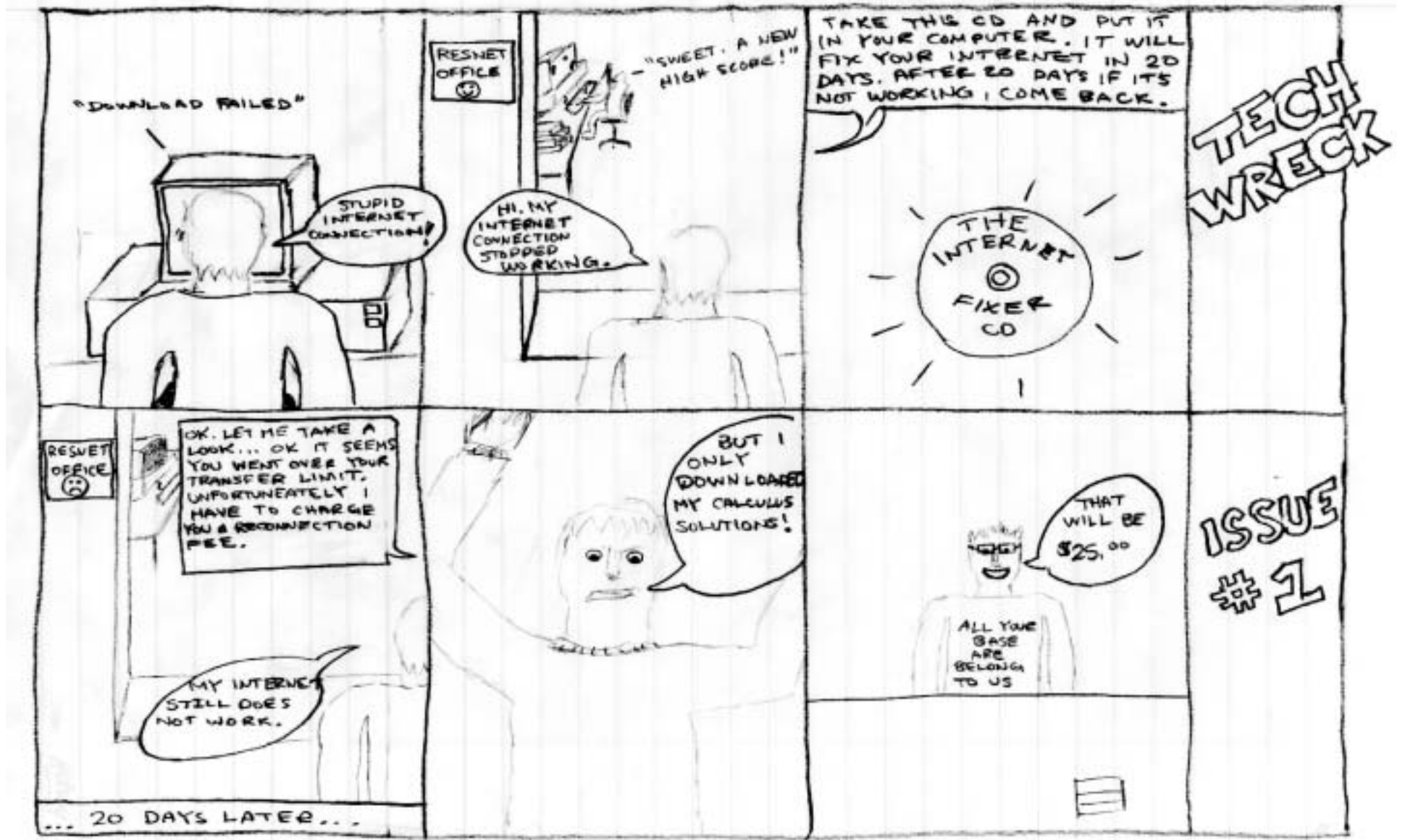
and solves all Kate's dilemmas, I was profoundly disappointed by the book's ending. The so-called climatic events felt out of place with the hard-boiledness of the everyday working mother.

