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the IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 1 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006



Hail Harper!

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Visiting the UW Observatory

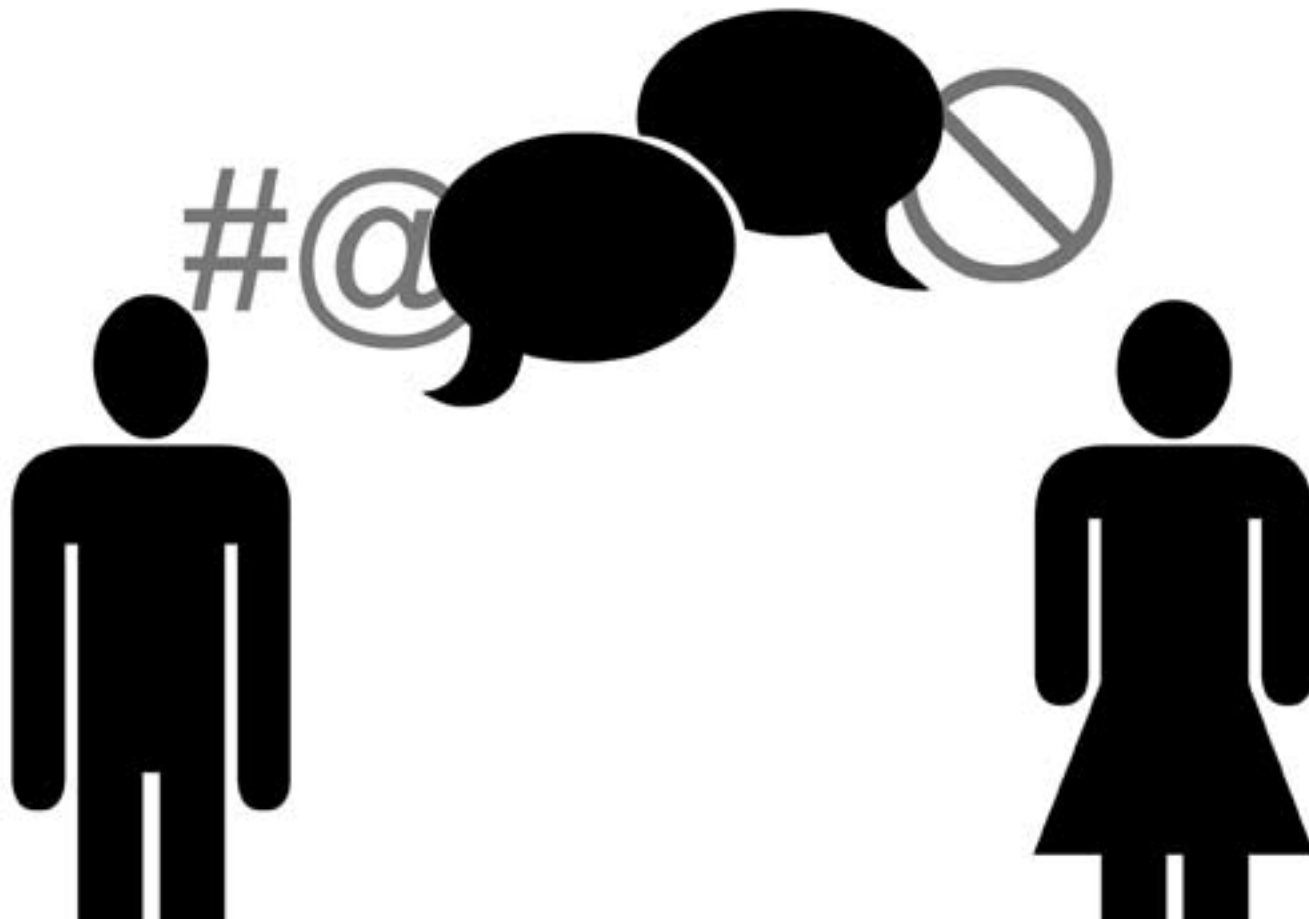
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Never too much sex, way too many sex colums

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EngSoc Meeting Apologies



NICK LAWLER
PRESIDENT

Firstly, I would like to apologize to all the students, faculty and administration for the outrageous behaviour at the January 11th Engineering Society meeting. As president it was my responsibility to control the meeting and in this case it got beyond my control and for that I am truly sorry.

Misogyny has no place in an academic institution such as the University of Waterloo. However, it especially concerns me when it appears at such an alarming rate in engineering, which already has a difficult time attracting women to their programs and creating a safe environment for women engineers.

After the January 11th meeting, I took it upon myself to have discussions with all those parties involved with the inappropriate actions and warned them that their behaviour was unacceptable and offensive. I also plan to give a presentation on sexual harassment, which will take place on Wednesday January 18, 2006 at 5:30 in CPH 3385. This meeting is mandatory for all class reps. The meeting is being held to outline proper conduct of a professional student. We will be going over sexual harassment guidelines and rules, as well as going over issues that the engineering profession has with harassment, sexuality and

women among its members. We will also be organizing a charity event to promote understanding of the unique challenges faced by women and to raise money for a women's shelter.

I spoke with concerned students on several occasions. I listened to their opinions and informed them of my plans, as well as my personal outrage with the situation. I want to publicly thank them for communicating their frustrations and disappointment about this meeting. No one should be forced to be quiet about any kind of harassment and I commend them for their courage. However, in the same breath, I do not want to vilify the entire Engineering Society for the actions of individuals who were out of control at a meeting.

Let me just say, on a personal note I am disgusted with what happened on January 11th and for my responsibility to the students in engineering I am truly sorry. Moreover, I take hostility towards women very seriously and am personally offended by those who believe that it has any place within EngSoc. Those who are found doing or saying anything that could be construed as misogynistic at EngSoc events WILL NO LONGER BE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.

Education should be an equalizer that allows all people to work to their full potential, not a forum for offensive, condescending treatment of women. I hope that this isolated event will not leave a lasting tarnish on the good reputation EngSoc has worked so hard to achieve. I will see you all at this week's meeting.



MIKE BUCZKOWSKI
VP INTERNAL

The first Engsoc meeting of the winter 2006 term occurred on January 11, 2006. With the excitement of starting a new term for those of us still far from graduation and the excitement of the 4th year engineering class only days away from IRS it was a very full meeting with larger than normal attendance. The meeting was one of the least productive due to rowdiness with various people interrupting the current speaker to make inappropriate comments and just generally disrupting the meeting. The Engineering Society as a whole was unable to perform its real function; which is to inform the student body of both academic and social issues facing the student body as well as inform them of upcoming events. Due to the general disorder of the meeting none of these things could be accomplished, speakers were unable to get their point across, important information regarding a new co-op ranking process was not conveyed to the student body and the meeting was a failure.

I myself made a variety of inappropriate comments and performed various actions at the meeting and I apologize sincerely for my actions. As a member of the Engineering Society executive I should be an upstanding member of the academic as well as social community and these

types of actions should not be tolerated on any level. For the Engineering Society to be effective in its role representing the student body it must be fair to all students, with no discrimination and only present the facts and not the opinions of any of its members.

I can assure those of you who may not know me, that although I may have made some comments which were inappropriate I have the utmost respect for women. Those of you who are my friends will know that I do not treat people with disrespect, and if I do it is in a joking fashion. However, this is not an excuse for the offensive behaviour which I displayed during the meeting. These are definitely not becoming qualities of an engineering student, especially one elected to a position on the executive as well and desirable qualities in a future professional engineer. I can only hope that those of you who I have offended will not harbour ill feelings towards engsoc as it is an upstanding organization which provides a valuable service to the students in attempting to provide events which balance the academic pressures of engineering with some social events to help fulfill student needs.

I can only say that I deeply regret my actions and apologize sincerely for them. I believe that even through this adversity I will be able to fulfill my duties as an executive member to the best of my abilities and look forward to continuing the term with a more business like atmosphere to ensure the society is best representing the students.

Brand New Year, Age Old Problem

Politics in Canada Slip Ever Lower



ANDREW DODDS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome back! While some of you may have been greeted by friends family or teachers, I extend my greeting to make sure that those who met up with heavy course loads, grumpy landlords, and no offer to return to their co-op job get their greeting too. Welcome back to a brand-spanking new year, 2006 bay-BEE! I suppose it's not exactly spanking though, or else I'd likely be jumping onto my assignments a lot quicker, or walking around with a particular smile and look upon my face. I found myself greeted with the pleasant task of restarting that lumbering beast we all know and love and hate and love to hate, known simply as the Iron Warrior. When you pick up a copy of the Globe and Mail and think that they do this every single day, the task of creating our own engineering version fifteen times a year doesn't seem so daunting. But when you look at all the blood, sweat and tears that go into both 8+1/2 by 11 sheets, DOUBLE SIDED, of MathNEWS, well at that point you realize that some people have it easy and make it hard. I have it hard, but thanks to my wonderful, genius, (insert generic compliment) staff here at IW, it makes it a much easier (but by no means easy) task. Plus the ability to enslave ex-EICs and lock them in the dark dungeon of the IW Office with a closed door certainly helps to keep things running smoothly, once the whip is properly applied.

As joyous as it is to come back to UW Engineering, the task of lifting my spirits is a challenging one for one reason alone: the decline of Canadian civilization. I'm not talking about the acceptance of gay marriage (which I champion), or the debate as to who gets Hans island. No, I refer over a chorus of groans to the decline of Canadian politics.

Ok, it's not really a surprise, but it's nonetheless depressing. I was told that back in the day minority governments were able to bring about such staples to our identity as our health care system, the subsidizing of our post-secondary education, and the liberation of many previously oppressed groups and minorities. While gay marriage is a good thing in my opinion,

separation of church and state and such, it is sad that this has been the biggest thing to push its way through the House of Commons.

