

THE IRON WARRIOR

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Huawei Blacklisted by the American Government



Source: businesslive.co

JANNY WANG
2B NANOTECHNOLOGY

Scrolling past the umpteenth Huawei internship on WaterlooWorks, it is easy to believe that all is well with the company. A peek out from under the rock, however, reveals a litany of dire predictions and doomsday cries.

The Chinese tech giant is, presently, living through decidedly interesting times. A year ago, Huawei executive- and daughter of Huawei's founder- Meng Wanzhou was arrested in Vancouver, by Canadian authorities acting on American request. She is alleged to have fraudulently obtained money from American banks on behalf of Skycom, a Huawei controlled company which violates American sanctions on Iran. This arrest, as Prime Minister Trudeau painstakingly enunciated, was a matter of following the rule of law, quite detached from any political maneuvering- a wise enough

pronunciation which was immediately scuppered when President Trump tweeted veiled offers to drop charges against Mrs. Meng in exchange for a more favourable trade deal.

Presently, the Presidential powers have once more been flexed and Huawei is now blacklisted, banned from using any American made software or hardware- including Android. According to a statement by Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei, the company has long since suspected that something was afoot and prepared for the moment accordingly. A Huawei OS, called "Hongmeng", is in the works and is slated for domestic roll out in fall of 2019.

Nevertheless, the blacklist would severely impact Huawei in the international market. Customers are liable to shy away from phones which lack the familiar Android apps which have today become ubiquitous- including Gmail, Google Maps, and Youtube.

The last time a Western country made a move against Huawei, a host of random expatriates were arrested in retaliation on

trumped on charges of espionage. This time, however, the Chinese government might decide to respond with slightly more grace.

In a fit of chivalry, Ren Zhengfei told the media that he would oppose any retaliatory measures against Apple, which could see as much as a 29% hit should China embargo its products. It seems dubious whether he would make such declarations at all, without the approval of the Chinese government- so America's tech darlings are, for the moment, probably safe.

This ban follows intermittent debate about the potential security threat posed by Huawei and other Chinese telecommunications companies. Politicians and journalists have routinely called for Huawei to be banned from the 5G network, on the basis that any major Chinese company is apt to act as the intelligence arm of the Chinese Communist Party.

Now, Trump has certainly impaired, if not scuppered, Huawei's 5G aspirations; several British mobile carriers have booted Huawei from the planned 5G roll out and a

British chip company has pulled its silicon technology from Huawei.

Like most of the attacks in this trade war, the ban is a double edged sword; Huawei's technology is now so ubiquitous in the United States that a ban could leave rural communities without service. Seven hundred million has been allocated by the American Senate to replace Huawei technology, but this has prompted the typical complaints about inadequacy.

Immediately after issuing the ban, President Trump suspended it for ninety days, allowing the by now thoroughly beleaguered tech giant a modicum of breathing room. It would not be terribly surprising if he were to renew the suspension, or withdraw the ban altogether, as the political winds shift. Trump has previously lifted penalties on another Chinese tech company, ZTE, and has lately made some noise about including Huawei as part of a trade deal. For the moment at least, he has made the panoply of WaterlooWorks jobs at least a modicum less tempting.

Letter From the Editor

The (Not So) Glorious Twenty First of May, 1871

JANNY WANG
2B NANOTECHNOLOGY

As editor of the Iron Warrior, I have a couple hundred words to rant or proselytize as I please— and finding nothing more pleasing than history, I intend to devote these letters to a recollection of what happened at approximately this date.

The end of May is easily filled by the Paris Commune. The word ‘Commune’ conjures up images of the flower laden hippies of the 1960s, but here refers to the municipal government of the City of Paris. The first Paris Commune was formed during the French Revolution, and while it was briefly an insurrectionary force under the auspices of Danton, it was decidedly neither socialist nor hippy.

To sum up the revolving door of revolution which defined nineteenth century France; the first French Revolution led to a constitutional monarchy, which transformed into a republic after a few bouts of mob violence. After a spate of war and decapitation, Napoleon took the reins; when he was defeated, the crowned heads of Europe brought back the old monarchy in a slightly subdued form. In 1830, the people of Paris duly rose up and drove out the monarchy in the Three Glorious Days; this noble republican endeavor landed them a third king, thanks in part to one Adolphe Thiers.

