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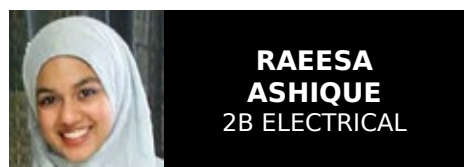
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## Colombian People Reject Peace Agreement



Columbia's civil war has been going on for over fifty years. Rex Features/Sipa Press via independent.co.uk



**RAEESA  
ASHIQUE**  
2B ELECTRICAL

In a shocking result akin to the Brexit vote, the Colombian people rejected the peace accord which would have ended half a century of war in a referendum on Sunday, October 2. The peace accord was a deal negotiated between President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC (the Marxist rebel group) leader Rodrigo Londoño Echeverri, better known by his alias, Timochenko. It took four years to negotiate the settlement, and was signed using a pen made from a bullet to “illustrate the transition of bullets into education and future”. The ceremony took place on Monday, September 26, in Cartagena, and was attended by several dignitaries including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, US Secretary of State John Kerry, and Cuban president Raul Castro.

The deal had the world's support but, apparently, not the Colombian people's.

A referendum was held to ask the Colombian people a simple question: did they endorse the accord? Popular support was needed in order to ratify the agreement. However, the surprising outcome has exposed a deep division in Colombian society. Pre-vote polls had indicated a two-to-one “yes” vote, but “no” won by a slim margin of 0.4%, which is only 54,000 votes out of a total of 13 million cast ballots.

This was also a low voter turnout, at only 38% of the voting population.

The agreement offers a plan to achieve the following: combatants must be disarmed, landmines must be cleared, special courts must be created to try crimes, rebels should be protected—any who confessed would be given lenient sentences and could avoid serving time—and a real government must be established in areas currently occupied by the guerrilla group.

President Santos and other politicians from within and outside of the country supported “yes”, while influential former president Alvaro Uribe led the “no” campaign. Although he was open to peace,

“with these agreements, there is neither justice nor truth for the victims” and therefore the deal should be renegotiated. His “corrections” included, but were not limited to, the following: those found guilty can't run for public office, FARC leaders must serve time in prison, the rebel group should use their illegal gains to pay compensation to families of victims, and the Colombian constitution must not be altered. Despite backing “no”, even Uribe had predicted a “yes” vote.

So, which factors swayed the vote?

Most of those living in areas hit hardest by conflict and violence, such as Choco, Bojaya, Vaupes, and the capital, Bogota, voted yes for obvious reasons. Those voting no had a variety of reasons, although it is always difficult to know exactly what people are thinking. Angelika Rettberg, a political science professor at the University of Los Andes, said this outcome was the result of a “profound dislike for President Santos.” In general, people were angry with the leniency in the terms of the agreement. Others said they just didn't trust the FARC

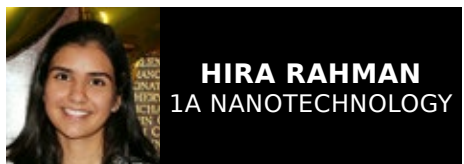
to lay down their weapons.

This was definitely not the expected result, but President Santos said in a televised address that, while accepting the result, “I won't give up. I'll continue to search for peace until the last moment of my mandate.” He also said that the ceasefire “is still in effect and should continue to be in effect”. FARC leader Timochenko shared this sentiment, saying, “The FARC reiterates its disposition to use only words as a weapon to build towards the future” and reassuring the people that “peace will triumph.” In an effort to reach out to the people, FARC leaders have traveled to areas of the country hit hardest by violence to apologize for massacres and discuss possible compensation. This sounds almost comical, thinking they can just apologize for massacres and all will be forgiven.

Currently, they are not able to move ahead with the agreement. Even before the vote, President Santos said that there was no “Plan B”.

Continued on Page 3 as FARC

## Congress Overrules Obama's Veto of 9/11 Bill



**HIRA RAHMAN**  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Congress recently overturned President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), allowing family members of people killed in terrorist attacks funded by foreign governments to sue said governments. The bill essentially permits courts to waive claims of foreign sovereign immunity if an act of terrorism occurs in the US.

While the bill passed unanimously in May and September when it was first introduced to the Senate and House, Obama vetoed it in late September. To the disappointment of the Obama administration, the veto was overridden in both the House and the Senate. The senate voted 97-1, with only one democrat supporting the president's veto. Similarly, the vote in the House showed similar results: 348-77 in favour of overriding the veto.

President Obama has strongly opposed

the bill, stating that “this is not a bilateral US-Saudi issue. This is a matter of how generally the United States approaches our interactions with other countries. If we open up the possibility that individuals in the US can routinely start suing other governments, then we are also opening up the United States to being continually sued by individuals in other countries and that would be a bad precedent because we're the largest superpower in the world and we are everywhere and we are in people's business all the time and if we are in a situation where we're suddenly being hauled into various courts because of the claim that some individual has been harmed, then that will tie us up and it will harm US servicemen and US diplomats.”

While Obama may have stated it in the most flattering way possible, the main argument against the bill is that it would make the US susceptible to similar lawsuits due to their alleged sponsorship of activities resulting in innocent deaths in other countries. In other words, what's stopping the families of the civilians killed in American drone strikes from suing the

United States? Although the US tragically lost around 3000 people in the 9/11 attacks, it has been responsible for the deaths of millions of people from numerous other countries across the globe in the last 30 or 40 years.

An almost immediate result of the bill was Iraq's plan to use JASTA to demand compensation for the Iraq invasion and over violations by US forces following the invasion. A lobbyist group in Iraq by the name of Arab Project is pushing for “a full-fledged investigation over the killing of civilian targets, loss of properties, and individuals who suffered torture and other mistreatment on the hand of US forces.”

While the bill has been criticized for diminishing the principle of sovereign immunity, it is important to remember that this immunity has been used by numerous governments, the United States included, to bypass and shield themselves from accountability. Therefore, from a purely moral perspective, passing this bill does have a positive implication: family members of victims of terrorist attacks receive some form of restitution for their losses. On the

other hand, this bill can and will jeopardize the US-Saudi alliance which may have many unintended consequences for both countries. For instance, seeing as Riyadh and Washington have an old relationship based on the exchange of security and oil, it is safe to assume that Saudi Arabia could reduce intelligence cooperation and financial investments with the United States.

Then, there is also the question of US accountability for their own less savory actions. Obama's opposition to the bill is completely understandable when one considers the fact that many of the activities the United States has participated in globally have had serious negative consequences. Perhaps the Obama administration's fear of retaliation from citizens of other countries in the form of lawsuits can be considered a positive implication in a moral sense. While JASTA may have many negative effects when it comes to diplomatic relations between countries, what is certain is that this bill is a win for those who do not condone American intervention in other countries and for those who support peace.

# Letter from the Editor

## Check Your Principles



**CAITLIN MCLAREN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thanks to all the writers and copy editors who made this paper happen over a holiday weekend! Thanksgiving is an unusual holiday in that it is secular: while most holidays have a religious background, Thanksgiving, with its roots in a harvest festival, can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of their religious beliefs.

We all have a certain set of beliefs. Whether it's about politics, religion, philosophy, or just a favourite movie, we go through life with opinions and values that form our criteria for making decisions. However, sometimes there are situations outside our realm of experience and sometimes, as time goes by, things happen that don't sit comfortably with our beliefs.

Maybe the politician you support gets elected and doesn't live up to expectations, maybe you form relationships with people who have different faiths, or maybe you get into a really intense argument about the ending of *Inception*. At these points, you may be asked to defend your beliefs or you may just feel that they need new scrutiny in the face of this new information.

Even if you have never had your beliefs challenged, that doesn't mean that you should be complacent. We don't know everything (and we never will, but that isn't a reason to stop learning) and our beliefs were not formed with perfect information. Every so often, when you find yourself making an assumption, stop and question it. Why are you assuming this? What belief is it based in? What is the source of that belief? Supposing your assumption to be wrong, what are the consequences?

Be very, very wary of any baseless belief. If your answer to any "Why?" is "It's obvious", then perhaps you need to think some more. It might not be so obvious to someone else. If that's your argument, you definitely have no hope of convincing any skeptic; beyond that, if it isn't obvious to everyone, that puts your "proof" into serious doubt. The great philosopher René Descartes even felt the need to prove the fact of existence, and he promptly came up with a proof — not because he doubted it, but if the logical foundation of any argument is weak, you risk your whole edifice coming down. If you ever find yourself having a knee-jerk reaction, making a judgement or decision without thinking through both sides, stop and ask "why?" If the answer comes too easily, if it's what you've always done or what your kindergarten teacher told you or just feels more comfortable, question that as well.

For almost everyone, our first source of information is our parents. Even the most broad-minded parents generally instill their values into their children from a young age. Some people strongly oppose this, especially in the cases of religion and politics, calling it "indoctrination". True, there are some parents who brainwash their children into extreme and harmful beliefs, but as the old adage goes, extreme cases make bad law. Humans are a K-selected species, after

all; we invest heavily in our young, who need to develop a great deal before they are ready to survive on their own. Most parents want their children to be successful and try to give their children the best and most helpful information they can.

However, that obviously does not mean that parents are necessarily a good source of information. No one is perfect, and the world, society, scientific knowledge, and people's personal situations are constantly changing. For many of us, our parents' teachings from childhood are the source of our deepest beliefs, the ones we question the most rarely, and the ones we are least aware of. They should still be questioned; in many cases, you will find that Mom and Dad were right but you shouldn't just assume that. Think through what you were told as a child, see if it stands up to logical scrutiny, and seek out other pieces of evidence. Even if everything you find confirms that the original belief was correct, now you are capable of defending your opinion that much better.

Another source of information, and one of the most trusted, is, of course, school. Nonetheless, what you learned in school was often out of date, incorrect, or taught by an imperfect teacher. And, of course, sometimes there is an agenda behind what is taught in schools. I am not speaking of some cabal spreading misinformation to a perverse end (although that has happened in human history; don't declare it laughable out of hand), but what is taught in school is the reflection of an imperfect society. Civics class might have taught about the official structure of government. Did it teach you how to spot a politician's lie? Did it teach you how to analyze and learn from history? History class is full of slant, orthodoxy, and lies of omission. Notice the biases. Question the dogma. Seek out information that was omitted. Just because something is officially taught, it doesn't make it true. It doesn't even make it more likely to be true.

Other sources of information include the media, peer groups, and society at large. What media do you consume? Is it limited to ones that confirm your opinions? In these days, where a thousand algorithms determine which advertisements and which websites you see, beware projecting your biases onto the world and receiving a comforting echo in return. Do your friends mostly think like you? Are you exchanging ideas, or just patting each other on the back? Do you trust what your friends say, without learning where they got the idea? "I read..." - where? "Studies show..." - which studies? "So-and-so-says..." - is that actually what they said? This is not meant to encourage distrust; rather, carefulness.

While no one would argue that society is perfect, it does nevertheless exert a tremendous influence over everyone. This is not merely peer pressure; society also largely determines what ideas you are exposed to and which ones are seen as reasonable. In history, there have been many societies with values that today we find nonsensical or abhorrent. Just because a value is mainstream in society, that doesn't make it correct.

Most insidiously, the idea of society is often used as a cudgel to get heretics to conform. Often, an idea is promoted as being good for society—which is based on the false assertion that society is an actual thing—which is of paramount importance. However, society does not, as such, exist. There is no entity called society, which is benefited or harmed by good or bad behaviour; society is the cumulation of individual values and actions. Political or moral ideas are not good or bad for society, they are good or bad for various individuals. If they are good for some individuals and bad for others, then there is a decision to be made—but keep "society" out of things. "This will benefit society" is a meaningless statement. "This will benefit Alice and harm Bob and Charlie": now that is a statement that forces you to think through the consequences of the idea. This is especially important to remember, as supposed benefit to society is often used to excuse ideas that will harm individuals.

To make rational decisions, your criteria for decision-making should follow a logical chain. Keep asking yourself "Why am I making this decision? Is that a valid reason? Why do I believe this?" Eventually, of course, you will have to accept something as an axiom. Whether that axiom is a conviction, a philosophical principle, even a biological drive, that is your last line of defense. The validity of your idea hangs on it, so consider your basic principles very carefully. Keep re-visiting them. If you don't find them completely convincing, don't expect anyone else to if you express them as opinions. There is no reason to live with a lack of faith in your own principles.

Finally: there is nothing shameful about changing your mind. Humans hate to admit that we were wrong, even to ourselves; this is another manifestation of the irrationality we must work to keep at bay. It is a blow to our pride, but it is very necessary. How many misconceptions did you have as a child? Do you remember them with any embarrassment? Many of us do, at least a little. But when a child says something ridiculous to you, do you belittle them? Do you think less of them for it? Of course not! All of our minds expand as we gain more experience, and some of our early ideas are always wrong. Changing your mind does not mean that you were previously stupid; it simply means that you have gained new experience and have been wise enough to re-assess your positions in that light.

Assumptions are comforting. They take the burden of thinking out of daily life. However, they can also be deeply harmful to ourselves and those around us. Our decisions, even minor daily ones, can have far-reaching effects, and it is our responsibility to make informed and rational decisions. Add one more step to your decision-making process: instead of just considering what you should do, and your reasons for doing it, also consider what makes those reasons valid. What values are they based in? Are those values logical ones? What evidence supports them? What arguments are there against them? What will happen if you are wrong?

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**Fall 2016 Publication Schedule:** September 28, October 13, October 26, November 9, November 23

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# FARC Not Forgiven by Columbian People

Continued From Front Page

Despite the referendum's outcome, the president was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for his efforts to resolve the 52-year conflict. In his address, he dedicated the prize to the people of Colombia, in particular those who "have suffered in this war that we are on the verge of ending."

This will hopefully revive hope in the accord although, considering the polarization within society, it may not be enough to sway voters. Juan Cristóbal, who researches public opinion and political campaigns at Javeriana University, says it will lift supporters' morale. "It gives more legitimacy to continue this process whose results have left the government exhausted. It says to the government: 'Yes, continue your work.'" Timochenko congratulated the president on Twitter.

## Who are the FARC?

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (or FARC, using the Spanish acronym) began as a peasant revolt in 1964. A group of small farmers and land owners banded together to fight inequality in a country where the elite minority owned the vast majority of the land. The movement was inspired by the Cuban revolution in the 1950s and follows a Marxist-Leninist ideology. It is still a primarily rural guerrilla group. At its largest, they had 20,000 members; today, they have between 6000 and 7000 active fighters. They primarily fight security forces, including the police and military, although many civilians have been caught in the conflict. A quarter-million have lost their lives during Latin America's longest running conflict.

This accord is definitely a step in the right direction and both parties appear to want peace. Here's to hoping that a compromise can be reached before more lives are lost and that, in the meantime, the ceasefire will stay in place.

# Yahoo Security Breach



LEANDER RODRIGUES  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Near the end of September 2016, Yahoo had a surprising announcement about their security: a group of hackers (known as "Peace") succeeded in a security breach against the major tech company. The group reportedly acquired a handful of personal information including names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdays, and hashed passwords of over 500 000 000+ users from around the world. With such an incredible number, it really is not surprising hearing this event being called "the world's worst security breach to date!"

The result of the majority of security breaches is greatly based on the strength of the passwords. Yahoo has indicated that the hackers used supercomputers to decrypt the hashed passwords, meaning that the simple passwords containing only lowercase letters (ex. "password") and sequences of numbers (ex. "12346") were in most cases compromised. Since

it's uncertain whether or not any given user's information has been stolen, Yahoo urges its customers to take steps to protect themselves from identity theft.

That being said, the steps to take in protecting one's information aren't that different from the usual steps, and mostly just consist of resetting your password (regardless of the strength) and adding a two-step process to your account security (alternate sign-in questions, backup passwords, etc.). If you have a Yahoo account linked to anything important, it would be a wise decision to verify the integrity of your account and make sure nothing suspicious is going on. Even if you don't have a Yahoo account changing your password every now and then will make it difficult for anyone to access your personal accounts, so change it anyway. I know I haven't done that in years.

As of now, it isn't certain if there was a valid motive behind the attack, but there have been plenty of reports of Yahoo consumers being contacted to buy their accounts back from the hackers. Yahoo has come out to the public saying that a foreign government seems to be the

ones to blame and that, although it has not given an exact timeline, the hack happened recently. Some rumours say that the attack may have been a slow ongoing process since 2014, but there is no telling for certain.

The users aren't the only group that have to suffer for the hackers' actions. Yahoo has had to endure some massive consequences in the stock market. The announcement was published at an unfortunate time since Verizon was in the process of acquiring Yahoo. The major hack is predicted not to sit well with Verizon and analysts expect a penalty fine for the hacked tech company.

Although Yahoo should have taken more care, part of the responsibility also falls on the users themselves who should be taking care to keep their passwords strong and non-essential information confidential. That being said, this hack is a signal for all other tech companies as well, indicating the importance of user security and the lack of care that has gone in to protecting customers. Expect other computing companies to take some hints from this incident and be ready for some bonus security measures to prevent this from happening again.

# The 2016 WPIRG Referendum Results



HASAN AHMED  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Over the last few weeks, posters were slathered all around campus encouraging students to vote in the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) referendum. The issue of WPIRG's actions and stances arose when people began questioning WPIRG's use of the money that it received automatically from students each academic term. For example, accounting records showed that WPIRG gave around 75% of its allotted income to salaries, which most people considered an unethical use of their finances. People also claimed that they were not representing the "public

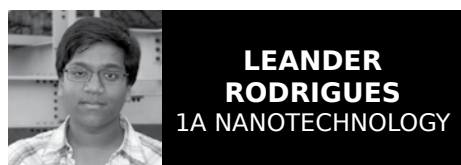
interest," and weren't taking students' opinions into their consideration. So, the referendum was induced to allow a vote to either keep or remove the mandatory \$4.75 per academic term fee for WPIRG.

Both sides had arguments, and a lot of the propaganda was spread around social media and the Waterloo campus. In order to inform the masses of the Waterloo Public, both teams held a debate on September 21st, 2016, which was open for all audiences and was also available as a livestream. Here, they discussed their viewpoints on the positives and negatives of the WPIRG automatic fee. The debate lasted an hour, and both sides were able to discuss why the fee should be kept/removed, as well as answer questions concerning the topic. After the debate, the audience was also allowed to see both councils personally and inquire about

their concerns directly.

From there, between Sep 26th and 28th, students were allowed to vote for their respective sides online using their LEARN accounts. After a 72-hour period, the results were revealed the next day. Out of 8788 votes, 1579 voted to keep the \$4.75 fee, 53 voters declined, and an astonishing 7156 people voted to remove the mandatory fee, encompassing 82% of the total vote, thereby removing the mandatory fee from the students' tuition. This is just a reminder that this does not mean WPIRG is out of commission. If students want to invest their money into WPIRG, they have the full right to do it. The only thing that has changed is that the fee is now voluntary. So, from now on, tuition will be \$4.75 cheaper for all students; feel free to use it to buy 19 gumballs.

# Two Committees: The Nitty-Gritty vs. The Witty



LEANDER RODRIGUES  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Over the past few weeks there have been some amazing things from around the world that received the recognition they truly deserved, as well as some more interesting things which sound hilarious and are being immortalized for other well-deserved reasons. Of course, I am talking about the Nobel and the Ig Nobel Prizes. If you don't know what the Ig Nobel prizes are, don't worry, I will

get there.

As a brief introduction, the Nobel prizes come from a Swedish inventor named Alfred Nobel in 1895 who, in his will, outlined that he wanted his fortune to be used to award innovators from around the world based on "the greatest benefit to mankind." These awards were categorized into six different groups; physics, chemistry, physiology, medicine, literature, and peace. Annually, a committee gathers and discusses the contributions made by each applicant, and decides whether or not they are worthy of receiving the incredibly coveted award.

As of now, there are four Nobel prizes that have been published for 2016: the prizes for Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, and Peace. The science awards tend to go into specific details and get complex quickly, far too complicated to attempt an explanation. However, the Peace prize is rather interesting. The Award was given to the Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his efforts to end a 50-year-long civil war that resulted in 220 000 dead citizens and 6 million people being displaced. The committee did not let his commitment go unnoticed and he was chosen as the best candidate for the 2016

Nobel Peace Prize.

The Nobel prizes are really quite valuable, but as with most things in life, if you make something worth talking about, expect there to be parodies or ridicule; thusly we have the Ig Nobel Prizes. The Ig Nobel prizes aren't awarded for 'the greatest benefit to mankind' but are rather international awards that honour achievements that make people laugh, and then think about it. These are awarded to the unusual and imaginatively unique studies into the "wacky world of science and humanity."