Finally, the author's message is clear: you must give up something to gain something else. While the choice is personal, I nonetheless wonder if it ever occurs to Pearson that a husband/father is capable of undergoing the domestic transformation for the sake of the family. I have known a couple architects who have a home office.

For any woman with a career aspiration, "I Don't Know How She Does It" seems a cautionary tale. It definitely makes you think twice about raising children while working your way up the corporate ladder. Will the next Women in Engineering social feature speakers on topics of balancing professional life and family?

Tech Wreck

Kirk Steele, 2A Systems Design



Top Ten Reasons Why I Love JobMine

Arthur Lau, 2A Systems Design

10. Instead of bringing down trees, CECS now brings down some uwaterloo servers every week.
9. It keeps running out of applications for me to spam companies with.
8. It keeps giving me jobs that I am not qualified for.
7. It keeps away jobs that I am qualified for.
6. It has more useless features than Windows XP.
5. My resume prints out longer than the Charter of the United Nations.
4. It logs me out every 20 minutes while I'm editing this resume.
3. It doesn't let me log in at peak hours (i.e. 12am to 3am).
2. I didn't get any interviews.
1. I didn't get ranked.

Paper Clip

Dan Arnott, 2A Environmental

paper clip paper clip
gone when you're needed
here when you're not
when not clipping papers
you beg to be bent
so you're bent and discarded
no one knows where you went
when there's papers to clip
but you've had your trip
paper clip paper clip
gone when you're needed
here when you're not
you are the common sense we haven't got

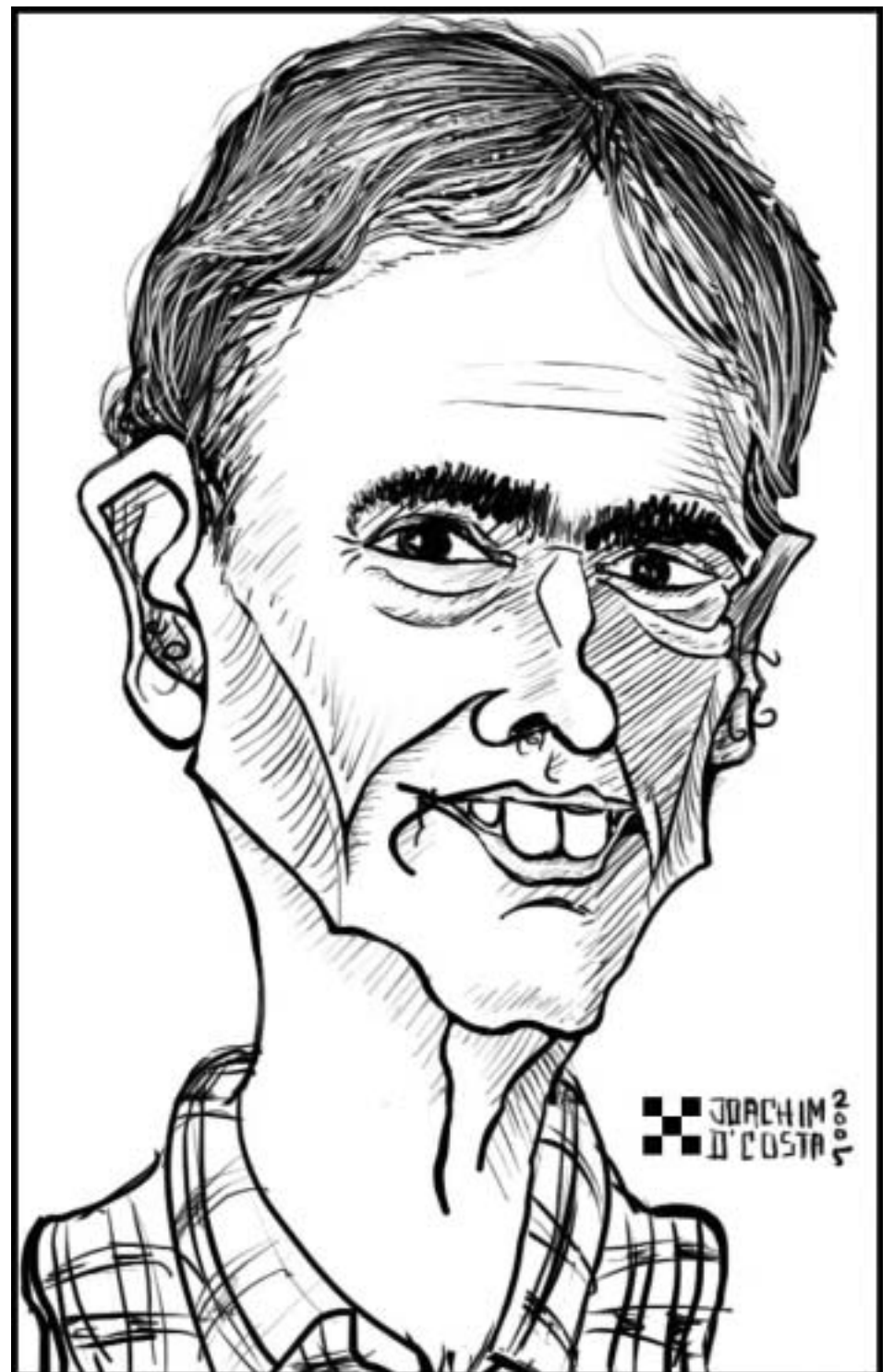
Do You Have Something to Contribute?