It is not the lack of progress and consensus that appalls me the most is that the parties simply don't care about Canada anymore, only about getting into and holding onto any bit of power or influence they can. It reminds me of the NHL, to think that our politicians are like the Marian Hossas and other players outside of North America, never caring about the Cup, only about the seven figures. Jack Layton has argued that he has accomplished the most with this parliament, and yet the one thing he set forth to do during the last campaign, reforming the way we vote and elect our politicians, he has failed to touch. In the current campaign, instead of focusing his attack on the Conservatives, he has attacked the Liberals. Mighty foolish considering that they could never find the values to agree with the Conservatives or the numbers to push anything through with the Bloc, not to mention the taboo that goes with joining forces with the most diabolically

evil of national parties. How can we really call them a national party though? If you look through the policies of the Bloc, they all focus on Quebec, whether directly through supporting the cleaning up of the St. Lawrence, or indirectly by supporting the transfer of responsibility (and along with it funding) of all governmental aspects to the provinces. While Duceppe claims that a vote for the Bloc is a vote for sovereignty, the Bloc can have no affect on this impossible dream whatsoever. I would compare the Bloc to the spoiled kid, always wanting more. They have received all they care to from Canada, and now is the perfect time to sever their ties. This way they can leave Canada with the responsibility of the national debt, among other joyful things. If they ever did separate they would face their own troubles, imitating France this past year with Quebec's insistence on Quebec everything above everything else. A new Quebec would also be alienated from much of the world as countries would seek to maintain their relationship with Canada rather than cheat on us with our ex-wife. While separation has been the big issue of this election in some people's minds (and apparently Paul Martin's veins), it will never come.

***“There is no excuse
for the state of the
country if you surrender
your right to
shape it.”***

It is merely a tool for Quebec, keeping the relationship with Canada unstable so as to squeeze out overpayments and concessions, drop by drop. Paul Martin has let us down in just as many ways as his rival. He has failed to stand up for himself, failed to keep reminding us that it was his predecessor who ran the Sponsorship program, and that the guilty parties have been expunged. The Liberals have failed to jump on the Conservatives when their vein was exposed, letting them steal the poll position for this race. By far though, the most deplorable party has been that of Mr. Harper. Currently, his blue book of promises contains a whopping nearly two hundred promises, and with the likelihood of another minority government awaits the perfect excuse for why none could be accomplished. Is it only me who notices the irony that the Conservatives have been taking the lead from their Liberal arch-enemies? Jean's infamous red book of broken promises sets the bar for Harper's own blue book. Jean won support by promising to abolish the GST. Now Harper promises to lower his party's greatest contribution of recent memory, a tax admired in many countries and far better than the hidden manufacturing tax we used to never even see. As the Conservatives attack, they are lucky nobody realizes their hypocrisy.

They take jabs at candidates such as Michael Ignatieff for being parachuted in, while nobody realizes that such a parachute drop was behind Harper's own ascent to Parliament. They take jabs at Belinda for crossing the floor to support liberals while keeping silent about the Liberal departures that enabled them to nearly defeat the government over the summer. Harper proudly speaks of his promise to increase

minimum sentences for crimes, and yet in defeating the government he killed bills that would do just that as they made their way through the House. By far the most despicable tactic, worse even than leaving his two biggest and most expensive election planks out of the calculations for the cost of his platform, to reduce medical wait times and to fix the fiscal imbalance between Ottawa and the provinces, by far his worst crime is in not speaking up about his social policies. He got his promise out to hold a free vote on gay marriage early, so Martin could not pressure him on that issue for long. But does he talk of his own cabinet potential for Justice's comments that abortion was allowed only by the gross manipulation of the Charter by the courts, and that this needs to be fixed? Does Harper admit that he is a Libertarian, meaning he supports minimal government, desiring for people to fix their own problems rather than having government interfere with such horrible interventions as public health care and social aid.

Conservatives once stood for fiscal responsibility, and yet they would run us into a deficit again. Their proposals for every problem, from the cost of minor league sports to creating childcare spaces is not to actually fix the problem, but to offer tax incentives in the hope that someone else will. I would say it sums up Harper's position best to quote his Freudian slip during the second set of Leader's Debates, where Harper said he has no passion, when referring to politics. Exactly what I want when looking for someone to run my country and decide my future: a man who just plain doesn't care!

It is a sad state of affairs, our federal politics. Yet still, I urge you to cast your vote, let your voice be heard. There is no excuse for the state of the country if you surrender your right to shape it. If you should be so disappointed with the candidates that you cannot vote for any party, the go and spoil your ballot. Send the message to the politicians that there was a vote their that they could have gained, if only they had been doing a good job. That sends a far more powerful message than sitting on your couch at home, telling them that no matter how ridiculous their ideas you would not get up to stop them.

Voting on campus is located in the Village 1 Great Hall. If you are unlucky enough to have been caught up in Elections Canada confusion, fear not! Visit their website to get onto the voters list. Or go to the polling station on January 23 and talk to the Registration Officer (good job, pays \$200 for the day, no training needed). He or she will set you up if you have the proper ID.

Finally, the last resort is the special exception we must make for the homeless, but you can use it too. As they might not have ID, but they must be able to vote, you actually do not need anything at all to vote. Just go, and you will be asked to sign a paper saying that yes, you are 18, yes, you live here, yes, you're a Canadian citizen, and yes, you have the right to cast this vote. They can charge you with a criminal offence if you lie, but we're all honest people right? So do your duty, let your voice be heard, and make every vote count!

Oh, and by the way, come to the IW Office Mondays at 5:30 so you can write articles, to let your voice be heard in another way, and enjoy the gift of free food. Until next time fellow engineering students.

IRON WARRIOR

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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

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

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Move Over Ann Landers, LowRider is Back in the Loo



Dear "LowRider"

Who do you think you are? It has been decided by a bunch of old-men sitting around a semi-circular table that I, Ann Landers will take over your position as advice-giver person in that wonderful newspaper lovingly referred to as the Iron Warrior. How can you expect people to learn anything from a column that contains such swearing words as "shit" and "fuck"? The words, "shit" and "fuck" are to be reserved for occasions when some jerk drives over your baby toe in his Honda civic. God I hate when that happens. Your grammar is terrible, your responses make me want to slam my head into a wall. Just grow up. I know LowRider has been a Waterloo Engineering tradition since 1962 but it is time to step down. My posse of housecleaning thugs will be confiscating your BANDANA anytime now. Shit I'm pissed off.

I'm going to get you,

Ann Landers

Dear Anne of Green Gables,

You are a model citizen. You're advice columns are written from the heart and so bloody full of poo. I think you should go for a hike. Take Opra and Martha Stewart with you. Maybe you can exchange recipes for your baked tuna casserole with cream of broccoli soup. You're swearing and you're use of punctuation and you're tone and you're grammar suck. You failed the ELPE.

LR

Herr LowRider,

Wie gehts? How goes it in the fatherland my man? I long for D-land every night in my dreams. I hear that vegetables are against the law and beer is a food group there. Hook me up with a keg of that o-so-wonderful golden liquid and a pork hock or two.

Tschüss,

Thirsty Square Head

Dear Sehr Durstig,

The fatherland goes well. Very well indeed. I miss the infinity of the autobahn. I found the transition quite smooth actually. My weekly vegetable intake consisted of a form of malted hops and barley with a smattering of kraut on the side. Beer defines life in Bavaria. It's the world's most useful liquid. Drink it warm when you're sick, condition your hair with it to restore life to your dry ass mop and baptize your kid in the stuff. A good beer is the most useful thing on the planet. It's like the Systems Design of liquids. Wow that's terrible. I went way too far. Ignore that last comment.



LR

LowRider baby,

So we heard that you got yourself a nice shiny red Ferrari when you were in Italy. That's soooooo sexy. Are you finally going to let go of that silver box of tin you've got? There is nothing quite like a red BANADA and a red sports car together. Yummy. When you gonna take us for a spin baby? We hope you like the tag we put on the wall in your kitchen. By the way, we're still looking for that 500 square foot self portrait to put in our groupie chick clubhouse that you promised us 7 years ago.

Heart,

The Chicks of the Official LowRider Groupie Chicks Fan Club

Hey GCFC,

Yeah, the Ferrari F430 is fun for sunny days in the second week of July but that's it. Let's be honest, it's not low enough. Although, I must admit 315 is a nice cruising speed when you need to get from Rome to Venice. Watch what you call that silver box. She has attitude. You'll get your damned poster. My graphics design group chicks over in Architecture are all over that. Remind me, did you want that with the frown or without?

LR

Dear Mister LowRider,

I red your page in the Warrior. Your cute and seem like a cool guy and just happen to be in systems which I got myself into as well. Being a stupid frosh here's my question. Will there be anytime for work if I want to do some recreational sports and party at least once every 2 weeks? Maybe we could get together and spend some time together.

With affection,

Anonymously Hot Female Frosh Chick

Dear Stupid Frosh,

Welcome to the University of Waterloo Frosh. Enjoy your stay.

The boys really played up the Stupid Frosh card eh? Very good gentlemen. I heard that some purple dye accidentally got spilled on some Frosh. So tragic. With grammar like that you probably failed the bloody ELPE. That's okay because you can take it up to 17 more times before you graduate. I failed the ELPE 3 times. But look at my grammar proper now. I've masturbated word structure the art of.

Who needs time for work? Heres some math for you you high school graduate you. Make sure that you open and close every Bomber this term equals maximum marks. Instead of buying texts, spend that money wisely and drink your texts. Keep up the excellent work froshy.

LR

Dear Low Rider,

I'm a young, attractive girl in 1st or 2nd or 3rd year engineering. I enjoy cooking and cleaning for my housemates. I enjoy unlimited beer and hanging out with attractive girls at every opportunity. However, I want my marks to go up so I can get into grad school. Help me.

Regards,


Perfect Candidate

Dear Candy,

You should come live at Unit 36. It's time to step it up. There are actually a few openings coming up. I hear they do all of what you mentioned while having a damn good time doing it. For some reason their marks are all really good too. You should stop by their place the week of Jan 16 to the 22 and have a beverage and shoot the shit. Show 'em what you've got even if your not a young attractive girl who enjoys attractive girls. If your lucky you may even catch a glimpse of the LowRider himself. This has been an unpaid advertisement by Unit 36.

LR

'till next time keep it low kids. uw_lowrider@hotmail.com



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Information Session

Bring your résumé and an up-to-date copy of your transcript. Members of our engineering team will be in attendance for on-site consultations following the informal presentation.

Wednesday, January 25, 2006
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.
University Club

Food and beverages will be provided.

