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Entrepreneurial Design Champions at CEC 2005



QUOC HUY T LE
4B ELECTRICAL

Each year the brightest engineering students across the country gather to see who the best in Canada is. Usually, the first and second place winners of each category in the regional competitions are invited. This year, three Waterloo groups got to fly out to Calgary, Alberta to participate in the Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC) of 2005.

From March 3rd through the 6th the students from the University of Calgary were gracious enough to provide us with excellent accommodations and entertaining activities. (If you happen to run into anyone that went, ask them about the risqué pleasures Cowboy's on Friday night!)

As always, corporate sponsorship provided the competitors with a prime opportunity to find out about career possibilities that wait in the west. Not surprisingly, many companies were of the fuel and energy business. There were some other corporations there as well including a strong presence from the Canadian Armed Forces.

This year, one individual and two teams passed the initial hurdle of the Ontario Engineering Competition (OEC) here in Waterloo to be invited out to Calgary. 3B Systems Design's Jeff Alfonsi competed in the Editorial Communications category. My team (including my buddies Preet Inder Shihh and Erik Schmidt) competed in the Corporate Design category. And a 4B Systems Design team (Alice Malisia, Melanie Stern, Beth Vary and Matthew Millard) brought their project along to show off in the Entrepreneurial Design category.

Unfortunately, neither Alfonsi nor my team placed in our respective categories. But Waterloo did not come home empty handed as the fourth year Systems team took first place in the Entrepreneurial Design with their computer assisted piano tuner. They beat out stiff competition by the likes of U of T with their motion tracking network and a fellow from Ryerson who compiled his own compression implementation algorithm.

After the awards were handed out during the Saturday night banquet there was a slew of thank you's and congratulations, in the middle of which our hosts from U of C distributed white hats to all the competitors. By doing so, we were all made honorary Calgarians as per the tradition in Calgary. Yehaa!

BUS PUSH FOR HEART & STROKE



Last Saturday, engineering students braved the snowy weather to pull a bus from UW campus to Waterloo city hall. This year, over \$5000 was raised for the Heart and Stroke Foundation!

Fire in CPH High-Voltage Lab Damage estimated at over \$1 million



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

On Monday, March 7th, many faculty members, students and staff had come to Carl Pollock Hall for work or class, only to find the building was closed for the day due to a fire that occurred in the high voltage lab at about 4 am.

The two-storey lab is situated in CPH 1333, across from the multimedia lab. It serves as the home for the research experi-

ments by four professors in the ECE Power and Energy Systems Group. Research in the lab focuses on high-voltage insulation for power transmission, power quality, electrical technologies for food processing, and water purification, among others. Some of the long-term experiments run twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and do not require constant supervision.

The exact cause of the fire has not been identified at this point. Nobody was in the lab at the time and no injuries occurred. The estimated damage is over \$1 million in equipment, with another \$150,000 in smoke and soot damage to the lab and two offices

above it.

Fortunately, the fire was largely confined. After some initial cleanup, students and staff were able to return to classrooms and offices the next day. The EngSoc C&D also resumed its operations.

Air purifiers and high-powered fans have been placed throughout the building to eliminate the smell of smoke, while all surfaces, floors, and walls are being thoroughly cleaned.

Reconstruction of the lab is expected to take approximately three months, as it must be completely rebuilt. However, it may take years to completely replace all the equipment and make up for the lost research.



CEC Entrepreneurial Team members Alice Malisia, Beth Vary, Matthew Millard, and Melanie Stern placed first in their competition.

Letter from the editor



JAMES SCHOFIELD
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since February, there have been two significant events which will have the potential to change the course of postsecondary education for some time to come: The Rae Review on Postsecondary Education released its final report in early February, and the Federal Budget was tabled a couple of weeks later.

The Rae Review was headed by former premier Bob Rae, and was commissioned by the Government of Ontario to provide recommendations on the design and funding model of postsecondary education in the province. It took into consideration the accessibility of education, the quality of the education provided, the overall design and coherence of the entire system, the funding required to provide a high-class education, and the accountability of the colleges and universities to the government and to taxpayers. Prior to releasing the report, there was an extensive consultation process which received submissions from university administrators, industry, and students groups, among others.

In the report, Rae champions the benefits of higher education, whether provided by colleges or universities. He writes, "People have a right to develop to their full potential. Learning is a value in itself. The capacity to be curious and reflective is what allows us to grow as individuals. To be moved by an eloquent passage or poem, to be relentlessly inventive in solving the riddles of natural science, to be learned and practiced in a body of knowledge or a skill, to understand the time and discipline it takes to do something well: these are indispensable cultural values that need to be championed." Moreover, he notes how the percentage of high school graduates continuing their education after high school has dramatically increased over the past 40 years, despite the continual university participation gap between low- and high-income families.

It is only by embracing education that the quality of our lives and the strength of our economy can continue to grow. However, significant investments must be made to bring the standard of Ontario universities up to the national average, and even more to bring it in line with the North American average. Rae implores the provincial government to commit itself to education, and makes several ambitious recommendations.

First, he recommends an increase in base funding to colleges and universities of \$1.3 billion by 2007-08, with the majority of the money to be directed towards quality improvements. He also recommends that funding should be guaranteed for any qualified student who wishes to attend postsecondary education, regardless of the family's income. In addition, he recommends a major reorganization of OSAP, by increasing funding for lower-income students, and making more middle-income students eligible for loans.

Engineering students will probably be happy to hear that Rae recommends continuing the tuition freeze until the new funding is put in place. Thus, the two-year tuition freeze will likely remain in place for the coming year. While he does not completely demand an end to tuition deregulation in professional programs like engineering, he does suggest that tuition should be subject to a provincial framework which should provide more predictability and fairness than the 15% annual tuition hike which Waterloo engineering students have endured from several years.

The response to the report has generally been positive. The University administration and FEDS have both expressed their support for the recommendations in the report. However, what remains to be seen is whether the government will be able to find the necessary funds to implement these changes. Given the current deficit situation in Ontario, and the spiraling costs of health care, it seems unlikely that extra funding for education will be found anytime soon.

Moving on to the other major event, the Federal Budget — what was perhaps most significant about this budget was the complete lack of any significant education initiatives. In trying to

produce a budget which would placate the opposition parties so as to avoid the collapse of the government, the Liberals tabled a budget high on promises but low on substance.

Although on the surface, there appears to be considerable new investment (notably, for the Canadian military), much of the money consists of funds that were previously announced, and funds which will be distributed over a five-year period. As minority governments go, Paul Martin's government will be fortunate to survive another year in parliament, let alone five. After the next election, most of these five-year commitments will in all likelihood be brushed under the rug and forgotten.

The budget was severely criticized by the FEDS for providing no relief for students graduating with debt, and for failing to implement the Liberal's campaign commitment of creating a dedicated education transfer, which was promised to eventually provide \$7- to \$8-billion in new funding for education. The NDP, unsurprisingly, was also vocal in expressing their dissatisfaction with the lack of funding for postsecondary education.

In the end, while the Rae Report offers some hope for improved postsecondary education in Ontario, and an end to the ridiculous tuition hikes over the past decade, the provincial government will likely move slowly in implementing these recommendations because of budgetary constraints. The federal government, however, has no excuse for the pathetic budget which was recently tabled. As it rakes in billions of dollars in surplus every year, there is certainly room for at least some investment.

Questions? Comments?

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

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IRON WARRIOR

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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

Who you gonna call? LowRider!



Dear LowRider,

Opinions may differ about how fun IRS was. I had a great time. So did most of my friends, even the ones who got arrested and beat by the po po. So when I pick up last IW and I see my head on page 4. I think, this could be a good day. Then I read the article, and I realize that she is talking about how IRS is a female-unfriendly party. Then I look back at the picture that I didn't know was taken of me, that I didn't know would be used above an article that shouldn't have been written in the first bloodclot place.

So to straighten the record, playa, I have the following question: Can you help me put a positive spin on things for the masses who don't know me as the sensitive guy I am, instead of the womanizing caveman that the pic + article make me seem like?

Your Friend,
E "Tarzan" Rock

Hey E-Rock,

I'm glad that you sent me this letter. I know a lot of people who were very upset by that article in question. You probably have one of the best reasons for being upset, because you were the victim of slander, libel and defamation of character. No, I'm serious. However, this is not the place for such discussions.

You don't want to fight the way that the public sees you after this article and picture. That will look bad. Instead, I think you should embrace your "new" image as a clothes-tearing, chauvinistic, womyn-hating, anti-sports-bra thug. Some chicks dig that- for instance, all the female engineering students who went to IRS. Obviously, they went to IRS so that they could be the victims of guys like you (the image you, not the real you), not for bonding with their classmates, having a good time, or any of the reasons that a guy would go. You can use that to your advantage.

In conclusion, go with this new image. It's apparently what girls want anyway.

—LR

Dear LowRider,

You seem to know what's what around UW Eng. I, like, heard that I can defile The TOOL anytime I want. How would I go about doing that? Appreciate the help.

—Mischievous 2A

Dear Mischievous,

I didn't think that was true, but then I looked into it a little more. I know a girl who knows a guy who agreed to answer this question as long as he stayed anonymous. I'm paraphrasing what he told her to tell me.

"It's all true. They used to keep IT pretty much out in the open, and anybody could just walk up, defile IT or whatever and then leave. After the last IW, so many people wanted to come and join the defiling that there was a big line up and things just got out of hand. It was a bad scene, so now they just rocket The TOOL into space between special events (i.e. Gradball, EOT, etc.). Stephen Hawking was the guy who did the physics to figure out the exact orbits you need to keep IT in space for the perfect amount of time."

I guess that means that you can't defile it any more. Your source was very well informed, but is now out of date by a couple of weeks. Sorry that's not the answer you were looking for.

—LR

Dear LowRider,

I've been dating my boyfriend for about a year. Things were pretty good at first, but I'm just not into him anymore and I think we should break up. I just don't have time to do it. I just made it

through midterms, and now finals are only a few weeks away. I think that the longer I wait, the tougher it will be, but I don't want to do it before finals in case he takes it really badly and fails. What should I do?

—K

Dear K,

I can understand your problem. You're dating a wussy pretty boy with feelings who doesn't own a red bandana. I'm going to proceed with my answer assuming that this is true. Normally, my advice for breakups is just to stop contacting or seeing the person so that you don't do anything to hurt their feelings, if applicable. By the time he puts 2 and 2 together, it might be finals time, which is not cool.

So, what you need to do is write a breakup letter. Then go to the post office, and have them date stamp it for like 3 weeks ago. Then when he gets the letter, he'll think Canada Post lost the letter temporarily. Then he'll realize that it's already been 3 weeks since you guys broke up, and he's pretty much over you anyway. Problem solved.

—LR

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

Canadian Government: No to Missile Defense, Yes to Militarization



On February 23, 2005, the 2005 budget was announced in the House of Commons by Finance Minister Ralph Goodale. Along with the other regurgitated funding proposals came the announcement of \$12.8 Billion for the Canadian Military. The \$12.8 billion will be spent over 5 years to booster Canadian forces numbers by 5,000 troops, and reserve forces by 3,000, and spent on improving the equipment and other infrastructure areas. This funding is the largest increase in funding in 20 years.

Ever since the end of World War 2, the Canadian military has been a decaying entity, from 100,000 persons in 1956 to around 60,000 today; where spending on defense has decreased from 6% of the GDP to 1% of the GDP in the same time frame. Today, the Canadian military remains one of the best-trained armies in the world, but the lack of proper equipment and infrastructure make it a farce. When Canada buys used subs decommissioned from another country, and its only tank battalion contains 110 1960's Leopard tanks, you know that we don't give a crap about our defense, and we're screwed if someone invades us. Unfortunately, this lack of proper support for our military has deteriorated the armed forces to a point of collapse. This new funding will go a long way toward maintaining some state of readiness of our armed forces.

Now, all those peace-loving, anti-war, anti-military folk out there must be quite disappointed that the federal government spends \$12 billion on buying weapons and missiles instead of a less profitable cause like affordable housing or Kyoto protocol

conformance. But you see, by spending money on the military, you give the military more cash to spend on developing personnel and equipment to go on more UN peacekeeping missions, which spread world peace (world peace...), and also, the military can now buy more equipment and supplies from Canadian companies like bullets, helmets, uniforms, and food rations, thereby generating economic progress which generates more tax dollars.