There are plenty more than just six Ig Nobel prizes since they expand into categories such as Psychology, Perception, Biology, and Reproduction. The ceremony for these awards was held on September 22nd, at Harvard University. There were a total of 10 different teams awarded for their contribution to humour across the academic board. One of my personal favourites was a Psychology prize that entailed a study done by asking 1000 liars how often they lie, then contemplated the validity of the responses themselves. Another

incredible winner for the Medicine Prize in which a team of scientists discovered that if you have an itch on the left side of your body, you can relieve it by scratching your right side while looking in a mirror (or vice versa).

Some of the research done by the winners of both the Nobel and Ig Nobel prizes is intriguing and I recommend you take some time to look into it. The two awards contrast one another but they both require teams of people dedicated to a specific goal, even if one is comedy while the other is human betterment. It's kinda beautiful, isn't it?



Flickr



Improbable Research

# Rapists Should Make the List of Things That Cause Rape

## And Other Takeaways from Dr. Rachel Griffin



**RAEESA  
ASHIQUE**  
2B ELECTRICAL

What do we associate with university campuses? Higher learning. Lifelong connections. Empowerment. Equal opportunity.

At least, these are ideas that should be associated with campuses.

But there is also the darker side. One that causes many students—females, mostly—to feel uncomfortable walking home alone after dark. To feel that they must always be cautious and aware. We hear so many horror stories because the truth is that sexual violence is a real problem on campuses. It's disturbing and out of place, and should not exist, but it does. It is a topic that is difficult to discuss for all parties but it needs to be discussed more often, and campuses need to provide a safe space for students to do so.

These are just some of the many ideas I took away from the presentation I attended on September 29 in QNC by Dr. Rachel Alicia Griffin on the topic of sexual violence, social justice, and compassion.

Dr. Griffin is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at South Illinois University, cross-appointed in Africana Studies and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is the recipient of several awards and has been published in several journals. She has been advocating against sexual violence for over a decade and has given over 100 keynotes at campuses and conferences.

As a survivor, she delivered a very powerful and compelling presentation, and shared her personal story of how she was raped in high school by a boy she liked in her own home. She didn't talk about what had happened for a long time, instead ending up on a self-destructive path to do anything and everything to try to feel better. She tried to be the best, the brightest, and the prettiest, but nothing could take away her feelings of worthlessness.

Seven years later, she finally shared her story with a peer support advocate at her university, who responded with, "I believe you. It's not your fault." Dr. Griffin says that student saved her. The Dr. Griffin we saw in front of us would not exist if her story had been greeted with doubt or blame.

I wish everyone on campus could have attended. In Dr. Griffin's own words, "if

everyday people just like me, and everyday people just like you, really understood what rape feels like, then people and campuses and governments alike could consistently respond to survivors with compassion and support." I think if more people would have heard her inspiring words and her moving story, they would be less likely to dismiss rape and rape victims.

But unfortunately, everyone on campus did not attend, which is why I am here to pass on a couple messages.

### "Consent Should Be Enthusiastic!!!"

If sex is not consensual, then it is some form of sexual violence or harassment. "Drunken, murky, maybe, or unspoken" consent is not consent.

### "Acknowledging Statistical Truth is not Male Bashing"

Statistically, it is more common for women to be victims of sexual violence and it is more common for men to be perpetrators. According to Canada's Department of Justice, women account for 85% of sexual offences reported to the police and men are the accused in 97% of cases. However, this (obviously) in no way means that all men are rapists.

### Be Compassionate

Dr. Griffin says "Survivors are people just like me and you. We have hopes, dreams, and fears... survivors can be anyone and can be anything." It's never okay to blame survivors because of what was done to them. Remember that they are people too, just like anyone else, and deserve the same treatment and respect.

She talks about how perpetrators are also human, and therefore also deserve compassion. A lot of perpetrators feel scared and alone after realizing what they have done, and therefore should not be demonized. Dealing with the situation should be left up to the law.

### Keep Your Doubts to Yourself

If someone approaches you to tell their story, be supportive. She says that, as humans, it's perfectly fine to doubt a person's story, but that isn't our place to vocalize. Never question whether that really happened. Instead, direct them to a licensed professional so they can get the help they need.

She also says, "We don't have to sacrifice believing survivors because we are afraid of

maltreating perpetrators." Again, everyone deserves compassion, but it does not have to be a trade-off.

### Build a Positive Campus Culture

It is so important to build a campus culture which states, "We believe survivors. Period." Survivors should feel comfortable and safe coming forward and saying, "I am hurt. I need help." Campuses need to make an effort to actively prevent sexual violence, because without this effort they are effectively condoning it.

Actress and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson communicated many of the same messages in her speech to the UN on Tuesday, September 20, where she was introducing HeForShe's Impact 10x10x10 plan. This initiative will include ten heads of state, ten global CEOs, and ten university presidents in the goal of erasing sexual violence from university campuses. She pointed out that inequality definitely exists in post-secondary institutions, although they should be a "place of refuge that takes action against all forms of violence." She then questions the current culture on many campuses which send "the message that sexual violence isn't actually a form of violence."

Rape culture exists. Look at Donald Trump's latest antics, for example: let's not pretend the controversy is over his "lewd comments"; the issue is that he unremorsefully acknowledged the attempted rape of a married woman. Sexual violence is becoming more of a discussion point, especially following the Brock Turner case—the case in which the Stanford swimmer raped an unconscious girl at a party, and then served only three months of a six-month sentence. Side note: in theory, Turner would have served longer for possessing weed. Does this make sense to anyone?

Stories like these come up time and again, and there are scary statistics to back them up.

Between one-in-three and one-in-six women will experience some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, and the accused is known to the victim in the vast majority of cases. Sexual assault is reported about 20% of the time, and, when it is, it rarely reaches the prosecution or conviction phase. Additionally, we continually see victim-blaming and slut-shaming, while the perpetrators are excused because of, for example, their athletic records like in Turner's case. Factors such as alcohol and clothing choices are cited, but ironically, in Dr. Griffin's words,

"Rarely does rapists make the list of things that cause rape." This kind of attitude and culture will never make victims feel safe to come forward and ask for help.

Sexual violence is a real topic that needs to be discussed a lot more often than it is. I attended Dr. Griffin's speech that day because, as an ally, sexual violence is a topic that I am passionate about. I believe that rape culture is a key point that feminists should be focused on. And I don't just mean females—we need men on our side, as well. If we want to see real change, everyone needs to be talking and aware. As Dr. Griffin says, "This is an all-hands-on-deck journey."

### What to Do if You Need Help

We are lucky to live in a province that is taking an active stance against sexual violence. Ontario's Sexual Violence and Harassment Plan Act mandates the implementation of sexual violence policies at every Ontario college and university, to be reviewed every three years. Premier Kathleen Wynne has said "Our action plan is a roadmap to taking action to end sexual violence and harassment in Ontario—through raising public awareness, helping survivors, and strengthening laws to protect workplaces and campuses. By working together, we can help make sure everyone in Ontario can live free from violence or harassment." There are also several campaigns in place, such as "It's Never Okay" and #WhoWillYouHelp.

If you ever find yourself in a situation where you need help, know that the University of Waterloo supports survivors.

- Remember: it is NEVER your fault. Don't let yourself think, or anyone else tell you otherwise.
- Seek medical attention. The Waterloo Region Sexual Assault Treatment Centre is located at St Mary's Hospital.
- Consider reporting the assault, but don't feel pressured to do so. This is your choice.
- The following resources are available:
- University of Waterloo Health Services: 519-888-4096
- University of Waterloo Counselling Services: 519-888-4567 Extension 32655
- Waterloo Region Sexual Assault Treatment Centre: 519-749-6994
- St Mary's Hospital: 519-744-4311
- Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region: 519-741-8633 (24 hour), 519-571-0121 (office)

# Audio of Trump's Lewd Comments Leaked



**ALEXANDER LEE**  
4A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Last week a tape surfaced from 2005 which features Trump making extremely sexist and sexual remarks towards women, and boasting about groping a married woman and wanting to have sex with her. Ugh. Ew. Bleugh. The November presidential election is coming up in the United States, as I'm sure everyone knows, and this tape certainly does Trump and his campaign no favours in their presidential bid. It seems that the notoriously loose-mouthed businessman has shot himself in the foot yet again as these past statements come back to haunt him, and another round of Republican senators and congressmen have deserted him.

If Trump was a typical politician, this tape would have buried his presidential chances in the ground. Dead on arrival. Do not resuscitate. But Trump has already proven so many times over the last year that he is not

an ordinary politician. His racist comments about Hispanic, particularly Mexican, immigrants didn't sink him during the primaries. His insult toward Senator John McCain and the war veterans he represents, calling him a "loser" for being captured as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, didn't kill his chances. Even when he called for preventing immigration of Muslims in the aftermath of the Nice bombings, and suggested that the Muslim mother of an American soldier that died in Iraq didn't speak because "she wasn't allowed to", his poll numbers have not tanked. It truly seems as if Trump is bulletproof.

However, this scandal may be different. With a month to go before elections, Trump's approval ratings might not have time to recover before the general election. On top of that, each other time Trump has said something offensive, it has been toward a particular group of people, for example Mexicans, veterans, and Muslims. However, where not everyone knows a minority or a Muslim personally, everyone knows multiple women, and this time Trump's remarks impact half of

America's population. This might not have mattered in an era where women could not vote, but thankfully we live in better times, and humiliating half of the voter base might not be the best strategy to win the presidential race.

On top of that, this tape may have been the most damaging yet to his relationship with the Republican party, one of the two major political parties in the United States. While Trump has always been an outsider and has never been very close to the Republican establishment, he will nonetheless need their support to have any hope to win the general election. Several major Republican figures, most significantly the Bush dynasty, had already said prior to the leaked tape that they would not be supporting Trump in the election. This latest scandal has caused another round of Republican figures to leave Trump, possibly the biggest yet. Most significantly, Republican Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, one of the most powerful politicians in America, has deserted him. While Ryan did not explicitly stop supporting Trump, he has said he will be directing his efforts now

to ensuring Hillary Clinton does not have a Democrat-controlled Congress; this is a clear indication that Ryan has given up on Trump being able to win the general election.

The light at the end of the tunnel for Trump has not collapsed yet. He still has a loyal support base which he knows will never desert him. Clinton has also not proven to be the strongest opponent, having been brought down by her own scandals, particularly Emailgate (I would appreciate it if every political scandal would stop being called \_\_gate, but that's neither here nor there). Trump has truly proven more resilient to political blunders than any politician in recent history, and has survived and even thrived where others would have fallen. Perhaps that is a testament to just how much the American public is sick of the status quo, and how much they want change. However, there is a base level of human dignity that should be untouchable, and Trump is getting dangerously close to that line. Trump's campaign will have their work cut out for them in the next month, and it is unknown if Trump still stands a chance in the general election. We'll see in November.

# Russia Withdraws From Nuclear Agreement



**CAITLIN MCLAREN**  
4A CHEMICAL

Russia withdrew from a sixteen-year nuclear cooperation agreement in early October, with President Vladimir Putin citing a “radically changed environment” in Russian-American relations. This is only the latest part in a series of increased tensions between America and Russia, who have been butting heads over the war in Syria. Recently, a fragile ceasefire negotiated between the various factions broke down, with the main causes being two major violations. First, US strikes killed over 60 Syrian soldiers, which was blamed on faulty intelligence; only a few days later, a UN aid convoy was bombed, and the US accused Russia of being responsible—a charge which Russia denied. The fragile ceasefire broke down shortly afterwards.

Russia has now announced their withdrawal from the Plutonium Disposition and Management Agreement (PDMA), which concerned the disposal of approximately 34 tons of weapons-grade plutonium stockpiles from the Cold War in each country. Both the

United States and Russia have stockpiles of weaponized material, which under the agreement were to be converted to mixed-oxide fuel usable in nuclear power plants.

However, what would have been America’s only mixed-oxide plant, at the Savannah River site in Georgia, suffered from delays and problems over the last two years, and President Obama’s proposed budget for 2017 called for cancellation of the project. Instead, the facility would be used to dilute the plutonium, which would then be placed in long-term storage at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in Carlsbad, New Mexico. While America argues that this change in plan is within the bounds of the agreement, the Kremlin disagrees.

The agreement was first signed in 2000 and renewed in 2009. However, Putin cites “the emergence of a threat to strategic stability and as a result of unfriendly actions by the United States of America towards the Russian Federation” as the reason for the withdrawal. Putin’s decree states that Russia does not intend to weaponize the plutonium; Russia does currently, in fact, make use of mixed-oxide fuel.

The decree also outlined several demands, including a demand that the

economic sanctions against Russia over their conflict with the Ukraine over the Crimea be lifted. It also called for reverting NATO deployment in the Baltic states and repeal of the Magnitsky act, which was intended to punish officials responsible for the 2009 prison death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who had previously been investigating fraud involving Russian officials. The withdrawal came shortly before the American announcement that the US would no longer cooperate with Russia in Syria, and was likely planned to preempt the statement.

These demands broke with longstanding precedent that nuclear-related negotiations be kept separate from other issues in US-Russia negotiations, an unwritten rule that has stood since the Soviet era. While the plutonium itself is unlikely to be made into weapons, at least in the immediate future, this situation shows that Russia is now willing to bring the nuclear issue into other political conflicts, which causes concern for the future of disarmament efforts.

After the announcement James Collins, who was the US ambassador to Russia when the agreement was signed, called Russia’s decision a “strange move”, saying that there was a possibility that the plutonium might

fall into terrorist hands. Condemnation also came from Europe; German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for the withdrawal of Russian troops in Syria, calling the actions of Assad’s Russia-backed regime a “horrible crime”. Some German politicians also called for further sanctions against Russia. However, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissed anti-Russian statements as “rhetorical Russophobia” and stated that “the treaty was concluded when relations were normal, civilised, when no one ... was trying to interfere in the [other’s] internal affairs.” He further said that Russia was in Syria at the request of Syria’s legitimate government.

One thing is very clear: the conflict in Syria is not just about Syria. The US and Russia have longstanding political baggage that is preventing them from agreement and cooperation in the Middle East, and these conflicts are preventing the situation from reaching any resolution. While Russia and America place their own political difficulties over the need to end the Syrian civil war, ISIS remains undefeated and Syrian factions continue to tear their country apart. There is no winner in this environment and the Syrian people continue to suffer.

# New Playboy Issue is First to Feature a Muslim Woman



**TAHREEM FAROOQI**  
1A PLANNING

The new issue of Playboy features a fully-clothed woman wearing a hijab, and is the first issue to do so.

Playboy featured her in the 2016 Renegades, a list of men and woman whom they would consider to change the business and media industries. The model’s name is Noor Tagouri – she is a journalist for Newsy, and her interview in Playboy discusses her efforts to become the first Muslim woman news anchor. According to Mashable, they added this feature after they made the announcement that they would no longer be featuring nude models in their

magazines.

The decision to be a part of a once nude magazine has polarized the public. There are many that support her decision and there are those that don’t, claiming that being a part of the once nude magazine would be considered un-Islamic.

In an interview with BBC, she discussed the topic and the controversy in which she said, “People ask ‘why Playboy?’ And I kind of say ‘why not?’” She claims that she is trying to reach a broader audience on a platform where Muslim women would not normally be seen, in an effort to break stereotypes. She claims that by doing the interview with Playboy, she is challenging the previous sexualisation of women in the magazine by not being portrayed sexually herself. She states, “If my

message is to combat the objectification and to combat the sexualisation of woman in our society, then what better way to share that message and to kind of put it in people’s faces, on the front lines of where people are known to do that.” She said some are against the interview because it was not easily accessible in countries like the Middle East, where the magazine was banned, so most are not able to read the interview and are judging her before knowing the full context. The significant aspect to acknowledge is that she did not compromise any of her values pertaining to Islam during the interview.

The interview with Playboy itself was centred around her career in the news industry and her efforts in becoming a reporter. In the interview she highlights

the struggles, as well as the benefits, of being a reporter as a Muslim woman. The struggles of combating the stereotypes that surround a woman wearing a hijab makes it more difficult to find a job. And yet, the benefits of easily gaining trust from those who have been in vulnerable positions help her in her line of work. She states, “To be honest, I think being a hijabi Muslim woman, helped me gain that trust. I know what it’s like to have the narrative of our community be skewed and exploited in the media. I was like, ‘Hey, I know what it’s like to be misrepresented in the media. I won’t do that to you. I want to tell your story because it’s important and deserves justice.’” In the end, she has gained success because since June she has been the news anchor for the video news network, Newsy.

# All About Midterms



**JOSH LI**  
2A MECHANICAL

SURVIVING FIRST YEAR

This edition is about dealing with midterms, because that is probably what your greatest concern at this very moment. “Hell Week”: it’s not as bad as it sounds. Upper years will all tell you: love hell week even if you hate it. Love it by using your time wisely.

## Have a plan

Studying by opening the first page of your notes and reading from there is like going into Wonderland without looking at a map and spending two hours on the first merry-go-round you see. Realize how much time you have over the next week, and plan around when you have exams and when you are alert to study. Afterwards, create a detailed list of everything you need to cover. All the material you’ve learned so far can look very daunting, which

makes it harder to get started and easier to procrastinate. However, dividing and conquering specifically the lecture on piecewise functions today is much more manageable.

## Write it down on paper!

Now that you have a plan, avoid procrastination and actually follow through.

Firstly, understand how willpower is a limited resource and therefore easily depleted. Psychology has proven this over multiple studies. Secondly, recognize that our plain thoughts are weak: they are easy to make and just as easy to break. How effortless it is to say “I’ll start studying later” and completely ignore it or repeat it once “later” becomes now.

The sure-fire approach to avoid procrastination was made popular by a British psychologist who looked at old patients recovering from knee surgery. She found that patients who wrote detailed plans on the back of their given booklets stating when and how they were going to exercise (with the specific

time, location and duration) got out of their chairs three times faster unassisted.

In simplest terms, writing your plan down gives you more willpower for later. Having something on paper is tangible, sitting in front of you, and cannot be easily changed or ignored. If you write down exactly when you are going to study, which subject and which specific problems you are going to do, psychology can almost guarantee that you will follow through.

## Exams are just one big problem set

First year courses that are not unique to your discipline test you on problem solving. The entirety of CHEM 102, MATH 115 and PHYS 115 midterms will just be problems similar to the ones in your problem sets, tutorials, or those covered during lectures. (Linear algebra is a bit different, but proofs will NOT be the majority of marks). In engineering, rarely do we test you on defining abstract concepts or memorizing formulas - the idea is to determine whether you know how to apply these formulas to solve a

problem.

So the real secret to preparing well is to practice what will actually be on the exam: solving problems. Don’t get hung up on the little details; solve real and difficult problems. The only proven combatant to fear and anxiety on a test is absolute preparation.

During the exam, you will also undergo intense, sustained concentration, so when you study, you want to best replicate these circumstances. The absolute greatest, most effective, and beloved study method is practice exams. Your professors may have some posted online, but you can also visit EngSoc’s exam bank. You’re not only solving good problems but also simulating that intensity. I cannot emphasize this enough: take these practice exams seriously by preparing for them while staying away from your solutions and your notes. Write in the allotted time uninterrupted.

After you write the practice exam, recognize your strengths and weaknesses. Hell week gives you the time to do that, so love hell week. Good luck.

# What Do Donald Trump and Balloons Have in Common?



**ALEX PEZZUTTO**  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

With this article, I'd like to take another swing at what has probably been the most dead-beaten horse that has ever existed — Donald J. Trump.

His latest stunt? Admitting to not paying federal tax on national TV. He purportedly claimed a \$916 million net operating loss in the 1990s, which exempted him from paying taxes for nearly two decades. There was, however, no mention of whether the losses were carried forward from previous years, or of their nature. What do I mean by that? The tax on real estate depreciated quite significantly during the 1990s, so even though the prices of his properties may have dropped (and thus gave the facade of lost value) their actual values would've remained the same.

Then again, who could blame him? After his previous claims of being worth \$10 billion were thoroughly debunked, he may not be financially (or mentally) sound. Forbes's analysis of his net worth puts him at \$3.7 billion, which is down \$800 million from last year.

But I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation for this misunderstanding—maybe he's counting in "Trump". You know, the number system where you ridiculously

hyperbolize values to inflate your already enormous ego? Like how he was going to build a 50 foot tall wall spanning 2000 miles for \$8 billion, when actual estimates put it at around \$25 billion (not including annual repair costs)? After all, no one builds walls better than Mr. Trump!

Forgoing the apparent fact that the man doesn't know how to count, many Trump proponents claim this only puts him in the best position to fix the tax system, due to his experience gaming it. Umm, what? That's like asking a thief to help fortify banking encryption by giving him or her blanche carte to the entire system, while relying on their moral integrity to not take advantage of said position. I'm sure that'll turn out well. Because if there's one thing you can say about Trump, it's that he certainly isn't lacking in moral integrity. After all, how can anybody question his ethics when he claims the way to handle terrorists is by going after their families?

