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#IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2006



The Future is 'H'

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Super Mario SCUNT: "Lewd", "Obscene", ...



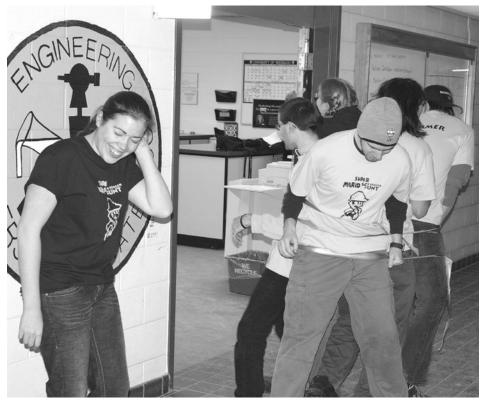
... "a little blurry", ...



... "masochistic", ...



... "sticky", ...



... "a bonding experience"



The termly SCavenger hUNT started off with a bang on Friday night. This Scunt, run by 2A Systems, aka Undesyded aka Guerilla Systems, had a low turnout with only three teams, but the consensus was that it was a blast. The theme this time around was Super Mario and POETS was converted into a retro gamer's heaven: classic Nintendo on a huge screen. Super Mario Brothers 1 and 3 were the main entertainment throughout the long night as events ran around the clock and the three teams competed for the right to run Scunt

Highlights of the event include a superb game of Calvin ball, building sleds out of cardboard to go down the hill outside of DWE, building snow sculptures of "generous proportions" (supposedly resembling the Scunt Gods), the bottom floor of RCH being turned into a large scale game of Pac-man, controversial application of chocolate pudding during the "Killer Q-Tips" event, and the main feature of the night: a certain Scunt God *cough*Steve Swanson*cough* donning a bikini outside of POETS.

The teams competing were 2A Chemical, 1B Nanotechnology and the usual Math team. At the beginning all three teams started strong with lots of enthusiasm. In particular, Artificial Inchemination came out firing on all cylinders winning the vast majority of events heading into the early evening. Unfortunately, apathy overcame their team and most of them left before the halfway point.

This left Nano and Math to duke it out for Scunt supremacy. These two teams, seeing this opportunity, capitalized and fought a two-way battle for the rest of the night. Math focused on the off-campus headquarters visit, preparing a delicious meal for the Gods as per usual. Nano focused more on the acquisitions list and managed to impress the Gods. After a long night, Nano ultimately emerged as the winners. Congratulations to their class and here's to hoping they run an awesome Scavenger Hunt come fall term and that this win helps bring their class together.

Where Have All the Canucks Gone?

What it Means to Be Canadian



As much as I love the Iron Warrior, by now it's the last thing on my mind. The love is still there though, just hidden briefly. A bit like how you can yell at your dog and lock him in his cage for the day when he takes a dump right on the seat of your brand new Lay-Z-Boy recliner, but you still think that he's the cutest little ball of (currently faeces-matted) fur. I hide any hint of responsibility for this publication for the moment because it's everyone's favourite time again, crunch time! As midterms draw nigh (or have already taken hold of you), I wish you good luck, and advise you to blow off some steam with a healthy dose of EngSoc events.

Normally as an Editor in chief, you wait a while to say anything about the creation of the paper. Sometimes one will come along who blows his load of gripes or stories in the first issue, preventing him from further revealing the scary world that is this tiny hole in the wall. While the stories keep building up, I must pause to say a heartfelt thanks to my writers. They have kept the paper full, keeping me from the shame of an 8-page issue, and this time around kicking it up a notch to sixteen pages, and more lean this time around to boot. I say a special thanks to my small but able editing team, as well as to all those who have helped to keep me on track this morning as I find myself writing my way into an 8:30am class. As happy as I am to be the editor for such a wonderfully willing group of students this term, I find myself more than a little disillusioned to be a part of another group.

First of all, what does it mean to be a part of a group? A true group is more than the five people sitting next to you that you get lumped with when your arts professor separates you diligently into little discussion groups. In its simplest form, a group is composed of elements with similar characteristics. The Conservative Party is a group, united under the desire to liberate Canadians from Liberal tyranny (or so I hear), just as much as KISS was a group united under the common flag of freaking people out, getting their freak on, and playing freaking good music (all members achieving these results to a greatly varying degree). They all fit into the group because in one way or another they all share the same identity.

It is with a heavy heart that I say now that I feel like never before that being Canadian is feeling less like the group of noble people that I think we are, and more like a sea of lost sheep that can't even seem to follow one another anymore.

Almost anywhere in the world you go, the red and white Canadian flag is recognized, and unlike another recognizable flag, the Maple leaf is a symbol of hope, welcomed with open arms and smiling faces. How sad that a child halfway around the world is more excited to be given a miniature paper flag than many Canadians nowadays seem to be living under it. Being Canadian meant something once, and while most would forget or push aside that ideology, the meaning is just as important as ever.

We have been divided now to our own ideals, looking to serve our own needs.

One need to look no further than our new federal leader's home province to see the effects. Alberta is the new culture of the West. With prosperity has come a change of heart. Now that Harper has gained power, Ralph Klein lost all reason to keep quiet and has announced that changes to the provincial healthcare system will be made, and they will proceed whether or not they violate the Canada Health Act. The two-tier system we've all heard so much about is as unCanadian as one can get. You could argue it from all points of view how wrong this is, but the heart of the issue is embodying a system that is prejudiced, in this case not by race but by

On a smaller level, you can see the attitude present in the day to day goings on of the most Albertan locale of Fort McMurray. Conservative MP Brian Jean can't even keep his Quizno's Sub franchise running on a daily and regular schedule. The only notice his employees give when leaving is that they don't show up for their shift, when the minimum wage is over double that of Ontario in the area. They leave because somewhere down a street or road someone has offered them a few pennies, nickels, or dimes more and immediately they pounce. Not an ounce of remorse or feeling is shown in the actions of these people.

Perhaps more twisted still is the apathy that runs rampant in the province. In such a large country as Canada, it is easy to feel lost, but never should one feel alienated from their leaders and fellow countrymen. The general feeling, especially among youth, is that nothing they do can make a change, make a difference, and the desire to try is even smaller. With the B.C. lumber disputes, the Quebec separatist movement and hard times in the Maritimes, it is rare for any Alberta issue to make the news unless it's Ralph opening his mouth to say more than he should. But just like the rest of the country, Alberta has its concerns, so why aren't we hearing them?

As a matter of fact, why aren't we hearing any concerns at all? Not so long ago in the decades more known for free love Canadians of all stripes from all walks of life participated in both big and small, be it the Montreal Bed-In or a group of people as big as my staff. This was the way of things, that even when no results came, any desire for change was charged with emotion and passion and successful calls to action. Canada in the new millennium has never been a more accessible place to bring about change, and yet when change is the easiest it has ever been, action is nowhere to be seen.

How best could I describe the Canadian identity today? It feels to me now that in the absence of any desire to establish a set of beliefs that unites us, we have identified ourselves quite succinctly as 'Not American'. What kind of unity can you expect when you define yourselves not by what you are but by what you aren't? To say that one is not the detractor says nothing of one's ability to make a positive change in the world, or even in just one life.

I do not know what it will take to trigger a radical change in our mood. Once the change is there and the stone is moved, we will no sooner find that the tomb is empty and our identity has risen again. I believe that in the East we can find the example

of what it is to be Canadian, and perhaps the inspiration to revive a great culture and philosophy of which we can all be proud.

Whereas in the West actions are driven by the pursuit of opportunity and looking for the best possible outcome for a given situation, whether or not it should benefit anyone but the individual, the Maritimes approach things from the truly Canadian perspective.

Everything revolves around community on the Atlantic coast. It is the interactions with other people on a one to one basis that defines the quality of life. Success is not measured by the amount in the bank account or by the need for success. Instead, it is measured directly by the health of the community overall. Day to day interactions as simple as a kindly 'hello' in passing or a conversation over a few drinks is the source of happiness in the region. Joy is derived from paying our respects to our friends, our culture, and what got us here in the first place.

A prime example here is the fishing industry in Newfoundland. It has declined to heart wrenchingly low levels. Many fishers find themselves fighting hard to survive off of an industry that once virtually assured one of financial security through any turmoil that should arise. Yet, despite this, they continue to fish, continue to live life the way that they always have. Instead of jumping ship, they have committed themselves to their path, and to working towards bringing back a sustainable population and thus a sustainable industry. As the hard times fall on one member of the community, so does the rest quickly jump in to lend a hand in whatever way they can.

This is what it means to be Canadian. The border on a map can tell us that we are not American. But it is our own values that tell us that we are Canadian. I feel the greatest sense of pride in calling myself Canadian, even with the way things have been. I felt an ecstatic joy as I cast my ballot in the election, a seemingly small gesture but in no way insignificant considering that margins of victory in this election existed that were smaller than the population of my high school, and even smaller than that of my classes here in Waterloo. I know that any success I achieve will be not solely because of me, but because of the people around me, and the help that they and my country have given me. Canada is a country populated by likely one of, if not the most culturally diverse grouping of races, religions and creeds. Within this great variety we are a culture that firmly believes that everyone deserves a fair and equal shot to succeed in life, whether you measure that in terms of the education we have been afforded, the health we have been so lucky to maintain, or the ability to be accepted and welcomed for our differences and not chastised for them.

While we have lost sight in recent times of the noble tenets that have defined us, there is still hope that we may regain our identity in sea of confusion. It shines through the darkness with every vote cast, every voice heard, every person given aid and every difference celebrated. I say it with pride that I am Canadian down to the bone. I hope that it won't be long before this chorus swells into a roar of pride as we all shout out with full conviction, knowing what it means to say I AM CANADIAN!

IRON WARRIOR

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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

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Stay on the Scene Like a Lovin' Machine



Dear LowRider,

I just found this gem of a bar. It's a sketchy little place on King Street that does Funk night every Friday. Sure they charge ridiculous amounts for beverages and all the bouncers are only 4 feet tall. But the beats man. Mad beats. They really know how to throw down the funky monkey freak beats. You just get out on the floor and let the rhythm rock your bones man. I really know how to cut-a-rug as my grandpa says. Here's the problem though. The mini-me bouncers don't appreciate it when you bolt into the ladies rest room and start peeing in the sink. Why? It's beyond me. Where I come from breaking the seal in the lady's room is considered a complement to the chef. Do you enjoy getting your funk on Mr. Rider?

Regards,

Funky Monkey

Dear Starlight-Starbright,

This cat knows his funk. Gotta love the sketchiness on King. I did notice that the bouncers tend to be a bit underdeveloped. I frequent the ladies powder room. So much cleaner than the men's room. Good call. Just make sure you break some stuff on your way out. Get your money's worth in drywall.

LR

Dear Lowered Rider,

I met this girl when we were both a little bit under the influence. She was just standing there, staring at me across the room. I've been staying up every night on the phone and talking about shitty sitcoms until 5 in the morning. MSN is like my best buddy now. She's coming to spend the day with me. So I spent 6 hours cleaning my hole of a house and have mentally prepared myself for our next visit for weeks. I think she's really feeling me. I think I'm falling into love. What do I do now?

Thanks for your help. You're an outstanding human being.

The five dollar native

Dear Cutlass,

It sound to me like that short little fat shit with wings and a bow and arrow hit you where it counts. Get a grip man. Put on your game face. Ever consider writing poetry? Hopeless.

LR

Dear _LR_,

I just got back from Bomber. As usual it was not even closed to packed and the lineup went all the way to Columbia Lake. I noticed a couple of scantily clad females that were super hairy (I just puked at the thought). If I would have known better, I'd say they were actually somewhere on the line that separates sexes. That line these days it quite wide. You never know. You always have the down low on these activities. What the fuck was that all about?

Sincerely,

Concerned

Dear Keeper of the Faith,

Excellent observation. Did you happen to notice that those two dudes picked up more ladies than every other guy combined? What you witnessed was the tail end of rush week at 36. It's surprising what a little bit of makeup can do. Congratulations gentlemen, you're in.

LR

Dear LowRider,

I write this letter from the bottom of my heart. I have been dating my lovely girlfriend for many moons. We're talking about 7 years. I love her so much and she loves me. We're in love. I'm sure that we're get hitched someday. We're both pursuing higher level degrees and going to be very successful professionals so our discussion regarding the future is very limited. She knows it. I know it. It is just understood. I'm starting to ramble because this deeply concerns me. I need more from what we have going on. I'm not one to publish the details of my intimate life but since you are legit I'll discuss. We are not doing it (you know what I mean). I've tried everything but nothing gets the point across. Is there anything you can do to loosen her up for me? You are the man with the red BANDANA.