This increase in funding may be required as Canada's dependence on US military support is compromised with the Canadian government's decision not to join the US Ballistic Missile Defense system. On February 24, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced to the House of Commons that Canada would not take any part (officially) with the Ballistic Missile Defense system of the USA. For all those not aware of the situation, the US are developing a Ballistic Missile Defense system which in theory would intercept a nuclear missile launched by a 'rogue nation' by using a complex system of space satellites and ground installations that would coordinate an interceptor missile that would collide with the nuclear missile and prevent it from reaching its target.

Scientists have called the system 'hitting a bullet with another bullet.' Now the system has so far been a white elephant (or in other terms a POS), as tests performed on prototypes of the system have failed consistently. But ideologically, the system is being perceived as an attempt by the US to dominate/blackmail the world with a global weapon that can accurately 'mushroom cloud' any country that doesn't agree with the US. For the past 4 years, the Bush administration has been lobbying hard on

the Canadian government to join the program, and for four years in typical Liberal style, they have been mulling and providing ambiguous responses to the question.

Now one must ask the question, why would the US want Canada's support with this project? Its not money they're looking for, as Canada has a pitiful military (if you can call it that), and were too cheap to spend on anything as expensive as the Ballistic Missile Defense System. So what the US would really want from us is to use our reputation as a neutral and fair moderator in world affairs. If Canada were to sign on to this defense system, then this system would become much more legitimate in the eyes of the international community, and hence permit the US to develop this system with little protest. This was the main reason why the US has been 'disappointed' with us—we just didn't play along with their game.

So with the US not pleased about us not supporting their military endeavors, i.e. Iraq, and missile defense, we would expect the US to be less supportive of defending Canada. So what now?

Well how about mandatory conscription in Canada? For all those who don't know what conscription is, conscription is the requirement of a nation's citizens to undergo a finite term of military service. Conscription has always been a dicey topic for people, training people in the art of war is quite debatable on its contribution of the development of the nation, as war is quite horrific and graphic. But I personally think that mandatory service in an institution is beneficial to a nation. Other nations, which have mandatory conscription, are Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Switzerland, which rank high on the UN's Nation's Quality of Living Index. Mandatory military service

usually involves some type of basic training; this training involves learning techniques on surviving in the outdoors, and in first aid. But more importantly, the training involves some type of physical exertion. This physical exercise will keep a nation's adult population fit, and help reduce obesity in an overweight population that's addicted to sugar and fatty foods.

The military teaches discipline and self-control, a character trait that usually degrades in a liberal society; hence, conscription instills a degree of discipline in the people. Also, conscription will produce diversity within the ranks of the military. Typically, in most professional militaries, military personnel usually have the similar cultural views, class status, and educational levels. Filling military ranks with more diverse people makes the military more successful in completing a task, as it contains more diverse backgrounds and perceptions of that task at hand. Also, the exposure of diverse people to each other makes people aware of the problems of people of other classes/professions/cultures/education levels, which lead to a better possibility of the harmonious integration of the masses. Similar to my last point, by putting people into a common institution it provides a common way to unite the members of the nation for the benefit of the nation.

In Canada, the institution of multiculturalism has left Canada a fragmented patchwork of ethnic groups. This is most evident in Toronto, one of the most diverse cities in the world, except ethnic groups are ghettoized into specific areas in the city – i.e. Little Italy on College Street, China Town on Spadina, the Greeks on Danforth. Even this patchwork is evident at UW, as noted by the "He Can't Speak Mandarin but..." *Imprint* article, and social commentary by quick-witted Francis Hope. By getting everyone to join a central institution like the military, it instills a sense of unity in all ethnic groups towards Canada.

"The system is being perceived as a attempt by the US to dominate / blackmail the world"

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Is IRS still a relevant celebration?



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

There's been a lot of talk going around lately about the time-honoured Waterloo Engineering tradition of the Iron Ring Stag, or IRS; suggestions that maybe it's a little bit outdated, that maybe it should not be continued as it is, and replaced instead by some other celebration. Ugly words like 'sexist' are being thrown around, and people are getting very disgruntled and unfriendly about it. This is a shame and an outrage, and it must be addressed.

I am currently in my second year, and due to co-op, this has been the first term that I've been able to witness the truly wonderful IRS celebrations. Personally, I think it's fun to have a bunch of drunken fourth-years parading through your lec-

tures, but I can understand that some people could view it as a disturbance, or take offence to the sometimes outlandish costumes. But your fourth-year comrades are not trying to offend you—they are simply celebrating their own accomplishments, and giving you an idea of how good it will feel to be done. I remember that day, the graduating Enviro-Civ class stormed my Probability lecture, and delivered a particularly poignant drunken speech about the 'priceless' times you will have with your classmates over the years. That is the real message, folks.

Let's move on to the actual IRS event, after Iron Rings have been received. From what I have gathered, it is a big celebration with dancing, TOOL-touching, and ripping-off of non-black clothing. Now personally, I would derive a great amount of fun from such activities. But objections are understandable. Isn't there something wrong with ripping off the clothing of female classmates? Well, guys can rip clothes off guys, girls can rip clothes off girls, so why shouldn't

guys and girls be able to rip clothes off of each other? Men and women are treated as equals in all other aspects of Engineering at Waterloo, why should this be any different? That would be a double-standard. Oh, and what if an overzealous male should rip TOO MUCH clothing off of a female? Come on—we've worked with our classmates for four years as respected colleagues, in drunken times and sober. Give us more credit than that.

That being said, it is a valid point that standard-issue IRS black boxers are sexist, providing protection for males only. It would not be that hard to provide black sports bras or tank tops—there's no sense in changing the clothes-ripping aspect when a simple modification to garments provided could make it safer for both sexes.

It is also important to consider that no one is being forced to go to IRS. If it doesn't sound like your idea of a good time, then don't go. Go somewhere else, to a bar, out to dinner, with friends that

share your aversion to IRS. But please, don't say that IRS should go away simply because you don't like it. That's childish reasoning. If people were being forced to attend or had no other viable alternative, it would be a legitimate concern, but while there are options, please stop trying to ruin it for the rest of us.

Further to that point, as mentioned, I am in my second year. I have a long way to go before I can stand looking back on it all, an Iron Ring on my finger and a smile on my face. I want to be able to have the same experience that my comrades before me had. And I want to celebrate the same time-honoured way that they celebrated. Really, these people stampeded through my class stone drunk and caused a ruckus, swore a solemn oath to the dignity and responsibility of their profession, and then went and tore each others' clothes off while drinking and touching a sixty-inch pipe wrench with iron-ringed fingers. Do I deserve to do any less? Please, do us all a favour, and don't mess with IRS.



FRANCIS HOPE
3B ELECTRICAL

Now before I say anything else, I would just like to say that I think that IRS is a great tradition that celebrates a student graduating from the University of Waterloo. But I am playing devil's advocate for this issue. Having said that...

Do you think that the IRS should be

banned from the University of Waterloo?

Many people would simply say no, it should be kept, while others would disagree. One reason that it should be removed is because of the actions of some of the graduates before the IRS ceremony. This is the time where graduating students get to go out and show that they are graduating in a drunken and humorous manner.

However, these students sometimes go

into non-engineering classrooms or non-engineering offices and disrupt the classes or professors within. This is a minor inconvenience, but it does disrupt the University. The other downside is that many of the drunken graduates cause minor damage to the University, such as broken windows. The

other point is that there are a lot of anti-

social people in engineering, and the Iron Ring Stag has many events that are considered risqué. For example, there is a part of the ceremony where all of a person's clothes are torn off until they are wearing nothing but black. This might be considered offensive by some people.

The last thing to consider is that many other engineering faculties do not have a celebratory event like the University of Waterloo has, and simply have a clubbing night or go out for a party instead. Anyway, this is just the other side of the issue, but I still think that IRS Night is great.

“...many other engineering faculties do not have a celebratory event like the University of Waterloo has...”



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

Student Travel Grants: The Sandford Fleming Foundation provides grant money to students for Conference Registration, Conference Presentations, Technical Team Projects and Non-Academic Professional Conferences. Only engineering undergraduates are eligible to apply and only work carried out while at the University will be considered for grants. Please check our web site for further information.

Emergency Loan Funds: SFF has made available funds for short-term emergency loans, interest free for 90 days. These loans are available to engineering undergraduates, on either an academic or work term. Contact the Student Awards office for further information.

The John Fisher Award for Leadership

The John Fisher Award for Leadership is made from time to time to a graduating student whose activities throughout his/her academic career have made significant contributions to Co-operative Engineering Education. Nominations for the Award can originate from student groups, faculty members and the Foundation. Nominations should document the nominee's contributions and other support for the nomination. Contributions are to have a professional orientation and can involve student activities, the Sandford Fleming Foundation work or other appropriate functions. Letters from colleagues, faculty members, and others knowledgeable of the nominee's efforts will be given consideration.

The Award at Convocation consists of a Citation and an Honorarium of \$1,000. For more information, contact the Sandford Fleming Foundation. The deadline for nominations is **April 1, 2005**.

You can't take it with you Reflections on 5 years at UW



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

It's that time of the term again, when a bunch of engineers with a strong passion for live theatre brings you the beloved tradition of the Engineering Play.

This year, the director Chris Fairles and the assistant director Neil Cavan bring us the Pulitzer-winning *You Can't Take It With You*, by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. It was decided upon for some very practical reasons: a large cast and a unit set to eliminate the need of scene changes. Yet, the simplicity of later is offset by the former as the cast includes nineteen members in total, turning out to be more difficult than anticipated.

With a cast this size and everyone a full engineering workload, to schedule a rehearsal is next to impossible. There's generally someone missing due to school or other commitments. Most of the time, the scenes were rehearsed out of sequences to accommodate everyone, and the directors occasionally fill in the lines for the missing individuals.

The cast members enjoy working together despite the fact everyone finds it challenging to juggle with the times. A few veterans claim this is the funniest cast they have worked with, and some of the first timers are just having a great time and are happy to learn a lot of new things. When it comes to their roles, Mark Truchanowicz, who plays Boris Kolenkhov said his character is loud, booming and boisterous, much like himself. Yet Melissa Cesana thinks Alice

Sycamore in the play goes through so many emotions and is such a girl, which she can't relate at all.

Even though the play is mostly jokes and the director wishes the people who come to see it are having fun, he pointed out the message of the play is that you really can't take it with you. Written in the mid 30's, Fairles finds it still has its relevance today. He hope the audience "realize life isn't all about work and money, it's about living" and success "shouldn't mean giving up happiness and freedom."

Although Fairles said it is purely coincidence, it is nonetheless worth to point out that *You Can't Take It With You*, similar to last B-soc play *Arsenic and Old Lace*, is also a hit Broadway screwball comedy which was eventually adapted into a film directed by Frank Capra.

Before picking out *You Can't Take It With You*, Fairles considered a number of other plays, including Arthur Miller's "The Crucible", which he has worked on before, Tom Stoppard's "Acadia", and "The Real Inspector Hound". The possibility of doing a musical came up as well. However, most are ruled out due to technical details, such as excessive scene changes or extravagant set pieces, which are beyond the reach of a relatively small student production.

The major source of funding for the play is the EngSoc budget and ticket sales. Time constraints make it hard to find other sponsors and the directors did not see the need for more sponsorship than what EngSoc provides.

When inquired about the future plans, Fairles said he will pass the torch onto Neil Cavan, who he believes has already had the play picked out. However, keep your eyes open, because you may just see him on stage.



SUNG HON WU
4B COMPUTER

If there ever is a time to reflect on life in Waterloo, for me this is the time, while all the fun 4th year activities are done, and yet school is not quite finished.

As I reflect, my first thought is how much the student experience has changed for the better in the last 5 years. Even as others complain the school is getting worse (step up President Johnson) I see how things are getting better. For example, when I first came, I lived in V1, as a large percentage of 1st years then did. V1 was fun, but there is a reason why most people prefer suite-style housing. But now, I am living in luxury at Mackenzie King, which was just a big hole 4 years ago. I remember the 1st-year courses, and in those days you had to spend \$10 at the beginning of every term buying a book of old exams to study. Well, now it is free with the online exam bank. I remember when not every engineering course had a website, and how easy it is now to study when every assignment, every course note is just a click away. And I remember the school before Quest and Jobmine, how frustrating it was in those days to pick courses, to actually walk to Needles Hall looking at job postings, to actually have a report card mailed to you. Now, it is all so convenient, all these tasks can now be done with a click of a mouse.