For someone who criticizes Hillary for being ineffective in handling ISIS, he sure doesn't seem to fair any better when questioned about his plans of dealing with them. How intricate are they, you may ask? About as sophisticated as "bombing the sh\*t out of them" could get. In his endless rhetoric of wisdom and ingenuity, he goes on to explain his procedure to clean up Iraq and ISIS — "I've always said we should've just taken their oil." Right, let's pretend that the oil belongs to

America, and that stealing a resource from a foreign nation doesn't break a myriad of international laws and would impoverish an entire nation of people that rely on oil production to sustain their economy, and that ISIS's primary source of funding is oil (which is not even remotely close to the truth). How does he plan on doing this? "Well, you would just leave a certain group behind, and you would take various sections where they have the oil. It used to be to the victor goes the spoils." Bravo! His attention to logistics and his tacit suggestions of invasions are to be lauded! It's not like military action hasn't been tried before in the Middle East. Oh wait....

Anyways, I believe Sam Harris sums up this bombastic, pathological liar best — "You want to know what I think about Trump? Blow up a balloon without tying off the end, hold it up high, and release it, then watch it fly chaotically

around the room. That's Trump's mind." At this point, we can only hope that that balloon gets popped before it reaches the White House.



Wikimedia Commons

## Speaking of Stupid Walls



**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL

By my memory, it has been about a year since the metal fence on the outside of Ring Road went up. I'm sure you've seen it; it stretches from CPH to DC, with the occasional gap and corresponding crosswalk to let people cross the road. When the fence went up, I complained to my friends and peers, but refrained from writing this article; I had hoped the fence would grow on me. But now, one year later, I still reflect on the good ol' days before the fence was installed.

I understand why the fence went up in the first place. As the more-cynical of you (that is to say, the upper years) will remember, crossing Ring Road used to be a bit of a mess. With the exception of the two stop signs at the north and south entrances, it was a free-for-all. Students would cross as they chose, sometimes without even looking up from their phones. It was driving

hell, motorists anxiously looking out for the student who seemed ready to charge into harm's way. But this isn't a nostalgic article, thinking back to when evolution was selecting against the stupid people and yargle-bargle potentially-racist eugenics advocacy. This is an argument that Ring Road is less safe and more difficult to navigate than before; this is an argument that the fence makes me feel uncomfortable using Ring Road, to the point that I try to take the E5 Bridge or a circuitous route to the fence-free sections of campus.

Firstly, it really wasn't dangerous to cross Ring Road without the fence, provided you had some sense. Whenever I needed to get to the other side, I would just wait until there were no cars. It wasn't even a waste of time; I'd walk on the wrong side of the road waiting for a break in the traffic, then cross when it was safe. Not "I can dash it" safe. More like "I can meander across, trip and fall, dust myself off, and continue meandering" safe. Those gaps were pretty common. I never felt unsafe doing it. I never was unsafe doing it. Contrast that with what we have now: stu-

dents all congregate in one area, stampeding across in huge packs, trusting the weird not-actually-a-stop-sign stop signs. I don't trust cars to stop. You never should. So when I want to cross, I have to wait for the cars coming both ways to stop before starting to cross. By the time the second car has stopped, the first car has sometimes gotten fed up with my lollygagging and moved.

Long story short, the safest crossing is the one when there are no cars close to you. That used to be an easy situation to achieve, but now it is essentially impossible.

My second argument was alluded to in my first; the "huge packs" that roam the crosswalks. There are not enough crosswalks to accommodate everyone. Obviously I don't mean that there isn't physically enough area. I mean that there are so few crosswalks that, for most of the day, the crosswalks are entirely locked down by students passing through. Cars can't get anywhere. Anecdotally, my housemate recounted a story where he watched a GO bus waiting at a crosswalk for the entire 4 minutes it took him to walk from CPH

to DC. And how do drivers behave when they've been stopped behind a never-ending stream of students? Aggressively. See point one for how I don't ever trust a driver to stop until they do. The fences make it much harder for vehicles to navigate. What's more, they still have to worry about someone launching themselves gleefully onto the road, assuming the car will stop at the crosswalk. Just last week, I saw it happen in front of a fire truck, lights flashing and siren blaring. (In the crosser's defence, I believe the siren started after the students began walking out in front of the speeding vehicle.)

One year later, people haven't adjusted. They still cross in huge streams that hold up traffic forever. They still cross blindly, now protected by the magic power of a reflective green sign. And one year later, I've taken to waiting for a gap and then hopping the fence. I think it's safer to hop the fence with a heavy backpack on my back, then wade through dense brush—containing, for all I know, poison ivy and stinging nettles—than to use one of the accursed crosswalks.

## The Saga of WPIRG

**ANONYMOUS**  
WATERLOO ENGINEERING

Waterloo has around 30 600 Undergraduate students. The first few weeks of every term are hectic times, but are also the only time that you can opt out of some student fees. A lot of those have to be done in person. This seems ridiculous to me; I barely know what classes I'm taking in the first few weeks of the term. A small sum, around five dollars, taken every term that a student is in class really adds up. If we assume each student pays the fee 1.7 times every calendar year, it adds up to around \$260 000. That's a lot of money, and that's how much the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) was getting every year.

WPIRG is a student run organization

that helps fund actions groups, each made up of between 5 and 50 students and centered around a specific issue, campaign, or interview. Some groups have had a very positive impact on the Waterloo community, such as the students who took up against the Schembri property management company to fight for students and get deposits returned. Other successful groups include Cinema Politica, a group dedicated to spreading thought provoking film; the Waterloo Community Garden; and Fossil Free UW.

Some of WPIRG's groups actions have been more controversial. During the Fall 2015 term, an action group called the Palestinian Solidarity Action Group called for a school-wide separation of ties from Israeli organizations. Students were widely outraged at this. Calling for a blanket

ban on organizations simply due to their geographic location seemed ridiculous to most of the Waterloo community. In the end, this motion did not go through. Notably, the campaign period for this referendum saw an unprecedented spike in anti-Semitic activity in the Waterloo area.

September's referendum was the second one associated with WPIRG. Back in 2005 a similar referendum was held, but was halted before voting was finished. I couldn't find any reason why. In the recent referendum to defund WPIRG 8,735 students voted, 7,156 for and 1,579 against. For anyone running the numbers, that's 82% of the vote going against WPIRG. On the whole though, only 1.6% of students voted for WPIRG.

Personally, I never really had any issue with WPIRG. I felt that if they were

doing good with my \$5 donation every term that it was fine, up until the Summer 2016 term when their actions started interfering with my activities. One of the best parts about being on an intramural team is creating your name. The whole team comes up with suggestions related to Waterloo, the sport in question, the team itself, and various topics which do not carry a PG-13 rating. There's a reasonable limit to what students can expect the athletics board to approve, but during S'16, the vetting process got much more rigorous. Team names which had existed for years were now unacceptable, and it was due to a WPIRG action group lobbying that intramurals were made a safe space. Intramurals are supposed to foster competition, not an overwhelming feeling of safety.

# Point Vs. Counterpoint

**POINT** 

**COUNTERPOINT** 

## Is It Ethical to Travel Overseas to Skirt Laws in One's Own Country?

**NICK YANG**  
1A MATH

To begin, let us define what “Ethically Good” is. It is action with respect to certain principles, be they divine, unknowable, or some principle that is a property of the physical world as existence is to matter. To collect all views from every perspective of what is good is far beyond my capabilities and word limit for this article, so I’ll simply assume the absence of well-defined absolute truths about morality. In this sense, I can only argue in favour of skirting laws under general circumstances. With this in mind, let us continue.

Legality is not equivalent to the morality; it is legal to wear socks with sandals and also to be nude (in some places). But the fact is that the law is not some omnipotent and perfect code; it is a rather fractured collection of punishments that activate when someone catches you. It’s a system that allows Trump not to pay taxes, and for millions of children to be in indentured slavery. The law is imperfect and contains the ideals of those that created them, and relies upon imperfect actors that enforce them. However the law is also a reflection of your nations’ customs and is formed from the collective wisdom of society over a long period of time. So, perhaps the spirit of the law is more important than the written law? But by violating the written law you potentially deprive yourself of your liberty, so the practically sound option would be to simply go to another country, and operate in the spirit of the law guilt free and above the exception of taking advantage of loopholes in laws. Is skirting laws by going to another country strictly an ethically good thing? No - there’s more dimension than that. A law can cohere with ethical principles, just not always.

Imagine a person who, while walking, accidentally trips on a rock into a small hamster, killing it instantly. Is the man evil? “No!” we say, because he did not intend for that to happen. What if a person who likes to fall on hamsters performs the same action on purpose? We say “yes!”, the other person is evil, because of their intent and conscious decision to do so! Could we then not say that humans are ethically bad for the ethically bad actions they intend and strive for, and that humans are ethically good for the ethically good actions they intend and strive for? This surely seems reasonable.

So the argument so far is: legality is not necessarily equivalent to ethically good, and intent and conscious choice are the prime indicators of the moral implications of ones actions. So, as long as you cause the Second World War and the Holocaust thinking it’s the ethically good thing to do, is it then ethically good? This is an issue. Clearly defining “ethical good” in the bounds of individual choice is far too restrictive. The Holocaust was (as almost all would consider) very ethically bad, and while things may be subjective in our day and age, such as cannibalism of the elderly (search it up if you don’t believe me), there appears to be some sort of —admittedly generic—collective principles that define what ethically good exactly is.

Thankfully, I do not need to define those laws to prove my point. It’s advisable and ethically good to dodge the law intentionally and for the sake of performing some action laddled as ethically good by humanity’s generic principles of morality. But, unfortunately, there is still a blind spot. If an individual attempts to save a person from dying from heart attack via CPR, but does not do due diligence and fails to take notice

of a defibrillator nearby, then the helper is not able to revive the victim. The rescuer will feel over whelming guilt, despite not breaking the law, and act in accordance to humanity’s generic ethical principles. While it’s not entirely the rescuer’s fault that the victim died, the catastrophic event could have been avoided if they had just exercised some wisdom at the right moment.

It is not enough to do an action intentionally and consciously in accordance to ethical principles. One must also do it with wisdom; that is, with a reasonable amount of foresight and efficacy. It is irresponsible to do so otherwise, and somewhat of a lazy man’s approach to morality if we rely strictly on ethical principle.

Have we finally narrowed it down? I suppose so, for now. To be ethically good is to act intentionally and consciously in accordance with ethical principle with a reasonable amount of foresight and efficacy. So, whether skirting laws by going to other countries is acceptable or not should be easy right? Right?!

Imagine your company wants to test this new drug that has a 0.001% of curing cancer forever, but needs 100 live humans to be painfully experimented on (imagine being burned alive) to operate. This is the only method that will be known for the next 1000 years. Would you move to a country where slavery is allowed and buy some people to support it? Here, when we try to apply our definition, we see that although the intentional effects of our actions are coherent with ethical principles (potentially saving millions), the actual methods are not. Through foresight and efficacy, we can only choose to buy dying slaves and paralyze most of their body with drugs; this eliminates some issues, but not all, and certainly doesn’t eliminate the horribleness of sending over a hundred people to their deaths. Or perhaps it does? Is it better to kill hundreds to save millions, disregarding the morals of your homeland? After all, even though it may not be perfect, the result is at least pretty close to the ethical principles we’ve been talking about. Or maybe you’re a pragmatist and the single fact that this is even possible warrants you to kill. It depends on what you value: the process or the effect. But which one is the best to value?

At the end of the day we still must choose, and the choice will still be hard. Whether something is right or not can’t always be solved with some sort of equation or definition. There are almost always exceptions to the example. But we can prove that as long as something is not too ambiguous, it is ethically good to go intentionally and consciously to other countries in order to skirt laws, so long as it is in accordance with ethical principle and done with a reasonable amount of foresight and efficacy.



Pixabay

**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL

Countries all over the world have a diversity of laws and legal systems, yet there can be a large amount of similarity between these structures. For instance, a cursory look at Wikipedia shows that there are dozens of counties with drunk driving laws, most of the form “illegal above a certain limit.” There are also many laws that vary greatly from country to country; Singapore famously has a ban on chewing gum, which is evidently at odds with Canada’s body of regulations. While that may be a whimsical example, there are other more serious disparities between the laws of different regions. This gives individuals and groups the ability to perform activities in foreign jurisdictions that are illegal in their local jurisdiction. However, it is immoral to perform such “border-hopping”, skirting one’s local laws by temporarily changing one’s jurisdiction. The local regulations are created for some purpose, deciding what is and is not acceptable behaviour. By going abroad, one may no longer be breaking the law, but is performing the undesired actions and causing the consequences that their local society has deemed unacceptable.

To start this argument, it is important to clearly define what should be considered ethically wrong border-hopping. There are many oppressive regimes all over the world with oppressive and unjust laws. To argue that it is ethically good for travellers from such countries to maintain such laws on their vacation is untenable. However, that is because those laws themselves cannot be seen as moral, by virtue of their oppressiveness and unjustness. This argument centers instead on the group of morally ambiguous legal questions, where a diversity of contradictory laws could be created, each one arguably moral or amoral. For instance, one country could have very expansive privacy laws, preventing non-consensual voice recordings, while another has less expansive laws that allowing such recordings in public spaces. Individuals may have opinions on the better of these two laws, but both laws can be reasonably defended, and thus are of interest to this debate.

Secondly, it is not the act of following a foreign law in the foreign jurisdiction that is at odds with the local law that is ethically wrong. Rather, it is the act of changing jurisdictions for the purpose of performing a locally-prohibited action that is immoral. For instance, it is not morally wrong for a Singaporean on vacation in Canada to chew a stick of gum. It is, however, morally wrong for a private investigator in the expansive-privacy-law nation to invite the subject of their investigation on a cross-boarder trip with the intention of starting a secret recording of when they get to the more privacy-liberal nation. The distinction is the active bypassing of the local laws, deciding to perform an action that the local community sees as unacceptable while attempting to remain otherwise a member of the local community.

This argument relies heavily on the concept of a social morality, and furthermore seems to postulate that the social morality is supreme to one’s own morality. This is not the case. Instead, social morality is seen as the set of values, as defined by the local laws, that members of the local jurisdiction agree to follow by being members of that jurisdiction. Should an individual disagree with the local laws, they can take action to attempt to have

the laws repealed or changed through the available means (if no legitimate means for changing the laws are available, the system is most likely oppressive and unjust which, as discussed above, is outside of the realm of this debate). Should that individual be unable to change the laws, but feels sufficiently strongly about the issue, they can choose to permanently relocate to the jurisdiction that assents to their opinion, supporting and partaking in that community instead. While both of these options are difficult, demanding self-sacrifice on the part of the individual, there should be no expectation that ethically good actions are always easily performed.

In considering this argument, it is important to reflect on why laws about amoral or morally ambiguous activities are made. When a regulation is made, the local society makes a value-judgement on the action covered by the law and decided that the consequences are so substantial that the action is worth mandating or prohibiting. For instance, a law could be passed regarding the sale of a high-sugar “Red Drink”. If a law is passed prohibiting its sale, it is a value-judgement that society does not find the enjoyment that people derive from drinking Red Drink to be more important than the medical costs that will be paid by the state from resulting health issues. In this case, a person who crossed the border to buy Red Drink is subverting the community’s judgement, forcing the state to pay for future medical expenses that the population has deemed are unreasonable to pay. The boarder-hopper acts in an ethically wrong way by performing an activity that his community has forbidden, and then having the community pay for the consequences of that activity through tax dollars.

The medical treatments involving genetic techniques are a common example of disparate regulations between states. In some places, revolutionary but controversial therapies are permitted. In others, only research—not clinical trials—are permitted. One of the controversies of genetic medicine (among many) is the concern of an embedded two-tier structure of humanity developing; the sufficiently rich can take advantage of genetic enhancements to become almost super-human, while the poor languish from being genetically unaltered. In countries with more-restrictive regulations, a decision has been made that the medical advantages of the therapies are not worth the risk of genetic stratification. Getting the therapy in another jurisdiction may not have any economic or practical costs to the local society, but it negatively affects the society by supporting the possible future that has been deemed unacceptable by the society. It is ethically wrong to make the choice that one’s local regulations deem morally wrong, even if no law is broken due to the border-hopping.

The act of going to a foreign jurisdiction with the intention of performing actions in the jurisdiction that are illegal in the local jurisdiction is ethically wrong. While this denotation is restricted to situations where the relative morality of one or the other is unclear, within this restriction the immorality is evident. The existence of a local law is evidence that the local society does not consider the societal consequences to be worth the individual liberties, and it is immoral to unilaterally subvert the judgment of the society that one otherwise benefits from and participates in. As discussed, this article does not make the social judgement a moral pinnacle; rather, it suggests that the morally right way of performing the forbidden actions is to change the social judgement—and therefore legality—of the activity, or to forgo the benefits and participation in all aspects of the society by changing one’s jurisdiction.

**Editor’s Note:**

*Point Vs. Counterpoint* is a feature meant to stimulate discussion on thought-provoking topics. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the authors, *The Iron Warrior*, or the Engineering Society.

# Message from the President



**ADELLE VICKERY**  
PRESIDENT

Hello again Waterloo Engineering! Not a whole lot has happened since the last article, but I'm going to update you on what has happened, as well as a few things that wouldn't fit in my last article!

## Elections

First off, the Presidential race is over. Congratulations to Abdullah Barakat on being elected for EngSoc 'A' President.

Next up in terms of elections is the Vice-Presidential and WEEF. In this election, we will be electing VP Academic, VP Communications, VP Operations and Finance, and VP Student Life.

Nominations for these positions will be open from October 13th - 21st. Nominations

forms can be found online or in the Orifice (CPH 1327) during this period. If you are at all interested in running for an Executive position, I highly encourage you to read our Executive Blog Post Series on the website ([engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)). There are articles on why you should run and on how to run in the election, and, before the nomination period, there will be articles spotlighting each position.

On October 17th from 5-6pm, we will be hosting an information session on the Executive positions and the election process. I strongly encourage you to come out, ask any questions about the positions, and consider running to be executive!

## Other Items

For those of you that aren't aware, Pearl Sullivan's term as Dean of Engineering is ending June 30th, 2017 and she has decided to not seek renewal. Under Policy 45, the University is forming a

nominating committee to select the next dean. As per the policy, there is one undergraduate student from the Faculty on the committee, appointed by Feds in consultation with the Society; after discussion with Rachel, the BSoc President, we decided that I would serve as that member. The committee is still being formed and has not met yet, but you should be expecting more updates about this process throughout the rest of the term.

P\*\*5 is a term-long competition between all on-stream classes with the purpose of encouraging friendly class competition, promoting participation in the Engineering community and rewarding spirited and involved classes. Typically this competition is run on a straight point systems. This term, our P\*\*5 directors are trialing running this competition on a per-capita basis based on a study completed after the Winter 2016 term. If you have any questions, please contact the di-

rectors at [ptothefive@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ptothefive@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

I'm working with my awesome website directors this term to improve the website! Some things that we're looking at are layout and architecture improvements, services expansions (scholarship and syllabus banks), revamping some pages, and some more back-end improvements as well.

Lastly, for the rest of the term, I am going to be working towards a collaboration with the Faculty on collecting feedback on and improving the student experience as a whole. This is a new initiative that I am hoping to get off the ground before my term as President is complete. I am very open to hearing from you about the undergraduate experience for students and how it can be improved. Feel free to contact me at [president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:president.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca) to give your ideas or to set up a meeting to chat!

# Opportunities



**WILL WILMOT**  
VP EXTERNAL

So if you were at the second EngSoc meeting, you heard most of this already. That being said, here is a bit more information about each of the things I talked about.

## Conference on Diversity in Engineering (CDE)

The Conference on Diversity in Engineering will be taking place from November 18-20 in Montreal, hosted by McGill University. This conference aims to discuss and promote diversity in all areas of engineering, and will have speakers and sessions which contribute to the topic. The theme of the conference is "Building Momentum for Change" with the hope is that every delegate will understand and appreciate diversity and develop the tools,

resources, and motivation to implement change in their engineering community

More info: <http://2016.cde.cfes.ca>

Application: <http://bit.ly/CDE2016>—due October, 16th at 11:59pm.

## Tower Climb

You, yes you, have an opportunity to conquer the CN Tower. All 147 floors. All 1,776 steps. This event will be happening on October 22nd in an effort to raise money for the United Way. Perks of joining us for this event include a great view of Toronto with free admission to the Observation Deck and glass floor, a free T-Shirt that you can record your climb time on, free bus transportation from Waterloo, and free snacks and water. For all the info you need to register and collect donations please see here for more info: <http://bit.ly/CNTowerClimb2016>

## Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES)—

# I Like Money!

whenever you get a chance, especially if you are interested in getting covered in Eng Swag.

## Student Deals

First of all, if you haven't already come by the EngSoc Office (CPH 1327) to pick up your student deals stickers, you should definitely do so! You're missing out on some awesome deals! We currently have 8 deals that are posted on the EngSoc website, but I have managed to secure us a brand new deal with Crossroads Board Game Cafe! Now we get double stamps on your gaming card for every game session at Crossroads, meaning that your next free game is closer than ever! This term, my team and I are also working on trying to advertise in each of the store that we have deals with so that students are made aware of what offers are available at their favourite places.