Get back to me ASAP,

Anonymous

Dear Future Professional, The BANDANA says:

She's tired of that same old shaggy dress. Try a little tenderness. You gotta try a little tenderness. Squeeze her, don't tease her, never leave her, please her. Try a little tenderness. Make her feel nice. Like sugar and spice. So nice.

You're welcome.

LR

'till next time keep it low kids.

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



Riding low...even in Rome.

CECS Important Dates

February 2

Successfully Negotiating Job Offers 3:30-4:30 TC 1208

February 6

Are You Thinking About Graduate Studies?

2:30-3:30 TC 2218

Mastering the Personal Statement 3:30-4:30 TC 2218

February 7

Interview Skills: Preparing for Questions 3:30-4:30 TC 1208

February 8

Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills 3:30-5:30 TC 2218

February 9 Work Search Strategies 3:30-5:00 TC 1208

February 13 Career Decision Making 3:30-5:30 TC 1208

February 14 Successfully Negotiating Job Offers 3:30-4:30 TC 1208

February 15
Business Etiquette and
Professionalism
4:30-5:30 TC 1208

February 16 Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills 3:30-5:30 TC 1208

February 27 Writing CVs and Cover Letters 12:00-1:30 TC 2218

February 28 Special Session for International Students 4:30-6:00 TC 2218

Like Money?

Want Money??

NEED MONEY??

WEEF Proposal Submission is now Open.

Log on to www.weef.uwaterloo.ca/proposals.html,

for more information

Final Deadline: February 27th, 2006



See Bus. Push, Bus Push!



Bus Push has become a staple in the traditions of Waterloo engineering students and their society. Every winter term in the past 29 years, we engineers have moved a bus from campus to downtown Kitchener, raising money for charities such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters. We have even seen the event evolve from pushing a bus, to using a giant rope to pull it. This year marks a special year in the history of the event because it marks its 30th anniversary.

I am one of five directors for the event this term and we are very excited! This term we will be raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation since they were extremely cooperative and helpful during last year's event. The event will take place the morning of Saturday March 4th and pledge forms are now available so start collecting pledges! To pick up a form simply contact one of the directors (our emails are listed on the Eng Soc website)

or stop by our information booth, which will be set up outside POETS every Tuesday during the hours of 11:30pm to 1:30pm from now until the event.

Usually the goal of the event is to bring in five thousand dollars for the charity in question but this year we're aiming a bit higher. To date there hasn't been a set goal for the amount we wish to raise, but we have been brainstorming ideas to promote more fundraising than usual. For instance, there are prizes available through the Heart and Stroke Foundation for individuals who raise over a certain amount. We will also most likely be offering prizes for the top fundraising individuals. In addition to prizes, we are currently working on getting professors, and possibly even Dean Sedra, to come out on the morning of the event and help pull the bus if a certain monetary goal has been reached.

So pick up a pledge form and start collecting money, because if raising money for charity isn't incentive enough, surely prizes and watching your favourite professors or the dean himself pull a giant bus can help motivate you. Kate, Adrienne, Radhika, Ruth-Anne and I look forward to seeing you all on the morning of March 4th.

When in Rome...

MICHELE HENG

4B SYSTEMS

Last March, Atmel Corporation, an industry leader in the design and manufacture of advanced semiconductors, launched, along with the Diopsis 740 platform, the DSP Design Contest 2005. The D740 platform combines into one chip an ARM microcontroller and a floating point digital signal processor. Open to undergraduate and graduate students, the contest gives the opportunity for the best minds in the world to turn their ideal applications into reality.

To enter the competition, teams were required to submit a 3-page preliminary proposal of their ideal application. Selected from an original field of 80, the top 25 teams had until the end of the summer to submit a detailed application note of their project, consisting of in-depth documentation of design and implementation as well as testing and verification methodologies. The 12 most original and pertinent projects were admitted into the next round of the contest. The reward: three days training in Rome!

Three independent University of Waterloo teams submitted complete application notes, and out of the original 80 teams that entered the contest, the three teams – West SYDE Warriors, ConcertPitch and VOIPS – ranked 18th, 8th, and 5th, respectively. Matt Millard of ConcertPitch along with George Minett,

Michele Heng and Chris Blake of VOIPS received training on the D740 development kit in the Atmel Roma office and were given a complete development kit free of charge to realize their project. The two Canadian teams are also competing against students from Israel, Hungary, Italy, Colombia, and India. The competition is stiff among the top ranked teams as three have tied for first place and another two teams have tied for fifth. However, it's really anybody's game. A final report due at the end of March 2006 will determine first, second and third place winners of the contest who shall be rewarded with estimable cash prizes and intellectual property rights.

In recognition of the support that the UW teams have received in order to fully participate in the contest, thanks goes out to the Systems Design Department, the Faculty of Engineering, the supervisors of the projects - Professor Birkett and Professor Gebotys - and the Sandford Fleming Foundation. As you may not know, a portion of an undergraduate engineering student's incidental fees goes toward an SFF fund. The money is directed back into the student body through awards for SFF debates and technical speaker competitions, and travel awards for team competitions such as this one. Application procedures for SFF Travel Awards, valued up to \$1000, can be found at www.eng.uwater-



Engsoc for the Uninitiated

PATRICK BROWN

4B MECHANICAL

 Γ or those of you who have never heard of Engsoc, or who don't really know what it is.

Engsoc stands for Engineering Society, and it's there to take care of any issues that come up with respect to engineering students. Unfortunately, it can also generate some issues. For those of you who know me, you know that I've been here a long time (too long, in my mind). That gives me a somewhat unique perspective on the goings-on in Engsoc.

Engsoc has done (and still does) some really great things. It represents us to the faculty, administration, and to the outside world in some cases. Its members help organize and run a great number of events that many people have made use of over the years. For anyone who grew up in the K-W area, you may recall having gone to the Canada Day celebrations in the summer, or having come to "Explorations", an event held each March Break for elementary school kids. Those outside of the region may have come for Shadow Day or Campus Day. And I will guarantee that most of you did Frosh Week. All the events during the term are run at least in part by Engsoc members. POETS is run by Engsoc, course critiques are co-run by Engsoc as well. It has run charity events, fun events, even somewhat goofy events (who can forget that Rocks-Paper Scissors tourna-

The problem is, some people can occasionally leave their brains at home some days. Many of you may have read the articles on the front page of the last issue of the Iron Warrior. They were in response to an event at the first Engsoc meeting this term. Some people said and did some rather stupid things. I will not go into them, but I will say that this isn't the first time. It also probably won't be the last.

As I said before, I've been here a while. So I know that that meeting's events are a repetition of something that happened before almost any of you got here. Back then, somebody said something stupid and offensive. Another person reacted in a less than accepting manner. A third group of people overreacted to the second person, creating a situation that resulted in that third group being asked to disassociate themselves from

Engsoc.

Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed this time, and we could clear the issue without major repercussions. However, this raises the question: What's going to happen in five years? Is this going to happen all over again when we're gone and no one is here to know about our mistakes? The events in our world have shown that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.

I have the utmost respect for the Engsoc institution, and its members in general. I just hope that since these events where better handled overall this time, that the next time they may come up, they don't come up at all. I would like to think that people are becoming more open and understanding of others. ence 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.

Music Worth Your Damn

JASON GUPTA

2B COMMERCE

In 2004, a producer by the name of Dangermouse gained mass recognition when he released a remix of Jay Z's 'Black Album', sampling The Beatles' 'White Album'. The Grey album was bootlegged heavily on the internet and soon Dangermouse became an indie hip-hop favourite. In 2005 he collaborated with another underground favourite, MF Doom and released this album, Danger Doom.

The album is influenced and based upon characters and shows from the Cartoon Network's 'Adult Swim' cartoons. The characters from shows such as Harvey Birdman, Aqua Teen Hunger Force and Space Ghost make appearances in skits between the songs. Though these skits do get annoying after repeated listens, they do get a chuckle on first listen (especially Master Shake's phone messages)

MF Doom is instantly recognized with his monotone voice and off-kilter rhymes. Dangermouse's production is well suited to an album based on cartoons, but a few of them do fall flat (ie. 'A.T.H.F.'), and seem

more like filler than anything. On the other hand, there are beats that make you nod your head without even realizing it (ie. 'Benzie Box'), and beats that just surprise you because they're so melodic (ie. 'Crosshairs').

Dangerdoom are joined by a couple of guests; Ghostface joins in on one of the better tracks on the album, 'The Mask'. The soulful voice of Cee-lo joins Doom and Dangermouse on 'Benzie Box' and Talib Kweli's rapid fire rhymes begin the song 'Old School'. I give it 4/5 stars.

Other albums to check out are; Madvillain which is a collaboration between Madlib and MF Doom. The new Ghostface album, which drops on March 7th, features Doom on half the tracks and Demon Days by The Gorillaz, which is executive produced by Dangermouse.



POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Marxist-Leninist or Communist?



omrades, it saddens me to say that the Conservatives won the election, while the party that truly represents the people did not. What is this party? Is it the Liberals, NDP or Bloc Québécois? No, it is the Marxist-Leninist Party! The Liberals are as corrupt as Enron, the Conservatives have such right-wing politics that it's amazing their plane isn't spiralling to a flaming (very non-homosexual of course) death, the Bloc speaks with a funny accent. and the Green party is the party of the planet, not its people. We of the Marxist-Leninist Party represent the true communist ideal of the people in the traditional Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels ideology, dictated in the Communist Manifesto, not the big C Communism of the Communist Party of Canada. This is not the butchered interpretation of traditional communism ideals such as China or Communist Russia. We must help the working people rise up and topple the corrupt government, whose misdeeds and ineptitude have become so blatant and clean in the past few years. We must not let the old corrupt government simply be replaced by another government that will probably become just as corrupt and will only serve the Bourgeoisie. We must rise up and replace it with a new government that serves the proletarian people and not just the elite.

The principal of communism is for everyone to be equal and the abolition of all private property that has lead to materialism. Instead of people gaining possessions through capitalism, people would be given possessions according to their needs. This means getting rid of any immaterial distractions such as television, mansions, expensive cars, and all forms of 'bling

bling' in general. Instead people will share everything equally, such as communal beds, drugs, and entertainment. This will entice the country into having a greater sense of camaraderie and communal living with each other. To facilitate this we will have smoking circles, tree planting matrices and rallies of the amorphous blob subtype. The manufacturing will shift to drugs (for pharmaceutical use, among other things...) and agriculture. Once this is done we will bring all the people together and expand everyone's minds with the possibility of a bright new future.

The Communist Party of Canada may make the same claims about adopting the communist ideals but they are nothing more than corrupt bureaucrats that do not represent the true will of the people. They are merely using Communism as a figure-head to their own ends.

So I say once again my fellow comrades, let's liberate our selves from these corrupt and self-serving governments and form a Marxist-Leninist republic for the

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!



Nomrades, this is an outrage; the Conservatives have won the election and created a government that does not fulfill the needs of the people and never will. This government needs a strong party that will remove all political opposition, destroy all corruption, pacify the general populous and crush the people under our firm boot. And of course by that I mean make everyone happy. All other parties are weak and will be crushed, ground into the dirt like this cockroach under my boot. The Marxist-Leninist Party is weak and will be brought under the control our firm hand. The Liberals are corrupt and will be toppled, and the NDP are mere pushovers. The Bloc Québécois knows how to instil fear in the populous, force them into submission and is fanatical, but they are French so anyone outside Quebec is not scared of them. Hey, when was the last time you were intimidated by a French person? The Conservatives may have won but their figurehead is nothing but a mechanical robot. Let's face I.t we can make a better robotic marionette, certainly one with more believable facial features. We have been doing it for years. Our head robotic engineer says, "We can make a better robot than the one called Harper 1.0. A robot that will crush the people into submission, eat babies and potentially make some sort of fruity cocktail concoction." First when you design a robot and you want to make it show emotion make it so that both the top parts and bottom parts of the face smile at the same time. It disturbs observers when the lower face smiles but the eyes stare forward blankly. The eyes should not look forward blankly, rather they should convey a warm fuzzy

feeling, perhaps by dispensing fuzzy bunnies. And then those bunnies can savagely destroy all opposition to the new order, ala Holy Grail. Secondly, animate the arms in a more fluent, less jerky motion. But it is critical that the robot is still able to karate chop like Chuck Norris.