I can only imagine what student life will be like in 5 years. How will the experience change? Will online learning get even easier, will a functional and simple

refund system finally appear, will the engineering GradBook come in book form and a CD-ROM as well?

Then I reflect upon an interview I had with June Lowe on 1A term. She gave such good observations about life at university. She said that "Enjoy your first year, while you have great school spirit, because by the end, all the graduates just want to get out of here and start making money". It is so true; I can see it among the people in my class. We all once loved studying, marks really did matter. But somewhere along the way, perhaps after the first bombed final, perspectives change, marks do not motivate like they used to, a bad midterm creates laughter not tears. Now the things that we talk about are jobs, careers, where we want to live, and RRSP's (you feel your age when ...).

As a computer engineer, I also reflect upon my luck on graduating this year. The year I came in was the very top of the bubble. I could remember talking to two 2nd year computer engineers, and they said graduates that year could expect \$100K signing bonuses and a starting salary of \$100K. Then I saw the bubble collapse, and suddenly even finding a job became impossible. If predictions are true, 2005 will be the best year to look for a job since 2000. Quite a blessing since the first real job often sets the direction of person's career. And probably now is a good time to leave since a good economy when you graduate is never a guarantee.

I think now about how this day would never arrive, the torture of all the labs, all the projects, all the exams. It seemed that five years would be an eternity with all that work. But then you have all the friends, all those parties, all the laughter, and like a blink of an eye, its over. All good things must come to an end.

Update from warm, sunny India



ANDREW DODDS
1N MECHANICAL

It's still cold there in Canada, because it's getting into the mid-20s here. Seriously, it's really nice. By now, you've all passed through your midterms, EngWeek, the Bus Pull, and hopefully you're all very jealous. Jealous enough, anyways, that some of the 1B Mechs are forgoing the nuisance of Jobmine in order to take our place here in June. India is indeed a very incredible place to be.

Currently we've gotten through a month of India, and we're starting to get the hang of it. We don't get so many looks when we're in town, we can handle eating chilis at meals, and I might even buy a plastic bucket and jug before coming home; it'd probably be cleaner than the V1 showers. We've even figured out where all our classes are, and we still manage to get lost and be at least 5 minutes late to every one. We've accomplished other things too, such as becoming adept at bargaining (although we still probably pay twice what we should) and learning a little bit of the language. It's not ALL work over here, but don't worry, we'll still have our own final exams to contend with.

The university itself is very impressive. They have 5 hostels (residences) packed with many cement cell rooms

that make V1 look like paradise, along with all the amenities for living, learning, and enjoying life. On campus there is both the TIET and a smaller Polytechnic. The machine shop we've been working in still competes well with the facilities at UW, and even we can't boast a smithy shop (anyone need a shortsword?). Currently, we're rotating through the welding, machining, and lathe portions in two week sessions.

Our other classes have proven to be just as interesting. We're learning about electricity, CAD (ProE), welding, machining, and metrology. While we enjoy learning about electricity and using the 400V of lab power, we all seem to find that metrology makes ChE 102 seem positively fascinating. Still, there are some, like me, who find the strength to make it to class for every hour-long lecture we have on how to measure concentricity, or how a machine that we won't ever see can take measurements with air pressure. As stressful and long as a term at UW felt, spending 7 hours a day from 9-5 in class definitely gives us that co-op work term feel, and the 12 hours a week we get to spend in the machine shop always relaxes us.

Recently, we've visited a couple of interesting cities. In Chandigarh we got a chance to sample some more local cuisine, without our menu's spices being

removed for the sake of our 'weak' foreigner tolerance levels, and buying whatever we could find. We were also treated to a rock garden. Now I know what you're thinking, and yes, my 3 photos do seem kind of boring, but once my film was done and we got past the 50-foot-high narrow paths, we were amazed. Over the course of an hour, we barely had a chance to explore endless

enclosed areas filled with stone statues of all kinds - people, horses, cows, spirits - numbering in the thousands. They had all been assembled into this 'garden', roughly the size of UW campus, and everything was made of something unusual, from rock and cement bags to broken

bracelets and beer caps. While we all thought that an hour would be more than enough, we were thoroughly amazed until we left for our next stop half an hour late.

In Amritsar we visited the border with Pakistan. While we might have needed a military escort just a few years ago, this trip was far more peaceful and pleasant. On either side there were hundreds of people in the stands from both countries chanting in support of their country as the border closed for the day. In Amritsar itself, we visited the Golden Temple, which is the Sikh equivalent of Christianity's little manger. It is where the first spiritual leader of the Sikh faith

saw crows diving into water from a tree, and coming out white. This showed him how special the place was, and so the temple was later built there. The waters inside are part of the natural water table, and have cured skin diseases and been shown through science not to harbour any bacteria. The Golden Temple in the middle of the pool was beautiful. It would have taken immeasurable time and mass amounts of gold and other precious jewels and beautiful things to make it all that it is.

Slowly, our classes move on, and while only a mere month is left, we are starting to think about preparations for our final exams. Things like Thevenin's theorem throughout our thoughts thoroughly thucks. Sorry. I know our MTEs and our one Elec are benefiting from it, and we Mechs will just have to adapt (hence engineering, right?). But for our final project (and work term report, hello free topic!) we will take on a variety of projects, such as the full construction of a lawnmower India-style (the one we saw had stone or steel wheels, two machetes on a motor, and took two guys to operate).

Now if you'll excuse me, it's Friday night, which means it's time to play poker, watch sexy Indian television (...?), and relax with some more BEVERages. Come on, we work hard all week to earn it, and we don't have a Unit 36 or POETS to flock to. Hope you're all not getting too depressed at UW, because it's always hot and sexy and fun here in India. Until next time, stay cold friends, and keep on studying! (suckers...)

"...we've even figured out where our classes are, and we still manage to get lost and be at least five minutes late to every one."

Students converge on UW for FIRST Robotics Competition

ROB GORBET
E&CE DEPARTMENT

What are you doing this Easter weekend?

In the case of 500 high school students from across North America, they will be in the University of Waterloo's Physical Activities Complex (PAC) main gym, competing in some of the most exciting spectator sport you'll ever witness live. There will be fast-paced action, live camera coverage, last-minute game-deciding plays, penalties, intense competition and lots of machining. There will be excitement, tension, disappointment, adrenalin, and breakdowns. There will be strategy, scouting, playbooks and business plans. There will be referees, judges, cheerleaders, mascots, announcers, a flashy emcee, coaches, lights, pounding music and robots. Twenty-four big, fast, 130-pound robots.

From March 24-26, teams from twenty-four high schools from Ontario, New Brunswick, Michigan, and New Hampshire will converge on the PAC to participate in the inaugural FIRST Robotics Competition Waterloo Regional. At the same time, thousands of students will be competing in six other regional competitions across North America, all part of the 30-regional, five week 2005 FIRST Robotics Competition season.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) is a non-profit organization which for 13 years has been running the FIRST Robotics Competition, their flagship program (www.usfirst.org/robotics). Growing from 28 teams in 1992 to nearly 1000

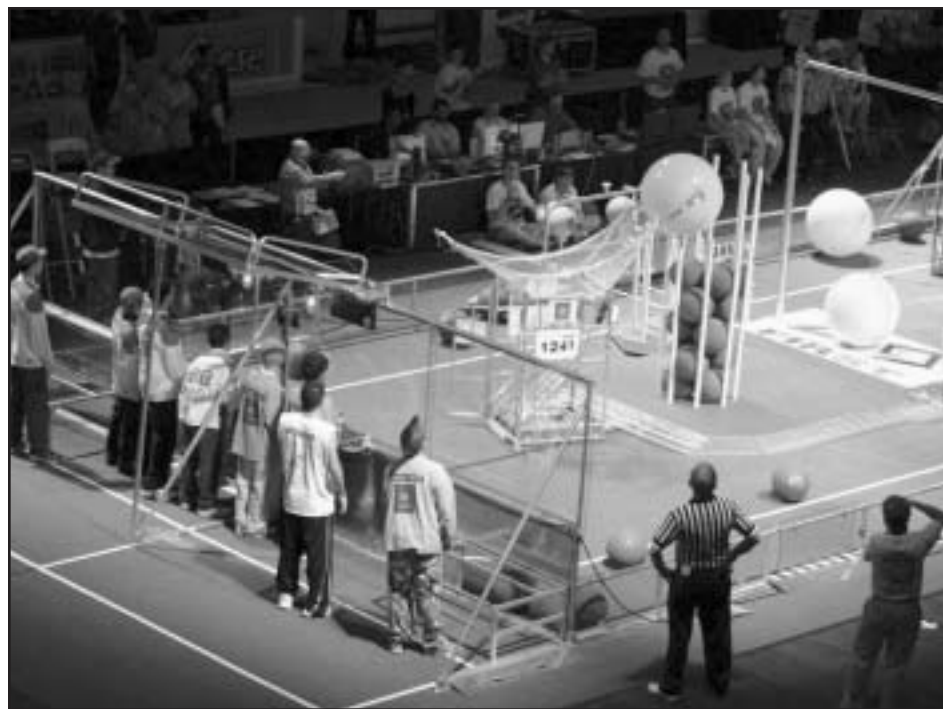
today, FIRST Robotics builds partnerships between schools, teachers, industry mentors and sponsors, and the community. Teams spend the off-season visiting public schools and recruiting other high schools, spreading the message that science and technology can be fun and exciting.

Two of the teams in this year's competition are local: Team 1385 from Waterloo Collegiate Institute, and Team 1565 from Jacob Hespeler Secondary School. The WCI team, whose main sponsor is RIM, competed for the first time last season at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga, where they won the Rookie Inspiration Award. COMDEV is sponsoring JHSS in this, their rookie year. There is great potential for expansion of FIRST in the region, and

it's anticipated that five more schools will join for the 2006 season.

This year's robotics challenge sees teams randomly matched during qualification rounds to form three-robot alliances, with two alliances competing against each other in each qualifying match. A match lasts two minutes and fifteen seconds, during which time teams must guide their robots to collect as many two-foot "tetras" (a hollow pyramid) as possible and stack them on eight-foot high goal tetras. Teams develop strategy with their alliance partners to best accomplish this goal, alliance partners who may be their competition in the next match. The goal: to build up enough qualification points to make the elimination rounds. All the while, they are scouting other schools' capabilities, preparing for the elimination

rounds when the highest seeded teams will get to choose their alliance partners for the final play downs. After the match,



back in the pits, there will be last-minute repairs and adjustments in preparation for their next match.

The agenda for the three days of competition is as follows

Thursday March 24 (practice day)

- 10:00 pits open
- 3:00 practice rounds
- 5:00 day ends

Friday March 25 (qualifying rounds)

- 8:00 pits open
- 9:00 practice rounds continue
- 12:00 lunch break
- 1:00 opening ceremonies
- 1:15 qualification rounds
- 4:30 awards ceremony

Saturday March 26 (elimination rounds)

- 8:00 pits open
- 9:00 opening ceremonies
- 9:30 qualification rounds continue
- 12:00 lunch break
- 12:45 alliance selection
- 1:00 elimination rounds
- 3:00 awards ceremony

All events are open to the public and admission is free; for more information, visit www.firstrobotics.uwaterloo.ca.

If you're wondering how to spend a few hours this Easter weekend, bring yourself and your family to the PAC to see what Discover Magazine has called "the SuperBowl of Smarts." You won't regret it!

The People's Republic

GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

What do you call a country that is everyone's friend?

A people's republic! HAHAhahaha...

Jokes aside, in a recent study published by BBC World Service, more people see China as a positive influence on the world than is the case for the United States or Russia.