## C&D

Major news! The C&D now has a brand new Point of Sale system which can allow for debit transactions to happen! Be sure to come by, and tell all your friends!

## ECIF

The Engineering Capital Improvements Fund (ECIF) is used to support lasting

## Vice President Academic (VPA)

Recently, the CFES VPA resigned from the position. Applications for the position will be coming out very soon and will only be open for a week. If you are interested, please contact [vpexternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpexternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca) as soon as you can to find out more information. There will be a post on the EngSoc website about the vacancy and information will be posted as soon as it is available.

The VPA is responsible for: developing an understanding of academic initiatives, integrated work experience, curriculum content, accreditation standards and requirements, as well as any changes which could affect engineering education, determining and framing a national image of the academic needs of Canadian engineering students, working towards changes if necessary, and offering national leverage in issues of negotiation between academic student representation and administration at member institutions, communicating relevant information and issues related

to engineering education, developing and maintaining contacts with other national or regional engineering educational organizations, facilitating the exchange of relevant academic information between members societies and national educational organizations, attending Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board meetings, communicating all relevant information regarding Canadian engineering education to members, managing policies and procedures that are of relevance to the Document of Stances, presenting appropriate stances on behalf of the National Executive, and conducting research regarding implications of potential stances, including both those put forth by the National Executive and members, and presenting these findings to the membership. Information about the CFES: <http://bit.ly/CFESDocs2016>

If there are any other questions about anything related to these opportunities, feel free to drop by the Orifice and talk to Will or email [vpexternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpexternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

# WEEF



**ABDULLAH BARAKAT**  
VP FINANCE

Hello Engineering Students! A new issue of the Iron Warrior means new updates on all things money related from Abdullah-Dolla-Bills!

## Novelties

So this term, Novelties got a wide variety of new items in stock including shirts, hoodies, patches, and much more of what we already offered. Some potential ideas we are looking into pursuing are sweatpants, notebooks, and keychain bottle openers in the shape of the Tool (that won't break after a single use). Furthermore, at the UW Reunion on October 1st, we managed to sell over \$1000 worth of Eng Swag to Alumni and current students at the event, which I consider to be a major success! We also broke some records for overall sales this term, selling 94 pairs over the 2 day period!

Lastly, on the EngSoc website under the services tab, there is now a Novelties Catalogue that highlights all of the awesome merchandise that we have in in Novelties, including descriptions and costing information. Take a look at it

whenever you get a chance, especially if you are interested in getting covered in Eng Swag.

## Student Deals

First of all, if you haven't already come by the EngSoc Office (CPH 1327) to pick up your student deals stickers, you should definitely do so! You're missing out on some awesome deals! We currently have 8 deals that are posted on the EngSoc website, but I have managed to secure us a brand new deal with Crossroads Board Game Cafe! Now we get double stamps on your gaming card for every game session at Crossroads, meaning that your next free game is closer than ever! This term, my team and I are also working on trying to advertise in each of the store that we have deals with so that students are made aware of what offers are available at their favourite places.

## C&D

Major news! The C&D now has a brand new Point of Sale system which can allow for debit transactions to happen! Be sure to come by, and tell all your friends!

## ECIF

The Engineering Capital Improvements Fund (ECIF) is used to support lasting

capital improvements to student space and services in the Engineering Society. Each term, a certain percentage of the budget is allocated towards this fund (15% in the Fall, 5% in the Winter and Spring). Proposals are now open! If you would like to see any new capital improvements in any of the Engineering facilities, please apply online at the link below. Deadline for applications is TBD, and will be shared once it has been determined. Link: <https://www.engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/services/engineering-capital-improvement-fund/>

## Sponsorship

Every term, EngSoc offers sponsorship to student teams or any student organizations that directly affect or benefit Engineering students. Sponsorship applications are currently open and will close on Friday, November 4, 2016 by 11:59pm. More information will be sent out once all applications are in and have been reviewed by the committee.

That is all for now, but do come visit me in the orifice during my office hours (Monday 12:00PM-2:00PM), or shoot me an message at [vpfinance.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpfinance.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about anything under my portfolio, EngSoc as a whole, or if you just want to chat.



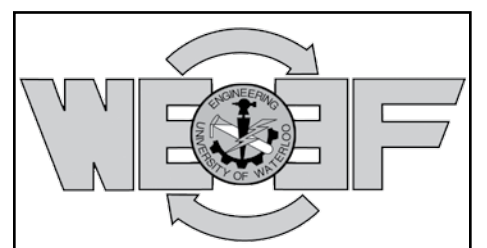
**ERIC SHI**  
WEEF DIRECTOR

Fall 2016 proposals are being accepted! To find out more about how to submit a good WEEF proposal or to learn about our funding guidelines, visit the WEEF website's funding page here: <http://bit.ly/2cZmAID>

Proposals are due at 11:59 pm on Nov. 1st, and can be created by following the instructions available in the online proposal guide, found on the Funding page here: <http://bit.ly/2dJjtCa>

\$60,000 in WEEF funds are being allocated this term, so ensure that you properly explain your initiative, its benefits and accomplishments. Also, ensure that you sign up for your Funding Council presentation, which is mandatory.

Questions? Email [weef@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:weef@uwaterloo.ca)





## A Message From the President-Elect



**ABDULLAH  
BARAKAT**  
VP FINANCE

Hey everyone! I'm so excited that I get to say this: my name is Abdullah Barakat and I am the incoming A-Society President! I am very humbled by the opportunity and I look forward to working with my new Executive team to bring forward my vision for the Society.

One of my main goals is to work towards keeping students constantly informed, which is always a true struggle. Making sure the EngSoc class reps are more involved in the operation of the Society would add more importance to their roles and would encourage them further to want to get their classes involved. Furthermore, I plan to join with the incoming VP Academic to work towards collaborating with the various Engineering Departments on campus to further improve and advertise our

professional development services.

I look forward to working with my amazing B-Society counterpart, Rachel Malevich, on all of her initiatives, notably working on the integration of MATES (Mentor Assistance Through Education and Support) into the Engineering Society in order to further expand the mental health services that we offer. Mental Health support is of major importance, especially within a program as challenging and stressful as Engineering, and I believe the Society

should have more of a presence on the Mental Health frontier. MATES is definitely a step in the right direction.

There are more initiatives I plan to work on with my team, but that will come once my whole team is elected. I look forward to representing all of you once I take the position at the end of December. In the meantime, if you have any questions for me or would like to discuss any potential ideas for the Society, please feel free to shoot me a message! Thanks again for the opportunity!

## Something Not IN my Usual Style



**SARBAJOY  
MAJUMDAR**  
VP INTERNAL

Hey everybody, this is your friendly neighbourhood Sarb here again and here is another dose of my updates. Unlike past updates, this one will be a bit more personal and less about events and services under me. However, it won't be a sob story (I promise).

### Successful Events So Far

First off, Laser Tag ran really well and EngProv had interesting debates running during their last session. The directors did a fantastic job with those events. Professional Photoshoot went well and all the photos should be coming out soon. Huge shoutout to Victoria Canning-Choi (2019 Systems) and Sarah Madigan (2020 ECE) for working hard to get all the photos.

First year conference also went really well and it was amazing to see the growth in confidence, creativity, and openness in many of the first years who showed up for the conference. We had 35 delegates total and I am nothing but hopeful that

the number of delegates in future years conferences' will continue to grow.

Lastly, I have seen many more care bear nominations made by people (35 nominations in 1 month). I am glad that care bears is getting more recognition and hope to grow that further in the upcoming months and terms.

Overall many of the events hve been really successful so far.

### Upcoming Events and Initiatives

Other than our biweekly Engiqueers and Engprov, as well as our weekly Mental Health Thursdays, we will have EngHack happening on October 28 as well as our Semi-Formal happening on November 4. Tickets for EngHack will start selling after the break (ticket prices are \$5 for engineering students and \$7 for non-engineering students) and Semi-Formal tickets are still being sold, with limited \$10 early bird tickets and \$15 for all tickets after. Please do keep an eye out for these events.

We will also have a massive First Year Mentoring post-midterms event for which we have booked a fire pit, and more details about that will come soon. Furthermore, I will be investigating the possibility of seeing how the Women in

Engineering Mentoring and the EngSoc First Year Mentoring can be combined as one in future terms in the next few weeks as mandated by council.

### Mental Health

Finally, here is a big part of my past two weeks and I am stating this because I want to be as truthful in my update as possible. Recently, the stresses of school and personal life has gotten to me a bit too much, and my personal anxiety issues were growing worse by the day. A professor of mine who noticed me acting weirder than usual made me seek urgent counselling on Monday the 3rd of October. The counselor has suggested that I take a break from extracurricular commitments as much as I could for at least two weeks and focus more on being myself and spend time rediscovering myself.

Due to that, I have not been too actively involved with EngSoc or with anything else for the past few days, and I heavily apologize to my constituents, directors, commissioners, and fellow execs for not being there for you all. I will promise to be back to serve you all again after the break is over.

Moving forward, I am planning to make sure that mental health resources

are more actively known around campus, and my Mental Health Team and I have a few initiatives. We have also been invited to campus wide initiatives that we will be advertising about soon.

Lastly, I want to say that there are many resources available on campus for mental health and we should not be afraid to utilize them. Furthermore, no matter how lonely you may feel or no matter how guilty you may feel about things you have done, every one of you should know that Waterloo engineering as a whole is an amazing community and there is without fail at least one person looking out for you, no matter what.

If you are seeking someone you can rely on, support, or any sort of help, I know I am not the best person but I can try my best to help you all out or direct you to relevant people or services who can help you. Do feel free to reach out to me via email ([vpinternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpinternal.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)) or stop by the Orifice (CPH 1327) on Mondays 2.30PM-4.30PM, as well as any other times you are free, and I will help you to the best of my abilities.

Finally, thank you especially to my commissioners Peter and Mariko who became the VP Internals during my absence.

## VP Education



**JEFF GULBRANSON**  
VP EDUCATION

Hello everyone, hopefully the term is going well for all of you.

### PD Faculty Meeting

First up, I'll be talking about a PD

meeting between the Faculty and students that happened earlier in the term. It was a great opportunity for students to express their views on questions such as:

What are the top three professional development courses that are missing from the program that you would like to take?

What is your biggest gripe about WatPD, Eng?

How do you choose your WatPD, Eng courses?

(If you have any strong opinions on those questions, feel free to email me!)

The meeting certainly allowed students to learn something new. For example, did you know that PD20 and PD21 replaced the first work term report? As a result, we only write 3, rather than 4, reports. Overall, the meeting was very productive and it seems that the Faculty is truly interested in improving the PD program.

### Teaching Award

Each term, the Engineering Society awards one deserving instructor with the Teaching Excellence Award. It's given each term to a lecturer, professor, or lab instructor who has shown outstanding contributions towards undergraduate learning. To be eligible, they must be in the Faculty of Engineering and have not previously won the award. The nomination form is now available on our Facebook page, so if you have (or have had) a great instructor you should take the time to nominate them!

### Hardware Workshop

In September, we ran an extremely successful hardware workshop with support from the Engineering Ideas Clinic. We had over 100 students attend the Arduino intro workshop, so I'd like to send out a huge thanks to the directors who made that possible.

We have another free workshop coming up in October, and in November we're running two identical robot workshops. The November workshops are \$40, at which students will be assembling and learning how to program their robot, and then get to take them home. If that is something that interests you, I'd heavily encourage you to come by the Engineering Society "Orifice" (CPH 1327) to sign up.

That's all for now. As always, if you have any questions come by the Orifice or shoot me an email at [vpeducation.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpeducation.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca). All the execs love hearing student opinions, or you can just stop by to say hi! Until next time, cheers.

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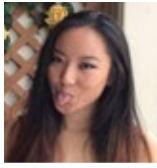
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# Montreal Pitbull Ban Suspended



**CECILE HE**  
1A SYSTEMS DESIGN

The close bond between people and pets can be traced all the way back to the stone age, and it's no secret that dogs were one of the first domesticated animals to be kept as such. In fact, "man's best friend," was the title that many liked to toss around for their little companions. This endearing relationship between humans and dogs is perhaps the reason why the public was left divided when the city of Montreal declared a ban against pit bull-type dogs after a 55-year old woman was killed in a pit bull attack in

June of 2016.

The pit bull ban was ruled in favour for by a 37-23 vote from the city's panel of councillors. The new rules to go into effect throughout the city on October 3rd outlawed the ownership of pit bull-type dogs, both pure and mixed breeds, unless the owner applied and became approved for a permit before the end of the year. Then, if the owner did not comply with the rules outlined in the bylaw regarding the behaviour of their dog in public, the permit would be revoked and in extreme cases, the dog would be euthanized.

This new bylaw sparked outrage amongst animal rights activists and owners alike. Lawyer Julius Grey told CBC Montreal's Homerun, "This is very serious. It's not an

object, it's not an object, it's not the right to seize a car—it's right to take a member of your family and that should not be permitted."

Others claimed that these new rules would be too difficult to impose and that they would result in senseless killings of innocent dogs without improving the safety of the public. The Montreal SPCA, an animal protection agency, released a statement citing, "If the city of Montreal truly wanted to ensure public safety, it would not have forced a rushed adoption of controversial legislation which is unfair, unenforceable, and, most importantly, ineffective."

Jesse Adams, co-founder of the Rain-Coast Dog Rescue Society, heard about the new bylaw being passed and travelled to

the city to raise awareness about the ban and fundraise money for the Montreal's SPCA legal fees to help them fight the law.

Finally, on Wednesday, October 5th, Adams and the SPCA were successful in reaching out to the Quebec Superior Court Justice Louis Godin, who suspended the ban indefinitely. This means that for the time being, the rules of the bylaw will not be imposed.

According to Adams, the fight is far from being over, though this first victory is a triumphant one for all animal-lovers alike. Not only will he and the Montreal SPCA continue to fight to have the pit bull ban suspended permanently, but they will seek to educate people across Canada about the misconceptions of the breed.

## ChemHistory

### Chicken Eggs and the Flu Shot



**MEAGAN CARDNO**  
4A NANOTECHNOLOGY

CHEMHISTORY

While I was sitting on the bus half-asleep a week or two ago, I heard (a.k.a. eavesdropped because I did not have any music and I was bored) one fellow talk to his female companion about his favourite co-op experience so far, which had to do something with preparation of vaccines. Much to my surprise, he boasted the claim that "more chicken eggs are used to make the flu vaccine each year than used in food", which you can imagine is a very bold claim. While I struggle to find an exact statistic to compare to for both (I feel like we do use a LOT of eggs every day), one vaccine production location in Dresden, Germany is reported to use up to 360 thousand eggs per day at the height of flu production season. That's a lot of lil' chicken embryos. Since it is coming up to the season of flu and vaccines, it seems appropriate to discuss the chemistry and history of vaccines.

Yes, I did say chicken embryos there. Odd as it may sound, the portable little wombs serve as a wonderful breed-

ing ground for the viruses that are to be protected against—and have been used since the 1950s for doing so. Now maybe it makes sense why the nurse asks you if you are allergic to eggs prior to injection. When all is said and done, there is typically a ratio of about one egg needed per vaccine produced—a rather daunting thought when pandemic outbreaks requiring new vaccines are considered. Getting that many healthy, fertilized eggs on short notice can be difficult, if not impossible. For this reason, faster manufacturing processes that utilize other methods (including DNA and cell-culturing) are researched, and currently are in the process of clinical trials.

The current standard manufacturing process begins when each egg is inoculated with one of multiple chosen strands of the flu virus—the exact strains vary each year, and are chosen by the World Health Organization based upon surveillance of prominence of the virus. Typically, the concoction of choice varies upon the hemisphere of destination for the vaccines. Following this inoculation, the viruses are incubated and allowed to breed and multiply for three days prior the lovely virus-filled juices being sucked out of the eggs (not unlike how you do when decorating eggs at Easter, although surprisingly enough it's not recom-

mended to do so orally for personal health reasons).

However, this flu-ridden liquid is not what we end up injecting into people, thankfully, as it would almost certainly actually cause the flu and prove every "anti-vaxx"-ers wildest dreams to be true. The serum is still subjected to centrifugation and chemical treatment to inactivate the virus to what should be safe for human injection, whilst still containing all of the biological information our bodies need to prepare ourselves against possible infections.

Three to four different strains are typically prepared separately to be later mixed for the single all-purpose vaccine you will receive later, so you thankfully don't have to have nightmares of three consecutive injections. In trivalent vaccines, three strains are chosen: two Type-A, and one Type-B strain. While there is also a Type-C strain of the flu, it is rather uncommon and typically only causes mild cases in the very young.

Typically, the two Type-A strains (or "serotypes", the name given to distinct variations within a species of viruses) that are chosen are strains of H1N1 (the source of the Spanish Flu in 1918, and the Swine Flu pandemic in 2009), and H3N2 (the source of the Hong Kong Flu 1968).

The HxNx name refers to the number of antigens that they each express. The H antigen refers to the glycoprotein hemagglutinin, which facilitates the binding and entry of the virus into the target cell. Neutralizing antibodies produced in response to this H antigen can take one of two actions to inhibit both actions of the hemagglutinin: prevent attachment of the virus onto the target cell, or prevent entry into the cell if attachment occurs.

The N antigen refers to the glycoprotein neuraminidase, which causes the cleaving of glycosidic linkages of acid groups within the host cell; this allows for the virus to be released from the host cell and for replication to occur. As a result, another most effective ways to treat the flu once caught is with neuraminidase inhibitors, so the virus cannot replicate.

Some flu shots are actually quadrivalent, and contain a second plausible Type-B strain in addition to the three strains already mentioned already mentioned. Because of a combination of factors—including slow mutation rates, which have led to such little diversity that there aren't even different named serotypes for Type-B strains—these sort of viruses are not at risk of causing pandemics the same way Type-A viruses are.

## Philippines President Causes Controversy



**GABRIELLE KLEMT**  
1B GEOLOGICAL

You think Trump is bad? Well, he is, but at least (for now) he isn't the most powerful man in the most powerful country in the world (arguably). As of this minute, Trump has not been elected to the Oval Office and his shenanigans, while often rude, racist, and vulgar, at least don't speak for the entire country of the United States.

However, the Philippines are currently experiencing just what happens when you elect someone who isn't afraid to speak his mind without clearing his opinions with anyone at all. Roberto Duterte was elected at the end of June, and has spent his first few months as the Philippines's sixteenth president swearing at world leaders he is supposed to be on good terms with, and giving the actual finger to the EU. And like Trump, Duterte does not shy away from saying very controversial things.

Duterte's opinions on everything from Hitler – who he sees as a guy with great vision saying, "Hitler massacred three million Jews. Now, there is three million drug addicts. I'd be happy to slaughter them" – ,

to Viagra which he touts as improving his sex life with his mistresses, to the rape and murder of an Australian diplomat in 1989, to the Pope whom he called a "son of a whore" for causing a road closure, have been well-documented throughout his campaign and subsequent ascension to head of state.

But perhaps the most serious thing he has done since taking office is his persecution of not only those selling illegal drugs, but also those who are addicted. In his slightly more than 100 days as president, thousands of people have been killed either in shootings from resisting arrest or vigilante killings that take place in the middle of the night. Bodies are being left in the streets with their drug crimes taped to their corpses on cardboard signs.

Duterte won his position by promising to wipe out the drug problem Philippines has been battling for years. When he was mayor of Davao, he ran on the platform of "if you do not leave my city, I will kill you", a statement that has changed to now read country rather than city. The police have implemented a "knock and plead" technique, where they go to the houses of those suspected of being part of the drug trade and have them either arrested or killed. In fact, Duterte encourages police to kill peo-

ple who resist arrest.

Both the EU and the UN have tried to call for Duterte to take a more diplomatic approach to the drug problem, citing concerns over human rights abuses, which are well-placed concerns after hearing him glibly say "forget the laws on human rights". Their concerns, of course, have led to multiple profanity-laced speeches using his middle finger to really drive home his points. He has also threatened to pull out of the UN, calling their experts stupid. Last week, he told the EU and the US that he does not want their support, saying: "If you think it's high time for you guys to withdraw your assistance, go ahead. We will not beg for it... You will never understand the pain that we are suffering. Go away, bring your money somewhere else."

You may be surprised, considering the inflammatory nature of his quotes, that you haven't heard of him until now. His comments have sparked online quizzes called, "Who said it: Trump, Putin or Duterte". But like Trump and Putin, it's his straight talking, saying what (some, not all) people are thinking style of speech that have won him so much support among the population.