The communist party is the only party for the Canadian people because it is the only party that truly represents the ideals that will best serve the people; the communist ideals. Sure the Marxist-Leninist Party may represent the communist party but they are too weak and useless. We are the party that has the will to crush the sheep into submission. When we assume power we will create gulags in the deep tundra of Bowmanville and will send to work there any people that pose a threat in the form of insurrection, until they are broken under our iron will. The difference between our party and the Marxist-Leninist Party is that we will break any political opposition with hard labour creating useless devices. The devices that will be manufactured and exported will be devices that are sub par and demeaning to the people. This will keep the general populous under our heel. These will include: Tom Jones CD's, electrical nose clippers, paper clips, Mini-vans, and the trinkets that are found in McDonald happy meals. With a general state of ennui throughout the populous, never again will anything happen, of any kind, and all will be well in the state of Canada.

So I say once again my fellow comrades let us join together to liberate Canada from this government and form a Communist state that will put people in their place.

Editor's Note:

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



Sandford Fleming Foundation E2 3336, ext 4008, sff@engmail www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff

The John Fisher Award for Leadership

The John Fisher Award for Leadership is made to a graduating student who has shown outstanding leadership throughout the student's academic career in activities that relate to Engineering Education. These leadership contributions can be associated with the Engineering Society, the Departments, the Faculty, the Sandford Fleming Foundation, and with other activities with a professional orientation. Nominations for the John Fisher Award can originate from student groups, faculty members and others. Nominations should document the nominee's outstanding leadership and other contributions. The award consists of a certificate, a citation and an honorarium of \$1,000. All nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of the Foundation by **April 1**.

Engineering Debates: Will be held March 7 (12:00 – 1:30) and March 8, and 9 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in E2 room 3324. The finals will be held outside POETS at noon on March 10. Please plan on participating or attending. Refreshments will be served at the finals.

Student Travel Grants: Available to students participating in technical conferences. Please check our web page for further details.

Emergency Loan Funds: SFF has funds available 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.

Evaluating Engsoc's Evolution





Although there has been a lot of controversy over the conduct of members at the University of Waterloo Engineering Society meetings as of late, it can clearly be seen that the past meeting was only slightly worse than previous meetings have been. So why all the controversy? Let's take a look at some trends shown by this graph.

Tasteful nudity has been declining, being replaced by untasteful nudity during the January 11th meeting. Of course it should be offensive, everyone would agree that it is offensive, but is anyone offended by it? Realistically, it's nothing the guys haven't seen on the internet, and the girls haven't seen in the mirror. In any case I'm sure the woman was paid quite well for her efforts and would not be shocked that people are *gasp* looking at a photograph of her.

There was also the matter of one person pretending to grope a female presenter. This is indeed shocking and rather crude. However it is between those two people only. If the woman had found it personally offensive she could easily have slapped him or called upon several members of the large male population in attendance to come to her aid. I suspect that the perpetrator will be seeing the majority of the negative consequences as he has made himself look like a creep in front of quite a few of the women in engineering. This is also a clear example of sexist discrimination as a male presenter was actually groped (and partially undressed) while giving his presentation.

Another potentially offensive activity taking place at the January 11th meeting was catcalling to presenters. The vast majority of presenters receiving catcalls were female, and it could be

interpreted as sexist discrimination. However many of the calls were the familiar "You're hot" calls of encouragement yelled out by friends in the audience. This could be taken the wrong way, as implying that those presenters are only valued for they're bodies. I however, choose to give the callers the benefit of the doubt, as the presenters generally seemed to be taking the calls as compliments or ignoring them.

Unfortunately after the January 11th meeting the Engineering Society became rather sensitive and toned down the next meeting. The meeting quality fell more than 700% to a mere 200% for the January 25th meeting. Although the business aspect of the meeting was the same, it wasn't as entertaining as previous meetings and a little disappointing for those people who were looking forward to a good show (any publicity is good publicity). There were still some good burns called out from the audience, but everyone seemed a little reluctant to approach the line, let alone carry out the walking thereof.

I agree that discrimination has absolutely no place in engineering at waterloo. But the percentage of female members in the engineering society (a full 40% of the A-soc exec is female, by head count not volume) shows that, as of yet, the meetings have not been driving the women away. It can be said that engineers are a special kind of people. We have our own sense of humour quite apart from the rest of humanity (some people don't think hanging a car off a bridge is funny). The EngSoc meetings, being run by engineers, reflect this unique sense of humour. From my point of view, if you can't at least learn to overlook these antics you may find yourself having a long lonely career in engineering *pause for effect* at Waterloo and beyond.

If you are still having trouble getting past the crude jokes, just remember this: If someone is making jokes/comments that you find offensive, then they're an [insert appropriately colourful language] and you, therefore, don't give a [insert appropriately colourful language] about their opinion of anything.

How Many Days Til IRS?

PATRICK BROWN

4B MECHANICAL

Ahhh. Fourth year. 4B, when a young engineer's fancies turn to thoughts of...a lifetime of work??

Hey! Who cares?! We're getting out of here. That's reason enough to celebrate. One other reason to celebrate is this weird event coming up called IRS. What is IRS, you ask? Well I'm glad you did.

For those fourth years that don't know (and there are some, so admit it) as well as anybody else who wants to (like you dum frosh), IRS is a daylong party. I mean this in the 24-hour long sense. It is the day where we Waterloo engineers celebrate getting our Iron Rings. It is also the day where we release at least some of the steam (if not all) that's been building up since the first day we came to campus all those many years ago.

I'll start with the more serious stuff. IRC. This stands for Iron Ring Ceremony. This is the event where we receive our iron rings. Depending on your program, you will receive it at any time between 4:30 and 7:30. Treasure this event. If you have a friend or relative that you respect, you can request that they be the one to ring you, but only if they are ringed, and have been for at least four years

Iron Ring. The iron ring is given to graduates of Canadian engineering institutions only. You will be part of a select group. No other engineer can receive an iron ring. It symbolises iron taken from the Quebec bridge, which collapsed twice during construction. It was considered a major engineering feat when it was completed in 1917, but was anything but during its construction. The iron ring is to remind us of our duties as engineers.

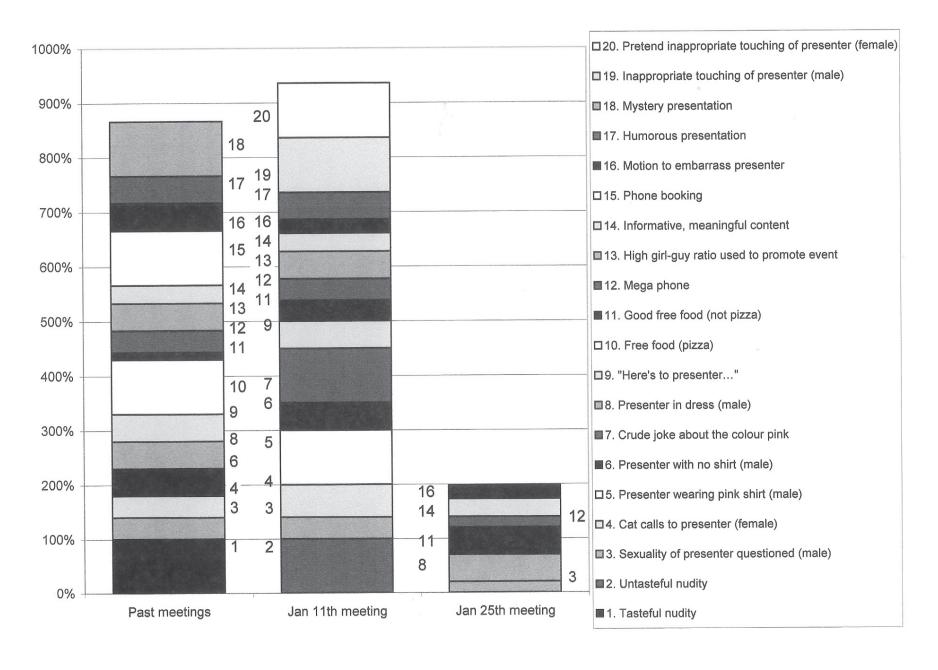
Now that that has been taken care of...

IRS. This is the Iron Ring Stag. Traditionally the party right after IRC, but has now come to mean the WHOLE DAY. You are expected to wake up around 6:00 a.m. to begin your celebrations. A popular event is the class breakfast. Join all your classmates for a catered breakfast, or just bring your own food and drinks and cater yourselves. That's for you guys to decide. There will be a Gradcomm Slave Auction held so you can buy younger students to be your servants for the day. Reward them well (it's only fair since fourth years rewarded me when I was their slave).

There are also the class tours. Each fourth year class takes it upon themselves to tour each of the classes being taught to their under-year counterparts. Each class knows which prof tends to be the highlight of the tour, so try to make it to those classes if they're on that day. You are required by law to wear a costume during this event, no matter how stupid. EWB happens to be running a fashion show and auction for the more spectacularly bad dresses for those who are interested — check posters around engineering for more details.

One note of caution: Do not go overboard on the celebrations before IRC. They have been known to kick people out for being too rowdy during the event – BEFORE they could get their rings. Feel free to go overboard afterwards at IRS. Location and time details are available in CPH foyer. Get your tickets now.

Oh yeah. One other thing. You will be requested and required to remove ALL clothing that is not black during IRS that night. So please for the sake of the children, wear black to hide the things that should not be shown!!



Wednesday, February 1, 2006 **SIRON WARRIOR**

Charobeem Cooks: Pita Pizzas!



The pita is a tasty bread used in traditional Mediterranean, Arab and north African cuisine such as gyros, falafels and kebabs, but they are believed to have originated in Ancient Syria. The pita dough is baked at high temperatures so that the inside puffs up, leaving an air pocket inside the loaf when it is removed from the oven. The cooled pita can then be sliced in two and filled with food as the Pita Pit and rival Pita Factory have capitalized on

When the pita arrived in North America, two new types emerged from manufacturers; the pita and the pita pocket. The pita pocket uses the traditional recipe with the air pocket inside, while the pita is simply a flat circular piece of bread with no air pocket. This

recipe uses the flat pita with no pocket, but I suppose you could just stuff your ingredients inside a pita pocket if you wanted to...

Pita Pizzas Ideally serves one person per pita.

Ingredients: bag-o-pitas (no air pocket) tomato sauce shredded cheese toppings

- 1. Arrange pitas on large baking sheet. Cover each with a layer of tomato sauce.
- 2. Cover pita with cheese since you can't really consider it a pizza without it, then add the toppings. Use bacon, broccoli, feta cheese, pepperoni, olives, mushrooms, red peppers, pineapple, etc.
- 3. Bake in oven at 450°F (230°C) for 10-12 minutes or until crust is golden.

Pita + Pizza = CrAzY DeLiCiOuS!

PC2PC: The Evolution of the PC



Being engineering students, we are all aware of the constant evolution of the technology that is ever present in our lives. Things are becoming smaller and as a consequence, more versatile and portable. It is time that your personal computer did the same.

I know, I know; there are many small and portable devices that are comparable to the personal computer, but do they really have all the power that you need? Can you really play games on your Pocket PC? Do you get the full experience when surfing the net on our cell phone or BlackBerry? Chances are, many of you will say "No" to these questions.

I would like to unveil the improved P.C. <insert drum roll here>: the Portable Computer. Yes, I admit that we have laptops, tablet PCs, etc. but as I said, they just don't pack the juice that many of us demand. I admit, I am typing this article on a laptop right now – but it is more a matter of convenience. Moving a PC every four months just takes up too much room in the car. The portable computer will conquer these shortcomings, and many more!

If you follow these instructions, you will surely become the talk of your class. Everyone will be vying for a look at your fantastic machine. You might even catch the eyes of a girl or two (if you happen to venture across the lawn to the Arts area). So, without further ado, here are the instructions.

1) Obtain a personal computer, complete with monitor (preferably flat screen), keyboard, mouse, speakers, and any other of your favourite peripherals (if you don't want to use yours, I am sure that your roommate won't mind if you use theirs).

2) Now, it is time for every engineers best friend: Duct Tape. This step is open for you to use your creative abilities. You need to make some way of carrying the tower around. I personally prefer a backpack style, but if you prefer to carry it around like a purse, that is up to you.