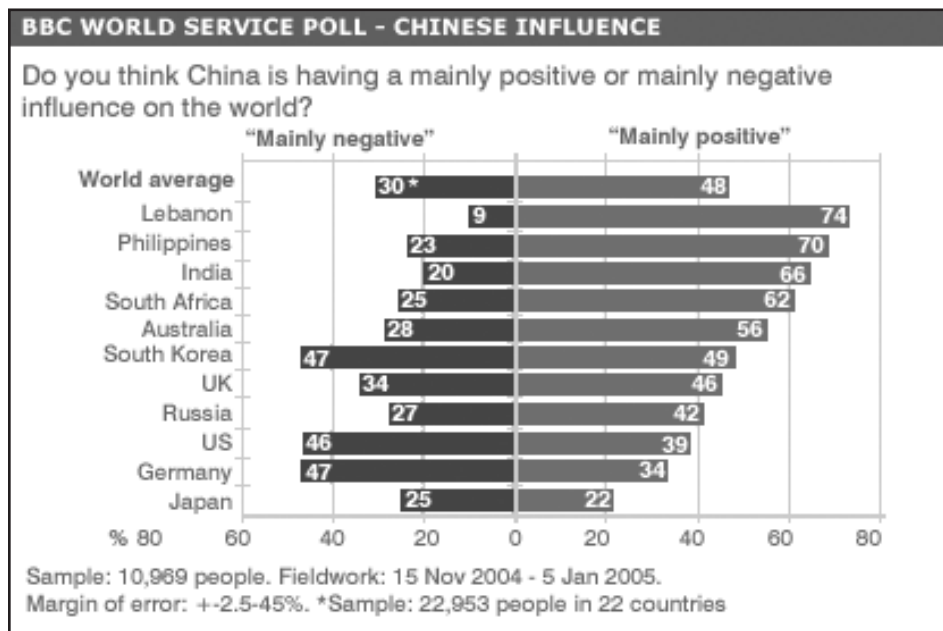
The study revealed that 48% said China is playing a mainly positive role in the world, while 38% of respondents saw the United States as having a positive influence, 36% saying the same for Russia. China had a positive influence than a negative one in 17 of the 22 nations surveyed. Even though most African nations were not part of the study, China's economic aid probably has a positive influence on their people.

So what is so significant about this pile of numbers that is steadily streaming out of statisticians sitting on their ass all day phone-spamming people?

This is the **first time in world history** where a **superpower is globally accepted** as a benevolent part of the international community. This may be a bold statement,

but it is certainly not bullshit. Economy is the principle driving force of a superpower, while public opinion determines the popularity of the superpower.

China has been a world power for the majority of the last five thousand years; try naming one culture in the Asia-Pacific region that has not been affected by the Chinese civilization. Two thousand years ago, China produced 25% of world output; in 1820, it was 33% of the world economy. In the last two centuries, China's performance went on a sharp decline due to various reasons, such as being harassed by European (we called them the "gwai lo") and Japanese imperialism and the fact that China went through two major revolutions within the span of 50 years. After 1949, China was about 5% of the world economy. Now, benefiting from a solid communist central government and capitalist-style reforms, bringing political and socio-economical stability respectively, China is growing up very fast. In 1990, China's GDP per capita was \$450; in 2001, it was \$3580. Current figures show China producing 15% of the world output. With a fifth of the world's population, it is logical that China is moving to that global economic "equilibrium" point, where the eco-



nomic output of a country should be proportional to its population. Thus nothing can stop China from becoming another world superpower.

And China is a superpower that is globally accepted as benevolent. So what? Well, history has never produced a superpower that was generally accepted by the people of this planet. When the Mongols decided to go conquer the world, everyone was either with them or against them (i.e. dead). In the end, all the Mongol khanates were overthrown, so we conclude that most people didn't like them. There was a time when the sun was never to set] on the British Empire, because it covered a fifth of the world's land mass and 25% of the world's population. Obviously the other 75% of the world was not pleased with Britain's expansionism, due to rivalries, conflicting imperialist interests, and etcetera. By 1935, Germany had grown to superpower status; although Adolf Hitler was financed by the West, not many people liked them and that number kept growing

exponentially (and now it is socially unacceptable to like them at all). The Cold War produced two global superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States; world opinion was basically divided 50/50. Since the collapse of the USSR, China is emerging as the next economic powerhouse, with the whole world getting a piece of the action, while the US is bombing the shit out of Iraq and turning their country into a sea of fire (sorry, a "precision-based" sea of fire).

China is choosing the path of co-existence and co-operation in the world; think of them as Canada, but with 1.3 billion people, a respectable nuclear deterrence, and lots of global influence. China's peaceful rise is not just the pride of the Chinese people; as citizens of Earth, all humankind should be proud that we are gradually striving for a world of better co-existence and co-operation. It is great to see that the international community is finally finding a focal point for world peace.



The "Second Industrial Revolution" is evident in supercities Shanghai and Chongqing. It is mathematically logical that China will eventually be 20% of the world economy.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

F'05 Directorship Apps Coming Soon



KARIM LALLANI
PRESIDENT

First off, I'd like to congratulate the winners of the Paul & Paula Plummer Awards. These individuals have put countless hours of their time into making the Engineering Society better for everyone. They have been the heart and soul of the Engineering Society for the past 5 years. Here are the winners: Emma Bardon (BSoc), Mary Bland (EngSoc Corporate Manager), Grant Holohan (BSoc), Larissa Klypycz (ASoc), Josh Levitz (BSoc), Laura Mooney (ASoc), Sarah Sirega (BSoc), and Ryan Walker (ASoc). Congratulations to all of the winners for your wonderful achievement.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in the Bus Push charity event for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. I had a wonderful time, and I'm extremely pleased that over \$5000 was raised for the event. A special thank you goes out to Phil Newman, Jenn Bell, and Jillian Goll who organized the entire event.

Although I wasn't able to attend the Semi-formal, I heard a lot of positive feedback regarding the event. Sharon Attwood & Xitij Ritesh Patel did a fabulous job organizing the event.

The moment you have all been waiting for is almost here. Directorship applications for Fall 2005 will be available very soon. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a director, or any general questions about the different types of directorships available, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail or visit me in the Orifice.

Bus Push raises over \$5000 for Heart & Stroke



CHRISTINA WATERS
VP EXTERNAL

The Professional Engineers of Ontario Student's Conference (PEOSC) was held at McMaster University on the 4th to the 6th of March. This conference was amazing and I wish I could have brought more people because of the wonderful experience I had.

There were nurses partying next to us in the hotel, and when nurses and engineers mix, I become highly entertained. The RMC crew decided to do a strip tease for all to see, and that was only the beginning of the night! There were some happy people, and by happy I mean lucky, that night, but I will leave the stories for those

who wish to tell them...

Bus Push happened this past weekend and they ended up raising \$5000+ for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. I was happy to see so many people out for the event. One thing though: when attempting to hook up a bus to a rope, try not to use plastic zip ties...it may not work out as planned.

Since my term is starting to wind down due to a lack of conferences to attend, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Comps for a wicked party at their place. Some of the things I remember: the Chrissy cup, our wonderful VPI insisting that my other half—the A-Soc VPX—get a new hat because "it is a 'stupid' one," Jay, you can make the call on that one buddy, the lovely the Chili, and the amazing hospitality the whole night---wicked times had by all.

Look out for Pi Week this week, and Karim, be warned, my friend...

B**5 Bowling, EngPlay, and Genius Bowl



ANDREA RAYNER
VP INTERNAL

Greetings and salutations once again, I trust that everyone is doing well. As I am sure everyone noticed, there was a bit of an "incident" in CPH a week ago Monday. The Orifice was unfortunately closed for 2 days, but is now back up and running in full force. All of our computers are nice and sparkly clean and it smells wonderfully of disinfectant!

Semi Formal went down last Friday and was well-attended. Thanks to Ritesh and Sharon for pulling off a stellar event. I would like to take a brief moment to talk about Feds Event Forms here- Semi almost didn't happen because there was a bit of confusion with the event form. We were able to get everything in order in time, but it did get quite stressful for a

while. To make everyone's life much easier for events to come, both this term and more so next term, let's try and get those forms in good and early!

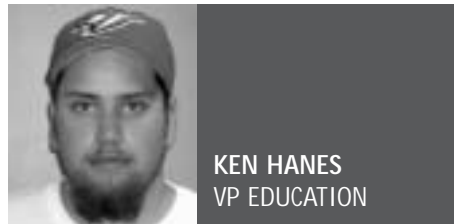
The first performance of this term's EngPlay, "You Can't Take it With You", is on Friday, and promises to be a blast. There are also 2 performances on Saturday, and I'm sure there are still some tickets available for at least one performance. So if you don't already have your tickets, look for them on sale at lunch in the CPH foyer

Genius Bowl will be occurring next Wednesday. To take part in this event of events, sign up your team in the Orifice, maximum of six people per team. Watch for a large cup and some smarty-pants at the Bomber that night!

And now, onto the fun stuff, B**5!! March 20th (yes, that's this Sunday) is the date for this term's Big Bad B-Soc Bowling Bonanza. For \$10 you get hours of super-fun 10-pin bowling, a bus trip to and from the bowling alley, pizza, nachos and BEvEReges! What a deal!! Don't wait a second longer! Walk- no, run down to the Orifice right now and sign up.

I hope to see everyone out at the EngSoc Meeting tonight, it's our 2nd-last, and should be lots of good times. In closing, I would like to leave you with this: There is a species of moth that lives entirely on cow tears. Think about that next time you're driving around in the country at night looking for something to do. Tipping over that cow might just put a moth's life in danger.

Online course critiques coming (hopefully)



KEN HANES
VP EDUCATION

Drumroll please...it's Exec article number 'x', where 'x-1' is the number of articles written before this one. This is going to be a quick report. As the term winds down, there is less and less going on.

Everything in the faculty of Engineering seems to be at a standstill right now due to the recent fire in the CPH foyer. For one, the online course critique process is hurting. I'm still hoping to get that up and running before the end of the term so all of the course critique results can be viewed through the EngSoc website. You will need to sign in using your Waterloo ID and password to

access this. Therefore, this service will only be open to those who have redeemed their EngSoc fees. So, hopefully with the co-operation of engineering computing we can get that up and running within the next few weeks.

On another note, the end of the term is approaching and it's time to think of what directorships everyone wants to run for next year. Within the next week or two, applications should be available for next term and I'm hoping that we get just as many applications as last term, (especially for those directorships which are in the education category).

Finally, for those fourth years that care, we're having a Gradcomm2006 meeting on Thursday. Anyone who's interested in helping out with graduation stuff for next year come on out.

That's it for this week, see I told you this would be quick! Have a good week, you stay classy San Diego, err...I mean Waterloo.

Submit expense reports (if you want your money)



DAVID JOHNSON
VP FINANCE

Well, once again, there is not much happening in the world of the VP

Finance.

Donations cheques are done, if you submitted who they are to be written to. So please come and pick them up! If you are a director, just let me know when you need your money.

Submit your Expense Reports in order to get reimbursed. As always, Feel free to email me at bsoc_vpfin@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

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

Anti-WEEF Posters, what a waste of time...



Believe it or not, over 100 anti-WEEF posters have been put up this term by anonymous individuals late at night. (It appears like they've also taken down legitimate WEEF posters for our AGM. I find it truly amusing that they're trying to keep our AGM a secret: even if people knew about it, they still wouldn't show up...)

Yeah, I don't get it either. I have no problem with people who want refunds. But you've got to be pretty jaded to use WEEF equipment all day and still want to put up posters filled with misinformation, criticizing the only student-controlled aspect of your education's funding. Not surprisingly, the anti-WEEF-ers did not even show up at the AGM to discuss their points. It turns out you need more courage to listen to financial statistics than to run a silly guerrilla-poster campaign.

Salient points from the AGM:

1. WEEF is run by students. All funding decisions are made by a council of 100% undergrad students (the WEEF class reps) and administration and policy is overseen by a board which must (by constitution) include a minimum of 2/3 undergrad students. If you have a problem with WEEF, I suggest you talk to or become your class rep and do something about it.

2. WEEF funding does NOT replace your department's funding and does NOT free them from their responsibilities of providing basic infrastructure. If your department is not doing its job by providing these basics, you can bet that the WEEF reps will not give it any funding. That's the advantage of having a student-run, democratic endowment foundation. For the record, the portion of WEEF's \$35,000 or \$70,000 a term that goes towards computers is a fraction of what is needed to upgrade or maintain our labs.