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Charobeem Cooks



CAROLYN
SUTHERLAND
2A MECHANICAL

During the holidays one is able to feast on a cornucopia of desserts and treats. I was fortunate enough to come upon a tasty recipe at my work's potluck involving the delicious coconut and the mysterious mini marshmallows... COMBINED!! Apparently this recipe is a healthy one too, but only if you don't get sour cream with a milk fat percentage larger than your average.

But PLEASE don't attempt to shred an ACTUAL coconut! It'll take you a sledgehammer and an hour just to crack it open let alone shred the thing; I've tried! I had to whack a hammer against a huge knife which was resting on the outer shell of the coconut. I figured I'd go deaf from

the banging before that shell was broken... and even then the white flesh had to be cut & pounded off the inside. What an exciting foray into 'exotic cooking' that was...

Hawaiian Salad
Serves 6 small portions.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup shredded coconut (Sweetened tastes better than un-sweetened.)
- 1 cup tri-coloured mini marshmallows
- 1 cup tinned pineapple chunks
- 1 cup low-fat sour cream
- 1 cup tinned mandarin oranges

1. Rinse the pineapple chunks & mandarin oranges with water or else the excess juice will make the salad too sweet.

2. Combine coconut, marshmallows, pineapple, and sour cream while breaking the pineapple chunks up as you mix.

3. Fold in the oranges and chill for a couple hours before serving.

Man with no Hands Invents Hyperdrive Handless Man a Handy Dandy!



JACLYN
SHARPE
2A MECHANICAL

“Guidelines for a Space Propulsion Device Based on Heim's Quantum Theory”, by Walter Dröscher and Jochem Häuser, was recently presented an award by the American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA). The paper details a genuine hyperspace propulsion system based on Burkhard Heim's very own unifying theory of everything.

Burkhard Heim (1925-2001) grew up in Germany and was fascinated with space travel from an early age. He experimented with small explosives and as a teenager was recruited by the Nazis to conduct explosives research. At the age of 19 a lab accident (wherein a device blew up in his hands) left him 90% blind and deaf, and without hands. After the accident Heim became reclusive and devoted most of his time to developing a unified field theory, which he completed in 1953.

Haven't hear of Heim's Theory? Don't feel left out. Although Heim could learn new languages in only a matter of days, he refused to learn English to prevent his theories from leaving the country. Heim also disliked publishing his papers to peer reviewed journals for fear that his ideas would be stolen.

Heim's theory, which links electromagnetic energy and gravity, required the addition of 2 dimensions on top of our conventional 4 (x, y, z, and time). Heim strayed away from this theory however, and started work on formulae to predict the masses of elemental particles based on their physical characteristics (charge, angular momentum, etc). These formulae proved to be extremely accurate, especially when the values of several constants were refined, winning him a good deal of credibility. True to form, Heim did not

share the details of the derivations of the formulae with his peers.

Walter Dröscher, a patent officer, discovered Heim's unifying theory and found it very intriguing. While working on it he put back 2 dimensions that had earlier been discarded by Heim, resulting in an 8 dimensional universe: 'Heim-Dröscher space'. This was a truly unified theory, explaining gravity, electromagnetic force, and strong and weak nuclear forces. It also defined 2 new forces: one antigravity force, that would cause masses to accelerate away from each other (can you say dark energy?), and one that could be harnessed to propel rockets through space without fuel.

According to Dröscher if one were to put a huge rotating ring above a super conducting coil to create a 25 Tesla field, the electromagnetic field would reduce gravity to the point where the coil would float free. And with a big enough field the ring would actually be repelled and could carry a ship with it into outer space. Dröscher is a little fuzzy with the details but he claims that a ship would be propelled into multidimensional space, where the laws of nature could be very different from what we're used to. The speed of light, he suggests, could turn out to be faster than we observe under normal circumstances. A ship equipped with the hyperdrive could travel to Mars in under 3 hours, and go 11 light-years in only 80 days, finally allowing man to escape the confines of our little corner of space.

The AIAA was very impressed by Dröscher's paper, and was shocked that it had not been submitted for peer review because it looked very good to them and appeared to be complete. However, most physicists who have looked at it cannot follow Dröscher's calculations. The general consensus is that it is convoluted and (to put it nicely) incomplete. To spite this, the US military is interested in testing Dröscher's theories (even though everyone knows they're already working on anti-gravity it in area 51).

I was Sober Enough at B.O.T. to Remember it for this Article



DEVIN
CASS
1B MECHANICAL

It was an icy night at 36, and I had no money. This means I couldn't get shammered (shammered a mix between hammered and slammed, dreamt up when shammered). This was saddening to many. But how can a BOT ever be not fun? Even when sober you are re-united with all the coolest people in A-soc and some diehards from B-soc. Everyone is back from work ready to drink away the reminder that school is a bitch. This always makes for good times. Some of these good times this time were:

Ice. Ice on the lawn makes entertainment for the denizens on the deck, where there isn't ice. People slip and fall, but it doesn't really hurt, because they are loaded. This is entertaining for everyone in the vicinity, even the victims. No one was seriously hurt, which is good. (Too bad the last boat racing event wasn't the same...)

Beer. This should really be the first item on the list but I have to mention this time that it tasted like pennies, and that's why it's slightly lower.

Shooby. Need I say more? He should be on Senate.

Good music. I don't remember what it was, but I remember it being good.

Hot Laurier girls (I think...I might have been dreaming). Good, but bad because it was winter and they were bundled up. But more so good because...girls!

A documentary of some sort. Yeah, I don't know someone had a video camera, I was going to get some pictures for this article but Jobmine owns my life right now. I'm sure you can visualize what it was like. (Hint: Drunken keg party.)

A fight. Okay maybe that wasn't so good. But it was ok because 36 handled it responsibly and all quarrels were resolved in one way or another and everyone carried on as normal, carefree.

That's about all I can remember. Just because the title is 'I was sober enough at BOT to remember it for this article' doesn't mean I was sober. BOT was still a great time. See you at MOT!



Engineering Computing's lab status displays in CPH and E2 have all been replaced with LCDs, and yet they have been strangely blank. Money well spent?

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

The Election: Worth it?



JEFFREY LIPNICKY
2A MECHANICAL

To begin, I would like to start with a disclaimer. I am not writing this article to encourage you not to vote, because I am a firm believer in the democratic process – when it works properly. I think that we all should go and vote on the 23rd to have a say in how our government looks. However, I do not feel that this election is a worthwhile cause for most Canadians.

I admit that I have not been following the election race very closely, however, the information that I have received has not persuaded me into believing in any one of the 3 major Canadian political parties (Liberals, Conservatives, NDP – I did not include the Bloc since they only reside in Quebec) is fit for power. All I have seen is mud-slinging between the candidates and parties. No one has really shown that they will be a good leader; they just argue that they won't be as bad as the last person. I'm sorry, but that doesn't really win my vote. With that argument, we might as well stay with what we had, and not spent the millions of dollars to fund this election.

Moreover, what does this election mean to us as students? In my opinion not very much. The education portfolio is under the jurisdiction of the provincial government, so any promises of monies to post-secondary education from the federal government will most likely never reach us. The money would be given to the provincial governments, and they would be free to use that money how they feel is "right" to support education. That may or may not align with the promises the federal parties are making.

Also, I don't think that the democratic system that Canada has in place is the best

way to represent the population. Based on the current system, the governing party is determined by the number of seats each party holds. So if there is a majority government -- as was the case with several of the most recent governments -- they are free to do as they please, since the opposition parties are out-voted in the House of Commons. Also, if you wish for a particular leader to gain power, then you are forced into voting for the party constituent in your riding; regardless of whether they are the best candidate. Also, the best candidate for your riding may not be a member of the party likely to gain power, so if they are chosen to represent you, will they really be able to have their voices heard in this system?

I think that the government should be reorganized so that it is more effective, and less likely to be corrupt, as past governments have been. I feel that we should adopt a system which allows for voters to select who they feel will best represent them in their particular area, and then select the person who they feel would best represent the country as a leader. In this way, the government would be forced to develop policy that the majority of Canadians feel is right. This does not allow for one group's beliefs and values to take control of the country. I admit that in order to instill this form of government, it would take a great deal of work, and it would also need to be accepted by the Canadian public. However, I think that most people agree, that given the choices in the up coming election, they want to see change. Democracy is based on the idea that everyone should have the opportunity to have a say in the parliamentary process – shouldn't we also have a say in how the government structured?

So regardless of whether you agree with my position or not, I urge to you to exercise your right to vote. It is a right that many Canadians do not take advantage of, but one that will be sorely missed if it is ever taken away. So use it while you still can to bring about the change that we all agree is necessary.

"...we might as well stay with what we had, and not spent the millions of dollars to fund the election."



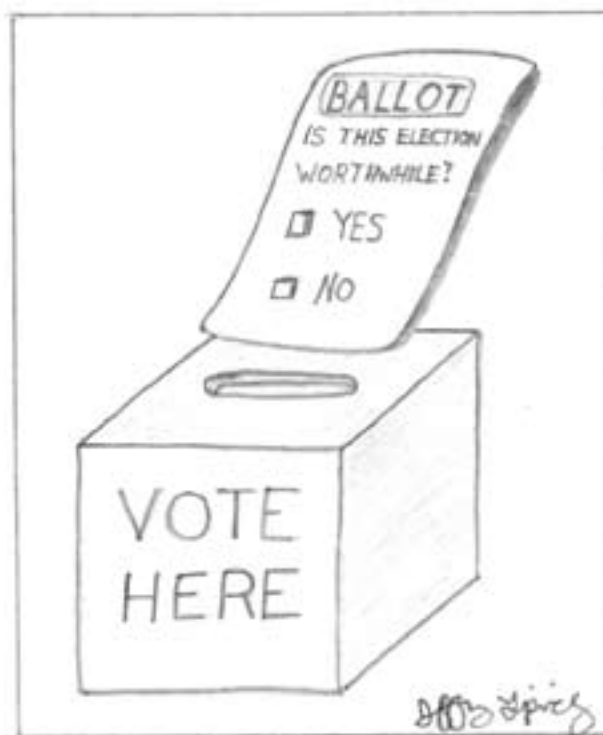
A chance to change governments, or effectively more of the same?