3) What good is a computer without the electricity to power it? There are two options here. First, you can create some sort of generator to produce the power. I am partial to one that is good for the environment, such as biodiesel. But, if you don't know how to make a generator (like me), there is still a way to get your PC up and running. All you need is an extension cord. I recommend going to Crappy Tire and finding the longest one on the shelf. A bright coloured one will help to keep people from tripping over it, and if you get one on a reel, it will be easier to wind up on the way home.

4)The interface of the computer needs to be arranged in a very systematic and organized manner. Every engineer has a hard hat (unless a Mathie stole it from you during Frosh Week), and that will come in very handy here. You are going to need the duct tape again. Suspend the screen from the visor of your hard hat using the duct tape, and then run the power cord and monitor cable along the top of your hard hat and down your back.

5) Finally, you are going to need some where to put your keyboard and mouse. Next time you have the displeasure of eating at McPukes, just take the tray off of the baby seat. It is the perfect size and shape for putting the keyboard and mouse on. Just use a little duct tape and imagination, and you are set. (NOTE: It is recommended that you tape the tray to your shirt, and not your flesh. Otherwise, you may turn into an infamous "Mano-lantern").

And there you have it: a completely thorough list of how to make your very own PC. This is a great way to keep yourself occupied as midterms quickly approach.

Infiltrating the Math Lounge



As a seasoned journalist you come to realize that there are sometimes stories that need to be told. Some stories and experiences can change a man and some places and secrets are so dark that many dare not speak of them at all. Such things include the work term report marking section, the 1st year cafeteria and the ominous math lounge: a location that even most math students dare not go. I will observe and study the indigenous life that lives there to bring you the story that needs to be told.

Jan. 16

Over this week I have prepared to integrate myself with these mysterious and strange people. I will observe the specimens in their natural habitat before I attempt to integrate into their social collective through mimicking their grooming techniques and social structure. To assimilate properly I will have to study their doctrine and clothing before I attempt to integrate with them. I have started to read up on many of the holy texts that the religious sect of the math lounge read. This includes the religious text of Dungeons and Dragons, Vampire: The Masquerade and Rifts. Many of their religious texts tell stories of monsters, small bearded people with large axes. people dressed in gowns with large pointy hats, and beings from other dimensions. On preliminary observation the clothing apparel seems to be a combination of plastic armour and swords, capes, torn jeans, ripped tshits, long unkempt or spiky blue hair and excessive black make-up.

Jan. 19

This week I plan to adopt a guise to integrate with denizens of the math lounge.

I have stopped shaving and bathing

and adorned myself with hello kitty apparel.

I have also started to collect these things called "Magic Cards". Apparently in the math society the physical appeal of the male is directly proportional to the quality and quantity of such cards, quite strange. To facilitate this I have collected these cards to assert my dominance in the social hierarchy. These cards also tell what type of colour or element you are. Black (death and decay), red (fire), blue (mysticism), white (life) and green (nature). I will be representing black (death) and red (fire) cards because it will scare people away from asking questions; at least more so than usual.

Jan 23

From first impressions their society seems to be a hunter-gatherer society. The math females hunt for food and take down the local game (any geek with money) from the math C&D or the labs located in the far reaches of the building from there, 25 feet down the hall. The males are the gatherers in this society. They gather 'Magic Cards,' role-playing books and digital Pokemons to impress any potential mates, which are few and far between. The math male scavenges for food in between the cushions of the sofas.

The foods they gather and consume consist of a hardy diet of melted chocolate bars, candy, stale pizza, squashed burritos and lint. I am not sure how I will live off of this diet but after surviving on Cafeteria food from Village One in first year I am sure that I can digest just about anything.

After today I will document the trials and tribulations that I face while trying to integrate, assimilate, mate with, and eventually conquer these people. If I survive this they will write sagas of my tale for years to come, or play a Werewolf role-playing campaign roughly based on my experiences: probably replacing me with some sort of Mage, with Vampire lesbians or something.



A storm gathers over the concrete fortress of MC...



It's almost like an aquarium... tap the glass at your own risk!

Engineering Society Executive Reports

Lead-Footin' to Concrete Sleddin'



NICK LAWLER PRESIDENT

The month of January is gone, and I so is most of the snow....who says global warming doesn't exist! Well, with the term in full swing, EngSoc has also been coming along with a full slate of events and services for you engineering students to utilize and enjoy. Make sure to check out our brand new laminator. The Scavenger Hunt was this past weekend, and judging by the crazy things that were going on when I left Friday afternoon, I'm sure that fun was had by all.

My class, myself included, is heading to Montreal to participate in the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race. We've been working incredibly hard over the past 6 months, and we have quite the inno-

vative design. Wish us luck, as we try to bring the awards back to Waterloo. More on that note, I will be away from Feb. 1st to 5th in Montreal, so please let my fellow executive know of any problems, concerns, or positive comments you may have.

Along those same notes, if you want to get involved in any way with the Engineering Society please email me or talk to me at asoc_prez@engmail.uwaterloo.ca and I will try to help you out. We need people in any capacity from just a few hours a term, to keeners for a few hours a week. We have lots for everyone's interests, just stop by the Office at CPH 1327 and see what we have for you.

I wish everyone a happy mid-term season, and congratulation to all of us, who will be receiving our iron rings come February 21st. If you don't know what the Iron Ring is all about, check out www. ironring.ca as well as look for upcoming articles in the IW related to this very historic and special event.

PDEng: Your Chance to Make a Difference



MELINDA HURD VP EDUCATION

Interview time has started! PLEASE LCHECK OUT THE EARLY MATCH PROCESS INFORMATION on the CECS website!!!! (http://www.cecs.uwaterloo.ca/ students/early.php).

It is very important that everyone understand the pros and cons of this new system so that together we may use it effectively! If you have any questions or concerns please be sure to talk to a coordinator or myself ASAP.

In other news - Together with the PDEng Steering Committee EngSoc is coordinating a group of PDEng class

representatives from each class on this stream. The purpose of these representatives would be to meet with PDEng program representatives during the work term to express the specific concerns of each class. This method is currently also being adopted on B-soc. If each class could please elect a couple of PDEng representatives – hopefully those that would be able to attend meetings in Waterloo during their co-op term – it would be extremely helpful. By having a selected group of class representatives, the developers of PDEng hope to address student concerns in a more effective manner. Please contact Kevin Choboter kchoboter@gmail.com with your class representative names and

That's all for me – please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions!

Party on.

Your Healthy Dose of Events



VP INTERNAL

Event Mayhem!

Hi everyone, I hope the term is up and running well for you; I certainly feel like there is a shitload of stuff I'm supposed to know already that I definitely don't. I hope everyone had a great time attending the second engsoc meeting of the term where we had some delicious chill and grill to eat, and a better decorum than last time! Don't forget that meeting number 3 will be on February 8 so I hope to see everyone out again we've had some amazing attendance this term!

In the world of things that are happening soon and have happened I'd like to thank everyone who came out to a certain cleaning event on January 31st, I don't know what the outcome will have been

because right now it is Monday but I'm going to assume that the bar will have been thoroughly cleansed. The Squash tournament which happened on the weekend of the 28th was also a huge success, everyone who went out had an awesome time!

On February 7th at the Bombshelter Pub one of the best events of the TERM, TAL-ENG, will be taking place. It will be starting around 7pm and I hope to see everyone there; we had an amazing time last year and the year before. Make sure to sign up your acts in the Orifice soon! Also MOT will be coming up on February 10 just to prep you for mid-terms it will be time to see your favourite 60" Mascot and realize just why it is you might want to put in half of the effort required to pass another term at this god forsaken institution...

Well that is about it for me. If you have any ideas for upcoming events drop me a line. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you guys out for the February events. YaY for reading week only 3 weeks away!

Keep you stick on the ice, Butch

Did You Say Budget?





t the last EngSoc meeting, the budget Awas finally revealed for everyone to see where the money will be used this term. If you missed the meeting, the sample budget is posted on the EngSoc website, or you can receive a copy from me if you stop by the Orifice. If anyone has any questions feel free to e-mail me (asoc_vpfin@engmail). The budget will be passed at the next EngSoc meeting so make sure you let me know of any questions or concerns you may have now, so the budget can be amended before the meeting!

Now, are you part of a student team? Then ask for a donation! We have lots to give away this term so make sure you fill out a proposal. Once the budget is passed, we will have \$2500 in donations to share. So starting next week make sure you get your proposals in to me, whether in paper or electronic forms. The procedure for requesting a donation can be found on the EngSoc website so make sure you check it out or e-mail me for more info.

In other great news... the Orifice now has a laminator! For the very low price of 50¢ you can get a letter size paper laminated, and for only 25¢ you can laminate a business card! So make sure you stop by the Orifice and use this great new service! Just ask Betty and she'll help you out!

For those that missed the meeting, you missed a very important announcement. The Engineering Society will be donating \$1000 to the Kenton Carnegie Memorial Fund. Kenton Carnegie was a Geological Engineering 2007 grad who passed away last fall while on work term. He was a great person who loved to get involved with EngSoc – making the funniest videos with the other directors of the EFD directorship. He put so much effort into what he did and will be greatly missed. This money will be used to put a rock in the Peter Russell rock garden under his name.

Just one last note: if you're spending money, get your expense forms in. You can find them in the Orifice (ask Betty!) or online under 'Society'. Also, Mary and I just put in a new order for some clothes for Novelties, so make sure you check it out soon! If you've got any new ideas, let us know! And if you don't know, Novelties can be found right beside Poets so stop by during your lunch!

Free Money! (Well, sort of...)



KATHERINE CHIANG WEEF DIRECTOR

ey everyone! Hope everyone is hav-Hey everyone. They are ling a good term so far. Refunds are all done, and I have a couple of updates to share with you all:

Proposals:

Proposal submission opened on January 27th. What's different this term is that there will be an online system for proposal submissions. Those who wish to submit a proposal can visit the WEEF website, www. weef.uwaterloo.ca/proposals.html, for more detailed instructions. The proposals should be in by Feb. 20th, but since that's the Monday before IRS and reading week, the absolute deadline will be extended to 4:30 pm on Feb. 27th. Please take note that WEEF will not

accept late proposals beyond that time

- Proposal presentations are set for March 7th and 9th, 4:30 - 7 pm in RCH 302, and the Funding Council will reconvene on March 14th, 4:30 pm in RCH 302 to decide on funding for Winter 2006.
- The WEEF bylaw was updated in Spring 2005, therefore as of Spring 2005, all new approved proposals have an expiry date of 2 years from the term of application, unless arrangements are made with the WEEF Director. All old proposals prior to Spring 2005 have been given 2 years as of May 1st, 2005.

WEEF Reps: If you are the WEEF rep of your class, please email me ASAP, regardless of whether the WEEF reps have changed since the Spring term. Even if you are not the WEEF rep, please ask your WEEF rep to email me.

If you have any questions regarding proposals, or any other areas of WEEF, please don't hesitate to contact me: weef@engmail.

Expanding Your Horizons



JASON JAGODICH VP EXTERNAL

What's up Waterloo!!??!! Well, the excitement continues on campus with events such as IRS approaching and the infamous Scavenger Hunt! If you didn't sign up your team, you better get on that for next term. Also, MOT and our second set of races are just around the corner. Just a reminder, MOT is on February 10th and I for one, can't

Tomorrow I'm off to the First Year Integration Conference with some of Waterloo's finest freshman. They will have the opportunity to see the renowned high school in Kingston formerly known as Queen's University. This conference is run through ESSCO and offers delegates the opportunity

to be involved with a variety of workshops, discussions, and activities. Moreover, the delegates will hear from various speakers regarding diverse engineering topics and will have the opportunity to interact with a discussion panel composed of professional engineers. I'm sure a good time will be had by all.

The University of Toronto is presenting the National Business Technology Conference from March 3rd-5th. This conference incorporates themes of management, innovation and technology and acts as a forum for young engineering undergrads to network with representatives from reputable firms from across the country. Seminars, workshops, panel discussions, a recruiter's fair, and team challenges will all be offered. The goal of this conference is to link the fields of business studies and engineering. If it sounds like this conference is for you, drop me a line @ asoc vpext@engmail.

That's all for now. Git'R'Done, Gunnerz

A quick guide to governing a university



For the past few months, the Canadian government has figured highly in the media, especially with the flurry of elections, scandals, accusations, and promises. Terms such as the 'notwithstanding clause' and 'minority government' are now in the vernacular, at least for the next little while.

However, closer to home, here at the University, we also have our own government system with differing levels and representatives, each holding certain powers that affect our scholastic lives. Broadly, there are two types of government, student-run, and university run.