3. The Faculty does NOT spend less money on student initiatives because of WEEF. The Dean continues to fund student teams and recently paid \$26,000 to upgrade the safety system in the student shop, as well as purchase a new lathe. Like with the departments, WEEF works in parallel with the Faculty to bring better, enhanced equipment to the students that would otherwise not get purchased. For example, the first few public nodes of our Engineering wi-fi system were paid for in part by WEEF in 2000. This pilot project proved so successful that there are now nodes all over Engineering buildings, but

WEEF FUNDING DECISION - WINTER 2005

#	Proposal	Requested	Allocated
Chemical Engineering			
1	New Equipment	\$9,080.00	\$5,470.00
Civil Engineering			
2	Brookfield Viscometer	\$3,589.25	\$0.00
3	Portable Water/Wastewater System	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00
Electrical & Computer Engineering			
4	Oscilloscopes/Printer for ECE 332, 231	\$8,300.00	\$8,300.00
5	NEXUS Computer Upgrade	\$2,325.00	\$0.00
Mechanical Engineering			
6	Solar Hot Water Demo	\$625.00	\$625.00
7	Simulation Software (Mechatronics)	\$7,340.00	\$7,340.00
Systems Design Engineering			
8	BDM Cables and Software	\$1,887.00	\$1,132.00
9	RFID Kits* (See below)	\$2,190.00	\$2,190.00
10	Monitors for SYDE Multimedia Lab	\$1,651.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous			
11	Student Shop Lathe	\$21,000.00	\$9,199.81
Departments Total		\$61,987.25	\$36,256.81
Student Teams			
12	EngSoc – Toolbearers Uniform	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
13	EngSoc – Video Editing PC	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
14	Iron Warrior/EngSoc TSN PC and Software	\$2,636.95	\$2,636.95
15	ASIC – Cyclonium boards	\$360.00	\$360.00
16	CUSEC - Software Eng Conference	\$0.00	\$0.00
17	Formula SAE – Shipping Crate + Materials	\$8,300.00	\$5,300.00
18	Free Flight Glider Team - Equipment	\$1,354.85	\$879.85
19	4th Year Project – Hexplorer	\$4,700.00	\$2,340.00
20	4th Year Project – Autonomous Lawnmower	\$1,447.48	\$931.39
21	4th Year Project - LED Rims	\$665.31	\$0.00
22	Midnight Sun - Brakes and Equipment	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00
23	UWAAT (Entity Robotics) - Misc. Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$700.00
24	Robot Racing Competition - Desktop PC	\$1,500.00	\$1,100.00
25	Robotics Team - Equipment and Desktop PC	\$2,445.00	\$1,820.00
26	STEP - Anemometers for Wind Energy Project	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
27	UWAFT - Energy Storage System & Equipment	\$7,720.00	\$5,800.00
28	WARG - Motor Controllers & Equipment	\$4,100.00	\$1,700.00
29	WOMBAT - Dynamometer	\$2,175.00	\$2,175.00
Student Teams Total		\$53,904.59	\$33,743.19
TOTAL		\$115,891.84	\$70,000.00

*Funding is granted on the condition that these RFID kits are available to students from all depts.

NOTE: Details for each proposal are available at www.weef.uwaterloo.ca

WEEF's initial funding permitted a trial run to convince the faculty that a wi-fi network was worthwhile. Of interest to critics: Engineering Computing has only been granted a few thousand dollars in the past five years for things like optical mice and a colour printer upgrade, not basic computer hardware. In fact, they haven't even

submitted a proposal in two years.

There's more to say, and more will be posted on our website in the near future. If you're curious to read the Anti-WEEF posters, I've scanned them in and will post them in the next week or so, along with a more indepth rebuttal of each.

Please note: WEEF is not against

debate or discussion; in fact, that was the ultimate purpose of the AGM! If you don't think WEEF is doing a great job, send me an email. We know we aren't perfect, but if you really want to improve things, don't just run some erroneous smear campaign... Why not start a real discussion where both sides can participate?

Upcoming Events from EngSoc

Sunday Mar 13	Monday Mar 14	Tuesday Mar 15	Wednesday Mar 16	Thursday Mar 17	Friday Mar 18	Saturday Mar 19	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca
	Explorations Showcase	TalEng Campus Day	EngSoc Meeting 5:30 pm, CPH 3385	St Patrick's Day GradComm 2006 Meeting	EngPlay 8:00 pm, AL 113 Engenuity	EngPlay 2:00 & 8:00 pm, AL 113 Car Care Workshop	
Mar 20 B*5 (Big Bad B-Soc Bowling Bonanza) Frederick Lanes	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23 Genius Bowl	Mar 24 Iron Warrior Submission Deadline	Mar 25 Good Friday	Mar 26	

Four Homosexual Israeli Couples Wed in Toronto



CHUN LAM
3A CHEMICAL

In the 'blistering coldness' of Toronto, on Friday March 11, 2005, four couples made their way to Toronto City Hall to obtain a special license, a marriage. Yes, that piece of paper which legitimizes the bond between 2 people forever, locked forever to each other like a life sentence in a institution, with a fancy ceremony akin to a judicial sentencing hearing with a member of the peace, or a religious clergyman acting as a judge proclaiming the sentence of marriage. However, this isn't a usual marriage, it's a marriage between two people of the same gender. Now by this time in society, you should be accustomed to the sight and concept of same sex marriage, but what's different about this sight is that the couples are from Israel. Yes, now with Canada's starting to liberalize its marriage laws, Toronto has started to become the Las Vegas of the north – except for our rainbow-power kindred. With the current attempts of liberalizing our marriage laws, couples from other nations whose views on same sex marriage is still entrenched in 'evilness', have come to Canada to get a marriage license and then return to their respective nations in an attempt to get awareness for this cause. I guess now Canada can add homosexual married cou-

"I guess now Canada can add homosexual married couples to its exports list."

ples to its exports list. Also, since Canada has a good reputation within the international community for upholding human rights and social justice, getting a marriage license in Canada may provide some political legitimacy to the concept of same sex marriage to get these nations to begin to address these ideas. Somewhat ironically, one the couples that had got their marriage license in Toronto was Etai Pinkas, a Tel Aviv city councillor.

Currently, in Israel, in conformance with Judaism practices, Orthodox rabbis are the only people who can perform marriage ceremonies for people of Jewish faith. If anyone else performs the ceremony for Jewish people, it is not deemed legitimate in the eyes of Judaism. In Israel, the government only recognizes the marriages of Jewish people that are performed by Orthodox rabbis.

Currently, the Orthodox rabbis, in conformance with a fundamentalist Jewish faith, are adamantly opposed to the marriage of same sex individuals. As a result, same-gendered Jewish couples who want to have their marriage legitimized are out of luck.

Now will this attempt get same-sex marriage legalized in Israel? I personally doubt it. For a nation like Israel that is heavily into its faith, it is going to take many years for this issue to gain enough general support for any meaningful change in the law. Will this decision lead to condemnation to eternal Hellfire by Abraham for the four couples? I can't answer that question. But at least the decision will attempt to bring this issue to the forefront of Israel culture.

Incidental Fees Out Of Control



SUNG HON WU
4B COMPUTER

This last Feds election was the first I ever voted in. And it will also be my last, with my impending graduation. I voted because my friend was a candidate for VP Internal, and as luck with have it, Lawrence Lam got elected. Now I hope he can talk with the other FEDs executives about what are becoming out-of-control incidental fees.

Whenever someone talks about out of control fees, they are usually talking about tuition fees. What no one talks about are incidental fees, all those fees a student has to pay but that do not serve the University's core mission of education. Yet incidental fees are pretty substantial in and of themselves. For example, in Engineering, student fees add up to \$346.50, compared to tuition which is \$3936, or 8.8% of tuition. And while tuition has been frozen last year and this upcoming year, incidental fees are increasing. For example, the Feds election approved a plan to add a dental plan for \$34.25 plus an orientation fee of \$100 for first year students. At this point, a student entering the university this Sept will be expected to pay \$3146 worth of incidental fees before they graduate. And the fees looks likely to increase. For example, there is serious consideration to add a fee so that every student would get a universal bus pass, and the Engineering Society has talked about linking their fee to cost of living inflation.

While everybody complains about

tuition fees and how it drives poor students into staggering debt, this nice simple view clashes with the reality that poor students can afford to have their own radio station, fund political activist groups (WPIRG), and subsidize weekly free newspapers.

There are two major problems with the current system of incidental fees- the first of democratic consent, the second the sheer amount of effort required to refund the money.

Only two types of people vote in FEDS elections. The first type are people who care because they know a specific candidate, the second are people who are actually emotionally involved with FED's, and would like to increase the funding of student organizations. This means people who vote in these fee referendums are more favourable to new fees or increased fees than the general student population. Also, once a fee is passed, it is automatically renewed every year and paid by students who never had a say about the fee. This is contrast with how our governments work; there, all spending has to be approved every year. Combined, these two things make the whole process of adding an incidental fee undemocratic.

Next, the amount of effort required to refund the refundable portion of the incidental fees is crazy. Currently, a student is required to run to 7 different places to get these refunds. How come this has not been computerized? Surely if they can create JobMine, and Quest, this process can be more straightforward then it is now.

Personally, I am not optimistic that the upcoming FEDS exec or any future FEDS exec will be able to change how the current system works. The only solace I can find is that once I graduate I will no longer have to pay for this madness.

Students Showcase Engineering To The Public

TANEEM TALUKDAR
2A SYSTEMS

Engineering groups showcased their projects at Conestoga Mall earlier this month on March 3rd as part of the activities for National Engineering Week. Engineering student groups and projects, including UWAFT, Mini-Baja, Formula SAE, WARG, Clean Snowmobile, Women in Engineering, and Engineers without

Borders set up their booths and projects and fielded questions from curious onlookers throughout the day. The Engineering Society's beloved mascot, The TOOL, a giant 60-inch wrench, was also on display (secured by chains, of course).

The event was organized by Sameer Rehman, Director for National Engineering Week with the assistance of Co-directors Taneem Talukdar, Sonya Chang and Kristen Yee Loong.



Got Milk ? Winter 2005 08SYS Coffeehouse



GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

Time, playing four pieces and featuring several great solos from different instruments. WRTT will also be playing at EngPlay this weekend. The next big event was an elaborate juggling act by Professor Joe West, who is teaches differential equations by day, and juggles everything and anything by the afternoon. Joe West juggled glow-in-the-dark balls while synchronized with music of different tempos and timbres. Another guest group that performed was UW Hip Hop, which put on an awesome show.

On Friday March 4th, 2A Systems Design class hosted a coffeehouse at POETS to showcase the plethora of SYDE talent this term. This high profile event was organized by Cheng Hu of 08SYS and was not just attended by SYDES, but Chems, Mechs, profs, even some non-engineers were among the audience.

Other notable shows of Systems talent included a cappella by some SYaniDE students, freestyling and rapping by a ghetto SYaniDE lab group, random singing by 08SYS classmates, drumming by Andrew D'Souza and Chris Pellett, juggling by

The evening started off with the engineering jazz ensemble With Respect To



Look at all that delicious milk, lined up for Moat-racing.

Kristen Yee Loong and Chris P, short film directed by Kirk Steele, and shaving cream spraying (don't ask). While performances were happening, coffee, hot chocolate, brownies and other snack food-stuffs were freely available for the audience. The last event was Alex Magdanz and his band playing a several songs on acoustic and electric guitar. Skilled with the guitar and possessing musical ingenuity, Alex regularly writes songs on his spare time.

ended with a milk chugging contest, which literally tested (or redefined) participants' lactose tolerance. "Moat-racing" involved a shitload of people downing a shitload of milk in the shortest time possible and trying their best to hold it in. This term, moat-racing teams were formed to down even more milk in the shortest time possible as the contest guidelines were modified. The '09 Mechs (1B Mechalomaniacs) were represented with their veteran boat-racers, who eventually came out victorious, unseating previous term champion Katelyn Poyntz (who not only won the milk chugging contest, but also downed pure goat milk... yummm).

The coffeehouse ended with Funny Man Mike, a comedian from BlindSyded, who kept the crowd entertained while 08SYS converted CPH into a beer hall...that served only milk. But the milk was not for the audience!

Overall, the night's event was a huge success. Stay tuned for the SYDE Coffeehouse and moat-racing next term!

Last term, the SYDE Coffeehouse



Milk: It does a body good.



Cindy's Kitchen



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

Before I started researching for recipes for this issue, my knowledge of African cuisine was limited to couscous. In fact, I still don't know very much, but it will suffice for this issue.