Drop off your poetry, cartoons, drawings, and anything else artistic in the "Arts" box in the Orifice, or email them to iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

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

UW Profs

Joachim D'Costa



Introducing: Prof Quotes

(okay, we'll admit *mathNEWS* had a good idea)

"You have to say to yourself, I *can* understand chemistry—repeat that mantra to yourselves 100 times a day."
—Emelko, ENVE 276

"I hope to God you're not talking about Chemoorganotrophs with your friends after class."
—Emelko, ENVE 276

"All of this is balanced out so things can survive and not explode—you can quote me on that."
—Emelko, ENVE 276

Student: "Can National Parks be decommissioned?"
Prof: "No, there would be... anarchy in the streets."
—Whitelaw, ERS 241

"Anyone remember that Shell oil rig?... no, it wasn't the Ocean Ranger, that blew up..."
—Whitelaw, ERS 241

"Of course, it's illegal to deface currency. So we used an American quarter"
—Brodland, ENVE 224

Professor: "Did you take probability (in high school)?"
Student: "No. I don't play lottery."
—Ho, ECE 316

"Let's all agree that we were all hallucinating."
—Barby, ECE 332, referring to the projected blue screen disappearing

"You have a processor, a serial port, three parallel ports, a partridge and a pear tree."
—Loucks, ECE 324

"If I point to this colour [points at a yellow figure] and I call it purple, you're just going to have to figure it out."
—Loucks, ECE 324, referring to his colour-blindness

"... in hope that I can live longer than my wife, so I can play with the toys and spend

all the money."
—McKay, MSCI 442, referring to why he wears a heart monitor

"If I could draw a square wave, the world would be a happier place."
—Loucks, ECE 324

"In the 223 words, which are the short words, not the 342 words, which are the long words."
—Loucks, ECE 324

"It's like stopping in the middle of brain surgery and taking the next three weeks off. You don't want to interrupt these things."
—Heunis, ECE 342, contemplating interrupting an example

"You can kill your kids or your kid's kids. But you cannot quite kill your uncle."
—Seviora, ECE 354, referring to the usage of the UNIX *kill* command

"Marking here is like diving or figure skating: we take degree of difficulty into account but without the French judge."
—McKay, MSCI 442