Maybe you're hearing about him now because suddenly he's trying very hard to get the attention of the West, saying last

week that he would finally "break up" with the States and telling President Obama to "go to hell". Previously, America has had a very strong relationship with the Philippines, something the President's office was quick to point out when concern was raised over Duterte's comments. These comments in particular seem to stem from a desire to radically change Philippine's foreign policy, as he has said, "I serve notice to you now that this will be the last joint military exercise with US." It appears that Duterte has other countries in mind, declaring, "I'd rather go to Russia and to China." This is a surprising move considering the Philippines and China are currently embroiled in a serious land mass dispute that doesn't look like it's about to end.

And if you think that Duterte is like Trump, you had better think again: according to Duterte himself, "He is a bigot and I am not." Personally, I think that at least Trump is not running on a platform of murder, and it's almost an insult to Trump to compare the two.

I think for now, we can at least be consoled that he is not Rodrigo Duterte. Is this what our neighbours to the south might be in for if that particular candidate makes it to the Oval Office? I don't think so, but we'll just have to wait and see.

# On my Mind—How to Nail Your (Next) Interview!



**TIFFANY CHANG**  
1T CHEMICAL

Hopefully, you've started hearing back from some employers for interviews! If you haven't, don't give up yet—patience does wonders for us all.

In the meantime, it never hurts to mentally prepare yourself for interviews, especially if this is your first time going through the JobMine process.

In preparation for your interview make sure you're clean, well-groomed, and dressed nicely. Not only does this show your interviewer that you respect them, but this will inadvertently boost your confidence. I also find that being dolled up reminds me to maintain good posture—or at the very least, better posture than my normal slouching. This helps you ease your nerves, too, and also conveys to the interviewer

that you are professional and energetic. To the ladies, I personally like adding a splash of colour to my clothes by either wearing a not-too-bright shirt or blazer, or by accenting my outfit with a silk scarf.

Practice your handshake on your friends and family—it's one of the main contributors to the interviewer's first impression of you. A limp handshake gives the impression that you lack confidence and are more pessimistic. Similarly, keeping your arm close to your body and bending at the elbow conveys a sense of insecurity. A death-grip represents aggression and the need to dominate. The classic "firm" handshake—just the right amount of grip, vigour, and duration—indicates assertion and just the right amount of self-confidence. Another very important factor to keep in mind is maintaining eye contact with the interviewer during the handshake—this suggests sincerity.

Take care to remember your interviewer's name! You have access to this precious information, courtesy of JobMine. Imagine meeting

someone for the first time, and they just remembered your name. You probably felt more respected and appreciated than if they had referred to you as "Miss" or "Sir." In fact, Dale Carnegie, author of the famous book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, wrote that "[...] A person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language." As you wrap up the interview, address the interviewer by their name one last time to leave a lasting, positive impression as well.

During the interview, be conscious of your own body language as well as that of the interviewer. Ensure your body is "open." The easiest way to do this is to keep your arms away from the front of your chest so that you don't cross them—that makes you appear standoffish. When you deem appropriate, mimic or mirror your interviewer (e.g., in body language, gestures, tone of voice). For example, if the interviewer has their right leg crossed over their left leg, cross your left leg over your right leg. Mimicry can happen subconsciously, but a subtle amount gives the interviewer the impression that you are more likeable, trustworthy, and empathetic. However, if you go overboard, you can be seen as downright creepy or incompetent.

As for answering interview questions, I have my own process of doing so. I think of answering them like I would an essay question. First, I begin with my "thesis statement", which is the direct answer to the interviewer's question. Then, I provide the body component, which is typically more details in the form of an example of when I displayed a particular technical or soft skill. Finally, I reinforce my answer by restating my thesis statement.

Remember that you are not compelled to respond to the interviewer immediately after they have posed their question. It gives you some time to thoughtfully reflect on your past experiences and reduces the impression that

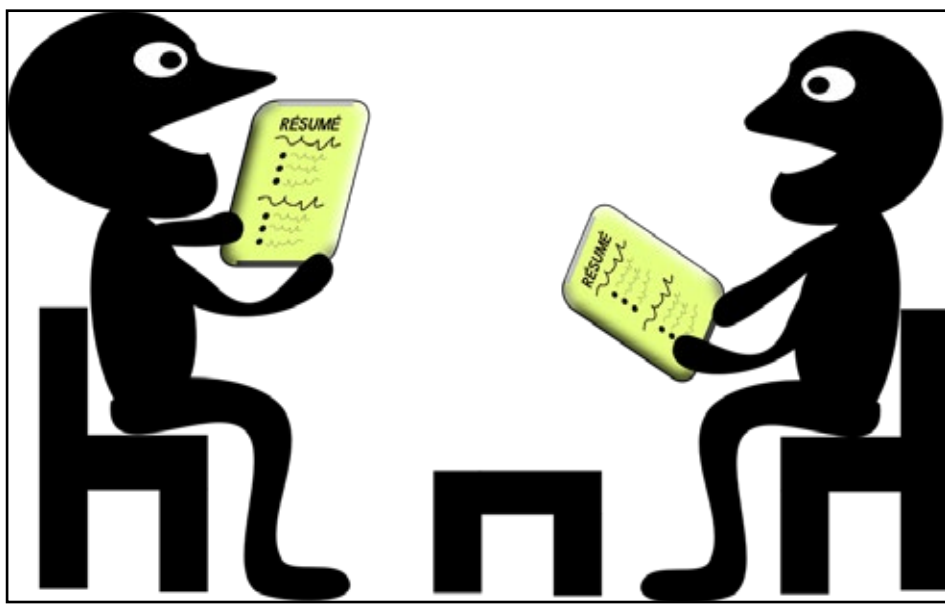
you're simply repeating a canned response that you've rehearsed in your head or aloud a dozen times. It also projects a sense of your own self-value—like hearing your response is worth the extra wait. This strategy is great if you're thrown a curveball of a question.

Another strategy to help you in the process of answering questions is to "parrot" some parts of the interviewer's question back to them to confirm your understanding of the question. This is called "reflective listening", which is a two-step process. First, you listen and try to fully understand what the interviewer is saying. Then, you paraphrase the important parts of the question before you actually answer it in order to confirm your understanding and interpretation of the question. This shows the interviewer that you have listened to what they had said and have purposefully processed it. Reflective listening is an extremely important life skill in general, but it can save you and your future coworkers from misunderstandings in the workplace.

Finally, be optimistic with a touch of enthusiasm and passion in your responses. Even if you have to answer the dreaded "What is your greatest weakness?" question, put a positive spin to it. Issues or problems are bound to arrive in the workplace, but complaining about them is not the best way to approach them. Instead, employers want to see that you can choose to see the bright side of a dark situation and focus your energy on resolving it, rather than being pessimistic, which can fuel the fire.

As much as I hope these suggestions will help you during the interview process, make your own observations and come to your own conclusions about what helps you interview more effectively. Every job position, interviewer, and company culture is different, so certain behaviours may prove to be more effective in some situations than in others.

Be yourself, (try to) have fun, and enjoy the experience! Best of luck!



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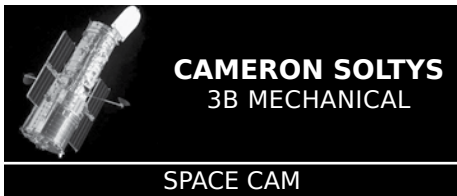
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# Space Cam: September Hoe-Down



**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL

SPACE CAM

The intention of this column is to cover one current news story or general topic relating to space. The focus tends to be on smaller stories, ones that don't hit the major headlines. Last issue was an exception, focusing on the widely-publicised SpaceX Falcon 9 explosion. This issue, the most important topic on the landscape is still SpaceX. As a compromise between unique, niche coverage and important mainstream news, this article will cover both SpaceX and a few other stories that are being, unfortunately, overshadowed.

## SpaceX

On September 27 SpaceX's cofounder and CEO, Elon Musk, announced his plan to eventually have a 1 million-person colony on Mars. This dream is to be facilitated by a massive rocket known as the Interplanetary Transport System (ITS). An announcement of this sort has been long-awaited as Musk has been on the record saying that his goal is to make humanity "a spacefaring civilization and a multiplanet species."

The proposed interplanetary system is clearly based very heavily on the Falcon 9. The promotional video that accompanied the announcement shows a large payload on top of a massive booster, the booster boasting the iconic waffle-iron grid fins that are used to steer the Falcon 9 as it returns to the launch pad. The launch pad is sleek and modern. The rocket is larger than the massive Saturn V used for the Apollo program and capable of launching almost four times as much payload to low Earth orbit. And the mission outline is simultaneously ridiculously outlandish and incredibly practical.

The ITS will work by launching a 100-person transport vehicle into orbit, sans fuel. The booster then performs the same type of retro-burn as the Falcon 9 to return to Earth. In the promotional video the booster lands perfectly back on the launch pad it took off from. Then—in apparently only a few hours—the booster is refueled and fitted with a "tanker" payload. The tanker payload is sent to orbit just like the passenger vehicle. As the booster returns to the planet, presumably for its third trip of the day, the tanker rendezvouses with the first payload and transfers fuel. As it de-

taches, the crew vehicle rockets off on a quick 80-day trip to Mars.

This could be a wild fantasy, just like the moon bases that were discussed in the closing days of the Apollo program. Some things seem less plausible than others. The three-hour turnaround time seems wild, but also very cost-effective. On the other hand, using a solar power plant on Mars to create oxygen and methane out of carbon dioxide and water ice for the return trip sounds both feasible and cost-effective. SpaceX seems determined to make this proposal come through; once the Falcon Heavy and Dragon capsule are working, they intend to transfer hundreds of millions of dollars and most of their engineering expertise to the challenge. The timeline is certainly intense, suggesting the maiden ITS voyage to Mars, named "Heart of Gold" after a ship from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, will leave in December 2022. Even more ambitious is the January 2025 goal of setting down humans on another planet for the first time.

## Farewell Rosetta

After 12 years, the European Space Agency's (ESA) comet-chasing Rosetta mission has come to an end. On September 30, mission control purposefully crashed the satellite into 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, the comet it had been orbiting since September 2014. It continued to collect and transmit data as it descended, including a photograph with 5mm/pixel resolution taken from 20m above the surface.

Rosetta was still functioning before the crash, but, unfortunately, a number of events conspired to make this the best time to end the mission. For one thing, the comet and orbiter were getting further and further away from the sun, so Rosetta's solar cells were producing less power. The mission would have been forced to end soon because of this limitation. Additionally, the relative motion of Earth and 67P was bringing the Sun nearly between the two, making communication difficult. As a result, it was decided that the best thing to do was to crash Rosetta into the comet, collecting some high-quality science as it did so.

Rosetta crashed into a location called Ma'at, on what has been described as the "head" of the duck-shaped comet. As it went down, it attempted to take photographs of some pits in the region; scientists hope to get a look at the walls of the pits so they can get a sense of the comet's internal structure. While the data has not yet been analysed, principal

investigator Holger Sierks has suggested that the taken images will be useful.

Overall, the Rosetta mission was a huge success. The ESA proudly lauds the milestones of their amazing craft: first spacecraft to orbit a comet and first spacecraft to deploy a lander on a comet. The lander, Philae, ran out of battery power after landing in a shaded ditch. However, it still managed to perform most of its science objectives in 60 hours before the battery ran out.

Some very important discoveries have been made by the two crafts. For instance, both detected phosphorus and an amino acid called glycine, suggesting that the chemicals required for life could have been delivered by comet. As well, Rosetta found that there is much more heavy water—made from the uncommon hydrogen isotope deuterium—on 67P than on Earth, suggesting that Earth's water did not come from comet impacts.

As said by Christa Van Laerhoven of the University of Toronto's Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics, "They haven't had a chance to really look at everything the spacecraft has sent so far... It's going to take us a very long time to dig through and get everything that we can out of this data." While the spacecraft may be deactivated and crashed, it will continue to provide us with exciting new discoveries for years.

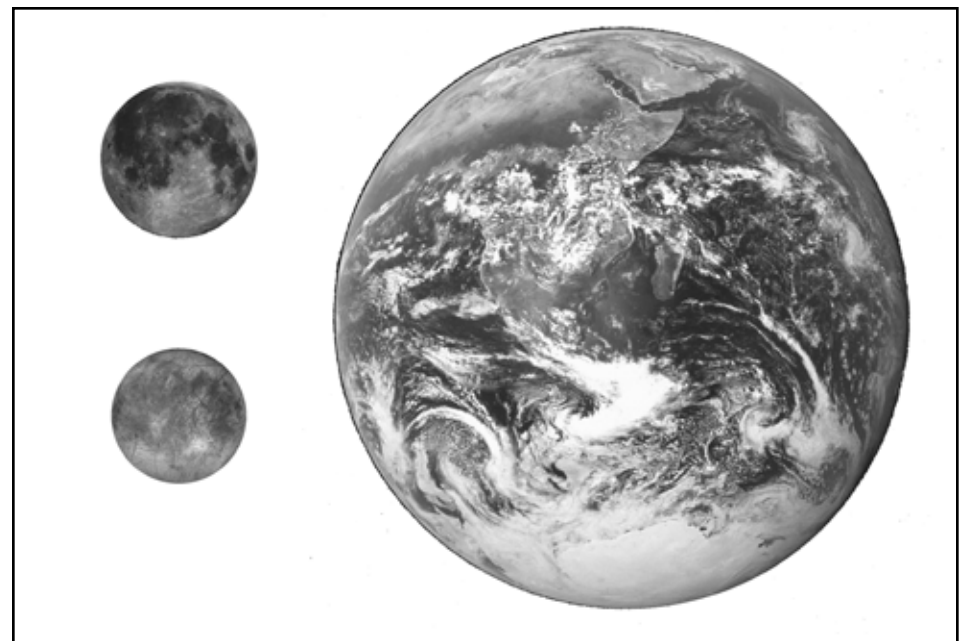
## Water Jets on Europa

Much of the coverage of this story comes from a small joke by NASA on an otherwise routine tweet. In the tweet they announced that they have new findings from Europa, and clarify that the findings are "NOT aliens". As banal as

the joke is, it was enough to get people and media outlets interested. Which is just fine, since Europa is one of the coolest bodies in our solar system. It is widely believed that, underneath its icy surface, Europa has a liquid ocean heated by gravitational effects from Jupiter and the other Galilean moons. As such, it is considered one of the most likely places where we could find extra-terrestrial life in our solar system.

The discovery announced by NASA is that they have detected jets of water originating from the moon's surface. These jets extend upwards an incredible 200km before raining back down to the surface. The detection was made by scientists using the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). They observed Europa in ultraviolet light as it passed in front of Jupiter. On three out of ten occasions, they saw evidence for the jets. This data fits nicely with observations made in 2012 that also suggested Europa was spewing water. The 2012 observations were similarly made using the HST, but using spectroscopy—a different technique. Therefore, the two sets of observations are thought to support each other, making the discovery more substantiated.

The detection of jets is significant because Europa is a prime candidate for a future NASA mission. Some variants call for a drilling mission so that samples of the sub-surface ocean could be collected. With the discovery of these jets, the drill may no longer be needed. Instead, the spacecraft could pass through the plume to collect samples. After being collected, they could be analysed for organic molecules and even evidence of life.



Size comparison of Earth (right), the Moon (top left), and Europa (bottom left)  
Wikimedia Commons

# The True Aesthetic of the Water Bottle



**ANIKA ROLLER**  
1A ENVIRONMENTAL

LEAFY THOUGHTS

Imagine 700,000 square kilometers—it's about the same size as Texas. It's also slightly larger than the size of France, and, according to some, 800 000 square kilometers less than the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. This patch is quite literally millions of pieces of garbage all clung together and floating around in the Pacific Ocean. A large percentage of this is from water bottles.

Is it worth it? Using water bottles causes a great deal of harm to the environment, one of its negative effects being contributing to the development

of a plastic island in the middle of the ocean. But why do we use them?

Some will argue that bottled water is safer than tap, but that is not necessarily true. Tap water is tested more often than bottled water. In Toronto, for example, the tap water is tested for more than 300 chemicals every 6 hours. The results of water tests like these are also required to be accessible to the public. Therefore, the cleanliness of tap water is very thoroughly monitored.

The same cannot be said for the bottled water industry. It is part of the FDA and has its own set of rules when it comes to water safety. They are not required to post the results of their water tests online and are only required to test for a few certain harmful chemicals. Furthermore, the testing of the bottle is only done once every three-or-so

years. This means that even if the water is clean, it is not guaranteed that the packaging for it is safe.

Others may say that they choose to use water bottles for the sake of convenience. When someone is on the go, they may think that it is easier to just grab a bottle and head out. Unfortunately, this is extremely costly for any individual. It can cost anywhere from eight cents to \$2.50 for a 500 mL bottle, whereas it costs a fraction of a cent for 1 L of tap water. Even worse, most people tend to not finish their bottle, so they are not even putting the unnecessarily-costly resource to good use.

I have also heard a few people justify plastic water bottles by saying that they are reusable. This is such a risk with little to no pay off, considering that they will likely be thrown out anyway, and

the reuse of them can lead to harmful chemicals leaching into the water.

Finally, some people may say that the plastic bottles are recyclable so it's okay to use them. Despite their quality to be recycled, they still mysteriously end up in landfills. They make up one fifth of the typical landfill and are highly unlikely to decompose. It would take over 100 years to decompose, but landfills do not usually have the correct conditions for this to even happen.

In sum, it seems almost as if the pros or justifications of plastic water bottles are actually just cons in disguise. So to answer the question from before—no, plastic water bottles are not worth it. It is much safer for the environment, as well as one's health, to buy a reusable bottle and stay away from the plastic bottles.

# Three-Person Baby Causes Controversy



**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL

American doctors led by Dr. John Zhang have performed a new type of mitochondrial donation to make a human child using three sets of DNA. The technique holds promise for helping families that suffer from a variety of diseases known as “genetic mitochondrial diseases”. However, the event has also drawn intense criticism for skirting US legal and ethical statutes by performing the operation in Mexico.

On April 6, 2016, an unnamed Jordanian mother gave birth to a baby boy that had been grown from a three-person fertilized egg. The family had previously experienced intense reproductive hardship: they had 4 miscarriages, and lost two children at 8 months and 6 years. The reason for this difficulty was a disease called Leigh syndrome.

Leigh syndrome is a neurological disorder that causes deterioration of movement and mental function, typically followed by death due to respiratory failure. It can have genetic causes in either the nucleic or, as in this case, mitochondrial DNA. The operation performed by Zhang involved taking the nucleus from the mother’s egg and moving the nucleic DNA—which determines the vast majority of a person’s traits—into a donor egg that had had its nucleus removed. The result is a cell containing almost entirely the maternal DNA, but properly-functioning mitochondria. Standard in-vitro fertilization (IVF) techniques can then be used to fertilize and implant the zygote into the mother’s womb.

This is not an entirely new idea, but it is an entirely new procedure. Approximately 30-50 children have been born via “cytoplasmic transfer”, in which the contents of a donor cell—including mitochondria, but not

nuclear DNA—are transferred into an unfertilized egg. The egg then contains both malfunctioning maternal mitochondria and functioning donor mitochondria. It can be fertilized and implanted using IVF.

The controversy, therefore, is not so much with the procedure itself but in the way that the scientists performed the procedure. In the US, the FDA has ethically-approved research in the area, but not treatment. As a result, the doctors and family went to Mexico where, as Zhang puts it, “there are no rules.” He justifies the decision saying that “to save lives is the ethical thing to do.”

The choice to skirt the existing regulation environment is what is causing the trouble. For instance, Dr. David King of the pro-choice group Human Genetics Alert points out that no lives were actually saved by this operation; a new life was created. In another line of inquiry, stem cell researcher Dusko Ilic comments: “Was this the first time ever they performed the technique or were there other attempts and they are reporting this one because it was successful?” The overriding criticism is that, by going to Mexico to perform the operation without any regulation, the team has opened themselves up to questions of the safety and ethicality.

In response to the criticism, Dr. Zhang has replied that all questions will be answered when their findings are presented at the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in mid-October.

## Mitochondrial DNA

A mitochondrion is a structure that exists within every animal (and plant and fungal) cell. It uses chemical energy from breaking down sugars to create a chemical called adenosine triphosphate (ATP). ATP is then used as a source of chemical energy by other parts of the cell.

The mitochondrion can best be thought of as a cell-within-a-cell because, according to our current understanding, it is; mitochondria

are distant descendants of bacterial cells that were absorbed by larger cells and used as efficient ATP creation factories. As a result of this origin, the mitochondria exhibit some bacterial behaviours: they have their own bacterial-like circular DNA and undergo a cell division-type process within the cell.

When a female reproductive cell, or egg, is fertilized by a male reproductive cell, or sperm, the sperm only provides genetic material. All of the other parts of the cell, including the mitochondria, are exclusively from the egg. As a result, men cannot pass on genetic mitochondrial diseases, whereas women can. This has also led to the concept of a “mitochondrial Eve”; genetic studies have shown that all human mitochondria from all humans are related. Slight mutations in the mitochondrial DNA suggest that all people everywhere are maternally-related to one woman who lived between 100 000 and 200 000 years ago.