Engineering Society

The closest level of government in the school to you is the Engineering Society. Article IIb in its Constitution of this student society states that one of its objectives is "To represent the interests of its members of the state of the st

bers in relations with the Faculty of Engineering Administration, the Engineering Faculty Council, the Federation of Students, and student organizations of other faculties and universities."

Your class reps represent your class on the Engineering Society, and theoretically concerns you may have can be routed through your class reps to the other members of the Society, including its Executive, though direct comments I'm sure are always welcome. The Society then represents you to other governing bodies, as stated in Article IIa.

Federation of Students

Another organ of student government is the Feds, the Federation of Students. The Federation of Students has a two-tier organization - a Board of Directors and a Student Council. "The Student Council is the one unified body that exclusively represents all full-time undergraduate students at the university. The Council is the body responsible for proposing and approving referenda, elections, and discussing issues such as enrollment growth, tuition, and other university policies." Each faculty is represented by councilors, proportional to the size of the faculty. You, as an engineering student, are represented by five councilors on the Student Council out of twenty six student councilors.

The Feds Board of Directors meets "largely to discuss the legal, contractual, and financial affairs" of the Feds. The Feds Executive sits on the Board of Directors, along with five members of the Student Council and a General Manager. It is not meant to be representative of all faculties, and exists to resolve issues that the Student Council may have trouble resolving.

Apart from these student governments, there is also the government of the university itself. It is governed bicamerally - that is there are two "houses" that coexist, much like the two houses of Parliament, the House

of Commons and the Senate. The two houses of the university are the Senate and the Board of Governors. The Board has "overall responsibility for the affairs of the University", while the Senate's role is to "establish the University's educational policies."

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors, responsible for the overall directions of the university, is composed of thirty-six Canadian citizens. Members of the Board include the President and Chancellor of the university, the Mayors of both Waterloo and Kitchener, and a Regional Chair representing the Region of Waterloo.

There are also ten members from the community-at-large. These members are intended to "represent a broad spectrum of the community". Prominent business figures are included in the community-at-large - some of their names or affiliations may be familiar. Bill Tatham of Tatham Centre fame sits on the Board, along with Ray Tanguay, President of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Canada. The Board is currently chaired by Paul Koenderman, the CEO of Aecon Industrial, and Waterloo alumnus.

Also on the Board of Governors are seven members of the Senate, appointed by faculty members of the Senate. They provide representation for the different faculties of the school.

Five student senators sit on the Board of Governors, two of whom are graduate students. Our own Jon Fishbein (4B Software) has hands on all sorts of levers of power, sitting on the Senate, the Board of Governors, Feds Student Council, and Feds Board of Directors.

Other members of university staff, and members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council also sit on the Board. Committees composed of members of the Board are formed to focus on specific areas, such as the Audit Committee, and the Building and Property Committee.

Senate

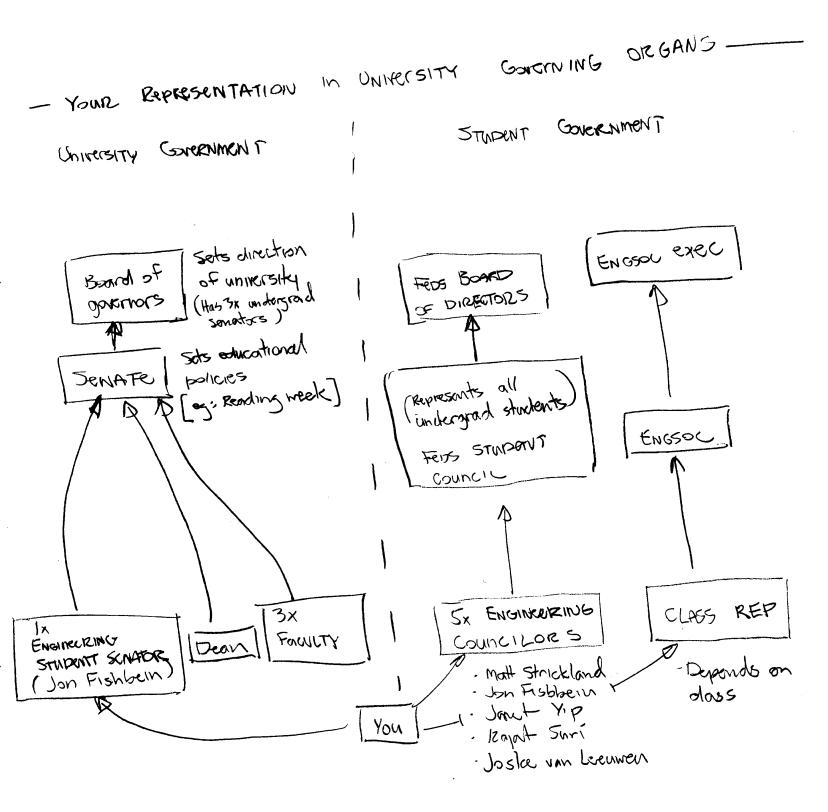
The Senate is responsible for the educational direction of the school. It is chaired by the President, David Johnston. Representatives from all academic facets of the school are on the Senate. Members include the deans and faculty representatives of all six faculties (Arts, Applied Health Sciences, Engineering, Science, Environmental Studies, and Graduate

Studies), and the principals of our affiliated colleges (Renison, St Jerome's, St Paul's, Grebel). The Librarian and Registrar also sit on the Senate.

Three faculty members from each faculty represent the teaching staff, and the presidents of the Faculty Association and Federation of Students, and Graduate Student Association are also present. Each faculty also has one undergraduate student senator, and four student senators representing graduate students. Rounding out the Senate are the ex-officio members (Members that hold seats because of other positions), alumni representatives, and other representatives from the community-at-large, chosen from the Board of Governors.

The Senate decided last year that Engineering shall have a full reading week, contrary to the position of both our student senator and our faculty representatives.

This provides some background for the flavour of the different governing bodies. With the elections for Feds and Engineering Society coming up, hopefully knowledge of these governing bodies will better help you make an informed deci-



CUTC Presents: The Future!



GABRIEL CHAN3N SYSTEMS

What do typical Waterloo students do on the second weekend into a new term? The typical answers would be get drunk, go to a bar, get drunk, go study for midterms (note: I feel sorry for you if this is your answer), get drunk, do/copy assignments (note: strongly do not recommend

copying), get drunk, get out of Waterloo, and get drunk. This year, 312 of them went to north Toronto for the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference (note: 204 of them were Engineering and there were 608 delegates in total).

Chaired by UW Engineering student Rahul Bhardwaj, the 7th Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference was a \$192,000 project organized by 48 students from many Canadian universities that featured many speakers from a huge array of companies and organizations covering a vast range of topics and technologies. In total, there were 9 keynotes and 22 seminar

speakers. These included personalities such as Mr. Mike Shaver (founder of Mozilla), Prof. David Wang (founder of 7 companies), Dr. Uri Sagman (a prominent figure on the Canadian nanotechnology scene), Dr. Daniel Gottesman (quantum cryptography research scientist), just to name a few.

Besides mind-blowing seminars, delegates were treated to tours and demonstrations by such organizations such as Telus Mobility, ATI Technologies, National Instruments, and Apple Inc. Other big names represented at seminars and keynotes included Nortel Networks, Nvidia, Business Objects, General Electric, Google, Microsoft (who brought

along Windows Vista for everyone to play with), and RIM (a keynote by big Mike himself). At the Tech Expo (career fair), 33 companies were present to talk, network and recruit delegates. Most CUTC delegates will agree that no one left the CUTC emptyhanded.

The Sheraton Parkway Toronto North hotel maintained an excellent working relationship with the CUTC organizer team. All in all, the conference went very smoothly and professionally. Special thanks to the CUTC 2006 Exec Team for a job well done. If you are interested in helping out at CUTC 2007, email your inquiries to chair@cutc.ca.



CUTC

Top: B=Soc Ex-Prez Karim posing for the Camera. Cheese! Bottom: Students visiting the Workbrain Booth during TechExpo.

Waterloo EWB Recognized at National Conference

EWB PRESS RELEASE

IW NEWS SERVICE

The University of Waterloo Engineers Without Borders Chapter sent 40 students to join over 500 inspired young Canadians at the National Conference in Ottawa. From January 18th to the 22nd the delegates were educated on international development related issues, participated in interactive workshops and were recognised for their accomplishments over the past year.

The conference included key speakers such as Lt.-General Roméo Dallaire, commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda in 1994 and author of "Shake Hands With the Devil – The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda," as well as John McArthur, Manager of the UN Millennium Project and an Associate Research Director at Columbia University.

The University of Waterloo Chapter of EWB also captured a number of group and individual awards. It was named "Chapter of the Year" with the University of Western Ontario out of 25 Canadian chapters for its large volunteer involvement, expansive high-school outreach program, and professional chapter structure. Sarah Lewis, chapter president and former overseas intern in Cameroon in 2004, was named "Volunteer of the Year" out of 15,000 members nationwide for her dedication to the organization, selfless commitment to development, and for making the University of Waterloo chapter the largest and most effective chapter in Canada.

"The EWB National Conference is an extraordinary opportunity for the

University of Waterloo chapter to learn from student leaders across the country and to educate ourselves about the engineering approach in international development. The growth of membership and of our educational programs this year is a testament to the hard work, thoughtfulness and

dedication of our members." - Sarah Lewis, University of Waterloo EWB Chapter President

Catherine Denis, who will be travelling to Burkina Faso in May of this year for a four month overseas internship with EWB received the inaugural Professional Engineers of Ontario / Engineers Without Borders Scholarship worth \$1000. Mike Tucker, representative of Digital Rapids, EWB Waterloo's newest corporate sponsor, was also present at the conference. The network based video-processing and video stream management technology company has recently pledged \$5000 to both the Waterloo EWB chapter and \$5000 to support the National Conference.

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Lewis

President

EWB - University of Waterloo Chapter sa2lewis@uwaterloo.ca

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Frosh-Aid, for What 'Ails Ya



So, you've made it to your 1B terms, congratulations; I hope Rohan was easy on you in the Phys 115 Final. By now I'm sure you 8-streamers are wondering about co-op and you B-soc 4-streamers are wondering about work reports. Maybe you're looking to move out of residence next year or are looking at owning a vehicle and don't know where to start. Well I've got the remedy to all your concerns!

The Answer: Frosh Mentoring.

I am one of the three Frosh Mentoring directors this term. My fellow mentors are Adrienne Nelson and Brandy VanBenthem. We are here to help you. University can be overwhelming when starting out, particularly with an engineering workload, but let me just say we know what you're going through. We were frosh once too and we want to help.

So if you have any questions or concerns about university, or even life in general, drop us a line either on the frosh mentoring website (engfrosh.uwaterloo. ca) or email Adrienne, Brandy or I at anelsonm, bkvanben or jmsuekam@engmail. uwaterloo.ca respectively. So if you see us (pictured at right) on or around campus and have a question for us, or even just want to say hello, feel free stop us and chat.



In order of descending height and ascending awesome: Mike, Brandy, and Ady

A Lesson in Discouraging Voters



Whith poor voter turnout in the 2004 election, particularly in the age bracket of 18 to 24, you might think that Elections Canada would be working towards resolving the issue of apathy among voters. Unfortunately, as a few of my friends and I found out, they are not.

Three of my classmates and I decided to be responsible citizens and cast our votes. We were all particularly inclined to vote in our home ridings since we were more informed on issues at home than those in Waterloo. We knew that advance polling took place on the 13th, 14th and 16th of January, and since we were otherwise occupied we decided to hold off until Monday the 16th.

And so, unbeknownst to us, our epic journey began.

When class was finished on Monday afternoon, one of my friends called Elections Canada and asked where we could perform advance voting outside of the Waterloo riding for our home ridings. The nice lady who took my friend's call told us to go to the polling station at the Village 1 Great Hall. We were somewhat surprised at how seemingly easy this would be, and also delighted since it was a particularly cold day.

We trekked across campus and arrived at Village 1 to find a complete lack of a polling station. Upon noticing the emptiness of the Great Hall we asked Housing Administration if they knew of a polling station. Their response surprised and baffled us. They claimed they had no idea there was even going to be voting there.