"You want to make slaves as cheap as possible."
—Loucks, ECE 324, referring to the cost for a device to create its own clock edge

"You send belly dancers to them."
—Seviora, ECE 354, on to how to keep capable problem solvers in your management team

"I am going to use a colourful example. You can have safe and unsafe sex. You can have unsafe sex and nothing may happen."
—Seviora, ECE 354, illustrating an analogy for safe/unsafe state for resource allocation denial

"Bit-stuffing. Not butt-stuffing."
—Loucks, ECE 324

"I guess every frame is special, just like

children."
—Loucks, ECE 324

"The president knows there is a janitor, but the president does not know what he does with the broom."
—Seviora, ECE 354

"Do you kill the fattest guy? Do you kill the skinniest guy?"
—Seviora, ECE 354, making a desert island analogy to process suspension in starvation situations

"It's always hard to change countries because one is 'zed' and the other is 'zee'."
—Mazumdar, ECE 342

"What's 0.2 Volts among friends?"
—Sedra, ECE 332

"An engineer, mathematician, and physicist were sitting at the Lotus Tea House with some other scientists when someone thirsting for knowledge yet drinking some delicious almond tea asked, 'what is 2 plus 2?'"

The engineer took out his slide rule and after a while, he said, 'it's 3.99.'

The physicist went to his lab and came back with his answer, 'it's 4 +/- 0.02.'

The mathematician's response was, 'there exists a unique solution.'

The logician: 'could you define the problem more precisely?'

The philosopher, 'but what do we really mean by 2+2?'

The psychologist says something about the meaning of things that come in pairs, when finally the medical doctor said 'the answer is four!'

'How did you know?' everyone asked. 'I memorized it.'
—West, SYDE 211

(contributed by Dan Arnott, Cindy Bao, Gabriel Chan, and Stephen Tse)

The Iron Warrior welcomes prof quote submissions from engineering students. Email you submissions to iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

Campus Events

EWB Day
Thursday March 3, all day
Location: Great Hall, SLC
EWB Day is held every year on the Thursday of National Engineering Week in March. This year this same week is UW's International Celebration Week. Come out to the SLC for fun events, information and discussion on international development.

Swing and Salsa Lessons
Saturday March 5, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Location: PAC Studio 2
Cost: \$10/session
Swing lessons from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, and salsa from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. If you come to both, you get lunch included. Sign up in the EngSoc office.

Dalhousie MBA Information Session
Monday March 7, 12:30 - 1:45 pm
Location: Tatham Centre Room 1208
Dr. Tony Schellinck, the director of Dalhousie's MBA program, is hosting an information session for students. Come learn about the Accelerated Program for MEng, and other new joint degrees. Lunch will be provided.

Health Informatics and Bio-engineering Careers Symposium
Thursday March 10, 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Looking for exciting careers? Come meet with interested companies and organizations. Presentations will be followed by an informal reception with refreshments. Register at <http://hi.uwaterloo.ca>. Organized by WHIR and CUBE.

Student Charity Auction
Thursday March 10, 8:00 pm
Location: Bombshelter, SLC
Come and watch your fellow UW students auction themselves off for charity! Catch a glimpse of EngSoc's execs, and numerous others, on the stage of the Bomber - and offer your support by making a bid! Watch out for posters and walking advertisements around campus, and take a look at the profiles and pictures of the people auctioning themselves off. Or, view them online in the Events section at <http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~psychsoc/>. Your EngSoc Execs offering themselves to you: Karim Lallani (President), Andrea Rayner (VP Internal), Christina Waters (VP External). 100% of proceeds will be donated to UNICEF under the Emergency Fund.

Bus Push for Heart & Stroke
Saturday March 12, 10:00 am
29th annual Bus Push for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. The fun begins in POETS at 10am, and there will be free food, prizes, and a t-shirt if you raise at least \$25! Pledge forms are available in the Orifice.