Mandarin-Radish Salad

This salad is called Shlada Fijl Wa Latsheen. Honestly, don't ask how to pronounce it properly. I can't. However, it's easy and pleasant.

While testing, I added less sugar than the recipe called for. It largely depends on your preference and the sweetness of the mandarins oranges. As well, I admit I didn't use any orange blossom water. I didn't have any and couldn't think of any other way to use it if I actually purchased some. If any hardcore foodies out there tested it with orange blossom water, please let me know how it turned out. In fact, bring me some if you feel generous.

- 12 seedless mandarins, peeled, sectioned
 - 1 cup coarsely grated red radishes
 - 1/4 cup each: lemon juice, brown sugar
 - 1 tbsp olive oil
 - 1 tsp orange blossom water (optional)
 - 1/2 tsp each: salt, ground cinnamon
1. In bowl, combine mandarins and radishes.
 2. In small bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Pour over mandarin mixture.

3. Toss and serve immediately.
Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Fruit Cocktail Cake

Courtesy of Alpha Silvius

I first tried this cake at last year's Thanksgiving dinner; it was brought by one of our guest, Bernice Silvius. This is a cake she grew up with in South Africa. It is a wonderfully versatile dessert, can be served warm with vanilla custard, cold with ice cream, or just eaten straight. The syrup makes it moist, a bit like bread pudding.

The recipe uses self-raising flour. There are directions I found on how to make the equivalent with flour and baking powder, but I have never tried, so you may have to experiment a little by yourself.

Cake:

- 2 cups self rising flour
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 500ml can of fruit cocktail

Syrup:

- 1/2 cup condensed milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 4 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cut shredded coconuts

1. Butter an 8 by 11 inch baking dish.
2. Beat eggs and mix all cake ingredients together. Do not drain the fruit cocktail
3. Bake at 350F for about 30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean.
4. Mix all syrup ingredients and brings to a boil.
5. Prick the cake with a fork and pour the syrup on top until it's absorbed.

Your Chosen Five Are The Ones Who Mattered



CINDY BAO
3B ELECTRICAL

Once met a strongly opinionated individual who asked anyone believing in the notion of Heaven, "So when you die, you will go to Heaven and sit at the right hand side of God. What do you do the second day?"

The debate on the different ideas of Heaven seems to get as touchy and confusing as the ones on whether a Heaven exists. For example, Anthony DeStefano's *A Travel Guide to Heaven* describes it as the "ultimate playground, created purely for our enjoyment." Somehow, this "Disney World, Hawaii, Paris, Rome and New York all rolled up into one", where you can talk literature with Jane Austen and metaphysics with Einstein, gave me a feeling that it is definitely not heaven for the above two individuals. On the other hand, a more interesting version can be found in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

In this novel, death is not the end, but only the beginning. 83-year-old amusement park maintenance worker Eddie died in a ride accident trying to save a little girl. Widowed with no children, he died penniless and lonely. Yet Albom makes you care about his ordinary protagonist more than you think as the narration progresses.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau once said, "At first we do not know how to live; and when we know how to live it is too late." In this heaven, you are given another chance to relive your earthly life, and have the events explained to you by five individuals. Some are loved ones, some total strangers, yet each, through fate (or happenstances, depending on your perspective), had altered the courses of your path.

While alive, Eddie always regretted that he didn't achieve something grander. In an age where everyone is busy trying to get ahead and never look back, surely he's not the only one. Therefore, a heaven to reflect our life seems reassuring. Yet, somehow, it raises some questions that one hardly ever does, even doesn't dare to, think too deeply about. How easy is it for us to finally make peace with ourselves? Can we really come to terms with who we were, and the mistakes and foolish things we wished that we haven't done, especially after we learn how one thing or another can profoundly impact the life of a fellow human being?

Despite being a very interesting and thought-provoking read, I do have one complaint. The serenity of this heaven seems somewhat man-made, like the hot pink, artificial-tasting strawberry ice cream you had as a kid. Maybe it's just I set my expectation unusually high, but Albom's other book *Tuesdays with Morrie* has proven that he is capable of more genuine emotions and sincerity.

Now, only one question remains: "Who will be my five people?"

Album Review: 'Worlds Apart'



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

Anyone who listened to...And You Will Know Us By The Trail Of Dead's 2002 *Source Tags and Codes* album has no doubt been waiting for this release with bated breath. After all, the Texas indie-rock band was hailed as "the next Nirvana", and *Source Tags and Codes* was the first release where Trail of Dead was able to successfully combine their chaotic noise-rock with beautiful song-writing and hints of orchestration. Based on this, I went out and bought *Worlds Apart* sight-unseen, song-unheard. But it was aptly titled indeed- this album is worlds apart from *Source Tags & Codes*, and even their recent *Elena's Tomb* EP. Whether that's a good or a bad thing- I'll leave it up to you.

Right away, there's something different about *Worlds Apart*- that big ugly 'Parental Advisory' obscuring the epic hand-painted album art. Trail of Dead has never shied away from an f-word in the interests of art, but they certainly hadn't struck me as a band capable of earning that designation.

The album opens with a scary instrumental track called 'Ode to Isis'- a crescendo of piano and chanting which culminates in an unearthly scream and a whispered incantation of the band's own name. Kind of strange- it's not really a song, but rather the kind of stuff they hid between the tracks on their last album.

Things improve immediately. The second track, 'Will You Smile Again', is arguably the strongest on the album, and possibly the one that most resembles their earlier stuff. It starts with a pounding guitar riff, complete with furious and frantic drums. But after a minute and a bit, the song shifts dramatically into a slow, melodic, dreamy passage, with horns and sax in the background almost reminiscent of Dave Matthews. And then, after a build-up of cymbals, there's yet another change- we are left alone with a one-two bass drum beat. This is where the real meat of the song gets going (did I mention it's seven minutes long?). Trail Of Dead's impeccable sense of melody makes this vocal/bass/drum passage (with occasional guitar squawks) exceptionally strong- plus, they're singing about writer's block- a topic to which every IW editor can relate. Eventually, the guitars come back in, and the track closes on the same chaotic riff it started on.

The next track, 'Worlds Apart', is surprisingly one of the weaker ones on the album. Despite a great catchy melody and sing-along vocals, the lyrical subject matter is extremely disappointing coming from Trail of Dead. This song alone is responsible for the Parental Advisory. Instead of the introspective soul-searching lyrical artistry they usually employ, they take uninspired cheap shots at the current rock scene, MTV celebrities, even American politics. Seriously, can't they come up with better than the term "cars and

cribs and rings and shit"?

Overall, the rest of the album is solid. The band begins to explore more melodic, multilayered, orchestrated compositions with songs like the piano-driven rocker 'Summer of '91', and the non-stop drums on 'The Rest Will Follow' pull this dense, swirling track along at a furious pace. And while 'Will You Smile Again' is the only track that really captures the energy of *Source Tags and Codes*, others come close. 'Caterwaul' comes on pretty strong and stays intense all the way through, and one-note-at-a-time piano bridges have never sounded so heavy. 'A Classic Arts Showcase' lurches along to a groovy off-beat rhythm, and speaks of 'the shit they're writing in the Stone or NME'. (The Stone actually gave this album a pretty decent review!) The song breaks down into a swelling string interlude, then kicks right back into high gear.

'Let it Dive', the eighth track out of twelve, is arguably the last great one on the album. Although it follows a rather predictable verse-chorus format, it is simply a beautiful track, with incessant drums and a wall of guitar that simply shines. It's a good break-up song, for all you forlorn lovers out there, written with all the goodness of Trail of Dead!

'To Russia My Homeland' is an odd, violin-driven instrumental that seems to be included on the album simply as a 'found-art object'. But 'All White' is an excellent track for being only a minute and a half long. It tells the story of the night on the town, from the symphony to the parking lot to the bar to the dance floor, and culminates with our hero sticking his head in the sink. It's a pity this track suffers from over-production... the electric piano and background singers make it almost sound like Queen. It's good, but it's not Trail of Dead. 'The Best' starts promisingly with piercing guitar, but soon turns jerky and slow- it's intriguing, though, a solid track although not brilliant.

On the last track, 'Lost City of Refuge', Trail of Dead pulls the same stunt they did on the *Elena's Tomb* EP- electronic beats. It worked on the EP- here, it does not. Despite a hepped-up interlude with real drums, this track is the Trail of Dead equivalent of lounge music.

Overall, this would be an excellent album- a band experimenting with orchestration and composition, taking a step away from their old sound... it's too bad that their old sound was so utterly amazing. *Worlds Apart* will never live up to *Source Tags and Codes*, but it is an exciting album in its own right. If you're just getting into Trail of Dead, I actually suggest that you buy this album first.



Rheostatics at the Starlight Social Club

NEAL DAMGAARD
3A CIVIL

On Thursday, March 10, the Rheostatics, a classic Canadian band (two of their albums made it onto the CBC's list of the all-time top ten Canadian records) played at the Starlight Social Club on King St. I had never seen the band, but had heard glowing reports of their prowess, so I decided to forgo the pleasure of cramming for a geotech quiz in order to make it to the show. I was not in any way disappointed (until quiz time, that is).

Arguably the best Canadian band never to make it big, the Rheostatics have been playing together for almost twenty years. Perhaps one reason they have so far been missing commercial success is their refusal to be pigeonholed. It's difficult to say what style of music they play; it's a bit like a lot of things, but always ends up sounding only like the Rheostatics. One thing which can be said for sure is that it's thoroughly Canadian. References to the towns and

peoples of the great white North abound. Their nationality also shows through their character: they find room for both levity and seriousness in their music, reflect on the simpler incidents and accidents of life, and leave the agendas aside.

The years they have spent together are evident: when these fellows play, they play well. They're tight and together, and they obviously enjoy playing with each other and to an appreciative crowd. Their songs (all their own material) are catchy and easy to get into. The end result is a highly enjoyable show. It's also good value for your money: the \$10 ticket allows a substantial sum to be set aside for beverages (of which there is a good selection at the bar), and the shows usually last two hours or more, so you're in for a fine, full set of songs.

It was my first time at the Starlight Social Club, and the experience was entirely positive. It's a bit retro, with plastic leather chairs and funky lamps. The venue is modishly lit, with comfortable sofas where you can sit and read up on the new



and classic music acts. Drinks are reasonable, and the staff are pretty cool, unlike some of the peculiarly enraged paranoiacs you can stumble across in other venues. Most importantly, the sound is great and the contact with the band is immediate and intense.

In a word: I'm told the Rheostatics come through town about once a year. If their next visit happens to fall during your stay in Waterloo, go to the show. I promise that you won't regret it.

Million Dollar Bigotry?

DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

Looks like Clint Eastwood's really got it right this time. His latest film, *Million Dollar Baby*, won a bunch of Oscars, gained critical acclaim from most of the top film critics in America, and is being hailed as a real Hollywood masterpiece. It's all good, right? Depends on who you ask. I am not writing to talk about the film-making of Clint Eastwood or the successes or failures of *Million Dollar Baby* as a movie. Instead, I want to deal with the unspoken message which the film carries with it, one that has scholars and activists alike up-in-arms about it.

In the movie, (Warning! Plot spoilers just ahead!) Hilary Swank plays Maggie, a young woman who manages to goad Eastwood's character Frankie into training her to be the best female boxer out there. However, she breaks her neck and becomes a quadriplegic, and the movie suddenly changes into a disability tragedy. No doubt it was this kind of radical plot shift that garnered the film some of its praise, but as the movie progresses, Maggie loses a leg to infection and ends up asking Frankie to help her die, to which he agrees.

Now the problem with this is not just the sudden and dramatic inconsistency in Maggie's character (why would a feisty young boxer who would stop at nothing to get to the top suddenly change personalities into a total defeatist?), but also the broader message which the film portrays to many people: that a disabled life is not worth living.

This is what has the disabled activists and scholars furious. As the film moved towards production and release, protests and activism by the disabled community have been rife. And understandably so- this movie is blatantly stating that a disabled life is not worth living. Why else would such a driven character suddenly want to stop living after a disabling accident?

This kind of attitude reveals the bias of 'ableism' deeply ingrained in our society. Despite continuous steps towards accessibility, or perhaps because of them, people are ignoring the social issue at hand, that is to say the treatment of disabled people as second-class citizens. You've seen it- we all have- that attitude of pity and condescension that society tends to adopt towards disabled citizens, the obligatory comment about how 'brave' they are or how you 'admire their struggle', and then the uncomfortable withdrawal and hushed comment about how you're 'glad you're not them'.