While all mitochondria are related, they are different enough to be detected. If the donor of a three-child birth was closely related to the mother via female

relatives, the strange circumstances of the child’s conception could not be identified. However, that would nullify the intention of introducing new mitochondria that were free of the particular genetic disease that necessitates the procedure. As a result, the donor will typically be unrelated to the mother and the child will recognizably contain about 0.1% DNA from a third individual.

Procedures like mitochondrial donation have a huge potential to prevent suffering from genetic diseases. However, there are legitimate ethical concerns about the process. For instance, what are acceptable operations? Are cosmetic operations, or selecting for “running genes” and “genius genes”, appropriate? How will unequal wealth and access to these procedures affect us as a global society and species? Some of those questions are very distant from the procedure performed here, but some are very close. For instance, as the BBC asks, “[how might] any child from the technique... feel about having DNA from three people[?]”



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# Hurricane Matthew Strikes Haiti, Cuba, Florida



**SUMAITA KARIM**  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

On October 7, 2016, Hurricane Matthew's powerful winds and torrential rain left over one million people without power and four dead in Florida. This tropical cyclone has lashed the coast with 185 mph winds, prompting widespread evacuations.

In preparation for this monstrous storm,

3500 National Guard troops were deployed for assistance and more than 1.5 million Floridians were ordered to evacuate. Over 20,000 people are currently residing in shelters.

Before travelling 3000 miles along the Atlantic coast to the United States, Matthew ravaged the Caribbean, leaving countries like Haiti and Cuba in catastrophic ruin. Downed trees and flooding streets, Matthew is the strongest hurricane to hit the nation in more than 50 years.

Officials claim over 300 deaths in Haiti in relation to the hurricane, with at least

350,000 people still in need of immediate medical assistance, causing further damage to the country's infrastructure as Haiti is still in the process of recovering from the 2010 cholera outbreak and earthquake.

In Cuba, over 377,000 people were evacuated as many houses were washed away or had their roofs blown away by the storm.

But the worse seems to have passed as the strength of the hurricane has since weakened from a category 4 hurricane to a category 2 hurricane with maximum winds of 110 mph.

Nonetheless, as the storm is moving north,

Florida and its neighboring states Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina have declared states of emergency, with dire warnings from officials that Hurricane Matthew is expected to have surges of potentially 11 feet.

Curfews have been set in parts of these states to keep the roads clear due to flood warnings. Safety precautions are not being taken lightly. President Obama has committed to ensuring the country is ready with the necessary resources in order to respond to the impact of Hurricane Matthew.

## "Pepe the Frog" Meme Deemed Hate Symbol



**TAHREEM FAROOQI**  
1A PLANNING

The popular meme "Pepe the Frog" (also known as "Sad Frog") was deemed a hate symbol according to the Anti-Defamation League. The Anti-Defamation League focuses on stopping anti-Semitism in the United States, as well as reducing any sort of bigotry and protecting the civil rights of others. This list contains symbols that have been infamous for their horrific implications, such as the Confederate flag and the Swastika, and now includes what most people would consider a harmless meme. The nature of a meme itself contradicts this decision altogether; a meme

is photo or text meant to provide humour to a subject, most often used on social websites and online forums.

This meme in particular has mostly been used in harmless contexts. Pepe originates from the comic Boy's Club by the author, Matt Furie. The comic, centered around "Pepe the Frog" and his four other animal friends, was a comic having no real negative connotation but "simple college humour" says Furie to the Washington Post. The frog became a meme as it began to circulate around the websites 4chan and reddit and, as it became more popular, around more mainstream social networks as well.

"Seeing a frog always takes my breath away and brings a genuine smile to my face. That is what I want every reader to experience each time they think about the 'Boy's Club' com-

ic—a thrill of overwhelming beauty and joy!" Furie told the Daily Dot. And, indeed, the use of the frog was mostly used in the context of joy and, if not, in the context of comical sadness. The general purpose of using the frog is pure comedic reasons; despite this, the frog is now considered a hate symbol.

It was only once the meme started to be used in a negative context, such as making jokes concerning horrific events such as the World War II and 9/11, that it was placed on the list.

The main concern is that the meme was considered in conjunction with white supremacy. The white supremacist group called "alt-right" adopted this meme and used it to support the Trump candidacy. Using the meme, they made many jokes of an anti-Semitic and racist nature. This isn't the first time they

abused common forms of online communication in a racist manner. Once before, they used the "echo" punctuation which is a triple parentheses used in online communication to signify echoing a name. The "alt-right" group used this form of punctuation to signify Jewish journalists, opening the door of harassment. The "echo" parentheses was placed on the Hate Symbols Database soon after.

Most importantly, the Anti-Defamation League clarifies that context is important. They understand that the main use for the frog is harmless comedic purposes and, in that context, the use of the meme is not considered a form of hatred. The only time it will be considered a form of hatred is when the meme is used in the context of anti-Semitism, bigotry, racism, and other horrific social injustices.

## Scalper Bots



**DONOVAN MAUDSLEY**  
3A MECHANICAL

Anyone who's been to a concert, sporting event, or even a theatre performance in recent memory will have run into the scourge of the internet: scalper bots. Scalping organizations use programs to bypass the maximum ticket buying limits that venues set on their websites. Once the organizations acquire as many tickets as they can, they resell them for profit. This poses a serious issue for the common event-goer as ticket prices for any event

worth attending skyrocket as soon as they are released.

I have personally run into this issue many times. My family and I paid triple face value for Foo Fighters tickets in 2015 (worth it). My step-father and I paid quadruple face value to see Black Sabbath in 2014 (also worth it). During my grade 11 year, my band and I waited in line for 3 hours to get tickets to see the band Tool, and by the time the computer system at the ticket booth had started, over 60% of the tickets had been sold. Any Torontonian can tell you how much a single ticket to see the Maple Leafs can cost you.

The issue was brought to the forefront of mass media in Canada this summer when

the Tragically Hip announced their farewell tour. Tickets for these fifteen shows sold out before any average person could get a single one. The scalper bot programs are designed to overwhelm the venues' online servers so that it is impossible for anyone else to access the site. Ticket prices on the reseller website then skyrocketed. The Kingston show, likely the final Tragically Hip show ever, saw some tickets sell for a 7500% markup.

On September 29th Sophie Kiwala, a Liberal MPP from the Kingston area, announced that she was stepping up to protect Ontarians from this in the future. She had heard numerous times from her constituents that their ticket-buying

experiences had left them frustrated and discouraged. Her proposed bill will try to make it so Ontarians can buy tickets online in a fair, transparent, and accessible market. Even though she acknowledges that the scalper bots get smarter every day, the province still needs to push back.

Ticketmaster Canada has been fighting back against scalper bot programs since their inception. A representative from Ticketmaster recently told the Globe and Mail that they have an entire division devoted to blocking and stopping the programs. They acknowledged that it is very difficult for a government organization to police and enforce these proposed restrictions.

## Reasons Why You Might Not Be Happy

### From Literature on Happiness



**JOSH LI**  
2A MECHANICAL

There is now an abundance of books with happiness in their title, from self-help to Buddhism, positive psychology to cultural studies. Listed below are the general findings I found in some of the more legitimate and popular sources regarding the new happiness revolution. To put everything in a single sentence, remember this: although happiness can be complicated, there are many reasons why we are not happy, and those reasons are simple.

#### You Think Too Much, and Do Too Little

(*The Happiness Project* by Gretchen Rubin)

Happiness is a matter of doing, a summation of many little things which all affect your well-being. During the span of one year, Rubin documents her journey of applying real life activities and resolutions

to lead a happier life. There is no dramatic shift in thinking; instead, she simply sets out on making small daily changes, such as tidying, making a gratitude journal, listening to her children, or indulging in a modest splurge. She came out happier, without overhauling everything she believed in.

#### You Haven't Eliminated the Negatives, Nor Do You Practice Compassion

(*The Art of Happiness* by the Dalai Lama and Howard Cutler)

This is a timeless classic blending the teachings of Buddhism (where happiness is the meaning of life) and psychiatry (from the viewpoint of Cutler). The Dalai Lama talks about training the mind, cultivating positive mental states, and challenging the negatives. The practice of compassion, for example, is a positive mental state. He defines this as non-violent and non-aggressive thinking in addition to wishing for others to be free of suffering. His spiritual teachings agree with modern findings in psychology; in fact, meditation is now a

feature in most first-year textbooks.

#### You Mis-Imagine Happiness in the Future

(*Stumbling on Happiness* by Daniel Gilbert)

Daniel Gilbert is a psychology professor at Harvard. This book is based on cognitive psychology research but presented in layman's terms. He outlines three reasons why we fail to imagine the future and are unable predict whether we are happy in that future.

1) Your brain fills in the blanks of details you don't consider. 2) Your present mood greatly affects any prediction you make. 3) Things will feel different once they happen, but you don't know that now. Practically, Gilbert offers convincing studies on our inability to predict future emotions with any accuracy, but we still do it anyway.

#### You're not British Enough

(*America the Anxious* by Ruth Whippman)

This is a book published just last week

which offers an even more profound look on how western society, Americans in particular, perceives happiness. Simply put, Americans make happiness a trophy on a pedestal whereas Whippman (being a proud Brit) was raised in the "armchair of cynicism." She argues that the more people see happiness as a goal, the less happy they are. There is, of course, research from Berkeley to support this: stronger personal ambition for happiness correlated to higher dissatisfaction with life and even depression.

Correlation is not causation, so a second study was developed; subjects were primed on the importance of happiness and then they watched a happy film. Compared to the control group, who read nothing and just watched the film, the primed group actually found less happiness in the film. America—the happiness-seeking culture—has not gotten happier; since the 70s, a consistent 30% consider themselves as "very happy" but a rising amount (almost a third now) report anxiety. Perhaps this happiness revolution is part of the problem itself.

## Vikings Lead NFL



**DONOVAN MAUDSLEY**  
3A MECHANICAL

If you asked me six weeks ago who the last undefeated team in the NFL would be, there was no way I would say the Minnesota Vikings. Teddy Bridgewater's season had just ended, and even though running back Adrian Peterson looked good, there was no guarantee he wasn't going to hit the wall. I was intrigued a few days later when the Vikes traded for quarterback Sam Bradford, the first overall draft pick back in 2010 who's been plagued by injuries since coming into the league, but I still wouldn't have expected anything special. Then it started to happen.

Week one, the Vikes faced the Tennessee

Titans. The Titans are not a very good team, and Vikings backup quarterback Shaun Hill stood tall under center and did his job. The Vikings won this one on the road on the strength of their defense.

Week two the Vikings played the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night. This was the first game played in Minnesota's brand new stadium, so they wanted the win. Green Bay liked their odds coming into this game: they have a very good offense, and were going up against a quarterback who had only been with the team for two weeks. The Viking's odds looked even bleaker as Adrian Peterson walked off the field with a knee injury during the first half of the game, but the defense held up. Sam Bradford went out on the field in this game and did just enough to get his team the win.

The next two weeks, the Vikings played a pair of amazing quarterbacks when they visited

Carolina and played the New York Giants at home. The Vikings defense made two amazing quarterbacks (Cam Newton and Eli Manning) look like mediocre rookies, while their offense got better and better each time they got on the field. Through three starts, Sam Bradford played well enough to get his team three victories.

Canadian Thanksgiving Sunday, the Vikings were once again in action, with the Houston Texans coming to visit. After facing three all-star quarterbacks in a row, the Vikings defense was up against Brock Osweiler, who is not nearly an all-star. The Vikings rolled over the Texans to become the only undefeated team in the league.

One of the biggest questions in the NFL right now is, who can stop the Vikings? 16-0 is still a long way away, but judging by their remaining schedule it's becoming more and more likely.

Outside of their division, the Vikings play in Philadelphia, in Washington, at home against the

Cardinals and the Cowboys, and then visit the Jaguars. Unless Redskins Kirk Cousins can put together his best game ever, the only game that I see the Vikings losing is against Philadelphia and their rookie quarterback Carson Wentz.

The Vikes have five division games left, two apiece against the Bears and the Lions which shouldn't be a problem, and one in Green Bay. The Bears and Lions have little to no chance of breaking through against the Vikings, so the only game here that the Vikings could lose is in Green Bay. Lambeau Field is a tough stadium to visit in late November, and the Packers are a good team. I see this being the most intense game of the Vikings season, and the Packers will be fighting for a playoff spot at this point in the season.

If the Vikings keep playing the way they have been, they're going to the playoffs and they're going to make some noise when they get there.

## Birdwatch! Bring on the Tribe [or the Sox]! Jays Sweep Rival Texas Rangers in ALDS



**ELIZABETH SALSBERG**  
4A NANOTECHNOLOGY

THE BENCHWARMER REPORT

On Sunday, October 9th, the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Texas Rangers 7-6 in a ten-inning thriller, taking the best-of-five American League Division Series (ALDS) in three straight games. The big bats finally broke out after a torrid September and a nail-biting, extra-innings wild card victory over division rival Baltimore Orioles just last Tuesday at Rogers Centre. Their ALDS matchup against the American League regular season leaders began Thursday, and they haven't looked back since. The Jays have four days to rest and reset before facing the winner of the Cleveland-Boston ALDS (Cleveland leads 2-0) on the road in game 1 of the American League Championship Series (ALCS). The winner of the ALCS moves on to the World Series to play the National League (NLCS) Champs. While we wait for Friday to arrive, let's take a moment to reflect, re-group, and examine the challenges ahead.

### ALDS Recap

The Jays began the series in style, hammering Cole Hamels and the Texas Rangers 10-1 in the opener. 2015 MVP Josh Donaldson led the way with a pair of singles and doubles. Troy

Tulowitzki (Tulo) added a bases-clearing triple, and Jose Bautista hit a home run despite the boo birds, and had four runs batted in on the night. Starter Marco Estrada pitched a gem, coming up just two outs short of a complete game. Manager John Gibbons will be looking to Estrada to put up a similar performance against likely opponent Cleveland Indians next week.

The Rangers sent their next ace Yu Darvish to start game 2. Darvish fared no better than Hamels, allowing a career-high of three home runs in the fifth inning and four in five innings for a total of five earned runs. Tulo, Ezquiel Carrera, Kevin Pillar, and Edwin Encarnacion were the culprits, spelling a hellish end to Darvish's night. Starter J. A. Happ did not have his best outing, with Texas runners reaching base in all but one of his five innings. Nevertheless, the potential Cy Young nominee pitched his way out of trouble every time, and was charged with only one earned run. Things got tense in the eighth, when Texas leadoff man Carlos Gomez hit a zinger off Jays' reliever Francisco Liriano's head, scoring Mitch Moreland and moving Jared Hooying to third while bringing the score to 5-2. Liriano was removed from the game, and would later be clear to travel to Toronto with the team. It is presently unknown whether the lefty will be available for the ALCS. As a result, youngster Roberto Osuna had to come in to get the final couple outs in the eighth. Texas would score a third run on a fielder's choice but that would be all as Osuna went on to pick up the save in a

scoreless ninth.

Facing a do-or-die situation in Toronto with American league ERA leader Aaron Sanchez on the mound, the Texas Rangers were in tough in game 3. Having burned their premiere starters in the first two games, game 3 starter Colby Lewis knew he didn't stand a chance against this suddenly re-awakened homer-hammering ball club. Lewis barely lasted into the third inning as the Jays knocked him for five earned runs with a couple of homers courtesy of Encarnacion and Russell Martin in the first. Sanchez had issues with his command all night, giving six earned runs in five plus innings. Jays reliever Joe Biagini couldn't stop the bleeding, as his first batter went on to score the sixth Texas run.

With the score tied up at six apiece, it was a tense few innings for both teams. The Rangers, having gone through most of their relief corps, brought in flamethrower Matt Bush in the eighth. Bush blew his 99 mph fastball by the Jays in the eighth and ninth, stifling the Jays' big chance to walk-off the Rangers in regulation. Meanwhile, Osuna was once again called on for two innings. With no one left in the 'pen after Osuna, Gibbons was banking on his big boys coming through in the tenth. Sure enough, Josh Donaldson made contact with a Bush fastball, getting to second base with one out. Bush walked Encarnacion to set up the double play. Bautista however would not deliver his usual hit-into-DP service, instead striking out on yet another 98 mph fastball. This brought catcher Russell Martin back to

the plate. Martin hit a grounder to short in what could have easily been a double play, were it not for a bad throw from infamous Texas second baseman Rowned Odor. Martin ran it out while Josh Donaldson scampered home to score the winning run on a head-first slide. The play at the plate was not even close as the Jays dugout cleared and Rogers Centre erupted—the Jays were headed back to the ALCS for the second straight year!

### ALCS: The Look-ahead

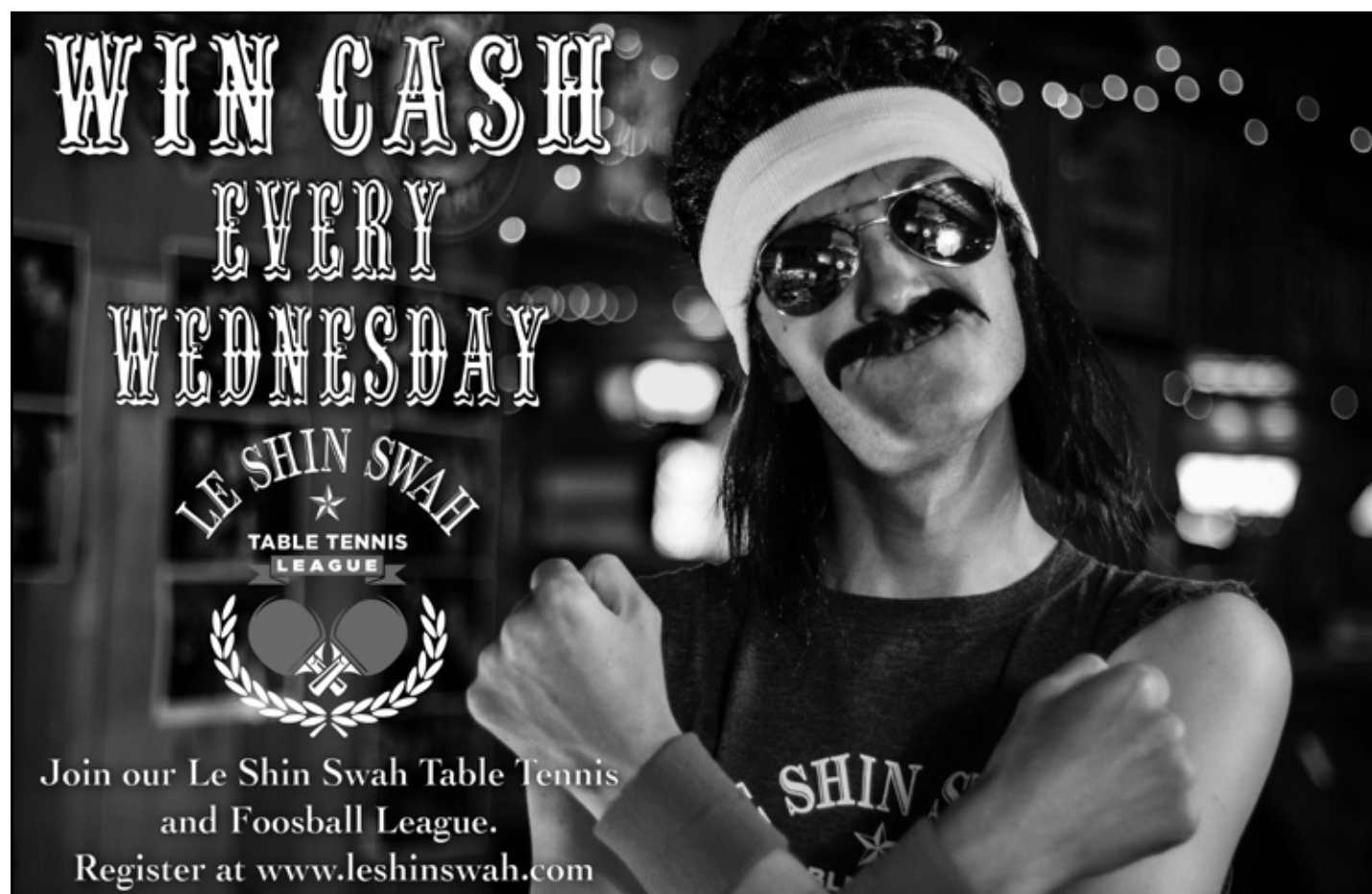
This Friday the Jays will likely travel to Cleveland to take on team president Mark Shapiro's old buddies, the Cleveland Indians. The Indians disposed of the Boston Red Sox 6-0 in game 2, clobbering ace and former Jay David Price for four runs in the second inning. Game 1 was much closer, wherein the Indians edged Boston 5-4. Nevertheless, the Indians have gotten superb pitching from their starters combined with consistent hitting output. Jays starters will need to be on their game, ideally going at least six innings. The Indians acquired killer closer Andrew Miller from the Yanks before the all-star break, and guess what, he isn't even the closer. These guys are that stacked.