UW Drama Production: Marat/Sade
March 16-19, 8:00 pm
Location: Theatre of the Arts, ML Bldg
Student Admission: \$10
Set in the bathhouse of the "insane asylum" of Charenton during the French Revolution's bloody aftermath, Peter Weiss' play-within-a-play depicts the events leading to the assassination of French revolutionary Jean-Paul Marat by Charlotte Corday. See <http://drama.uwaterloo.ca> for more information.

It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that [Iron] Swing

NEIL RITTENHOUSE
2A MECHATRONICS

Most engineers are content to save indulging their artsy side for Arts Week or more independent activities. Not so for Ally Chan (2A Chem), who, not content with playing solo guitar and sax pieces, took initiative to form her own twenty-two piece engineering jazz band, With Respect to Time.

Over the past few months, she has been busy trying to make her vision come to life. Musicians for each part had to be found and music selected. Practice space was also a concern, with a location initially proving difficult to find. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Spanjers (2A Enviro), the band was able to make use of the SLC multipurpose room every Sunday from 4:30 to 6:00pm.

The band was set, but a conductor had not been found. Little did we know that a novice trumpet player had extensive conducting experience—Gabriel Chan (2A Systems) volunteered to be conductor and the jazz ensemble was complete. He does

a great job of leading the band, ensuring we all have pencils on our stands and yelling at the saxophone section for being out of tune, at the trumpet section for being too loud, and at the trombone section for not being loud enough. What more can a band ask for?

With Respect to Time has been practicing every week for almost two months now, with sectionals on the side. It took a couple of weeks to get back into the swing (no pun intended), seeing that most of the band, if not all, has not played with the same intensity since their high school years many moons ago. Slowly but surely, the band progressed and has reached harmonic unity in a jazz style all their own.

What compelled Ally to put in so much effort to forming a band? In her words:

"Can you remember the last time that you did something because you loved it? The kind of thing that makes your heart skip a beat and makes your smile flip their corners? Something that, regardless of what is going on in your life, can make

you feel that everything is going to be okay? To me, that thing is music, and even though I told myself engineering wasn't going to prevent me from playing music, it did, and I regret that I went over a year without really playing. Too many people let go of the things they love too easily. At least I know I did."

Through Ally and her musicians' passion for music, an engineering jazz band has been born. The band consists of musicians from all over the engineering faculty: 1B Chem, 1B Mech, 2A Chem, 2N Chem, 2A Elec, 2A Enviro, 2A Mechatronics, 2A Systems, 3A Civil and a couple of honorary engineers (2A Bioinf & 2A Physics). For those who miss music and are interested in playing, she can be reached at a36chan@engmail, or if you are interested in learning more about the band, she likes to read e-mails too.

Be sure to check out With Respect to Time performances, you'll be in for a treat!

EWB fundraiser: **March 1st**
TalEng Show: **March 15th**
EngPlay Intermission: **March 18th / 19th**

Exchange experiences: Phuket + Tsunami = Paradise?



ALICIA LIU
3A COMPUTER

Preamble: Well, here I am, an exchange student at the National University of Singapore, trading in my Waterloo winter for a tropical island. I wonder if I classify as a foreign correspondent? Anyway, I travelled to another tropical island, Phuket (poo-keet), a couple weeks ago. Phuket is one of the worse hit areas of Thailand by the tsunami, being on the west coast, and thousands died in that area. These are some of my experiences there.

First off, there's definitely no dead bodies anywhere, not floating in the water, not hanging off trees. The water is not muddy, but rather perfectly clear, and the most beautiful azure that you can envision. So please remove those gruesome front page tsunami photos from your head right now. Erased? Good, you may proceed reading.

"Why would you want to vacation somewhere where so much devastation has occurred?"