It is totally baseless. Disabled people are capable of living lives as productive and happy as anyone else- studies confirm that on the whole, disabled people are more satisfied with their lives than able people- that is, if society gives them a chance to.

It is said that the disabled rights movement is now where the civil rights movement was in the 1950s. But ableism is a fallacy, and like so many others before it, it too will fall. *Million Dollar Baby* draws attention to a very important issue in our society today... that is, if we could look past all the Hollywood accolades and see the film for what it's really saying. For more info, take a look at www.not-deadyet.org.

Everyone Calls Me A Trendsetter— They're Absolutely Right!



KEVIN PO
2A SYSTEMS

Offensive article titles are so effective. See, you're reading my article right now! Anyways, let's get started with a certain Swedish dance sensation:

Gunther (<http://www.gunthermet.com>)
Sounds like? The greatest dance music you have heard / are listening to / will ever hear.



One day, back in the summer term, I was working on a Digital Systems group project upstairs on the fourth floor. We were happily working away until Mark Brawley (now an A-Soccer) showed up. Now, if you know Mark, if he has a grin on his face, you know something's up. That's when he showed us www.gunthermet.com. At first, we thought Gunther was a joke. Brawley disagreed. He showed us the "Ding Dong Song" video and after playing it for 30 seconds, we were instantly hooked. It's hard to describe Gunther's true appeal. It could be his armpit hair or his puckered lips. Perhaps it's even his killer mullet. Then again, he does have hilarious lyrics, catchy beats and good videos. Anyhow, after watching that video, we knew that Gunther was awesome. What we didn't expect was the quality of his debut CD. Gunther's debut record is stellar; it's equivalent to a musical jigsaw. The man moves from high energy songs such as "Gold Diggers," and "Naughty Boy" to slower paced songs such as "Pleasureman" and "Touch Me," while maintaining that deep, rich Gunther-style trademark voice. His best song, "I'm the Man," is not only addictive, but gives

us listeners seven reasons (one for every letter of his name) why he truly is, "the man." Overall, I recommend the entire CD and the "Ding Dong Song" video. Simply fantastic stuff.

Streetlight Manifesto

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

Sounds like? SKA!!

Streetlight Manifesto is a group formed by the remnants of Catch 22. They combine the typical ska sound (brass instruments), gang vocals and some very catchy hooks. There is nothing revolutionary to their approach, but when it comes to ska music today, they are my golden standard. The key to Streetlight Manifesto's success is the incredible amount of attitude they add to all their songs. You can literally feel how much fun they must have had recording each tune just by listening to each track on "Everything Goes Numb." The songs themselves are great, with some common trumpet themes tying themselves together. I recommend "A Moment of Silence," "A Better Place, A Better Time" and "Here's to Life."

Thrice

(<http://www.thrice.net>)
Sounds like? Post-hardcore I guess ... They're good and that's all that matters.

Thrice is yet another band from Orange County, California. The difference between them and other similar acts, such as Avenged Sevenfold, is that their lyrics are not absurdly funny. That and they don't wear eyeliner, which is essentially the new trend nowadays (*cough* My Chemical Romance *cough*.) Thrice began in August 1998 with an idea to start a local band. After a bit of practice and some touring, they put out "Identity Crisis." The record was fairly successful and combined hard guitars with some anthems. After a bit more practice and some more touring, they released "The Illusion of Safety." This album had a greater amount of success, with even heavier guitars and darker lyrics than their previous record. It also had everyone's favorite Thrice song, "Deadbolt." After even more practice and even more touring, they released "The Artist in the Ambulance." This record was a change of pace compared to their previous sound since they added some catchier hooks and sing-a-long choruses. I guess that's what happens when you sign onto a major label like Island Records. Either way, the record was still solid. It had radio friendly songs, for instance "All That's Left" and "Stare At the Sun," as well as tunes such as "Under the Killing Moon" with the signature Thrice sound.

They then toured a bit more, and now they're writing their next record which is due to release later this year. So in summary, Thrice is good. My recommendations have already been mentioned above.

Mae

Sounds like? They're like a bagel with that garlic spread found in the C&D. Yeah, they're THAT GOOD.

I didn't care too much about Mae's previous release since it seemed pretty boring. Let's skip it and move onto their upcoming release, "The Everglow." This album is simply beautiful. Each track on this album is intertwined with one another to create one encompassing story. The melodies are soothing, and are easy to listen to when studying. In terms of instrumentals, Mae uses a solo piano for some songs, while switching to a full band for others. I recommend "We're So Far Away," "Suspension" and "The Sun and the Moon."

Acceptance

Sounds like? Pop-punk/Emo. They're next big thing.

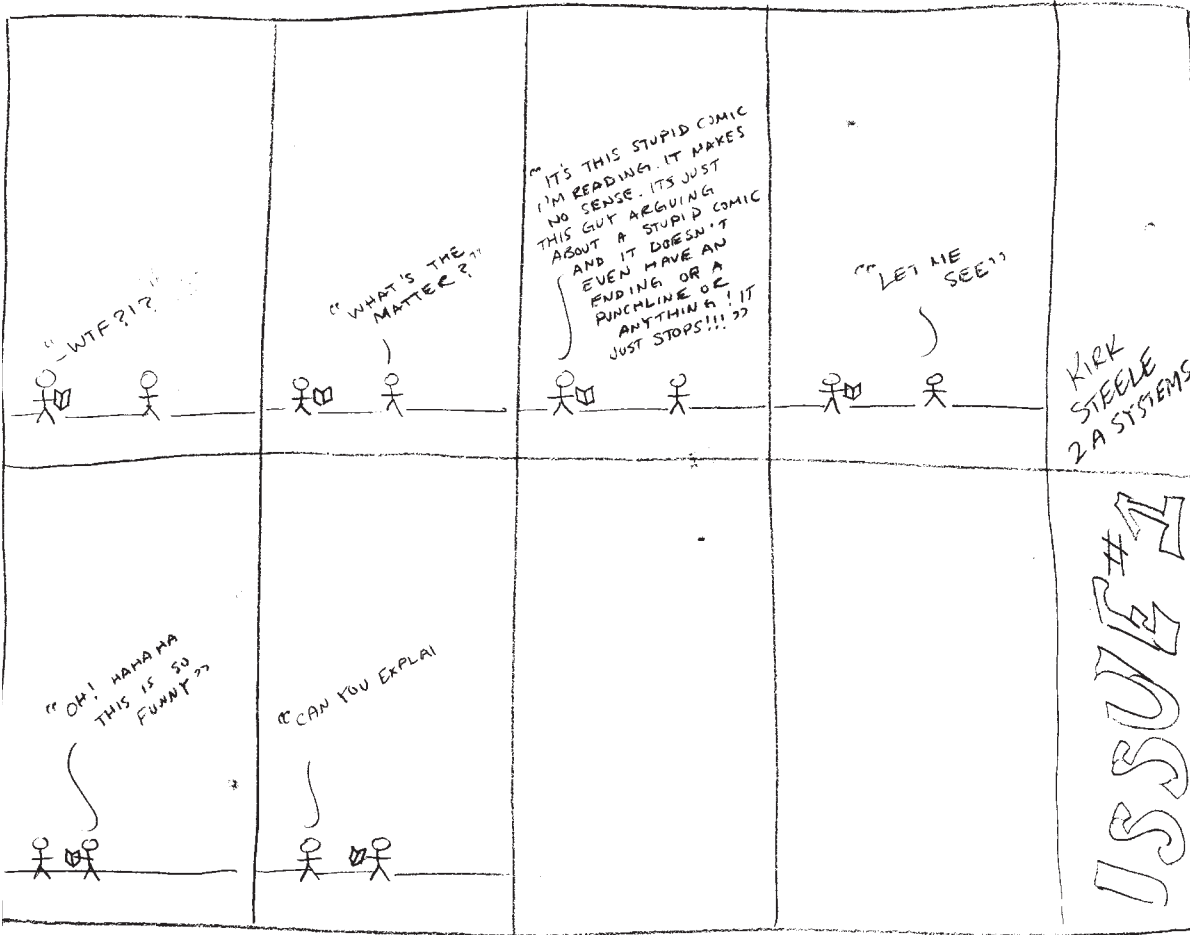
The last band in this article will likely be the one you'll be hearing the most from over the next few months. This band's upcoming full length, "Phantoms," is not only a very well produced record, but it is receiving significant major label support (a.k.a. Sony.) Acceptance combines sweeping melodies, simple guitar riffs and great sounding vocals. It's as simple as that. I recommend "Seeing is Believing" from their previous "Black Lines To Battlefields" EP, as well as "Permanent," and "Gloria/Us Appearing" off of "Phantoms."

Well, that's another review down the hole. Next issue, I'll focus on some bands with a bit more recognition that are currently assaulting mainstream charts (hint: three bands are from Long Island, New York.) Bye Bye, Get Up Kids.

Extra stuff:

I really like acoustic songs so here are a couple in case you like them as well:

- The Spill Canvas – The Tide
- The Spill Canvas – The Night Will Go As Follows
- Brand New – Play Crack the Sky
- Say Anything – I Want to Know Your Plans
- Yellowcard – Rough Draft
- Motion City Soundtrack – My Favorite Accident (Acoustic)
- Millencolin – The Ballad
- Rufio – Face the Truth
- Rise Against – Swing Life Away



Untitled

Rahul Bhardwaj, 3B Electrical

There was this number eleven,
 Calling me back home,
 Whisper in the winds of seven,
 Now they are throwing stones,
 A Blinding Halo on each step,
 Bodies rub like sheets,
 Each touch has betrayed me yet,
 Bodies bang to the WarDrum's beat,
 This bored reality gives in,
 Caves into my own,
 This body cannot hold within,
 The escaping love it has ripped and torn,
 Punished and bleeding with every impact,
 And now they are throwing stones.
 I couldn't lie to her,
 It would hurt too much if I ever did,
 Cannot stare at the halo grow brighter?
 The Sun's inferno burning, life it does give
 Blind, lost and out of control,

Beaten and smashed on every step,
 Life spins on a spiral spirits,
 Lost, I have no soul, stones hitting me right and left
 Yet she still calls me through the darkness,
 Seduction lies within,
 As lust takes over, Blind with no soul,
 I submit to her Highness's whim
 On this path of life I walk to the end,
 Running away, liberated over the sea
 Even though I know, I know her every promise is
 empty,
 A Stab by the light into the dark,
 Un hurt, every stone was hollow, then she threw one
 too,
 A Stab by the light into my heart
 And now She's throwing stones too!!
 A Stab by your betrayal, into my heart,
 ...why?...and now she's throwing stones too.....

UW Profs

Joachim D'Costa



Water

By John Olaveson, 3A Civil

A water drop hits my head,
 As I pass beneath a tree.
 It soaks me through,
 Douses me in vibrant liquid,
 Washes me into the gutter
 And drags me down to the wastewater
 treatment plant.
 Swirling twirling turbines
 Chew my bones apart.
 My pieces fall to the bottom of a sedi-
 mentation tank, mix with a million
 molecules of chlorine,
 And end up as fish fodder
 In a faraway chemical dumping zone.
 Recycled through time,
 Eaten by fish, foxes and fleas.
 It's all the same to me now,
 An inanimate package of parts,
 Worn and weary,
 Floating in a cesspool of silt
 And limestone deposits.
 Time turns me to peat, to coal,
 To a brilliant diamond gleaming in the
 deep darkness in the Earth's heart,
 To be turned into a jewel in a wedding
 band worn once, and lost down the
 drain.

Unicorns and Rainbows

Taneem A. Talukdar, 2A Systems Design
 Unicorns and Rainbows in Regent Park, Toronto

Why do you fear God daddy,
 and his eternal burning and brimstone?
 we live in hell anyway

bullet frags, white powder
 triple locked doors
 broken up homes

and always,
 the lost children
 "thug life yo"
 (only kind I know)

a sharply grey world,
 but turn on the telly:

unicorns and rainbows
 everybody's hugging
 OMNI 2, Canada we're so diverse!
 and yet
 I am so cold

Editorial Haiku

Dan Arnott, 2A Environmental

callous disregard
 for wise words writ long ago
 yet we all must learn

ice on the roadside
 black as all our hidden thoughts
 sodium chloride

stricken with a cold
 james goes home to recover
 fallen warrior

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
 iwarrrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

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

Prof quotes

"Aren't chemistry words awesome? My wife doesn't ask me to talk dirty to her at night, she asks me to talk chemistry to her. Damn."