CAROLYN SUTHERLAND
2A MECHANICAL

Are you proud to be a Canadian? How about the unequaled equality, justice, freedom & health care available to every single person in the Great White North?

But what's the point? How can my ONE vote make a difference? It's not a matter of what your vote can do, but a matter of what your vote MEANS. Voting privileges were not so readily available during the first election held in Canada. Eligible voters were required to own property of a certain value, so you can bet very few settlers qualified. That meant that in 1867 only 11% of the population could choose who they wanted to govern their new country. And if that wasn't enough,



Not only is Canada one of the best places in the world to live in, but it is respected by other nations as a fundamental player in the battle against war, poverty & disease throughout the globe.

How did Canada get this way? By voting in kick ass governments. How did these 'kick ass governments' come to be? By voters like YOU!

Call it cheesy, corny, whatever; but the fact remains that the citizens of Canada made this nation what it is today. The right to vote was entrenched in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982; it's the constitutional right of every citizen 18 and older to hit the polls come election day (January 23rd!) and let their voice be heard.

How hard can it be? Check into a polling station, mark down which party you want to represent Canada and walk out. It's that easy! The only difficulty is deciding which party to vote for... since there are so many! No party is 'ineligible' because the current government says so. Nope, if you've got a party we've got a box next to it!

elections could drag on for months while bribes of food, drink and money were not uncommon. People even DIED due to election violence!

Today, 68% of the population (virtually every Canadian citizen age 18 and older) can vote worry-free. Your vote is how you choose someone to represent you in Canada's Parliament. By expressing your choice and voting, you are exercising a democratic right that is fundamental to the democracy which generations of Canadians have literally fought to build.

So stand up for Canada and GO VOTE in this next federal election, January 23rd, 2006. You WON'T be wasting your time.

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

Upcoming Events from EngSoc							
Sun January 15	Mon January 16	Tue January 17	Wed January 18	Thu January 19	Fri January 20	Sat January 21	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca
	IW Meeting		CUSEC	CUSEC Scotch Tasting	CUSEC Band Night	CUSEC	
January 22	January 23	January 24	January 25	January 26	January 27	January 28	
	IW Meeting	EWB General Meeting	Engsoc Meeting 2 5.30p CPH 3385		SCUNT	SCUNT Squash Tourney	

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

New Year, Big Things!



NICK LAWLER
PRESIDENT

Welcome back everyone. I hope that you all had great work terms, and a big welcome to all of the first year students that are joining us. It's going to be a great term, with great fun for everyone. The fourth years (including me) will be getting our Iron Rings on the 21st. In terms of your engineering career the day you get your Iron Ring is a great day, and one more step to getting your degree. Stay tuned for more info on how all students can be involved in this fantastic day. The Engineering Society has a full slate of activities and events every student can participate in. Our spring charity event Bus

Push is already being organized, and this year the proceeds will be going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Explorations will also be this term, where the Engineering Faculty will be showing off all of our great projects and research for local high school students and their parents. Tour guides are needed, and that where you can get involved, look for posters!

You should also look out for all of our services we provide in our office, located beside the Multimedia Lab. We have cheap report binding, cheap faxing, and cheap photocopying! It may be cheap, but the quality is high! Our online services are also great, like the Online Course Critiques, and Exam Bank. Check out <http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca> for more! Well that's it for me, welcome back everyone, hope to see you around, please come and talk to me if you have any ideas, problems, or just want to chat!

Money & Novelties for You!



SABRINA GIOVINAZZO
VP FINANCE

Welcome back everyone! Well I hope everyone's work terms went well and you're getting ready for a term with lots of work, but lots of fun too!

It's a new term and so that means lots of money to give out again! For all you directors, budget proposals are due this FRIDAY, January 20th in the Orifice (and if you don't know what that is yet then check it out - CPH 1327). You can find the forms either on the web (<http://www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/www/society.php>) or in the Orifice, on the right hand wall. If you need help filling them out, or want some advice on how much other directors have asked for then just e-mail me or stop by the Orifice and I'd be glad to help. Make sure you get those in by 4:30pm, either on my desk or in my mailbox. The budget will be read at the next EngSoc meeting (Jan 25) so you can see where all

the money is going!

In other news, NOVELTIES IS OPEN! For all you frosh, novelties is an awesome store selling all kind of engineering clothing, beer steins, shot glasses and more! Come check it out on your lunch - there's a schedule on the door for store hours. If it's not open, just stop by the Orifice and tell Betty what you'd like to buy. If you don't know, Novelties is located right beside Poets. Have any suggestions for new items? Let us know!

In other news, we'll be ordering a laminator for the Orifice. So for all you people who want to make some fancy business cards or who knows what else, you can come get it done here!

Finally, if you've already been spending money, just fill out an expense report. You don't have to wait for your budget to get reimbursed! Forms can be found online or in the Orifice.

Got any questions? New ideas for item in Novelties? Things for the Orifice? E-mail me! asoc_vpfin@engmail.uwaterloo.ca My office hours are Monday 3:30-4:30pm and Tuesday-Thursday 12:30-1:30, but stop by anytime 'cuz I'm always hanging around.

Jobmine Matches Come Early!



MELINDA HURD
VP EDUCATION

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a kickass work term and that you're all on your way to having a successful term (however you define success) back in Waterloo. I'd like to thank everyone who helped out during resume critiques last week, especially our Resume Critique Director Kathryn Pomeroy! We had fantastic turn out - good luck in your interviews! Speaking of interviews... have

you heard of the new EARLY MATCH process co-op has adopted this term? Every Friday of the initial interview phase your ranking/offers/etc... will be available. This new process has many advantages and potential disadvantages, especially for the uninformed so please check out the CECS website: <http://www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/students/early.php> pronto. If you're still unsure about the process come talk to me or go and talk to a coordinator at co-op - they are being paid to help you!

In other news - keep on the look out for exciting Frosh Mentoring, SFF competition information, and Scholarships in the upcoming weeks.

That's it for me! Party On!

Enjoy our Events! Fill my Positions!



MIKE BUCZKOWSKI
VP INTERNAL

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year of horrible and evil academic learning. However, on a more interesting note you are probably really freaking bored after a boring 4 months on work term in god knows where doing absolutely nothing. So just to let you know I am super excited to be back there are going to be a lot of things happening this term with a lot of new events that you probably haven't seen before and all of your old favourites are back of course...

On that note the engineering society could always use some more help so there are a few vacant directorships that still need to be filled this term. If you are interested in any of the following fire me an e-mail at asoc_vpint@engmail.uwaterloo.ca there are descriptions available on the engsoc web page; Arts, Ingenuity, Secretary, TSN-EOT Video, just a few left I know there are a ton of you already involved but if you want to do a little something to help out these are great directorships for you!

Coming up soon are some great events,

the termal Scavenger Hunt will be happening on January 20 through 21 and I hope to see a ton of teams out there to try and win it... What else are you going to be doing it is winter! TAL-ENG is happening early this term on the 7th of February @ BOMBER so make sure that you sign up your performance soon, it was an amazing time last year with free food, tons of liquid refreshments, and some amazing performances! Get all your work done as soon as possible because it is only going to get busier from here and I want to see you at all the events! You also might want to keep your eyes open for a cleaning event which probably won't be happening sometime soon, I've definitely noticed that things have gotten rather dusty around engineering lately...

I'm sure I'll have seen all of you around by then having a super time in POETS on Thursdays and Fridays from 12-4 where my class BOND.CHEMICAL BOND is yet again ready to return the most empty bottles to the bar and dominate the competition, you can take that as a challenge or smack talk it is up to you but remember we don't promote alcohol consumption however we do promote returning empty bottles for the 10 cent deposit!

That's it from your friendly neighborhood VPI,

LOVE BUTCH

Congress Thoroughly Enjoyed



JASON JAGODICH
VP EXTERNAL

What's up Waterloo?! We're are back for another term and I hope it'll be the best one yet. We have tons of great events planned for this term ranging from semi-formal to our annual Sunday great Mudbowl.

We definitely started the term off with a bang as BOT was absolutely packed. It was good to see so many familiar faces at Unit 36 and then in Poets worshipping our beloved Tool (BFW).

12 of us young Waterloo engineering students decided to take a lil vacation during the first week of classes. We visited Windsor, Ontario for the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES) Congress. We all had an outstanding time. Information session topics included Project Magazine, Canadian

Engineering Competition, Local Politics, Engineers Witout Borders and Sustainable Construction. Canada-wide boat races were also held at this conference during Ontario night which was organized by our very own Rishi Lukka and Angela Maclean. Naturally, team Ontario, which was composed of some local vets, took home the gold. We were seen decimating teams by more than two glasses in early rounds.... mmmm so thirsty.

The First Year integration conference (FYIC) is coming up in a few weeks. This conference will be held at Queen's University. At this conference some of Waterloo's finest freshmen will get the opportunity to meet other first years from across the province and learn of the many services offered to young engineers as members of the PEO, OESP, and ESSCO.

I hope the early enthusiasm of this term carries on throughout. Hope to see you all at MOT... wait I mean Saturday... I'm so thirsty!

Gunnerz
407 Days till IRS!!!

Do You Have Something to Contribute?

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

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

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.

That Job is Mine!

SIMON LANCASTER-LAROCQUE
3A MECHANICAL

First Things First: Applying for Jobs

- 1) Use your applications sparingly. The first postings tend to have more jobs than the rest but some of the better jobs do not show up until the later postings. Avoid vague job descriptions, if necessary; contact Janet Metz, the engineering co-op advisor.
- 2) Attend information sessions. They are not only are they a great way to get free dinner and free company swag, but you can actually learn about the company. Find out if the information session will have company managers present to answer specific questions about a particular job.
- 3) Jobmine is not your only source for finding employment. You can also secure a job on your own. Look on websites of company's you are interested in working for. Often they will have a listing of the jobs that they are currently hiring for. Use your networking skills: Do you know anyone working in a company that you would like to work for? Usually they can refer you or help you "get in" (More on this below).

Putting Yourself on Paper: Your Resume

Remember: you want to sell yourself.