Confused and a little frustrated, we decided to consult the Elections Canada website. We then saw that advance voting was to take place at the polling station at Waterloo Memorial Recreational Complex, at Father David Bauer Drive and Erb St. We decided to check how far it was on Mapquest to see if taking a cab was needed, and it looked to be about a kilometre and a half. So, being on student budgets, we decided to brave the cold and walk. To verify that this is in fact where we needed to vote, we called Elections Canada and asked if we could do advance voting for a riding outside of Waterloo at the Complex. After waiting on hold for about 10 minutes, they told

About 25 minutes later, we arrived at the Recreational Complex and warmed up a bit. We walked upstairs and found the polling station. At last, we can vote! ... or so we thought. When asked whether we could vote now for our home ridings, the ladies at the station told us that to vote here we needed to have proof of our local address. This confused us, and me in particular since my mother has worked for the past few elections and had never mentioned this before. The ladies turned us away, rather rudely I might add, and we decided to regroup in the foyer.

I decided to call my mother (who was manning a polling station near another Ontario university) and ask about this local address business. She

said that you didn't need any proof you live in Waterloo, and that she was letting students vote very frequently.

With this newfound information, we went and asked the ladies again whether or not we could cast advance votes outside of the riding. They then told us (once again very rudely) that we couldn't vote for our home ridings at that station, and to go to Victory Sports at Bridgeport and Weber.

Knowing that Bridgeport and Weber was just over a kilometre away (and once again trying to avoid a cab ride) we walked. When we arrived there, we finally found Elections Canada employees who knew what they were doing and were pleasant to boot. We filled out some forms for voting, and finally went through the complicated, three-envelope voting process for voting outside of the Waterloo riding.

Upon noting that postage isn't paid for in distance voting, we crossed the street and bought stamps at Shoppers Drug Mart. We caved in on the cab idea, and caught a taxi home and mailed out our ballots as soon as we arrived.

Now what's my point behind telling this story? Well there are multiple reasons. First of all, if Elections Canada wants to encourage voting in the post secondary student population, they should make accommodations on their campuses for both local and out of riding voting. I mean really, they can't complain when we don't vote, because it's a damn near impossible process. We shouldn't have to go all the way to Bridgeport and Weber to vote.

Secondly, Elections Canada should actually train their election-time employees and teach them the answers to all possible questions. I mean so many of their employees were so baffled when we asked about voting outside of Waterloo that in order to appease our enquires they simply told us half-truths which resulted in our 4-hour voting process.

Thirdly, Elections Canada should not employ people that are rude or unwilling to help people that are unsure of what they are doing. This strongly discourages voting as it is very demoralizing to have someone talk down to you simply because you do not know the confusing voting process.

Fourth and finally, they decided to not even include postage on something as important as an election ballot. A further slap in the face was that on the 16th postage prices went up.

So before Elections Canada can point the finger at our generation and say that we're politically apathetic, they should take a good look at themselves, their organization's structure and the voting process. Voting should feel rewarding, not like a chore. It should be easy, convenient and informative and should be run by nice, tolerant individuals. And it most definitely shouldn't involve a plethora of envelopes. Unfortunately, our voting process was none of the above.

If we really want to boost voter turnout, we should revamp the process, and definitely make it easier for those away from home to vote, particularly the student population since we are the future of Canada. Hopefully Elections Canada will learn from their mistakes, or else we can expect several repeats of the 2004 turnout in the future.

Na na na na na na na Leader!



"Thufferin Thuccotash, I WON! Now which way to 24 Thuthix?"

ANDREW DODDS

2A MECHANICAL

Tanuary 23rd ushered in a new age for J Canadians. Gone is the corrupt leader of the sponsorship scandal (well, technically Jean Chrétien left years ago), as well as the minions who carried out its atrocities (didn't Paul ban them from the party a while back though?). Now, Canadians have voted undeniably in favour of change. Yes, a whopping 36% of those who cast a ballot cast it in favour of Stephen Harper (although 58% of those who did said they voted for him only to kick the Liberals out of power. So the real statistic is that 24% actually said that they voted Conservative because they wanted a Conservative Government. 24% of 36% is 9%, being generous to Harper and rounding up). So yes, while less than 1 in 10 Canadians actually wanted a Conservative government, and 90% of Canadians voted for a center or center-left government, that means we get our beloved Stephen Harper and his Alliance members in Conservative haircuts to become our new government. If that's not an argument for proportional representation right there, then I don't know what is!

What does this new government mean for Canada? As a minority government, it would usually mean that one party could grind the government to a halt by threatening to topple the government, or by using various techniques (stall tactics) to slow down the ogress of any real work (kind of like our last government). Due to the fact that our past government lasted less than two years, and that one of the biggest complaints of voters was that nothing was accomplished in this time, a minority government is the ultimate card up the Conservative government's very long sleeve. Should Layton, Duceppe, or God forbid (insert new Liberal party leader's name here, to be decided at the end of the year) try to topple the government too early, it is quite possible that voter anger could wipe them out of the House of Commons.

Not quite sure what this really means? While Harper could not pass a bill to, oh let's say become the 51st American state, any other reasonable bill, no matter how rightwing, would be a foolish thing to vote against. Expect come next election for Harper to run on his record of accomplishment, as he will be able to push many bills through the House of Commons that the Liberal government could not (such as tougher penalties on gun crimes, although in doing in the government

this fall he killed this very bill and many others he vowed to implement during his campaign). Then, expect him to tell Canadians to trust him, and to give him the full power of a Parliamentary majority, so that he can further his work to create a new and better Canada, one where we can militarise every coast, arm every authority, raise taxes for the poor and cut taxes so as to reward the biggest spenders. Now imagine what Harper could do after a few years of playing it cool and making right-wing appointments to the courts of our country.

I have hope on two levels though, that Harper might not be as scary as everyone thinks (and anyone who hears him talk in his sleep must surely know as they are chilled to the bone). My first hope came this week, with a seemingly humble back and forth between the American ambassador to Canada David Wilkins, and our Prime Minister Designate Stephen Harper. During his campaign, Harper pledged five billion dollars to establish a deep-water port in Iqualuit, and to obtain icebreakers and underwater listening posts to assert our national sovereignty in the arctic (a nice way to clearly tell the Danes that Hans Island is ours!).

In response to this, Ambassador Wilkins stated that this had been an area where we had agreed to disagree. We firmly believe that we are sovereign over our country, whereas the Americans do not recognize the waters between our spattering of northern islands as a part of Canada. Stephen Harper made the right move in response. With no reporters addressing this issue with him, he brought it up all on his own, and said that it is the Canadian people who will decide the government's mandate. This has been the easiest serve to Harper, who got to distance himself from the Americans, and to stand up for our sovereignty, all in one punch. This give me hope that he truly will be a great Prime Minister. But yes, if this isn't true, I also received hope for our future when Harper visited a hospital this week. Asthma, it turns out, will be the ultimate check and balance against our new leader should he huff and puff too much right-wing dogma.

In the end, he is the leader we chose, and we must face up to our decision. I hope as most of us do that things will all turn out for the best. If they do not, well, there's always the chance to stage a revolution. Here's to hoping that we don't give a boost to the ailing auto industry because we've torched all the cars in the country a la France last year.

What Staples Taught Me About Life



ANDRE BELTEMPO 4B MECHANICAL

o, the other day I went into a Staples / Business Depot, to buy notebooks for school, and while mindlessly waiting in line, I witnessed the customer in front of me, who had his 5 year old son accompanying him, attempting to get a tax rebate on his purchases, presumably with the intention of using them for a business. You might say: "So what?" and that's certainly valid, but allow me to continue: the cashier had extreme difficulties getting the computer system to process his request, and after several increasingly frantic attempts, called over the next cashier, who also attempted to get the tax rebate system to work. Finally, the manager was called, but did not appear on the scene. Rather, through the cashier, the manager informed the now irritated customer that the system was not working, and that if he could return tomorrow, he could receive the rebate then.

The customer, at this point understandably irate, then began an extremely creative verbal tongue lashing of the first cashier, using very colourful words which I will not repeat here, but which went along the lines of: "The manager can **** himself if he thinks I'm going to ****ing come back tomorrow to pay for this pile of ****. You tell him I said so." And so on. The cashier, who after all was a 17 year old, merely smiled and said "Ok, sir." He vented for about a minute or two, at which point I went to another line, paid for my goods, and left the store. This incident prompted me to make two conclusions:

- 1. We have allowed our reliance on technology to allow complacency, to the point of paralysis.
 - 2. The general lack of manners in soci-

ety has reached epic proportions.

The incident at the store really was an interesting event, since as it unfolded, I was at first siding with the customer, who had every reason to expect that he should be served promptly, and his understandable frustration at discovering that he could not get his tax rebate. After the customer lost his temper and became verbally abusive however, I immediately switched to the side of the cashier, who after all was only doing her job. But why couldn't he get that tax rebate? The computer system, which had been 'acting up all day' according to the second cashier, was not accepting tax rebate commands.

Now it's understandable that this is an inconvenience to business, but is there no back-up way of doing this? What if this system were disabled for long periods? It prompted the thought in my head of how many times I had walked into any such situation, and was told simply that 'the computer wasn't working' and therefore I couldn't get my file/widget/service/ whatever. When did this insidious change occur? Is it truly possible that the moment the computer fails we can no longer function?

People have become so used to having the database and automated ability to handle tasks that the removal of said systems, despite the fact that they are tools, becomes an overriding impediment to the performance of work. If the computer breaks, the secretary should be able to be dynamic enough such that he can write schedules and notes on paper with a pen. He doesn't need the computer in the performance of his duties. The scary thing is that people have become so used to the presence of technology, that the removal of the tool is seen as a removal of the service. This isn't true.

There is almost always a way of continuing work, with a few exceptions (Finite Element Analysis comes to mind). If a secretaries' typewriter broke, he would still be expected to take dictation, and therefore

would have to do so by hand. He could not use the broken typewriter as an excuse to stop working. The two cashiers at the Staples were probably too young and inexperienced in this regard, but their manager should have known better, and could have easily instructed one of the cashiers to give the customer a cash rebate equal to the amount required, while making note of the fact that the rebate would need to be logged in the next day when the system was functioning again. I'm sure that any number of several other solutions could also have been proposed, but because the manager did not possess the initiative or foresight to solve the apparently insoluble problem of the stalled computer system, he had the gall to simply tell the customer to return when the system was working again. That's the equivalent of the customer leaving with the items in hand, giving the excuse that he had no cash, and would return to pay when the Interac system began functioning again. We must never forget there's a good reason we are all taught our courses primarily on paper. That's because. God forbid there's ever a failure in the computer systems, we can check our work on paper, by candlelight if necessary.

The second interesting event of note from the whole encounter was how quickly the customer's temperament changed from one of mild irritation to foaming at the mouth hatred. At the drop of a hat, he went from reasonable to roaring. This kind of behaviour is not only unacceptable, it shows a disturbing lack of common sense, especially considering that in this case, the person in question had a 5 year old son watching his behaviour.

What is his young son to take from his father's outburst? That when you don't get what you want you lose your temper and begin swearing? That's no way for any rational adult to act, and yet here this man was, doing just that. This lack of courtesy towards fellow human beings is appalling, and shows a dangerous individualistic

streak which is realistically not very tenable. What happened to your mother's golden rule of 'Treat others the way you'd like to be treated'? With the underlying anger shown in this man's outburst, it's no wonder we have road rage and trampling incidents.

People no longer appear to have the patient, accepting temperament of our forefathers. I have severe doubts about whether our highly individualistic, me-meme culture could withstand any significant sort of stress, such as a natural disaster, which would probably just reduce most of the citizenry to apoplexy, rather than empathy. The ease at which we slip into derogatory and dangerously cynical commentary with regards to any topic, and the similar difficulty we have at praising success without immediately attempting to find fault, are atrocious. I must confess that I am as guilty as others in this respect; it's so much easier to be cynical, and believe others' goals are nefarious rather than idealistic, but in the end this simply poisons our thoughts and serves as a brake on real honest to God optimism for the future.

What I took away from that incident at the store I'll be sure to remember, as it reminded me to make sure I know how to perform as much of my job as possible without technical aids, and to be patient and polite to people while doing it, regardless of the difficulty encountered. What the rest of the world does, I can't control, but I'll certainly be sure that my little corner of it is a happier one.



What If?: Religion was on the Internet

KIRAN DHALIWAL

4B ELECTRICAL

As I was recently checking out video. google.com, the latest offspring from the bloated belly of our favourite search engine, I realized just how far our Internet experience has evolved. Gone are the days

"How would a church,

temple or mosque

ensure that only the

faithful would have

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thy' of having one any-

ways"

of looking up the composition of Saturn's rings or the 1982 Superbowl winners in the library, or sheepishly asking a friend what foreplay means. Many of us have also said goodbye to paying several hundred dollars for an extensive music collection or mailing a letter to a penpal overseas, because the Internet makes all those things much easier, faster, and more convenient. With music, television,

school courses, books, stores, instant messaging and games all on the net now, who knows what could possibly come next? Will we electronically tap into one of the few remaining forums of human interaction by introducing religious programs on the Internet someday?