—Forshey, CHEM 38

(after talking about polycyclic compounds and how they are in smoke)

"Smoking cigarettes is bad. Weed? That's bad too, probably worse, because there is no filter. You might as well just have it in brownies."

—Forshey, CHEM 38

"Now what do you want to know the heat transfer coefficient for? [Students mention several scenarios.] Why don't we just calculate it for a deer's antlers?"

—Dr. Mario, CHE 30

"This data structure can hold billions of records...billions with a big B!"

—Singh, ECE 456

"First of all, this theorem is weird, right?"

—Davison, on the Principle of Argument, ECE 380

"They [induction motors] are very friendly; they aren't going to harm you."

—Jayaram, ECE 362

"If you don't know Thevenin, I'll send you back to first year. I'm the Dean, I can do that."

—Sedra, ECE 332

"You should practice bus synchronization at home. Get drunk one night, play the bus game... if you get it wrong, you have to take a shot."

—Gorbet, ECE 324

"The bottom surface is the cone; the top surface is the ice cream."

—Xie, ENVE 221

"It's all happy, everybody's eating, it's like a smorgasbord for these microorganisms, they're having a few cocktails, having a good time..."

—Emelko, ENVE 276

"The U.S. Department of Defense has

made such a mess of the U.S., trying to protect the U.S... I can say this, I'm an American citizen, freedom of speech or something."

—Emelki, ENVE 276

"I can see that this vibrating beam makes you excited"

—Potapenko, CIVE 331

"The TAs have already completed their part and you know, as I am a lazy bastard..."

—Potapenko, CIVE 331

"Consolidation is the simplest, most complicated thing that is easy to understand."

—Knight, CIVE 353

"Its not difficult if you keep it simple."

—Mark Knight, CIVE 353

"I love confused classes....Confusion is the first step to acquiring knowledge"

—Tizhoosh, SYDE 223

"Researchers around the world dream about the big-Oh every night."

—Tizhoosh, SYDE 223

"What's zero times infinity? [Class looks distraught.] Why don't we just take the halfway point, and says its 100."

—West, SYDE 211

"I feel sorry for the 3rd quadrant, people never spend any time there."

—West, SYDE 211

"Are there any other questions I can't answer?"

—West, SYDE 211

"This is what five years of higher education does to you." (after the scantily clad, overly joyous, IRS bunch stormed the class)

—Hepler, SYDE 281

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

The tale of the green fairy

KATHERINE CHIANG

"Once upon a time, there was a Green Fairy. Now, the Green Fairy wasn't a nice fairy, she was evil. She makes people mad, and makes them do evil things..."

If there was a tale in the early 1900s to caution people against the dangers of absinthe, this would likely be how it starts. Absinthe, also known as the Green Fairy, dates back to the time of Hippocrates. The drink was long considered an elixir as well as a remedy for various illnesses in the ancient times, and was very different from the modern versions that many artists, including van Gogh, Picasso and Hemingway, had enjoyed.

Absinthe is a spirit, infused with the essence of wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*) and various other herbs, giving it an emerald green hue – thus the name "Green Fairy". The ancient versions of absinthe consist of wormwood leaves soaked in various wines, beers and other spirits. The modern version of absinthe came out of a small Swiss town call Couvet in the late 1700s. It was said to have been invented by a doctor named Pierre Ordinaire, who fled France during the French Revolution. Dr. Ordinaire apparently discovered the wormwood plant, and knowing its ancient uses, combined it with other herbs and plants to create a concoction of cure-all remedy. Dr. Ordinaire's recipe for absinthe was given to two sisters in Couvet, and eventually landed in the hands of Henri-Louis Pernod, who later opened the world's first and oldest absinthe distillery.

The popularity of absinthe rose when artists of the 1800s discovered the stimulatory effects of the drink, which apparently boosts creativity. Wormwood, the key ingredient in absinthe, contains a chemical called Thujone. It is believed that Thujone, being structurally similar to the key ingredient of Marijuana, was the reason for the "high".

The use of absinthe was accused in many accounts throughout the 1800s and the early 1900s as the reason behind violent crimes, which may or may not have its merits. At the time, unscrupulous manufacturers sell alcohol with many impurities and poisonous chemicals, which causes

addictions and hallucinations among other things. This kind of "fake" absinthe triggered many health problems, which uninformed public blamed on the real absinthe. The series of accusations and petitions against the use of absinthe eventually led to the ban on absinthe in almost every country in Europe by 1920.

However, according to chemical analysis of bottles of 100 year-old absinthe, there is no Thujone in the distillate (hint: it won't make you crazy if you drink it!), which meant that the basis for banning this absolutely wonderful drink is completely unfounded. Perhaps this is why some countries, like France, are now lifting the ban on absinthe, and hopefully one day, we will see the recognition that the green fairy rightfully deserves. Now, if only I can sneak a bottle of that stuff in through customs.....

Campus Events

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.

EngPlay: You Can't Take it With You

March 18 (8:00 pm), March 19 (2:00 and 8:00 pm)

Location: AL 113

Cost: \$6

There is a horrible stereotype about engineers. Actually there are a few...but let's set one straight. The one that deters a beloved audience from coming out to see an Engineering play – a production put on by those unsocial, technically quirky, blood-sucking vermin, er, engineers.

The truth is, and it's not enough to speak, but to speak true, if you prick them do they not bleed? If you tickle them do they not laugh? If you poison them do they not die? And if they put on a play, should you not go?

So let's go to the EngPlay. Come out and see Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's "You Can't Take it With You" brought to you by the UW Engineering Society. Ticket Sales: Mar 11-18 (11:30-1:30pm) CPH Foyer. For more info, contact: bsoc_drama@gmail.uwaterloo.ca.

Born to Be Mild — A sensible introduction to motorcycles

March 23, 7:00 pm

Location: E2-1303E

Presented by the Engineering Alumni Waterloo Area Chapter, this event will feature an expert panel from the police, rider training, insurance, and a dealer. Bikes and equipment will be on display. Students, faculty and staff are all welcome and the event is free. Contact WACboard@hotmail.com for more information.

Hungry Dan Enjoys Jamaican Jerk



DAN ARNOTT
2A ENVIRONMENTAL

To most students, the University Plaza represents a great wealth of potential, a veritable smorgasbord of wonderfully diverse culinary experiences just waiting to be tried out. Foods from around the world, all shapes, sizes, flavours, compositions, and price ranges. And a nice alternative from Cindy's Kitchen, too. (Sorry, Cindy, but we both know that I am too lazy to cook for myself). How can a student be expected to select from all these options? Well, we at the Iron Warrior are here to help.

On March 9th, 2005, I decided to eat out for a change. In a mood for something a little different, I settled on Jamaican Jerk, located two doors down from Campus Pizza and right next to Subway. The place was pretty empty when I walked in, but incredibly clean, and although it was colourful, it didn't assault my eyes.

Jamaican Jerk offers a variety of Caribbean cuisine- the ever-popular Jerk Chicken, Oxtail, curried chicken, beef, lamb, and shrimp, stir-fry, and many other tasty dishes. Large and small-sized dinners were available, although there was slightly less selection in the small-dinner menu. Large dinners ran about \$10; small ones were \$6.99, but as a student, I was eligible for the Student Special, a small dinner for \$5.99. I selected the Jerk Chicken- this place is Jamaican Jerk after all, right?

In addition to a meaty leg and thigh of Jerk Chicken (served from a hotwell behind the counter), I received a bowlful of seasoned rice, a fried plantain (small red banana type thing), as well as my choice of salad, pasta salad, or coleslaw. I chose the slaw. A formidable meal for the price! Drinks were extra, and the selection included traditional pop, water, and juice, as well as ginger beer and other exotic soft drinks.

I sat down to enjoy my plentiful bounty of hot, fresh Jamaican food. The chicken was well-cooked but tender, and the jerk seasoning was nice and strong, but not overpowering, providing a nice spicy sensation without the horrible burning.

The coleslaw was crispy and fresh (although not particularly Jamaican), and the rice was cooked just right. The plantain was decent too... it looks a little strange, but tastes fine. The first time I ate at Jamaican Jerk, I had no idea what it was, and tasted it with some trepidation, but was pleasantly surprised. It was a big meal- I was definitely full by the end.

A warning: Each table comes equipped with a little bottle of 'Jamaican Scotch Bonnet Hot Pepper Sauce'. I thought it would add a little flavour to my rice. And it did. But the trick is this: ONLY USE A LITTLE BIT. It was too much for my Anglo-Saxon taste buds to handle, and even the rest of my water would not quell the burning. I rushed to the washrooms (labelled 'Bwoy' and 'Gal') to get more.

In conclusion, when you've had your fill of pizza and sushi, Jamaican Jerk provides a bit of a different flavour for all you jaded university students out there. There aren't many places in the University Plaza that can make you full for the low, low price of only \$5.99. And I hate to do the obvious thing and quote the late, great Mr. Marley (that's Bob Marley, all you Dickens fans out there), but some times you've just got to "Stir it Up".

The Great Winter War of Waterloo

KRISTEN YEE LOONG & GABRIEL CHAN
2A SYSTEMS DESIGN

At the University of Waterloo, the sheer stress of rivalry flowing through engineering classes has caused unparalleled tension within the Engineering Society, with total war threatening to break out between these forces at any moment. The slightest pressure would trigger a strain in relations—that trigger was the fresh snow that regularly blankets the K-W region every other day.

A few weeks ago at 11:30, while the rest of campus was scurrying to class or scurrying to lunch or scurrying to class with lunch, engineering classes were engaging in snowball combat between CPH and E2.

08SYS had the highest turnout and quickly fortified the POETS patio. History repeats itself as all the other classes form an uneasy alliance, also known as OMNI. To oppose the superior numbers of 08SYS,

OMNI had fielded some impressive technologies, such as the human catapult (a guy with a shovel) and operation human shield (a guy with a piece of ducttaped cardboard).

The first hostile action was initiated by Chemikazes lobbing long-range snowballs at the 08SYS fortification, who responded with a shower of long-range projectiles, while a small task force was deployed to engage OMNI head on.

Fighting was fierce on the frontlines, as people pelted each other at point blank range. Occasionally, someone would get snow-stuffed into a snow drift amidst the flying fluffy projectiles. The war took another interesting turn as OMNI decided to charge on 08SYS. At this point, the number of snow-stuffing and snow-wrestling attacks increased dramatically. The human catapult was captured by 08SYS while some OMNI infiltrated the 08SYS stronghold on POETS patio.

The rules of engagement state that no

journalists shall be attacked; I ran into the battlefield putting my life, and more importantly my camera, in harms way. It was noted that innocent onlookers were intentionally and unintentionally targeted by everyone, including the war correspondent. I guess international law does not apply to UW during cold winter terms.

The most daring assault of the day was conducted by Andrew Lee from 08SYS, who attacked OMNI with a boulder, threw out his back, and managed to still run away a little before taking a beating from Evan Murphy of Green Eggs and RAM.

Everyone was in good spirits, even Richard Winograd of Green Eggs and RAM, who was pinned down by 08SYS and took a fluffy boulder to the head. He walked it off like a man. It was good clean fun on part of everyone, except when Evan Murphy who resorted to cross-checking Peter Szabo of 08SYS with the shovel on POETS patio.



Kamikaze Attack by Andrew Lee (08SYS)

the Iron Inquisition

Cindy Bao, 3B Electrical

What is your best memory of Engineering at Waterloo?



There was that time at the Bomber...
– Andrew Ferguson, 4B Mech



Getting a physics quiz cancelled, 'cause I proved the question was impossible.
– Ian Machenzie, 3B Sys



IRS, baby!
– Alice Malisia 4B Sys



Chanting about Edcom's water.
– David Fanning, 3B Elec



Still trying to make one
– Andrew Elnazir, 3B Elec



Probably the ones I don't remember.
– Josh Levitz, 4B Mech



Dancing with Mary.
– Sarah Seriga, 4B Civ



Back in the days, 1A; Bomber Wednesday and eating Gino's pizza at 4am.
– Michele Heng, 3B Sys