- Make your resume stand out. Most employers receive hundreds of resumes and you need to catch their attention with yours.
- Use short sentences beginning with action verbs like "built, audited, integrated, produced, sold, etc".
- State measurable achievements such as "Saved department \$5,000 by implementing a new system", or "Created database linking over 400 customers with all their purchases".
- Limit the description of each job on your resume to a max of four consecutive bullets.
- Do not pad your resume: LESS IS MORE. List your most relevant information and achievements first and leave more white spaces

throughout.

Selling Yourself: The Interview

People are always worried about researching and knowing everything about the company that you could possibly know, but the reality is that employers will most likely ask you questions about yourself. So know who you are. Know your resume like the "back of your hand", know your past experiences and prepare yourself before interviews for situational questions. An easy way to do this is to grab a copy of a common interview questions book such as "101 Great Answers to the Toughest Interview Questions -- by Ronald W. Fry" and get a friend to ask you random questions out of it. Answer questions with sincerity and enthusiasm.

Be confident. An interview is a great way for an employer to see how their potential employee(s) will cope with pressure. If you are shy or find yourself getting nervous try joining a public speaking club, debating team or try acting in Engplay!

At the end of the interview ask the employer questions. Not only does it show interest, but it is also the best way for you to find out if the job is really for you. Ask questions like: how many co-ops do they hire, did your future boss go through the co-op program, and what attracted them to this company.

Making the Right Choice: Rankings

If, at the ranking stage, you have a choice between job offers and are having difficulty choosing then consider the following:

Look at the big picture:

Always consider all aspects of the job and rate each one by your personal preferences. Here are the main things that I consider when choosing:

1 – Reputation of a company: How is it going to look on your resume? The next company that you apply to will look at your previous work experience.

2 – Experience. Okay, money is good, we all know that, but experience is better. Getting a lower paying job today that teaches you all the skills that you will need tomorrow, may be a better option.

3 –

Location, Benefits, etc: Certain companies offer incentives to co-ops. Look at things like: Does the company hire many co-ops and how many will be working with/around you? Does the company have a social committee that organizes fun events throughout the term? Is housing cheap around your work spot?

Doing Your Best: The Workterm

Maintain a record of the projects and the work you do to ensure that you have something to reference when you have to be evaluated at the end of the semester. If you have nothing to do then ask for more or try and find things that need to be done, this will impress your boss. Do not skip your midterm review, especially if your boss is not providing you with much feedback. It is the only way of guaranteeing that you will not get a "surprise" on your work term evaluation.

How to deal with the dreaded "Engineering Co-op Student" (or similar) job title.

If you find that your job title does not match your job activities then try to have your title changed. This can usually be done by emailing your field coordinator asking to change your job title on your transcript. You will normally require your managers approval. Alternatively you can change your title on your resume alone, there is no rule that states that you must have the same title on your resume as you have on your work-term transcript. Just make sure that you can back up your choice of title. For example: don't state that you were a "Mechanical Designer" if you didn't do any mechanical design work. A subject specific title that demonstrates responsibility and skill usually looks much better on your resume/transcript than a generic name.

The Key to Success: Networking

No matter how much I naively disagreed with it in 1st year, after four terms of job applications, I have truly come to agree with the old saying: "it's not about what you know; it's about who you know". Normally knowing someone within a company who can refer you can help you get past the "screening" stage of most selection processes. Below are some suggested

ways to help in networking:

- 1) Job fairs and conferences like CUTC or Impact are also great ways to meet potential employers. Don't forget to always bring business cards and resumes with you.
- 2) Always be prepared to sell yourself "on the spot" in case you meet the employer of your dreams in an elevator or in the airport. Prepare a 30 second sales pitch about yourself.

To Return or Not to Return?

I have only worked at two companies for all four of my work terms. This is because, for my second, third and fourth work terms I chose to work at a reputable, young-spirited local high-tech company: Research In Motion (RIM). I like RIM because they provide co-ops with challenging projects and treat you as part of the team. As RIM hires over 250 co-op students every term, the co-ops at RIM have their own Co-op Social Committee, which organizes great social events throughout the term such as Pool Night, Bowling, Laser-Quest and trips to SportsWorld. RIM's wages are very competitive and you get to use a BlackBerry for free during your co-op term. I have also learned many key skills and have gained a lot of valuable experience – my boss even encouraged me to file three patents for designs that I created during my last term there. Finally, one of the best things is that they have an advance placement program that will enable you to secure your next co-op job before you even leave to go back to school.

All of these factors make RIM an excellent employer. Since I am such a die-hard RIM fan, I have become the UW RIM Campus Ambassador, which means that anybody with questions regarding applying for jobs at RIM can email me on my BlackBerry at: slancaster@myblackberry.com.

Should you return to the same employer?

If you think you will still have an opportunity to learn new things, gain valuable experience and still have fun, then YES. After all isn't that what it's all about?

CECS Important Dates

January 24:

Career Decision Making, Self Assessment, Occupational Research & Career Decision Making. After this session you will be in a better position to assess yourself and your "fit" in the world of work.

TC 1208, 2:30-4:30

Are you thinking about an International experience? Dreaming of going abroad to study or work? Come and find out what you can do to make your dream a reality, where to find the right information, how to decide where to go and how to make the most of your international experience.

TC 1208, 4:30-6:00

January 25

Work Search Strategies. Practise networking and other strategies in order to increase the effectiveness of your job search. TC 1208, 3:30-5:00

Starting your own business: Next steps, Picking up where the basics left off, this workshop will offer a more in-depth discussion on start up issues: strategy and operational tactics, marketing, finance, human resources and R & D.

TC 2218, 4:30-6:30

January 26

Interview Skills: Preparing for questions. Discuss and learn from taped excerpts of actual interviews. TC 2218, 4:30-5:30

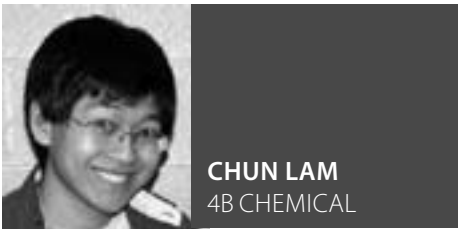
Getting a US work permit. Learn from Nina Juncewicz, US immigration attorney, about options available to graduating students to work in the US. TC 1208, 4:30-6:00

January 27

Interview Skills: Selling your skills. Don't stop at the fundamentals: you must also prove your skills in the interview. Here is your opportunity to practise and improve.

TC 2218, 2:30-4:30

Stand Up Canada to give Red and Orange the Boot



CHUN LAM
4B CHEMICAL

Well it's a new year, the winter wind is blowing; the inevitable march towards spring goes on. We live in a time of change, and it is time for a change in government from Liberal to Conservative.

Now the Conservative Party of Canada today (2005 – 2006) is not the old hard line right-wing Republican style party of yesterday, or its predecessor the Reform Party of Canada. In fact the Conservative Party of Canada has evolved into a more centre of right party in terms of policy which is a true alternative to Liberal tyranny and complacency. I'll admit Stephen Harper isn't a Robin Williams, or a smooth talking Jerry Maguire, but the policies being brought out by the Conservative Party are more beneficial ideas to Canada compared to the same old recycled garble of the Liberals. Now I will outline several main Conservative policies which are important to Canadians that would ideally swing your vote towards the Conservatives (Ajmer Mandur in this riding, or Helena Guergis in Simcoe-Grey).

Obviously the main policy which the conservatives support and known for is tax cuts. Now your defense mechanism maybe going off thinking giving tax breaks to the rich, however hear the new tax break suggestions being suggested. The conservative government will provide tax breaks for people who use public transit, making scholarships and bursaries tax free earnings, and of course the reduction of the GST immediately to 6% till a final 5%. Now these new proposed tax breaks are beneficial for Canadians as it benefits Canadians who take actions which make society better, which should be the main reason for getting tax breaks. Canadians should not be penalized by taxes for taking steps to improve themselves by studying more to get higher marks to get the scholarship, or reducing green house emissions by taking a bus instead of their car. Also by putting more money in Canadian's

pockets, you provide them with the opportunity to increase their economical well-being through commercial activity, or professional development. Personally, the government should primarily assist people who are willing to improve themselves socially, personally, and economically; not act as a welfare state that supports people whom can live without improving themselves.

Now sponsorship scandals aside – I mean really \$300 million dived up between 15 million so odd tax payers is \$20.00 per person – you know something you could



do with but its not vital to live without does not bother me; I expect a degree of government corruption in any government. Politicians are human just like you and me. However what I do have a concern about is the yielding of power of the government to cause instability in the financial markets of Canada. With the current investigation into a possible leak to certain investors, in regards to a income trust announcement made by the Minister of Finance on November 23, 2005. Now if these allegations are proved true, then it leads to a concern of the Liberal government using its clout to distort the financial markets, which would undermine the stability of the financial markets and the hard earned investments of Canadians who depend on these investments for retirement support. So obviously the Liberal government may potentially be not competent to

provide a stable economy which can flourish in the global marketplace.

Another issue which the Conservatives have new ideas on is immigration. A Conservative government will immediately reduce the \$975.00 Right of Landing fee by half for new immigrants; which is practical as more immigrants can enter Canada as \$975 Canadian dollars is quite expensive for many new immigrants from third world nations. However, the big idea the Conservatives will enact is to create a Canadian Agency for Assessment and Recognition of Credentials to provide pre-

assessment of international credentials and experience of new immigrants. Canada faces a large shortage of professional workers (e.g: engineers, doctors, nurses.) yet Canada accepts many immigrants with university degrees from their respective home nations. However, due to the inability of the Canadian government to assist

these skilled immigrants in getting equivalency for their degrees; these immigrants are trapped in menial jobs that do not utilize their full abilities. Many of us have seen these people on our work terms, a doctor from Iraq working

as a maintenance worker, a chemist from Ukraine with a Master's degree working as a quality control lab technician. By underutilizing these people we further retard Canada's economic and scientific development. However, more importantly, the Canadian Health Care system's shortage of

doctors can be lessened by recognizing the credentials of these immigrant doctors.