I did have trepidations about that when I was asked along to spend a weekend in Phuket, but the apprehensions quickly dissipated upon seeing the daily updated photos and the pleas for tourists to return at www.phuket.com. I was certainly won over by the promotional airfare from Singapore. A paltry C\$60, that would barely get me half a student priced train ticket to Ottawa, can now buy return all-inclusive airfare to Thailand.

Once there, we rented cars to drive around the island. The roads all looked freshly paved, and only few parts were inaccessible. There was debris and rubble, but was nonetheless phenomenally cleaned up for such a short time span of 1.5 months. Even along the beach, many shops touting

the usual designer knock off clothes, shoes, bags and other tourist knickknacks are open. Construction and renovation was going on everywhere. Phuket was certainly open for business.

We stayed at Kata Noi, a small little beach that was fairly unaffected. One local shopkeeper told me that the water here rose to thigh-high, and thankfully the large resort on the waterfront blocked the waves, so the little shops on the street like hers suffered little damage. When the water came in, she piled her floor merchandise onto higher shelves and ran onto a high hill (Phuket is 75% mountainous), though she had no concept of tsunamis at the time and couldn't understand why there was so much water when it hadn't been raining.

An interesting note that she related was that the time the tsunami struck (10 a.m.) was probably the best, relatively of course. Because before 10, most people are sleeping, and would be in for a rude awakening. And after 10, most people would be on the beach, and might not have enough time to sense the danger and escape. She also told me that the beach is as clean as it was ten years ago.

Not only is the sand and water pristine, there are also few people around. Any other year during this time, the high season, the beach would be teeming with hairy tourists, but now only a handful of beach chairs are occupied. Walking along the shore at night time, the entire beach was deserted.

Update: As I am writing this, a friend who is in Phuket right now just informed me that he got many red spots after

swimming in the sea. However, he was at a very popular beach that was more damaged by the tsunami. I also learned Thailand had an official advisory against swimming in the ocean.

Even so, there's nothing comparable to swimming in the ocean. While I don't see the point of baking on the beach like a honey-roasted chicken, swimming is totally different. The gentle waves lapping against you, carrying you effortlessly; the candy floss clouds drifting overhead, and the radiant sunshine, combine to create down-right euphoria.

On the last day, the others in our group hired a boat to visit the outlying islands. The only reason that boat was available was because it was far out at sea during the time of the tsunami. And the only reason the boat operator was available was because his father was sick on fateful Dec. 26th, and he had to visit the hospital. Otherwise, he would have been working at the docks that morning. Gulp.

Leaving from Phuket airport, there was a grim reminder in the form of two large billboards completely covered in missing posters, families looking for babies, children, spouses, sisters and brothers.

The primary reason Phuket's recovery is so blazingly fast, is because it is a resort place, relatively rich, and they want to attract tourists back here as quickly as possible. Tourism is the region's lifeblood, and huge expensive resorts, owned by big money developers, are almost completely empty, so the stakes are certainly high. I can only hope outlying areas get some of this recovery effort as well.

If you'd like to read more Phuket experiences of mine, like driving on the left amidst crazy mopeds, riding an elephant, and crossing roundabouts, or want to see colour photos, please visit <http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~y9liu/travel/phuket.php>

Mopeds double as minivans here. They seat a family of four comfortably and a bag of groceries.



Looking over the ocean from high atop Phuket. Insets: Sunset at Kata Noi. Palm trees galore.

the Iron Inquisition

Cindy Bao, 3B Electrical

What did you do for reading days?



What did I not do?!
— Katie Taylor, 1B Mech



Went to Blue Mountain with my peeps.
— Ben Whan, 2A Systems



Visited France to get a beret.
— Andrew Milne, 4B Mech



Circuit analysis.
— Blaine Loisier, 1B Comp



I was in handcuffs.
— Ryan Walker, 4B Chemical



I went cougar hunting.
— Chris Nyenhuis, 4B Mechanical



We became cowboys.
— David Johnson and Andrew D'Sourza, 4B Systems



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