The Jays will need to do their homework and hit up starting pitching early in order to advance. A tall task, but not impossible. They are a wicked lineup all the way through the order, especially if they get second baseman Devon Travis back from a tender knee injury to lead off.

Marcus Stroman will likely get the nod for the Jays in game 1. Estrada, Happ and Sanchez will likely fill out the rest of the starting rotation, while Liriano (if cleared) would presumably be available out of the bullpen to pitch multiple innings if necessary.

The key relievers, Biagini, Grilli, and Osuna, will be leaned on heavily. Gibbons will have to be extra careful with the bullpen: putting Ryan Tepera in for an inning when the score is 10-1 is a little different from the typical postseason save situation. Brett Cecil could stand to bring a little extra, and will likely be called upon to handle a couple of lefties (though Cleveland does have a lot of switch hitters...). Whatever happens, Cecil must not walk batters as he did in the Wild Card and ALDS.

Overall, the Jays have their work cut out for them. The ALCS is a best-of-seven series. Games 1 and 2 will be played at Cleveland/Boston, and games 3 and 4 will be played in Toronto. Cleveland/Boston hold home field advantage, with games 5 and 7 to be played there, if necessary. A game 6 would be played in Toronto. The winner of the ALCS will have home field advantage in the World Series, following the AL victory over the NL in the All-Star game this year. The Birdwatch continues! Hold on Jays fans, it's going to be a hell of a ride!!!



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# Workplace Toxicity

## A Personal Story

**ANONYMOUS**  
WATERLOO ENGINEERING

As many of you have probably experienced firsthand, I get asked about my co-op by friends and family, especially the one I had abroad last fall term. Most people ask about my travels and what it was like living in a country under political strain. They talk about how scared they were for me and I assure them that it was lots of fun and I never felt uncomfortable. This is a total lie.

Last September, I was nervously in line to board a plane with other students from my school who would be my coworkers for the next term. It wasn't my favourite job, which cannot totally be blamed on the job duties, but more so on what happened near the end of the term.

It always seems like any other day until something happens. We were sitting in our office and discussing some criticism from our supervisor when one student made a generalization about how little we all worked. I took offense. I had created and formatted most of our presentations, but I knew they would disagree. So instead of pointing out the work I had done, I asked that student to not say "we" when talking about how much work "we" did, because that person didn't know how hard the rest of us were working. Then they snapped. They stood up and turned to me, yelling at me from across the table. Screaming hurtful things about my family, upbringing, and pretty much anything else that they thought would hurt me. I tried everything that I could do to stay calm and not show that I was hurting. My face felt like my blood was boiling underneath my skin, my heart felt like it was about to beat out of my body, and my hands were shaking, but

no one noticed. Later, one of the three other students that was present said that he was impressed with how I acted. I let the screaming student continue because I was using everything, all my self-control, to keep a calm exterior. Then the student who had been screaming at me paused, and I asked if they were finished. They responded with more insults, maybe because they hadn't visibly broke me yet. They then started on the student next to me, and how she followed what I did. I couldn't let them continue, and interrupted, saying: "Leave [Student] out of this; if you are going to be rude to me, focus on me". "Rude!" I gave them fuel to continue for another round. When they finished their tirade, two of the other students left. They abandoned me.

It wasn't unusual for this co-worker to say outrageous things about the rest of us, but this was simply the climax and the last straw. I sat there for maybe three minutes and drafted an email to my co-op advisor. Then I could feel my walls about to come down and got up to "fill my water bottle". I got to the end of the hall before tears started to pour out. I ended up in the meeting room on an intercontinental phone call with my mother. After having her calm me down and agree that what just happened was crazy and amazingly inappropriate for a work place, I then more calmly but still sobbing went to my supervisor, who allowed me to have the day off and basically said "[shrug] these things happen." Wow. I emailed my co-op supervisor writing to officially report this.

The next day, everyone acted like nothing had happened—and this was how they acted for the rest of the term. I was stunned. My advisor wrote back to me and to my attacker. My advisor and I

spoke many times, and they assured me they would take action. At the same time, however, they also said there wasn't much to be done, which shocked me: I had witnesses, after all. One student representing the university verbally harassed another student to the point where the student who had been attacked (me) felt uncomfortable about where they lived, worked, and everywhere else in this foreign country...and there was nothing to be done about that?

Luckily for me, it was near the end of the term, but that meant it was hard for my advisor to do anything that would take a long time, so we paused and continued the discussion the next term, after the holiday. On April 10th, 2016 I was informed that my case was moved to the Dean of the faculty of the student about whom I had lodged the complaint. That Dean has yet to get back to me.

I have had to seek counselling for this incident; even now when I walk around campus, I don't feel comfortable. When I see someone who looks similar, or talks similarly, or uses some of the phrases the student screamed at me, I am triggered. As I am writing this, I have tears streaming down my face.

I am emotional about this. I am not broken. I am none of the things I was called, but I am still affected. I have gone over the events many times, looking for what I could have done differently to prevent this person from verbally attacking me or to get a resolution that would censure this student for their inappropriate and hurtful actions. The University has done nothing to hold this student accountable for his unconscionable behaviour toward me and the other student, but I would not have done anything differently, I stood up for myself and for someone else that was on the receiving end of their

diatribe. Sometimes it is really hard to fake it when people ask about that co-op term, but I learned in an interview when they ask if you have had issues with coworkers and how you handled it, employers don't want the whole ten-minute-long truth.

When I spoke with my advisor, she asked what outcome I wanted from this. My answer was that I wanted this sort of thing be less likely to happen again for anyone working with the student. I don't know exactly how that would work, but I never want anyone to have to feel the way this student's actions made me feel. I can't describe the feelings during the incident, or even now retelling it. My advisor said at one point that because it wasn't physical harassment it was unlikely anything would be done about it. I think that this is awful, and I know a lot of people wouldn't report it, but I am glad I did, and I hope if anything similar happens to you that you will recognize it as harassment and report it to try to prevent it from happening to others.



Pixabay

## The Clownpocalypse Has Begun



**ALINA PAVEL**  
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Imagine this: you're walking home alone after a long day. It's dark. You approach a seemingly inconspicuous corner. As you turn this corner, you see something that shakes you to your core: a strange figure with big, frizzy hair and wide, toothy grin. After you regain your composure and a stable heart rate, you realize what is standing in front of you: a teenager wearing a clown mask.

Such has been the case for many

unlucky people lately, as reports of clown sightings have skyrocketed over the past few weeks. This "creepy clown epidemic" has even become an internet meme, with thousands of daily posts popularizing hashtags such as #clownscare, #clownhunt2k16, and my personal favourite: #clownpocalypse. Is all of this fuss really justified, though?

Clowns have been spotted all across the US and Canada, with initial reports in late August coming from a town in South Carolina, stating that clowns had been trying to lure children into the woods.

No injuries or deaths have been reported; however, there have been

cases leading to arrests, such as one in Virginia where a 13-year-old girl was charged after she messaged a 'clown' asking for her teacher to be murdered. A more serious case in Nova Scotia this month involved a clown who tried to grab a child. The man behind the mask was arrested and charged with breaching an undertaking. Several attacks have been reported to authorities but, due to lack of substantial evidence, many are saying that these events are all hoaxes.

In fact most of the alleged "creepy clown" sightings have been nothing more than just a couple of mischievous pranksters looking to give innocent people a good scare.

Some police departments have taken to social media to warn the public about suspicious clown behaviour, while others like the NYPD have stated the clowns are no threat to anyone. A school in Connecticut has even banned clown costumes and any other "symbols of terror" from being worn. An overreaction? Maybe, but let's not forget that clowns are among the most highly-feared things on our planet.

So, should you be looking to purchase some precautionary pepper spray? Probably not. However, if your irrational fear of clowns is worse than the norm, try to keep an extra eye out this Halloween season.

## Goodbye Again Again, Tristan



**DONOVAN MAUDSLEY**  
**TRISTAN KUEHN**  
3A MECHANICAL  
3A SYSTEMS

BROSKIES ON BREWSKIES

SYKE! We didn't think that Tristan would be able to do another article before leaving for Deutschland, but we were wrong! A quick trip to the LCBO and we were back in business for one more issue. Now, our normal plan of action is to taste three different brews from Ontario, but Tristan doesn't have the best memory and accidentally

picked up a can of the Dinner Jacket O'Red IPA from the Arch Brewing Company in Toronto, which we've already tasted (and liked). Thankfully we did have a fallback.

First up this week was the Canadian Golden Pilsner from the Flying Monkey Brewing Company in Barrie. We've never officially reviewed anything from Flying Monkey, but both of us have had a Flying Monkey brew or two in our time and had mixed feelings about them. Our hopes were brightened when the LCBO sales associate gave it a rave review (after it was already paid for). It's very hoppy, which is unusual for a pilsner. In our experience

pilsners are smoother and slightly less flavourful, but the Golden Pilsner felt more like an IPA. Overall the Golden Pilsner doesn't really stand out and earns an average score of two and a half out of five.

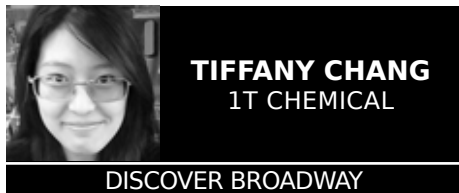
Next up was the Vintage Lager from the Hogsback Brewing Company out of Ottawa. We'd never even heard of the Hogsback Brewing Company before picking this up, but it was great find. Very flavourful with an oaky taste, the Vintage Lager is definitely a fall beer. It feels warm and filling, like a Thanksgiving turkey. Tristan liked this one a little bit more than Donovan. Overall we gave it four and half out of

five.

Now on to our backup beer, the Blanche de Chambly. Brewed in Chambly, Quebec since 1992, the Blanche de Chambly is a White Ale with a very specific taste and style that is unfortunately a little past its season. This is not a beer that you want to have stocked in the winter. It's particularly citrusy and well-suited for a nice, hot summer afternoon on a patio. Despite the unseasonable flavour, where this beer's strengths lie, we give it a score of three and a half out of five. Seriously though, don't buy this bad boy till Tristan gets back from Germany (late March).



## Dirty Rotten Scoundrels



I'm not a particular fan of comedies—as you could probably deduce from my musical selection—but *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* holds a special place in my heart.

This might have something to do with being in my high school's production of the musical.

The musical is based on the 1988 film of the same name, starring Steve Martin, Michael Caine, and Glenn Headly. Before we began rehearsing for the show, our director showed us the movie—it's an absolute riot, so I'd definitely watching it if you ever have the chance.

The musical begins at a lively casino in the French Riviera. Here, we meet one of two male leads—Lawrence Jamieson, slick and suave British conman, who is accompanied by his “bodyguard” Andre. His loyal follower warns him about a new con artist who has made his mark on the French Riviera, someone who goes by the name “The Jackal.”

During a train ride, Lawrence witnesses an American named Freddy Benson scam a

female passenger—albeit making a lot less money than he does, of course. The two become friends-of-sorts, but after a while, Lawrence starts thinking that there's only room for one of them on the French Riviera. Thus, they make a bet: The first man to swindle fifty grand from a woman gets to stay in town—the other would be exiled. Immediately after their deal is settled, “The American Soap Queen” Christine Swindle arrives, and she becomes their unlucky target. However, she isn't who she appears to be...

Instead of sharing my thoughts about this particular musical, I would like to share what I learned from being in a musical production.

Musical theatre is a great medium to get out of your comfort zone. If you have introverted tendencies, which I very much did in high school, you gain a lot of courage by transforming yourself into another person—a character—when you're onstage—even if you're a chorus member. I admit that it wasn't easy at first, but if you settle your mind into your character's and remember to have fun with your character while you're singing, talking, dancing, acting, or all four, it's definitely more manageable and a lot less intimidating.

Each and every student that played a role in the production had to make a budget for the show. This was the first budget that I ever

made, in fact. Not only does every single one of us pour our heart and souls into the production, but every cent and dollar spent matters. There are things that are required, such as a full pit orchestra (otherwise, the instrumentals just don't do the chorus numbers justice); things that are nice to have, such as nicely painted sets; and things that people can pitch in from home. (Prop-hunting definitely doesn't teach you to be a hoarder or a frequenter of garage sales...) In reality, we have to prioritize certain things over others for the sake of time and/or money as well.

Another important part of the budget is generating income to help cover expenditures, such as ticket sales and advertising. If I remember correctly, each of us had to sell seven tickets to the show and find another minimum of \$50 from sponsors. Ticket sales could be tricky if you had a lot of friends in the production with you, since they would also want to sell their tickets to your mutual friends. However, you quickly learn to ask anyone and come up with a “sales pitch” to sell the show to potential audience members. The same goes for finding sponsors, on top of convincing them how advertising could help their own businesses, too. It never hurts to start learning how to sell yourself or a product (in this case, our production) early.

Respecting fellow cast members was another important lesson that I learned and is

apparent in our daily lives with our family, peers, friends, coworkers, and complete strangers. If rehearsal is agreed upon at a specific time, show up for that time—if not earlier. When you're that one person who's constantly being waited on, you're quick to top everyone's blacklist. Not only is it disrespectful, but it's also a waste of everyone else's time. In other words, avoid being the person who is late to show up for appointments/meetings/gatherings.

In particular, you learn to respect authority—in this case, it's the director. I remember during a rehearsal, one of my friends suggested blocking the scene slightly differently. Our director was furious, and my friend was reduced to tears. Rehearsals—especially as they approach opening night—can be extremely stressful for cast members. However, the director's stress is at least twenty-fold. As cast members, we must believe in our director's expertise and support his/her judgement call in artistic expression. Even though we are sometimes tempted to defy authority, it's a good idea to stop and think if the temptation is truly for the collective group's benefit.

Being in music theatre has definitely given me new perspectives about working with people and dealing with school/work.

I suppose the saying does ring true: “Life imitates art; art imitates life.”

## Should you watch “Kimi No Na wa”?



YES.

*Kimi no Na wa* or *Your Name* is the latest smash hit Disney mov-. Ha it's Japan so it's a Ghi- Wait, what?

Shooting to the top My Anime List in under a month, and obliterating previous records to become the 7th highest grossing film in Japan (110 million USD), Shinkai Makoto's *Kimi no Na wa* should be great, right!?

### The Story (courtesy of My Anime List)

The story is set one month after a comet has fallen in Japan for the first time in a

thousand years. Mitsuha, a high school girl living in the countryside, wants to live in the city because she is tired of life in the country. Then there's Taki; he's a high school student living in Tokyo with his friends while working as a part-timer at an Italian restaurant. He also has a strong interest in fine arts involving architecture. One day, Mitsuha dreams of herself as a young man. On the other hand, Taki also has a dream where he is a female student attending high school in the countryside. What's the secret behind their dreams?

### Art and Sound

The art is fantastic, almost godlike. To say it clocks in at 2 desktop backgrounds per minute would actually be an understatement. The attention to detail, character actions, smoothness, shading, lighting, even the physics that are shown with liquids are simply stunning and, when combined with

the crisp and clean voice acting and music, makes watching the movie more enjoyable than writing snarky articles about Trump. Hell, the visuals are so go it could have SAO's plot and still be enjoyable to watch just on the art and sound.

### Plot

The plot is lighthearted, fun, and cheerful, yet deeply compelling at times; it's the kind of film that will have you in hysterics and tears. The story tends to draw from folklore in Japan and uses terms which may be unfamiliar to most viewers. This is OK since, while we may be “missing out” on the background of the metaphors, we do not miss the significance or the impact of them. The story progresses as smoothly as any high budget anime would. Plot-wise the movie shamelessly (and to their credit actually gets away with) pulling *Deus Ex Machina*'s like a nice-

yet-controlling DM. Unfortunately, I felt the ending was subpar and failed to conclude things properly.

### Characters

During body switches, the posture, movements, and voices of the characters match wondrously, giving a great level of realism and charm to the characters. Taki would stand straighter and conduct Mitsuha's body more loosely, and talk in a seemingly more mature voice; and Mitsuha would appear more timid and shy than Taki, and would talk in a gentle soothing voice. Throughout the story, emotions are on display in a variety of forms and the animation reflects each named character's personality well.

*Kimi no Na wa* is rated PG-13 and comes out in theaters in the US in July. FUNimation streaming is expected to be available this year.

## Trouble in Tokyo-to: A Review of Jet Set Radio

WILL KLANAC  
2A MECHATRONICS

Disclaimer: unauthorized graffiti is bad and should be avoided, particularly when under duress of a disproportionate response of force. You have a clean slate, though, so let's pack it up, take a head count and book—you did what? Every neighborhood you say? Even the trash cans?

Back in 2000, a game by the name of Jet

Set Radio was released for the Sega Dreamcast. Over a decade later in 2012, it was re-released on some of the 7th generation consoles—Xbox 360 and PS3—and saw a port to PC arriving on steam.

The game starts with a young lad named Beat who runs away from home and, like most aspiring young entrepreneurs, decides to start up his own gang called the GG's. As with any budding startup, he requires assets, so he recruits two members named Gum and

Tab, who will form the core of your group and help establish territory for your gang. With this your group begins to indiscriminately tag all inanimate objects and surfaces in sight, slowly conquering the surrounding area through show of artistic force.

During your expansion the GG's are antagonized by the police, who also have full control over military forces. You too may fully appreciate the consequences of this when you are laughing maniacally and running around in circles with an attack helicopter on your heels. Aside from the police, there are other gangs and corporate assassins who want your heads.

On now to the core topics: gameplay, theme, setting, and aesthetic appeal. Gameplay is structured through missions, in between and before which you can idle in your garage, customizing your sprays, and swaying to the tune any music you've unlocked. Missions consist of moving around on roller skates and tagging a number of locations within a time limit while avoiding your adversaries. Some people have voiced distaste with the controls due to an inability to maneuver in the air and the difficulty in changing one's momentum when already in motion. This coupled with an at-times-unreliable camera can make the

game somewhat frustrating to play for first-timers.

The spirit of the game is one of rebelling against the suppression of personal expression in teenagers and young adults. Its setting is inspired by Tokyo, with playable areas being named after cities and wards in the Tokyo metropolitan area: Shibuya, Bentencho, and Kogane. Each area is tied to a specific time of day and different urban areas, so your sights will range from sunset lit water fronts to dank sewers and bustling downhill roads in the city.

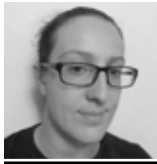
Graphics wise, *Jet Set Radio* was among the first games released in the 21st century to use cell shading. Earlier iterations of cell shading had cropped up in the mid-to-late 90's in games such as *PaRappa the Rapper*. On the musical side, the soundtrack is some parts funky, electronic, and hip hop, with other components mixed in here and there.

Even with shortcomings in gameplay, *Jet Set Radio* is capable of putting a smile on your face with its charming art style, music, and over the top elements. I personally enjoyed meandering around the maps with no intention of completing the missions. The running game time may be low, but even in its brevity it is sweet and, like the sensory candy it is, should be savoured.



Author

# Behaving Like Animals



**CAITLIN MCLAREN**  
4A CHEMICAL

**5 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW**

Humans have always had a complex relationship with animals. On the one hand, animals like dogs and horses have usually been considered our friends, while on the other hand, most cultures have used animals for food, and even if they didn't, they generally used beasts of burden. Animals also had various symbolism attached to them, and religious or cultural practices have led to both animal worship and animal sacrifice, or even a combination of both. In more modern times, scientists have done a lot of animal experimentation, which has yielded both interesting and controversial results.

In our long history with animals, sometimes things have gotten... weird.

**Bears Used To Be All-Purpose Entertainment**

Life back in the day in England could get pretty boring, what with no movies or Internet. Accordingly, the arts and theatre flourished in Elizabethan times, and some of our greatest writing and plays were produced in that age. However, you can only watch so much Shakespeare, and sometimes you just want to see wild animals tearing each other to pieces. One of the most popular forms of entertainment in Elizabethan England was bear-baiting, which meant that a captured bear would be tied to a post. The organizers would then set angry dogs on the bear, and let them duke it out. Sometimes they would cripple the bear beforehand, in order to make things more fair for the

dogs. Betting on this was so intense that Parliament at the time considered banning bear-baiting—on Sundays—lest people gamble on Sundays. The outrage! God created Sundays for the innocent practice of blood sports, not games of chance! Fortunately for the people of England, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth vetoed the bill.