Finally, we all know about the appalling conditions and preparedness of the Canadian military. 13 years of reducing funding by budget cuts has left the Canadian military on life support; relying on other nation's militaries for support; U.S. Transport planes taking Canadian troops to Afghanistan for the International Security Force and the need for U.S. military air support during the new NATO led security force beginning in 2006. A Conservative government would increase funding by \$5.3 billion from existing funding levels for the next 5 years. This new funding would provide the Canadian military adequate funding for new equipment such as a new airlift fleet at CFB Trenton, an airborne army battalion at CFB Trenton, and double the personnel strength and capabilities of DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team). For all those idealistic university students who believe that righteous Canada should have a greater role in disaster relief around the world, or promote democracy and fight tyranny with UN peacekeeping operations; well you need the ability to travel to these areas to actually conduct the work. A Conservative government will make the Canadian military ready to conduct these operations.

Now I have outlined why a Conservative government would be beneficial to Canada, now you may be reluctant to give them a majority government, which is reasonable. However on January 23, 2006 elect a minority conservative government, and the Conservatives will show the new policies that will re-invigorate Canada economically, and socially.

But on a final note if you have read this far... which is the most important part of this article.. IS VOTE ON JANUARY 23, 2006. Now you may not want to vote for the Conservatives; which is fine by my opinion. If a couple who recently emigrated from Nigeria spent thousands of dollars to accelerate their citizenship papers so they vote in this election; you can spend 30 minutes of your time to go and vote. So break free from those apathetic chains and vote because as Fola Soboyejo, the Nigerian who paid his way to vote, says 'the alternative is brutal'.

***"Now I'll admit
Stephen Harper isn't a
Robin Williams..."***

Discussion on Human Rights and Genocide

ARMENIAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

On Saturday, December the 3rd, 2005, the University of Waterloo was host to the "Conference on Human Rights and Genocide" held by the school's Armenian Students' Association. Appropriately preceding International Human Rights Week, the event drew an audience of over 100 students, faculty, and other interested parties in the J.R. Coutts Hall.

The event opened with a welcome greeting from the club's president Narineh Galoostian, who introduced the moderator for the day, Sevag Boyadjian. The speakers followed a chronological timeline of history, beginning with Professor Alan Whitehorn, who focused on genocides that have occurred throughout the earlier part of the 20th century, particularly the Armenian Genocide. Professor Gerald Caplan then drew attention to genocides that have occurred more recently such as the Rwandan Genocide and the currently ongoing genocide in Darfur.

Alan Whitehorn has been a professor of political science at the Royal Military

College for almost three decades. He began by discussing the history of genocides, even before the 20th century. The focus of his lecture, though, was on the Armenian Genocide and the reactive measures others have taken in regards to abuses in human rights. Specifically, he drew attention to three persons who are a "personification of the issue of genocide."

Soghomon Tehlirian, a young Armenian who barely survived the Armenian Genocide, Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who was a tireless advocate of the recognition of genocide, and Senator Romeo Dallaire, a Canadian who continuously speaks out on the plight in Africa. Whitehorn said, "We need to do more today and tomorrow" in regards to the public's apathy on so many tragedies. He appealed to the audience to not forget, but more importantly to hold accountable perpetrators of genocide. "Too many succumb to the sin of indifference" he stated sadly,

and went on to say that dialogue is essential for recuperation, but that it cannot happen without knowledge and education about the past.

Dr. Gerald Caplan is an expert on the Rwandan Genocide. He brought the audience to more recent times by discussing genocides that have occurred only within

the last ten years, specifically in Rwanda. Caplan described the ethnic cleansing of the Tutsis as "the most easily preventable genocide imaginable" and criticized the U.S. government and the United Nations for not only being bystanders, but also preventing the public from knowing

about the horrific calamities in Rwanda. His sensitivity about this topic was evident as the audience embraced his passion on the sufferings of the people in that region. Caplan then transported the audience to the present day by examining the current circumstances surrounding Sudan and

the horrific slaughters that are transpiring in Darfur. Interestingly, what all these genocides have in common, unlike the Holocaust, is that the world had become blind and deaf to the victims' cries.

Both speakers made a final appeal to the audience, particularly to those whose families have suffered from genocide, to not stay silent, to speak out particularly in the coming election, and to fight against such injustices.

There was a short break after which the speakers and Mr. Aris Babikian answered several questions from the audience. Mr. Aris Babikian is a member of the Armenian National Committee, and he is at the centre of many organizational efforts which lobby the Canadian government and the Canadian public opinion on issues such as the Genocide in Darfur, and of the Armenians.

The Armenian Students' Association is a Waterloo Federation of Students Club, and an organization that promotes Genocide awareness and the ending of Human rights violations in the world.

***"'We need to do more
today and tomorrow'
in regards to public
apathy to so many
tragedies.'"***

Better than Rowling



MICHAEL
SUE-KAM-LING
2A CHEMICAL

In today's literature market it can be hard for an unconventional writer to garner success against mainstream writers such as J. K. Rowling, Dan Brown or Tom Clancy. Take Rowling for example. In the past 8 years she has literally overshadowed the works of her fellow authors in a commanding and almost selfish manner. In this time, Rowling has also amassed a devoted, nearly overzealous worldwide following as well as an estimated fortune of over

£576 million (approx. \$1 billion USD) solely on the success of one set of books. She not only dominates the mainstream market but also has slowly taken fans from alternative genres, predominantly the fantasy genre. One author who has been deeply affected by this Harry Potter obsession is an author by the name of Terry Pratchett.

Pratchett, now age 57, is most famously known for his Discworld series of books, which spans 35 novels and several short stories. Discworld is a flat world that lies on the backs of four giant elephants, which in turn stand on the back of a giant space turtle, the Great A'tuin, who paddles majestically through space towards an unknown destination. Yes, I know it sounds silly, but that is entirely Pratchett's intention.

The series was first introduced through the 1983 novel *The Colour of Magic*, which was created primarily to parody typical fantasy books as well as role-playing games. In this book, the main character

Rincewind, a wizardry student, travels across the vast world with an adventure-seeking tourist Twoflower who hails from a mysterious far away land. Sound like a typical fantasy? Well then picture the protagonist as an inept version of Tolkien's Gandalf who possesses less magical ability than an everyday potato and whose primary concern in the face of danger is to assess how much of a head start he has. Then picture his sidekick as a stereotypical, camera-toting, oriental tourist who will do anything for a thrilling experience and even more for a decent photograph of it. Now imagine these two fighting imaginary dragons on an upside down mountain, raiding a temple alongside an elderly barbarian and plummeting off the edge of the world. That's a typical Discworld plot in a nutshell.



Artist's rendition of Discworld
courtesy to.infn.it.

The remaining books in the series introduce many new characters (as well as reusing those found in the first novel) and each focuses on different amusing themes or motifs. He also continues his parody and satire driven writing style, addressing things like women's rights (in *Equal Rites*), communism and imperial China (in *Interesting Times*), Australia (in *The Last Continent*), and even cheesy martial arts films (in *Thief of Time*). And the list

goes on and on. He uses this to draw a humorous yet critical image of the world we live in and in my opinion he does an outstanding job.

To complement the Discworld series Pratchett has written (or co-written) three novels based on the science behind Discworld, four atlases describing the lands and traditions, an encyclopedia, a cookbook describing the cuisine of the Discworld witches and a portfolio of Discworld art. Combined, these works give an image of Discworld of almost

Environmental Understanding Part I: Global Warming

TYLER GALE & KRISTI HERLEIN
2A GEOLOGICAL & 1N CHEMICAL

January 9th, 2006 – New Delhi records lowest temperature on record in 70 years

December 8th, 2005 – former founding member of Greenpeace praises US for rejecting Kyoto Accord

December 7th, 2005 – Climatologist Rejects Global warming explanation for island abandonment

Newspaper headlines like these are displayed on bias websites with the intention of denouncing the existence of global warming. You have to be on a mission to find controversial articles like these in the paper, because they contradict the monster that media has sculpted for global warming. Not to be doing any media bashing, but it has taken a few opinions and made them seem like fact by consistently publishing stories of the same nature. The facts are there, the average temperature of the earth is increasing more and more quickly, mean sea level is rising unusually rapidly, the greenhouse effect exists and occurs, but is the greenhouse effect really causing global warming? Are artificially produced greenhouse gasses really to blame for the acceleration in average earth temperature? Will global warming have devastating effects? These questions are all cause for controversy because they question the foundation of the vast majority of related media articles in recent times. They're also reasonable questions because there is no consensus in the academic com-

munity about anything to do with global warming, even that it's happening on a long term basis. The scary part is that it has effectively become fact among those of us not involved in the scientific debate: Global warming is occurring due to the greenhouse effect and many people will effectively die if something is not done to prevent it.

Consider this. Say that global warming were not an effect of industrial pollution, but rather a heightened level of solar activity in the last 50 years (this is actually one of the leading opposing theories). Can we justify strapping down the economies of so many countries in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? There are other benefits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, for example smog levels might reduce, but are they worth the economic trade-offs? Would it be easier for society to take the hit of the effects of increasing temperature over the negative effects of reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

Unfortunately, the issues surrounding global warming are far too complex for anyone to form a truly comprehensively informed opinion about. What we need to recognize, is that regardless of whether society goes into climate control mode and attempts to halt global warming, or chooses to ride the wave and brace for the impact, changes will continue to occur and society will consistently be faced with new challenges of a similar nature.

Look for more articles in the Environmental Understanding Series in future issues.

Tolkienesque proportions.

Aside from his well-developed Discworld series, he has written many other fantasy novels as well as a plethora of children's novels and he has even co-written a highly praised comedy-fantasy novel with American author Neil Gaiman named *Good Omens*. All in all, he has written comedic material for people of all ages and literary palates.

Pratchett's writing is a very welcome

and lighthearted break from the typical mainstream literature that we've grown accustomed to. So the next time your browsing your local Chapters franchise sipping your Starbucks Frappuccino take the time to browse through the fantasy section and check out Terry Pratchett's work. A good recommended start for those new to Pratchett is the aforementioned book *The Colour of Magic*, as well as the novels *Mort*, *Equal Rites* and *Guards! Guards!*



Sandford Fleming Foundation
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www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff

WELCOME BACK

Technical Speaker Competition

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

Refreshments will be served
Everyone is welcome

Debates

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

DATE March 7, 8, and 9
TIME 11:30 – 1:00 (except March 7, 12:00 – 1:30)
PLACE E2 - 3324

Finals: Friday, March 10
Noon
Outside POETS (CPH)

Refreshments will be served at the finals
Everyone is welcome

Shooting Stars & Satellites A Trip to the Observatory



DAVID YIP
3B MECHANICAL

Many of you have certainly noticed the dome perched atop the Physics building. Curious, I did as many curious do and ran a search for 'Observatory' on the university web page.