You may argue that the idea is too blas-

phemous to even consider, but think about televangelism for a moment. This form of religious broadcast has been around since the dawn of time – more precisely, the dawn of telecommunications, which is pretty much the same thing for our generation. From the first days of the radio, evangelists were on the air waves, and

eventually transitioned over to television. The idea of broadcasting religious messages on TV is not exclusive to Christianity or North America. In fact, without going into names, the idea is even more pervasive in countries around the world that combine religion with the state. So, if all these people around the world are already tuning into weekly religious programs, isn't the internet just the next evolutionary step in televangelism? If anything, it may serve to promote a greater glo-

bal understanding of each religion if it were possible to log into weekly sermons or prayer readings for any faith, from any computer terminal. The beauty of the Internet is that information from anywhere in the world can reach you virtually as quickly as if it was being sent from a block away. This would give patrons the ability

to observe a service happening in Italy, Jerusalem, India, Tibet or New Jersey if so desired.

This free and easy access could be the very thing that prevents certain religious institutions from adopting internet broadcasting since televangelism only targets certain viewers in each area. The air of secrecy surrounding some religious proceedings would certainly be lost, but whether that would be hailed as a leap in international relations or an invasion of privacy is far from obvious. How would a church, temple or mosque for instance, ensure that only followers of the faith would have access to their live web feeds, if so desired? Would you have to request a login ID? How would you be deemed "worthy" of having one anyway? Aside from the logistics of determining who could or couldn't observe online proceedings, there would also be a question of who would host them and maintain the "official" sites. To test the extent of copycat sites, I typed "Britney Spears" into Google.com and got about 14 million hits in addition to the "official" one, including Britney's Guide to Semiconductor Physics. Online evangelism might start off with good intentions and genuine sources, but who's to say that the sanctity of religion won't someday be compromised to the extent where Buddha will be the poster-saviour of differential equations?

This article wasn't meant to tout or

protest the concept of online religious broadcast, but merely to bring to light an idea that could very well be the next revolution in Internet convenience. A much deeper investigation could be made into the pros and cons of Internet evangelism, but it would probably require a degree in Theology with a minor in Computer Science. All I know right now is that as long as my Google stock keeps rising, I'll always have at least one thing to worship on the Internet.





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.

Terrorists Win Election, Upset Freedom, World, Bush



onight our great country has voted for L change, the newly elected leader goes as hundreds of supporters cheer the results of the election. However, there's no one wearing the blue 'C' emblem and it isn't Stephen Harper on stage... In fact they are all wearing green headwear, waving green flags with Arabic writing inscribed on it. Yes as a matter of fact this isn't Calgary, this is Gaza, a sandy tundra of mid 30°C balmy days, and the man speaking is Mahmoud al-Zahar, a spokesperson for the party of Hamas, who won a surprising 76 seats in the 132 Palestinian Council in elections this past week. In the process the main political faction that has lead the Palestinian movement since the 1960s, Fatah, founded by late periennial peace maker/terrorist by Israel, and civil engineer, Yassar Arafat has been vanquished from the leadership of the movement to create the state of Palestine.

For most people they may not know what Hamas is, however they definitely do know what their actions have caused. Well known for staging violent sttacks against Israel and its citizens with the up close and personal sucide bomber – that is a person strapped with 30 lbs of Semtex who tries to infiltrate large crowds of Israelis and blows themselves up along with the people around them. Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement, is a recently formed group in terms of the struggle of the Palestinians to achieve statehood. Formed in 1988 after the intefadeh, a revolt among Palestinians living in the terrorities (Gaza Strip and West Bank) occupied by Isreal who annexed those terrorities after the six-day war, another attempt by the Arab nations to concquer Israel and establish a Islamic state in its place. Its main long term goal is to establish an Islamic State on land originally mandated as Palestine, in a agreement between the British, through T.E. Lawerence, and the arab tribes who rose up to capitulate the Turkish Ottoman empire. Unfortunately, the majority of that land has since become Israel. Hamas's main methods to achieve this goal is through armed militaristic resistance; that is to say screw the mediation and bring on the bayonet (or the Semtex). Their signature resistance operation is suicide bombings, and they have conducted the majority of their suicide bombings against Israel. But there is another face to Hamas, that it operates mosques, schools, clinics, and social programs for the Palestinians, which may act as support infrastructure in their battle against Israel. As a result of their unwillingness to use diplomatic means, they had condemned the Oslo Peace Accord signed in 1993 between Fatah and the Israeli government. Their leaders and personnel are major targets for

over 20 years and the most legitimate political force in the eves of the West, has lost and lost badly. I guess it was kind of like what should have happened to the Liberals but didn't. However the reasons of the Palestinians for electing Hamas were legitimate ones, including corruption in the Fatah government that has deteriorated the quality of living for the Palestinians. From report interviews by journalists done on Palestinians, many felt the Palestinian government needed a fresh start, a new party to improve their living conditions; even people who lost family members in Hamas attacks still voted for the party, which shows the desire of the people for change.

So what now for the new Hamas government? Well they don't actually know, since they did not expect to win. However,

First South America, now THIS?!? BAHH!

the Israeli army (IDF) and its intelligence agency (Mossad), which have consistently killed many high ranking officials within Hamas in the past 5 years. Hamas is currently on the EU, USA and Canada's terrorist organization list.

The election of Hamas to lead the Palestinian authority has shocked many leaders throughout the world. As the perennial winners and leaders of the Palestinian Authority, Fatah, an organization that the west has worked with for

the west has taken actions: all the western nations have urged Hamas to renounce violence and achieve goals through diplomacy. Israel has taken a strong position of not recognizing the victory of Hamas, as they still pose a threat to Israel's security. But all western nations and Israel have begun to freeze aid packages to the Palestinian Authority (i.e. guilt money) for fear of its use in more terrorist attacks against Israel. Hamas has responded with strong words condemning these actions.

So what's my take on all this? Well, being no expert on the situation, the first thing I must say is that democracy permits many quagmires to occur, such as this. Personally, I think the election of Hamas is a sign from the Palestinian people to the West, that they are tired of the old guard of Fatah only trying to make something happen. Along with the suspicion of rampant corruption in Fatah, there must also be an underlying sentiment that Fatah is becoming a puppet of the West, a power that has betrayed the Palestinians in the past. After all, under the promise from T.E. Lawrence of an Arab state in Palestine in exchange for assistance in defeating the Turkish Ottomans, the Arab tribes in the Palestine area thought they had an agreement. Though the Arab tribes did defeat the Turkish Ottomans, the British failed to keep their promise and instead under the Skyes-Picot Agreement partitioned the former Ottoman Empire into French and English colonies. Also, the Balfour Declaration of 1917 - a document stating British recognition of Jewish claim to a Jewish national state in the Palestine region – didn't help either. With the result of these two documents the state of Israel was founded in 1947, and the Arabs are still waiting on theirs. Thus, the Palestinians want a government that will stand up to the tyranny of the West, and give them more leverage at the diplomatic table. But Hamas should, in my opinion, lay down the gun in favour of peaceful diplomacy. It's a much better way to solve problems, and other militant organization have done so in the past and as a result have become somewhat more legitimized, such as The Irish Republican Army and its Political Sinn Fein wing in Northern Ireland, or the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka. And besides, if Hamas does try to incite war with Israel, the Palestinians would be outmatched in terms of resources, weapons, and manpower. I mean a guy with a Semtex vest needs to get up close to its target to kill; the Israelis can press a button and launch a Patriot missile miles away. This would legitimize a large-scale Israeli assault in the eyes of history if such war was instigated, and that would be quite an irony indeed.

Notwithstanding: the Great Canadian Loophole

PATRICK BROWN

4B MECHANICAL

In the run-up to the Canadian elections, you may have read or heard Stephen Harper and his Conservatives mention the fact that they wanted to "revisit the gay marriage issue". Since this particular law was passed to comply with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, some people question the validity of his plan. It was by order of the Supreme Court of Canada that the same sex marriage law was passed. The Supreme Court had determined that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms required equality in all respects for gays and lesbians. This meant that the government was required to pass a law stating that marriage was open to same sex couples.

The Conservative plan to revisit the issue is a valid one. For those who wonder how the law could be changed or blocked considering its roots in the Charter, there is a reason. That reason is the Notwithstanding Clause. This is a clause in the Charter that specifically states that any national or provincial government may pass a law superseding an existing one, while overriding

the Charter. This is only possible since a law passed under the Notwithstanding Clause has an expiry date. Any law so passed cannot remain in effect for more than five years after enactment. The five-year limit was given to coincide with the longest period of time any government can remain in power without another election.

The reason that this clause was entered into the Charter is to protect the people from the power of the judiciary, as in the same sex marriage case, as well as to give each province the power to protect its own interests from the federal government, should the case arise. In Canada, should the courts state that a law or lack thereof contravenes the Charter (for anything other than elections, language rights or the right to physical freedom), then the government may pass a temporary law going against the courts. If the people were to disagree with the law passed, they may revolt and force the government to repeal the law, or to call an election and let another party do so. This ensures that the final power rests with us, and not any one section of the government.



The bastion of our freedoms, paper never had so much power!

Rise Up Against Underwear!



An issue crossed my mind as I was walking aimlessly one day: What really is the point of underwear? Forget about underwear!

Underwear is restricting. Forget underwear and you will walk faster because your stride will be much longer. You will save so much time in the morning not having to pick out a pair of underwear. Think of the productivity increase! If no one wore underwear we'd all save like maybe a minute in the morning. That's a whole minute! Of course it would be one less article of clothing to wash each time you did laundry, so it would be better for the environment and mean cheaper laundry (This statement is bullshit because the less you wore underwear the more you would have to wash your pants. But boo underwear anyways.). Now, when exercising foreplay leading to intercourse, pants and underwear have to be removed. Anyone who has been there knows that when lying down on a bed and foreplaying, removing said pants and underwear is by no means an easy task. When two people are at that certain magic step of the bedroom events

(my favorite), they will have to cleverly remove at least four articles of clothing (in most situations...but I'm sure lots of people are creative). Without standing up, this is hard. If both people didn't wear underwear, they would only have to remove two! And think of how easy access wearing no underwear in a skirt is!

On a hot day or in a hot room you will be much more comfortable, there is so much more space for airflow and circulation. Try running without underwear on. Just try it. Actually, run naked. If you are shy or afraid of indecent exposure charges, maybe find a remote field or a beach on a warm night. Not wearing underwear allows for more relaxation. If no one wore underwear, there might not be war.

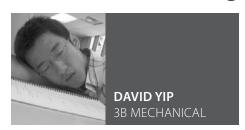
Not wearing underwear creates a conversation. If you were at a bar or a social gathering, you could approach another and mention the fact that you aren't wearing underwear. This may offend some religions, I'm not sure. If so, I apologize. But if not, it could dazzle and amaze. A possible response from the conversing patron could be: "So why aren't you wearing underwear?" At this point in time you could tell them how awesome it is and how much faster it is to get laid. I imagine it is possible to use it as a pickup line. I'll let you know.

Now that you know so many great ways that not wearing underwear can benefit your life, spread the word and enjoy!



Never worry about skid marks again!

How not to go on exchange



Ome of you, roaming the halls, may have noticed that it was Exchange Week last week. The Engineering Exchange office held presentations on different exchange destinations each week, along with offering the requisite free food.

If you are one to take things at face value, you may think think that those were merely information sessions, to spread the good word of the exchange term to the engineering student body. Certainly this aim was achieved, but there was also the more insidious goal of rubbing the fact that I, David Yip, am stuck here in Waterloo, again. I was supposed to be breathing in the crisp Alpine air of eastern France, but instead I'm here again, immersed in the oily cloud of the cuisine of eighteen different cultures emanating from the plaza. Clearly I'm not impressed.

I'd always wanted to go on exchange, but never really put enough time into researching and planning it, one, because 3B always seemed so far into the future. Lesson 1: If you don't want to go on exchange, start planning it at the last moment. In my case, I was slated to leave in January 2006, with the term starting in February at l'Institue Polytechnique National de Grenoble. I met with the exchange coordinator in September, and was assured that there was still enough time for me to apply and successfully go.