A little while later, watching animals murdering each other was out of fashion. Instead, entertainment was all about gawking at people with birth defects. "Freak shows" were incredibly popular, and one of the most popular exhibits in travelling freak shows was a "pig-faced lady". People would come into a tent, look at what seemed to be a pig's head coming out of the collar of a dress, ooh and aah, and then move on. Was there an epidemic of a rare birth defect? No - the "pig-faced ladies" were bears. Unscrupulous freak show owners would get a trained bear drunk, and when it was unconscious, they would shave its face and paws. The result would be a human-sized creature with a head that, in a dark gloomy tent, looked like a pig's.

Thankfully, we have Netflix these days.

**Shoving Ferrets Down Your Pants Is A Sport**

Yes, that is exactly what it sounds like. It used to be a popular sport in Yorkshire, England, and by "used to" I mean "in the 1970s". To compete in "ferret-legging", all you need to do is tie the bottoms of your pants, shove a couple of ferrets down, and tighten your belt. The objective is to be the person who can keep the ferrets in there the longest, while the ferrets nibble away at your private parts. Are you allowed to wear any sort of protection, or even underwear? Obviously not! This sport still exists, although it is dying

out for obvious reasons. By the way, the current record is five and a half hours.

**Scientists Made Turkeys Attracted To Severed Heads**

In fairness, turkey breeding is a respectable agricultural job, and one which allowed us to gorge ourselves this past weekend. Thus, in context, it makes a certain amount of sense for scientists to investigate the sexuality of male turkeys. However, things went a little off the rails when they decided to study how much of the female turkey the males would attempt to mate with. As it turns out, the turkeys were perfectly happy trying to mate with a severed head on a stick. In fact, it didn't have to be a female—any severed turkey head on a stick would do. Conclusion—turkeys are an entire species of serial killers. Good thing we defeated them this weekend!

**Puritans Jumped To Conclusions**

There's a reason that the word "Puritanical" is still around, and why it implies someone is incredibly prudish, but actually quite a pervert who sees sex in everything. The Puritans actually were kind of like that. For one thing, they were terribly concerned about bestiality, and convinced it was happening everywhere.

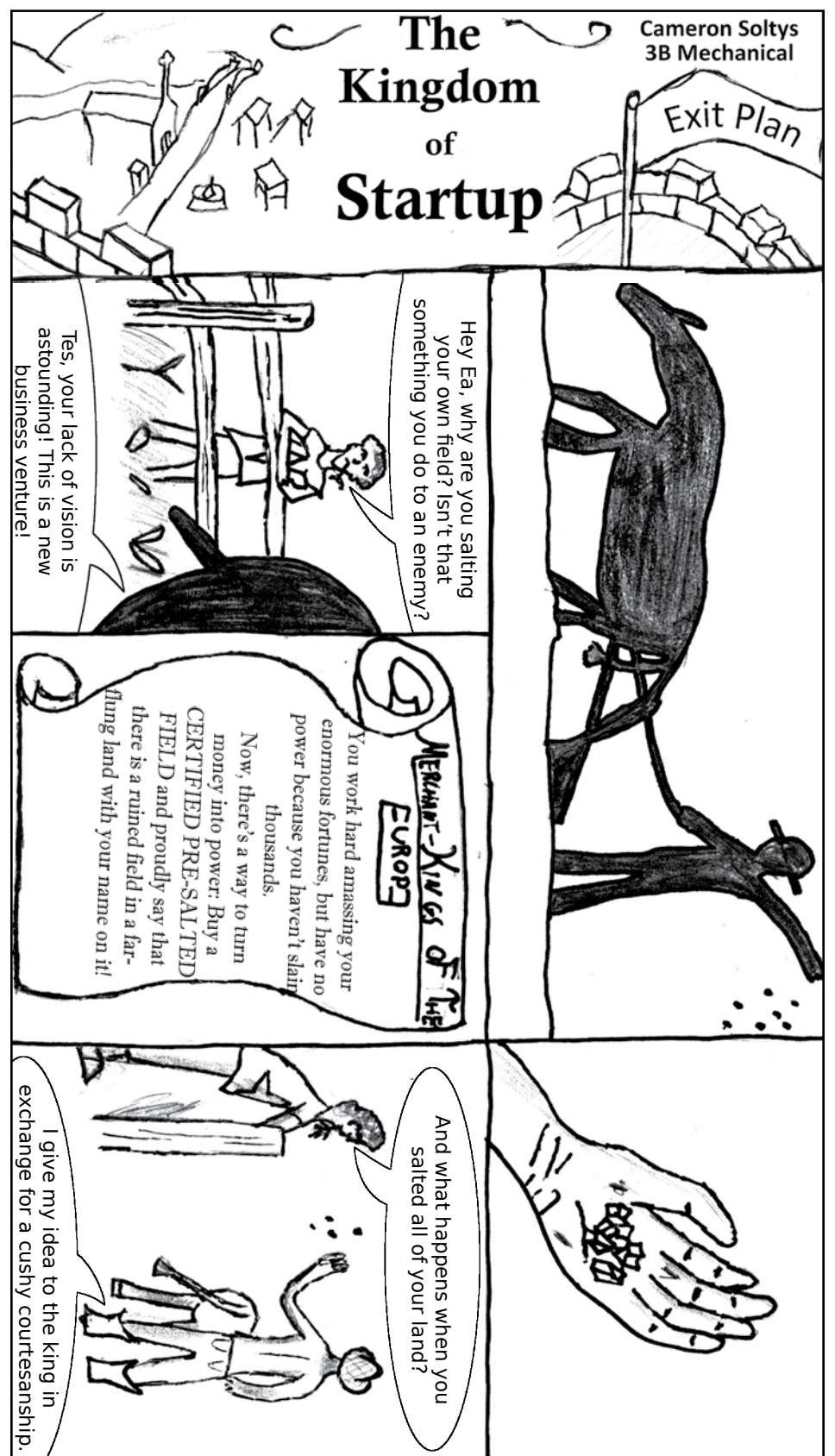
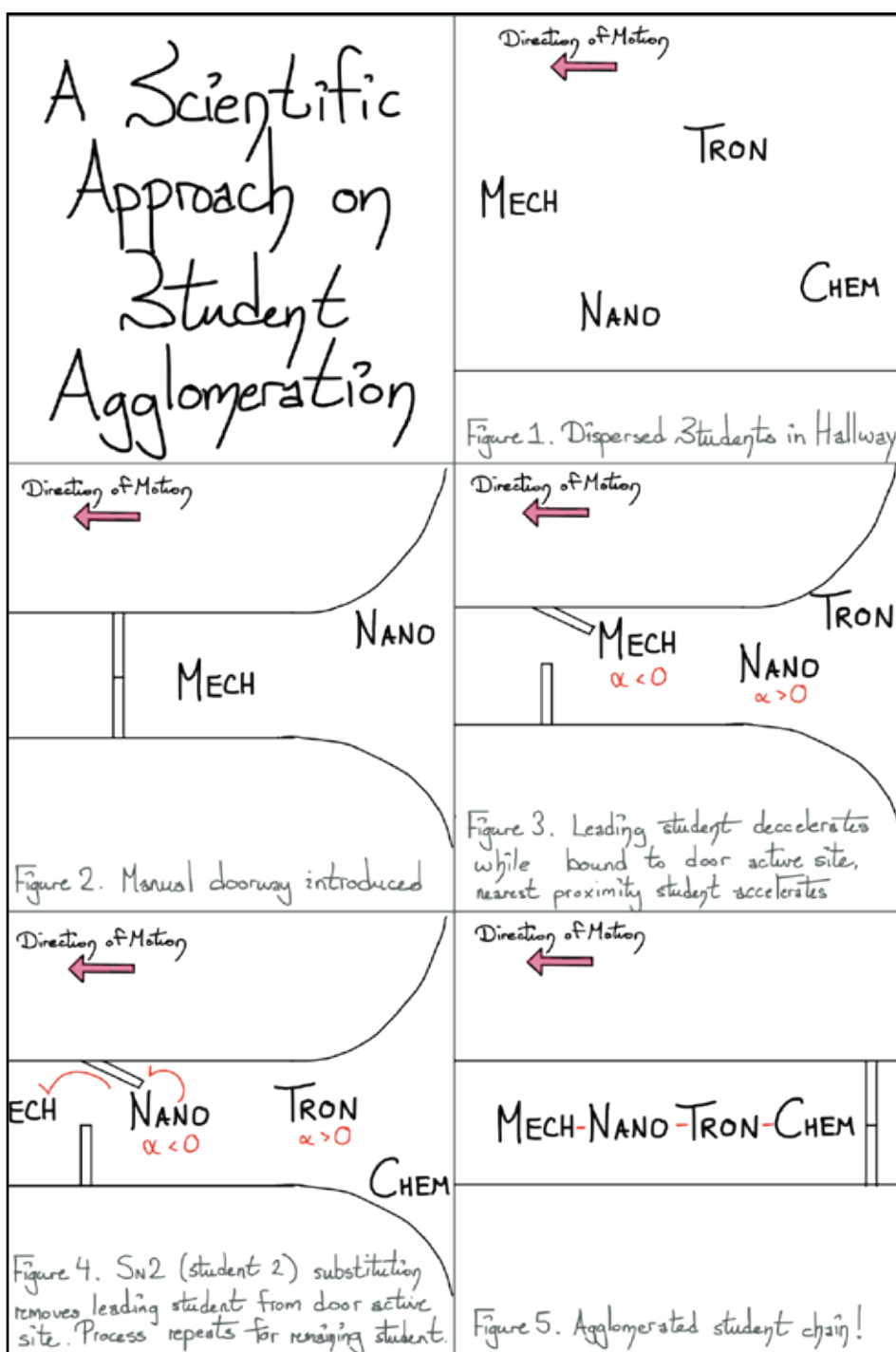
In one case, a pig gave birth to a deformed piglet, which everybody thought to resemble a local man named George Spencer. George was then arrested on suspicion of fathering the piglet, which he

strongly denied. The authorities hinted that he might be shown mercy if he confessed, which he then did, upon which they told him that God would show him mercy and executed him. He was only the second European to be executed in North America. They also killed the pig, because no one could catch a break with the Puritans.

**Hittite Laws Had Loopholes**

In fairness to the Puritans, no culture has been a fan of bestiality, because it's gross. It was illegal even way back in the time of the Hittites, more than three thousand years ago. Hittite law prescribed the death penalty for the wrong sort of animal husbandry—with pigs, sheep, dogs, and cows. However, if you were an intelligent pervert, there were a couple of ways to get out of the death penalty. For one thing, it was completely legal if your partner of choice was a horse or a mule, because reasons. It wasn't just not illegal; the law explicitly stated that there was no penalty in those cases, except that the man in question couldn't become a priest or go near the king afterwards. Priests and kings do have their limits.

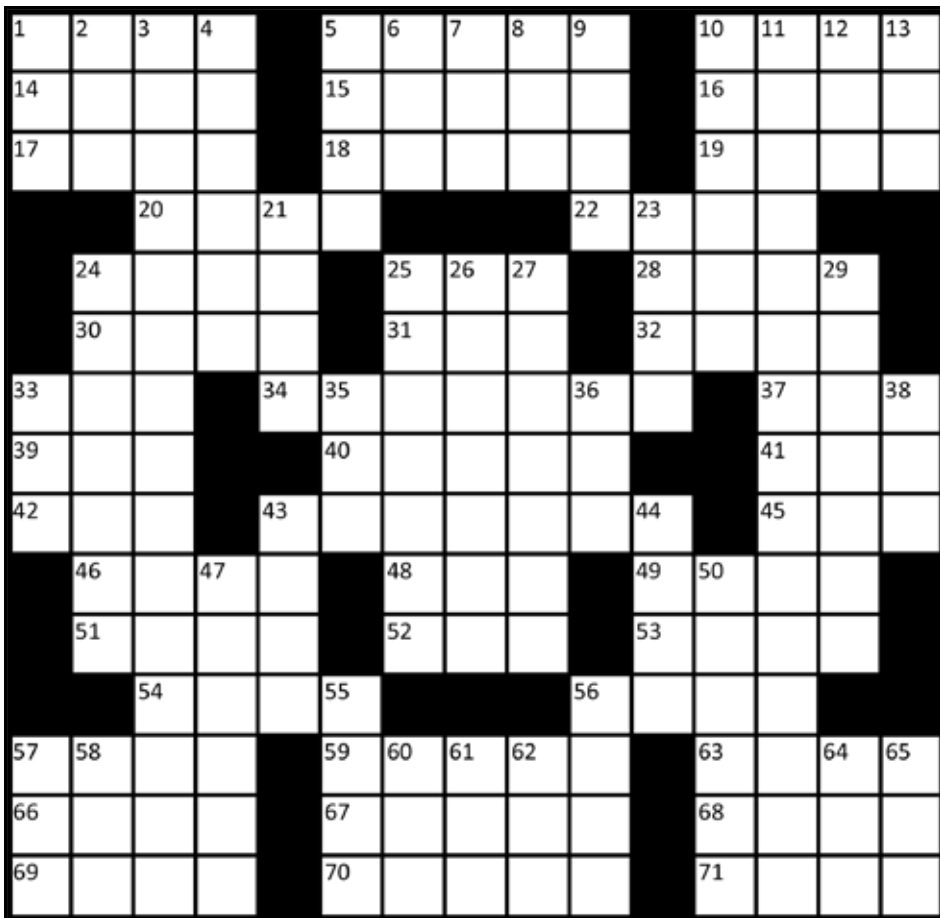
The other way to get out of execution was one that still works today—victim-blaming. If you claimed that the ox or pig or whatever had raped you, as everyone knows oxen and pigs do all the time, you wouldn't be executed. However, there would be a reasonable compromise: in these cases, a random sheep would be executed instead.



# The Iron Crossword

Things to be Thankful for

**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL



**ACROSS**

- 1: As opposed to an opinion
- 5: Mice, rats, or locusts for instance
- 10: Prefix relating to memory
- 14: Sound of apathetic agreement
- 15: Move slowly and silently
- 16: Alternative name for the Aikana tribe of Brazil
- 17: Identifier usually assigned at birth
- 18: Female equivalent to "Bravo"
- 19: A male deer
- 20: Used to navigate between webpages
- 22: NATO phonetic alphabet word for "Z"
- 24: Reed of a loom
- 25: Game system of "Super Mario Bros." (Abbr)
- 28: Past currency of Italy
- 30: Den or cave, often containing mythical creatures
- 31: Established (abbr)
- 32: Desktop Apple computer
- 33: Largest art museum in the US
- 34: A person who relies solely on data
- 37: Lord's Resistance Army cult (abbr)

**DOWN**

- 39: French for "Yes"
- 40: Required to get personal information
- 41: \_\_\_ Chemical, manufacturer of napalm and agent orange
- 42: Small four-wheeled off-road vehicle (abbr)
- 43: Short sleep
- 45: Used by travellers for lodging and food
- 46: "I need a \_\_\_" Bonnie Tyler lyric
- 48: The Institute of Engineering and Technology (abbr)
- 49: \_\_\_ Bitsy Spider
- 51: Used to prevent covert tampering with a letter
- 52: After AB
- 53: Double a radi
- 54: Electromagnetic wave used by doctors
- 56: Movie following the adventures of Lightning McQueen
- 57: Scottish for "those"
- 59: Head of the Assyrian pantheon
- 63: \_\_\_ boy!
- 66: Sigmas
- 67: Incorrect pluralization of "Moose"

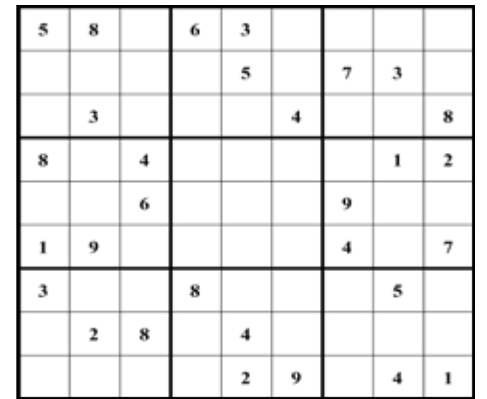
- 68: Money that is owed
  - 69: Undesirable animal
  - 70: Used to suck up liquid for consumption
  - 71: German word for "Earth"
- DOWN**
- 1: You have it till your daddy takes the T-Bird away
  - 2: Exclamation of understanding
  - 3: Test involving material from before and after the midterm
  - 4: "\_\_\_ was, with only a spoon as a weapon" epic story starter
  - 5: Plates onto which electrical components are mounted (abbr)
  - 6: To \_\_\_ is human
  - 7: Large body of salt water
  - 8: 10602\*10e-7 Joules
  - 9: Lose physical control
  - 10: Member of the Islamic faith
  - 11: Volcano, earthquake, or hurricane, for instance
  - 12: Period of geologic history
  - 13: Welding with an expendable electrode and inert gas
  - 21: Classic Greek equivalent to a harp
  - 23: \_\_\_ Qel-Droma, a Jedi from Alderaan
  - 24: Detectives or investigators
  - 25: Relating to power given to family members
  - 26: Personally marked electronically, for instance an email
  - 27: Separate into streaks
  - 29: Abbreviation pronounced as a word
  - 33: Large flightless Australian bird
  - 35: Citation style of most arts and humanities papers
  - 36: Indium Phosphide
  - 38: Bristle-like appendage on grass
  - 43: "Rock and roller \_\_\_ wars" Billy Joel lyric
  - 44: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (abbr)
  - 47: Most hard to find
  - 50: Angry lecture
  - 55: Sweet potato-like root vegetable
  - 56: Team, especially of sailors
  - 57: Larger than a teaspoon (abbr)
  - 58: Colour
  - 60: Place
  - 61: \_\_\_ Royal Highness
  - 62: Country to the south of Canada
  - 64: Not yet determined (abbr)
  - 65: Consumed

# Sudoku

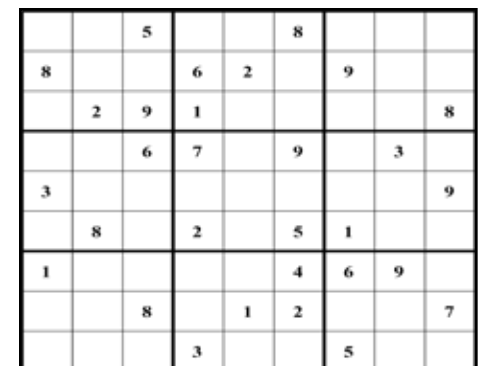
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**CAMERON SOLTYS**  
3B MECHANICAL

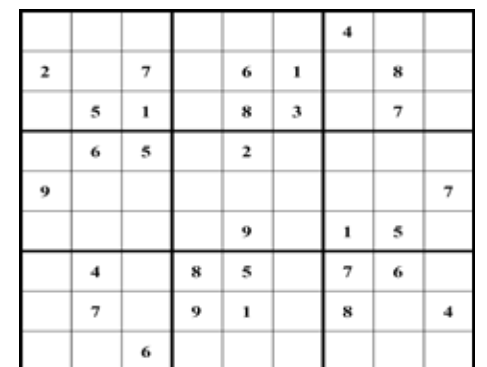
Medium



Hard



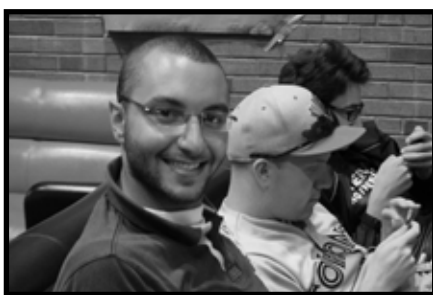
Very Hard



Solutions for previous crosswords can be found on *The Iron Warrior's* website at [iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/distractions](http://iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/distractions).

**THE IRON INQUISITION**  
Vince, Leander, Hira, Sumaita

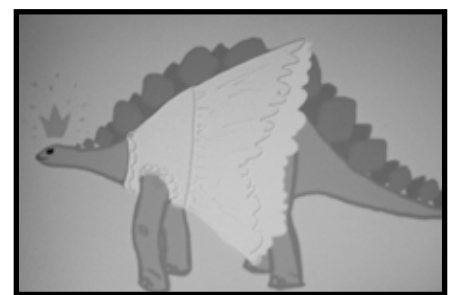
## What Makes You Happy?



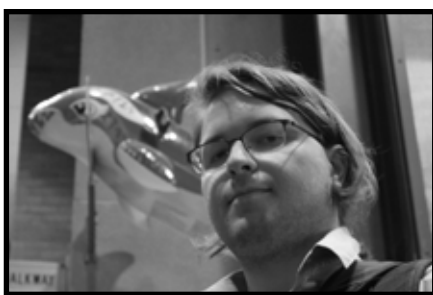
*"EngSoc <3"*  
Abdullah Barakat, 3B Mechanical



*"The Face"*  
The Face



*"Frilly clothes!"*  
Taylor Lindblad, 2B Tron



*"Being with friends"*  
Michael Beauchemin, 2B Chemical



*"Ha-pinness"*  
Trevor 2A, Management



*"Pikachus!"*  
Vince Magas, 3B Management

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