What turned up was an a rather tired looking homepage dated 2001 reporting public observatory tours as taking place the first Wednesday of every month. Email inquiries initially went unanswered, and so the next first Wednesday I went anyway to PHY308 to see if anything was happening. As it turned out, yes, there are tours, no, not today because of the weather. Sadly I had to spend 5 uncomfortable minutes in the halls of PHY paying undue attention to the Lorentz attractors on the walls while a couple on a date made cutesy faces at each other.

The second attempt was far more successful. Scheduled for 9, I showed up promptly, and found a graduate student giving answers to questions of an astronomical nature, questions posed by both young and old alike. No dates though, thankfully. Personally I got my answer to "How do we know what the Milky Way is shaped like if we've never been outside of it? (Characteristics we observe from here on the inside correspond to characteristics observed of spiral galaxies on the outside.) A bespectacled child reminiscent of the McCain Superfries kid wondered how we

know there was life on Mars, among other things.

At 9.30 we cut to the chase and headed up to the roof of PHY towards the Observatory. Our fearless leader (Whose name I can sadly no longer remember) pointed out the various constellations in the summer sky with the help of his awesome green-visible-beam laser, though fewer stars were visible because of the oppressive glow of Dana Porter. Groups of 4 were then taken up to the Observatory dome itself to view Mars through the telescope. The telescope is actually quite small compared to the size of the dome itself. The telescope is mounted on a pole fixed to the foundation of the building, and there is enough space for a person to walk around it.

Mars that night was sadly still quite low in the sky, and obscured by the atmosphere and city lights. It appeared as a white dot in a foggy black background. Some of the group were slightly underwhelmed, but I think we are all so used to seeing pictures of planets and nebulae from the Hubble telescope that we forget what terrestrial pictures can be like.

In all, quite a worthwhile excursion - while the actual viewing through the telescope is heavily subject to weather conditions, having your questions answered, and the laser-guided tour of the night sky was well worth it. Find a companion, get some hot drinks afterwards, and you can turn it into date.

Public tours of the Observatory are scheduled the first Wednesday of each month. Meet at 8.00 pm at Physics 308. For further details visit www.astro.uwaterloo.ca.



The observatory perched on the physics building.

Head Tax Redress

CHINESE CDN NATIONAL COUNCIL
PRESS RELEASE

The CCNC together with the BC Coalition, and the Ontario Coalition are encouraging students and youths to actively participate in Canada's political process and vote in the upcoming Federal election.

Head tax redress is now clearly an election issue primarily because it has galvanized Chinese Canadian voters. The result of all the community pressure is that all three major opposition parties have endorsed in writing our call for a full parliamentary apology, direct redress for the 250 surviving head tax payers and spouses, and open, transparent and inclusive consultations with head tax families across Canada to properly begin the process of reconciliation. [Please visit www.headtaxredress.org for details]

"The key is that an issue of human rights and social justice had direct meaning to a group of voters who happened to form a sizable proportion of particular ridings," said Christine Li, York University student and National Executive of the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC), "Even the PM has personally apologized, after 3 of his cabinet ministers called for the apology, feeling the heat in their ridings where Chinese Canadians are about 40% of the population."

"The most exciting part of this so far for me personally is that not only have

Chinese Canadian voters made their voices heard but that they are seeing the political clout they can have. We have issued a list of ridings to watch where they can make a major difference with their vote." said Susan Eng, co-chair of the Ontario Coalition of Chinese Head Tax Payers and Families. "The next part of this campaign is to make sure that the broader population gets the message that this is a Canadian issue, a

question of what kind of values we hold dear and how we plan to show it."

"This issue really captured my audience, especially the younger listeners who burned up the call-in lines" said Simon Li, host of Power Politics on Toronto First Radio, a Cantonese language radio show. "And they were very dissatisfied with the Prime Minister's answers when I had him on our show. And I believe the politicians are hearing the message now."

Canada's "National Dream" was realized when the Last Spike was driven to complete the transcontinental railway in 1885. Instead of gratitude for the Chinese railway workers - thousands of whom gave their lives to the building of this country - the government imposed a head tax on all new Chinese immigrants, collecting more than \$23 million by 1923. That year, the government passed the Chinese Exclusion Act to stop all Chinese immigration to Canada. The racist legislation was not repealed until 1947.

The Ethics of Gourmet



CINDY BAO
4B ELECTRICAL

Did you toast your New Year with champagne and caviar? If not, the next chance for you to taste the highly-prized delicacy (or so they say) may be hard to come by.

Early this month, United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) banned international trade of wild caviar, given the lack of sustainability of wild sturgeon stocks, especially in the Caspian Sea. According to the UN agency, years of lowering export quota for caviar and other sturgeon products had not taken into account illegal fishing.

However, is the exporting ban really the answer to the plunging number of sturgeon? The short legal supply of caviar will only encourage poaching, driven by the price the connoisseurs and gourmards are willing to pay on the black market.

In United States and France, among other countries, farm-raised caviar has been said to increase in quality. I most certainly see it as a welcome alternative to the endangered wild species. While many cry that farmed variety is no where near the expensive fish roe harvested from the ocean, I cannot say that I feel at all sorry

for the great loss of the elite, whose digestive system is just way too delicate to eat like us common folks.

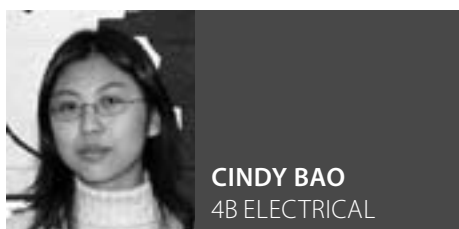
Apparently, caviar is not the only one suffering from an image problem. The production of another foodies' favourite, foie gras, has been banned by Germany and Italy, two of France's nearest neighbours, as well as Israel. Several US states, namely California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Oregon, have introduced legislations regulating its production.

Foie gras is produced by a process called gavage: force-feeding grain to ducks or geese several times a day through a pipe that is inserted in their throats, causing their livers to grow many times their normal size within weeks.

It should also be noted that laws in European countries ban merely the production, not the import or consumption of foie gras, as France has declared it an ancestral patrimony. Meanwhile, the European Union has asked the industry to explore whether or not there are more humane ways of producing foie gras.

In the past several years, organic farming has been increasingly embraced by the general public. Aside from the pesticide and hormone scares, animal welfare and the environment are also the values organic farming promotes. With a little personal sacrifice, the concept can easily be extended further to the higher end of the food scale.

Obligatory Sex Column



CINDY BAO
4B ELECTRICAL

Was it because of the Sex and the City? It seems the industry standard for newspapers is to have a single female columnist to write about her life, more specifically sex, love and relationships. It soon spread to campus where such issues take much of a centre stage in the



Did Carrie Bradshaw inspire a rash of uni sex columnists?

life of students. Even Ivy League schools are not immune to the trend: Columbia Spectator's Miriam Datskovsky and her Sexplorations, and Natalie Krinsky's "Sex and the (Elm) City in the Yale Daily News, just to name a few. Don't forget our own beloved Imprint and the retired Michelle Titus and Julia Harries. Now my editor is nudging me to start one. It should be noted that MathNews hasn't jumped on the wagon and a demographic survey

taken from Comfy answers why.

After careful consideration ("No freaking way, Andrew!"), I decided to take on the role of anti-"sex columnist". Don't get me wrong, despite being slightly ashamed to admit the voyeuristic tendency, I am addicted to reading those articles as much as the next person. It is a given if I love the writer; if I happen to dislike one particular author, it motivates me to keep up with her life just so I have new reasons to continue validating my viewpoint.

However, it takes a generous dose of unabashed confidence to put one's life in ink. While there are lots to be discussed regarding the topics, where is the line between anthropological observations and the tell-all tales of Too-Much-Information? Just think Jessica Cutler and her notorious Washingtonienne blog. If you haven't heard, this former Capitol intern documented her encounters with six government employees online, got fired from the senate office and turned her blog into a book.

Has our culture's exhibitionism gone overboard? This tired question has been asked ever since reality TV dominated the prime-time screen. Yet, is it a mere supply-and-demand relationship and should we check into ourselves as the viewers and readers? After all, if we do not feel the need to snoop the life of others, would these

attention-thirsty individuals still bare it all for the fifteen minutes of fame?

Back to any university environment, the degree of separation between anyone is more like two than six. There is a good chance that anyone written into your column will read it later too. Think you can handle it? Start your career as a columnist here.

Dan Brown vs. DVDs

DAVID YIP
3B MECHANICAL

I recently came back from a trip to China. China is a solid 12 hours away, at least. This requires some form of entertainment on board the aircraft lest they decide to play terrible romantic comedies or something.

As luck would have it, my mom had some Dan Brown books lying around. Dan Brown, as most of you should know, is the author of the incredibly bestselling novel The Da Vinci Code. I read the Da Vinci Code, and another one of Dan's novel's, Digital Fortress. The Da Vinci Code, for the uninitiated, is about a secret that could shake the foundations of modern Christianity. Digital Fortress is about a secret that could shake the foundations of the National Security Agency, the American cryptologic agency.

Both were definite page turners, and good ways to pass the time. Unfortunately that's all they could really be, as the books reek of Hollywood style crowd pleasing formula.

But what are some of the elements of this formula?

Token romance. In the Da Vinci Code, the inevitable hints of romance are dropped throughout the novel, then blatantly concludes with "It's a date". As far as I could tell that added nothing to the story at all. I suppose the point is that putting a man and a woman through a bunch of harrowing life threatening chases together will end in romance. Viewed in this light I suppose that is logical? I'm not sure. In any case it seems forced.