After that I was more or less on my own. On the French side, I discovered that France has quite an impressively extensive bureaucracy to wade through, and the application process involved the writing of letters, making multiple copies of everything under the sun, all to be sent to different French addresses. There was insurance, residence

permits, and student visas.

Here in Waterloo, the official exchange form needed signatures from all sorts of people all with busy difficult schedules. The department undergraduate chair. Your co-op advisor. One other person whose title I don't remember. Once accomplished multiple copies of these get sent out to multiple locations. There are also the travel considerations; medical checks, insurance, registering with the Canadian consulate in France, and perhaps getting an International Driving Permit from the CAA.

Although these are small tasks, added

together they take up a lot of time, combined with the inevitable lag in dealing with people with different schedules, and an application process that insists on mailing the plethora of forms.

Despite all this I had the forms assembled, up until the course equivalencies part; that stymied the whole operation as I could not find a combination of courses at INPG that would fit. Be prepared to wade through unfamiliar university websites in a language you might not understand - it took me quite a while to find the course calendar, and figure out exactly what the courses were.

The Engineering Exchange office, while full of well meaning people, does not seem to have the resources to really support you in your process. You'll have to find the school, find the calendar, find the forms, and usually deal with your prospective host school all on your lonesome. It is very much a self-driven process. Housing is also your responsibility, most schools I imagine have residence, and some may not. Living off campus would probably give you a better flavour for wherever you're going though. Not that I'd know. What the Exchange office does have is a collection of reports written by past exchange students, these may be valuable in deciding on where you want to go.

So: In the language of the industry, what learnings have been acquired through my little experience?

Plan early. I mean start like a calendar vear before you think you have to leave. Some schools require applications up to a year in advance. You'll need time. Be prepared to do a lot of self directed research on matching up courses, finding places to live, and that sort of thing. There are also popular exchange schools, and not so popular exchange schools. English-speaking places such as England and Australia are hot, places like France where the instruction is in French, you'll have an easier time getting in. Get in touch with exchange coordinators as soon as possible. They are listed on the exchange website, and presumably they are the ones with specific contacts at the host school in question.

As for me, I don't entirely regret not being able to go, while I'm sure it would have been an amazing experience, there are other ways to spend time abroad. Also I didn't really relish the idea of taking 500 level courses in French when I can barely handle my own in English, so in the end, I had to decide it wasn't worth it. Had I more time I may have been able to consider and apply to other schools, but time, TIME, people is the most valuable resource there is, so if you are thinking of going on exchange, plan early.

Upcoming Events from EngSoc							
Sun February 5	Mon February 6	Tue February 7	Wed February 8	Thu February 9	Fri February 10	Sat February 11	
	IW Meeting	TelEng 8:00p Bomber	FEDS Election All Candidates Forum 11:30a		MOT 9:00p POETS		
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18	Check out up-to- the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at www.engsoc. uwaterloo.ca
	IW Meeting	Chem Eng Coffee House FEDS Election IRC Info Meeting OhAnd Happy Valentine's Day	FEDS Election EngSoc Meeting #4 5:30p CPH 3385				
February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24	February 25	
	IW Meeting	IRS!!!	IW Submission Deadline	Reading Day	Reading Day	National Engineering Week	

Cindy's Guide to Weddings



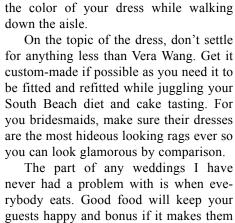
I went to the wedding show in Toronto last weekend. (Cue "Mazal Tov".) Ok, although I couldn't be any further from the altar, I braved the scene nonetheless, all in the name of research. This article documented my findings on what's important when it comes to planning the so-called Biggest Day of Your Life.

The key is to start planning early. Basically, if you haven't fantasized the ceremony by the age of 5, it is too late to have that perfect wedding of your dreams. Such intricate preparation is inconceivable for most guys, as I am well aware, and the clueless engineers in particular. Not to worry: your significant other would have done all the work already. Well, unless she's an engineer too, in which case I suggest that the two of you should elope. And now you guys can feel free to skip rest of article. (I realized that I am being heterocentric here, but chances are if you are gay, you don't need to read my article and your wedding will be fabulous.)

The first thing to consider is location, location, location. The more popular venue choices can be booked up to a year, if not more, in advance. Therefore, it is advisable to do so when you reach the age of consent. The capacity of the venue matters and it, of course, is also tied into how many people you are planning on having at the reception.

Who to send invitation to is crucial as you may just find yourself in the society page on a Saturday morning. Not only should you include your immediate family, 50 of your closest friends, but also colleagues, acquaintances and acquaintances of acquaintances. Most importantly, I have been informed that there shall be relatives that you did not know existed. Invited by your parents, they are referred to as the "wedding relatives". It is forbidden to interact with such relatives except at the wedding of one's children.

One more thing on your agenda that requires advanced planning is joining a new trendy diet program so you can be a size 4, or whatever your goal might be, in all the photos.



Now that all the important stuff is

taken care of, it's about the right time to focus on finding yourself a groom. There isn't any real standard for what the man has to be like, as long as his shirt matches

never had a problem with is when everybody eats. Good food will keep your guests happy and bonus if it makes them feel guilty on how much or little they spend on their wedding gift. If the latter objective isn't accomplished, do send a hand-written Thank You note, "Dear Aunt Rebecca, Thank you for the fondue set. It is definitely the most beautiful one among all we have received, in this particular colour."

This lavish wedding will not come free, but how very unromantic is it to mention cold hard cash when two people are committing to spending the rest of their life together? This really depends on who is footing the bill, but the rule of thumb for the cost of a wedding is as follows: 1) take the amount you can afford; 2) multiply by eighteen; 3) that is how much you must spend.

I should point out that in order to maximize the applicability and ensure the commercialization of the nuptials, I did not include any religious rituals or ethnic traditions in the guide. Feel free to fill in the missing pieces, be it the tea ceremony, Hora dance, or Agni Puja.

Now for the guys, I know I haven't mentioned much that concerns you yet. I apologize for my neglect but this whole thing is really not about you. In fact, it never is since the moment you dropped on one knee. During the big day, you will receive a bit more attention than the centre piece, but certainly not as much as the oaks.

However, to make my guide more politically correct, I will dedicate the remainder of the article to you by focusing on the event that leads to all of the above: the proposal. The myth is that no self-respecting woman will agree to marry

you unless presented with a diamond ring that cost upward of your two-month salary. (My girlfriends and I have argued over the exact length of time, which ranges between two to four months.) This is not a myth; it's true.

Therefore, to judge whether you are ready to tie the knot, please answer the following questions: What are the 4 Cs? Where is the nearest Harry Winston or Tiffany & Co.?

All appears to be in order. The only thing left to do for the newlyweds is to repeat the immortal words the day after you are married, "Dear God! What have I done?"

Environmental Understanding

TYLER GALE
2A GEOLOGICAL
KRISTI HERLEIN
1N CHEMICAL

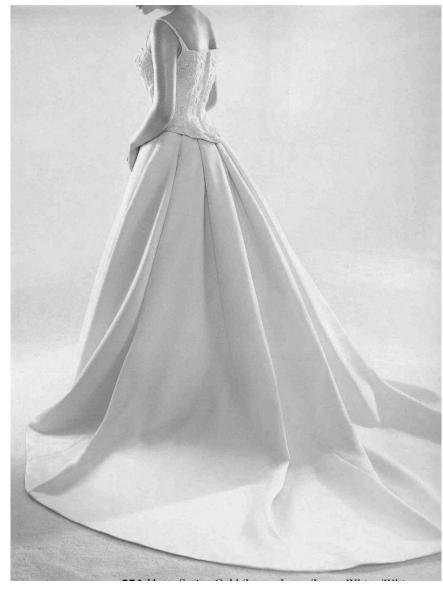
Without a doubt, forests play a vital role in environmental stability. They provide habitats for over half of the world's plant and animal species, they remove carbon dioxide from the air, they stabilize slopes, they are sources for disease and ailment curing drugs, and the list of global benefits goes on, especially for rain forests. So why do the rain forests of the South American Amazon and central Africa disappear at such an alarming rate? The answer actually lies right in one of the beneficial properties of forests. Imagine a vast landscape where the soil is so fertile that huge plants grow on it without fertilizer. Now, if you're a poor farmer living in a developing country, stop dreaming, go out and buy one of them plots of land at the edge of the rain forest and start chopping. This is happening in abundance in Brazil and the less fortunate countries of central Africa. Peasants are being forced to expand into the rain forest due to the lack of fertile, available land elsewhere. This is arguably by far the largest factor in deforestation in developing countries. Clear cutting by the forestry industry plays a

key role as well, but so many people have chained themselves to, or set up camp in trees in recent decades that the big companies have been forced to slow it down a bit and develop means of sustainability.

It turns out the news isn't all bad. Deforestation rates in South America and Africa have slowed somewhat in the last decade and a half, as suggested by research – especially observation of Satellite images. On top of that, Europe and Asia actually report an "aforestation" rate that exceeds the rates of deforestation. In fact, in China all able-bodied citizens between the ages of 11 and 60 must plant at least 3 trees per year by law. North American deforestation actually sits at the balance point right now, mainly due to the heightened pressure on the forestry industry to be sustainable.

None the less, the facts are there and it goes without saying that the issues are not completely resolved. Trees might be growing as quickly as they're being cut down in North America but they're growing in perfectly spaced lines too close together to allow undergrowth. Populations in developing countries are growing, and farmed land will continue to become progressively less fertile without proper care.

Be on the lookout for more articles in the Environmental Understanding series in other issues of the Iron Warrior







JUST THE FACTS

<u>ife 101, Lesson 2:</u>

Destroying the Evidence

Step 1: Collect Evidence Step 2: The Set up Retrieve the Slingshottruckmobile. Give the bag-o-bits to
Place weasel bits in a base your local McD's - they'll Place weasel hits in a bag. Remains that didnit make it thru know what to do with it. will be too crispyfied for conviction

Fasten securely to

avoid nasty spillage.

Quick reverse Wease to 180 getomen Weasel bits

Step3: The K.O. Punch OApply Cheeseasy Glue to gas pedal Slingshottruckmobile crashes Oset mouse on fire.

Prelease mouse: fat tabby. Mouse will Flaming mouse the run to the pedal & get stuck. Cat will McD's eat the mouse & fat will cause the Slipenhattenshape his transfer to the slipenhatt Slimshottruckmobile to accelerate in Flames. *Meow!*



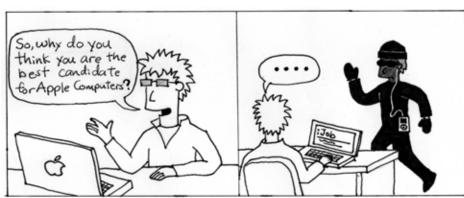
Step4: Grand Finale into McD's, setting all the evidence aflame. Score.

Perfectly unharmed

Next Issue: Leprechouns how they fit into * Squeakers!* The Food Chain! NO



Jaclyn Sharpe, 2A Mechanical



Send in your prof quotes, drawings and poems!

Yang Sui, 3B Mechanical

Arts Contest!

fter being in Engineering for a while, Awe often tend to neglect our artistic creativity. Not anymore, because the Arts Contest this term has begun.

You can submit your entry in any of the following categories before March 10th:

Photography: Digital or print Poetry: Any form of poetry, Haiku,

Paintings, drawings, sculptures or any other forms for visual art

Submit any electronic work via email to asoc arts@engmail.uwaterloo.ca. Prints can be left at the Orifice in the Arts director mail box .Pieces that are too big to fit in the mailbox should be left with Betty.

We shall show all the artworks in the display case in CPH and you will get your pieces back after the contest ends. There will be prizes for the best submission and winning entries will be featured in the Iron Warrior at the end of the term.

Elron Inquisition

Who would have been your ideal Prime Minister?



"Donkey Kong!"



"Christoper Walken!"





"Jack Bauer!"



"Larry Smith."

Kristi Herlein 1N Chemical

Sheldon Petrie 4B Mechanical



"Red Green."



"Sarah Jessica Parker!"



"Sean Smith."

"Don Cherry."

Ryan Gariepy 2A Mechatronics

Vishal Singh

3B Mechanical

Michelle Yu & Krista Akerman 3B Mechanical

Yassir Rizwan

2A Mechatronics

Katie Cerar 2A Systems Darcy Parks 2A Systems