In "Digital Fortress", the "beautiful and brilliant" heroine is in love with her fiance who is implausibly sent on some mission to a faraway country, causing them to miss out on their vacation to a stony manor in the mountains. Stony manor, wow. I think more original romantic settings have been found in the writings of high school juniors. In fact while reading the description of the romance between Susan and David (The heroine and her fiance) I felt a pang of familiarity in the writing as I suspected that it was close to something that I (ie: Not a bestselling author) could have written.

Cheesy depictions of technology are also present in Digital Fortress - the massive codebreaking computer employed by the NSA is called TRANSLATR, which

is quite frankly a really stupid name for anything, much less a super-powerful codebreaking computer. As an aside the Motorola phone names RAZR, ROCKR, PEBL, etc, are no less stupid, if not more stupid because they're actual products.

There is a tense scene where "hackers" are "breaking in" to the computer network, with tightly narrated descriptions of black lines on a computer screen breaking through different coloured envelopes representing the "firewalls". There is a lackey in the background creating further urgency by yelling pseudo-technical callouts such as "7 seconds until tie-in established on level 4!"

The employment of quasi-science is also infuriating, especially invoking non-existent principles and laughable scientific "riddles". (The difference between U235 and U238 is 3! 3!) Other Hollywoodian requisites such as absolute suspension of belief in some action scenes are also present. The Da Vinci Code, while free from gross misrepresentations of the art mentioned (As far as I know), is still rife with the not quite so believable scenes occurring now and then.

I am probably being a bit harsh, but when I heard that Dan Brown wrote really good books, I wasn't really expecting a mere translation of a standard movie script onto a page. They are great ways to pass the time, though, especially if you have a cinematic imagination. This makes the Dan Brown novel fair competition to carrying around a mobile DVD player.

A mobile DVD player is say, \$200. You need to carry around the DVDs, the charger, and the player itself. You may need to carry travel adapters, and the battery life is probably not 12 hours. Books by Dan Brown are perhaps \$10 each. They are considerably more voluminous if you decide to carry more than two, but do not require batteries. Your reading speed will also factor into this - if you read slowly, a Dan Brown book will last you longer than a DVD, which occupies a fixed amount of time. DVDs have an infinite range of subjects, Dan Brown books are about intrigue, cheap romance, and puzzles. Again, being a bit harsh, but consider me underwhelmed because of the Da Vinci Code hype. Books tend to have more credibility than movies and the Internet, but in the case of these books at least (There's more, so I may not be being fair), that's untrue. Entertaining literature sure, quality, not quite.

the iron warrior magazine

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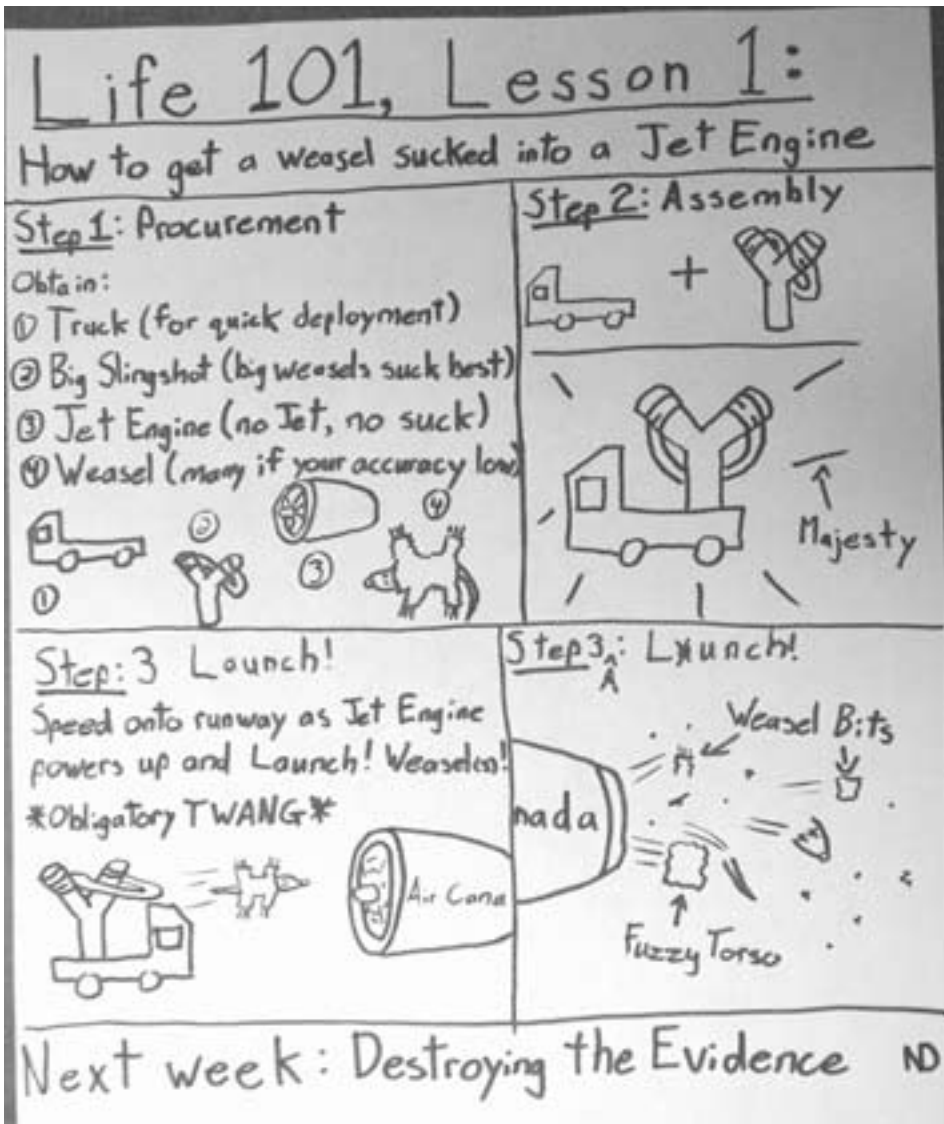
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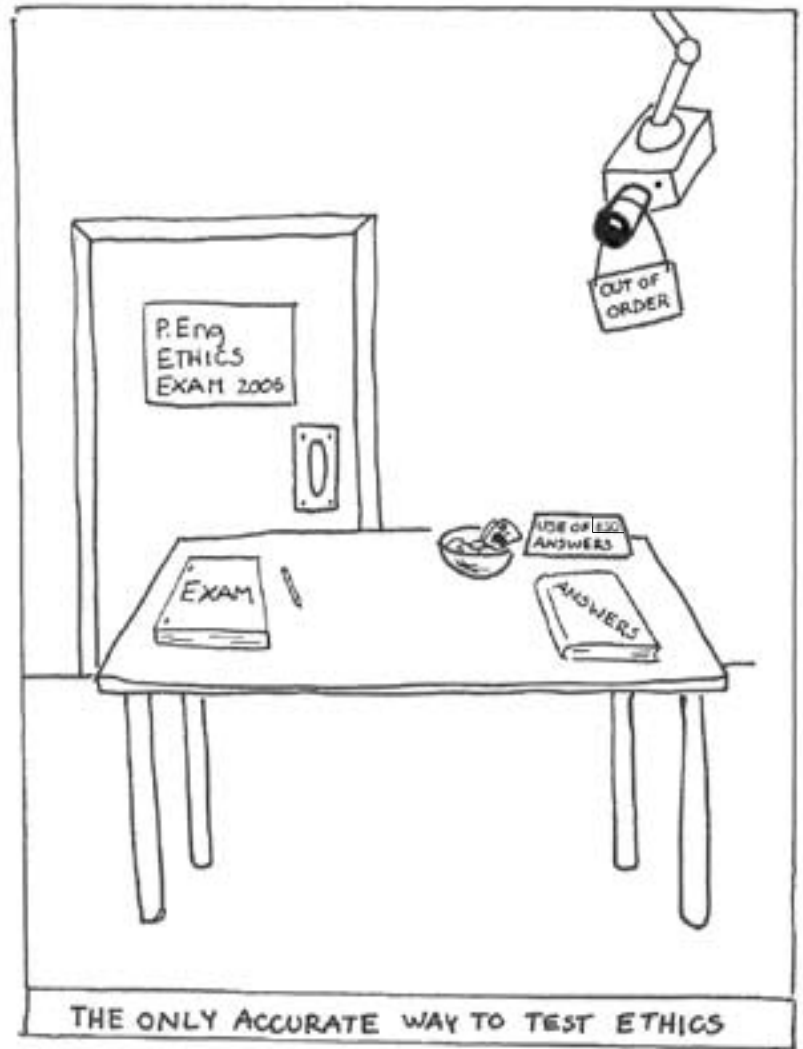
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you want to contribute ANYTHING AT ALL,

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JACLYN SHARPE
2A MECHANICAL



Toolbearer Says:

Top Ten Reasons Not To Put Your Hands In An Operating Blender:

10. You can kiss flipping the bird to bicyclists and pedestrians goodbye!
9. People will lose respect for you... wait, they already did... you're ugly
8. Where will you put your iron ring?
7. You have to have other people feed you BEvERages. Actually, that'd be awesome!
6. People will pity you... wait, they already do... you're ugly...
5. No more %!/?@-slapping of random midgets.
4. Chuck Norris drop kicks freaks like you.
3. You'll never be able to pleasure yourself again. That's right, no world of Warcraft for you anymore!
2. It would make the blender dirty.
1. Have you ever cleaned a blender without hands? @#!&ing impossible!

Send in your prof quotes, drawings and poems!

the Iron Inquisition

David Yip, 3B Mechanical

What are you doing with your full reading week next year?



"Finally join the arts students on kinky sex island"
Andrew Dodds - New Editor in Chief



"Skiing!"
Yang Sui - 3B Mechanical
Erica Dion - 3B Chemical



"Planning a wedding in the Bahamas."
Poroshat Damavandi, Annie Gu, and
Abra Ens
1B Civil



"Haven't planned ahead that far."
Trevor Burns - 3B Mechanical



"Drunk off my ass."
John Lee - 3B Systems



"Your mom."
Jon McKinley - 3B Mechanical



"I'm graduating this term, what do I care?"
Katherine Chiang - 4B Envirochem



"Jungle-based enviro-eco-sex tourism."
David Yip - Old Editor in Chief