In 1848 the people of Paris rose up again and established the Second Republic of France, which violently suppressed a worker’s revolt and then elected Napoleon’s nephew Prince President.

Louis Napoleon the Third was a pale shadow of his uncle— but happily for him, the people of France had also gotten progressively stupider in the intervening fifty years and so, without much ado, he finagled his way out of a Republic and into the Second French Empire.

Unhappily for him, the people of Germany had not gotten stupider; when he declared war on the newly ascendant Prussia, Otto von Bismarck kicked his ass, whereupon the people of Paris rose up and declared the Third French Republic.

The Third French Republic began under somewhat inauspicious circumstances; the people of Paris were besieged by the Prussians, cut off from the rest of France, and eating rats. The Republic sent out a handful of National Guardsmen out on suicide charges, and then surrendered.

The good faith the Republic had thus far accumulated by these valiant deeds was squandered in the eyes of the radicals when the first elections— poorly advertised and generally confused— returned a crop of royalists, led by the same Adolphe Thiers that had cheated them of the 1830 Revolution. This government relocated the government from Paris to Versailles, which

also did little to endear them to Parisians.

It was widely believed that the new government had sold them out to the Prussians, and were plotting a restoration of the monarchy. The latter point was true; they former, dubious.

Adolphe Thiers sent the army to retrieve certain cannons which had been placed in the working class Parisian district of Montmartre during the siege. This was meant to be done under cover of night, to avoid a riot— and the army did indeed manage to secure the cannons on the night of March 18 1871. The army did not, however, remember to bring horses to tow away the cannons, and so the soldiers were obliged to loiter awkwardly until horses were found. The sun rose, the tocsin was sounded, and Paris rioted.

Aside from a handful of lynched generals, it was a decently peaceable affair; the National Guard rose in strength and the government of Versailles was driven out of Paris. The city was now in the control of the revolutionaries.

The revolutionaries were split into roughly three camps. The Blanquists represented a kind of proto-Bolshevism— they had the same ruthless, authoritarian communist tendencies and the same notion of a revolutionary vanguard, but without the competence. The Jacobins were a relic of 1792, the party of Robespierre and Danton and Saint Just, with a bit of socialist flavour thrown in. The Proudhonists were moderate anarchists, who believed in decentralization, direct democracy, puppies and kittens, and getting themselves killed whenever possible.

This merry band could then have marched onto Versailles and returned with Adolphe Thiers’ head on a spike, and the world would have woken up to a fait accompli and a socialist France.

The Blanquists did indeed advocate this plan; the Proudhonists and Jacobins vetoed it. The Proudhonists, in particular, believed that the rest of France would join them in repudiating the Versailles government and then the proletariat could simply ignore their enemies out of existence.

The uptick of all this leftist finagling was that the revolutionaries sat and waited while Adolphe Thiers massed an army to march on Paris.

Presently, however, elections were held and the Paris Commune was officially convened. Decrees were issued to abolish the death penalty and military conscription, to establish labour rights and women’s rights, and a host of other progressive causes. All that stood in the way of their new socialist utopia was the fact that they were all about to be killed by the army of Adolphe Thiers.

The Proudhonists remained opposed to all the panoply of an insurrectionary state. The Jacobins and Blanquists, opposed to the prospect of imminent death, overruled them and began preparations for the military defence of Paris— but this was

done in a manner so haphazard that it was almost inferior to the idealistic solution of the Proudhonists.

The National Guard was left to a rotating roster of commanders, with or without previous military experience, who bungled about without any clear chain of command before being sacked by the government of the Commune.

The internal security of the Commune was given over to one Raoul Rigault, a Blanquist and militant atheist with the rare gift of competence, described by contemporary newspapers as “fond of good wine, always talking...astonishing the novices with his gift of speech... much appreciated by girls of low condition”. He became, in effect, the leader of the secret police. The Proudhonists made angry anarchist noises in the background.

All of this frantic, endearing incompetence was put to an end by the forces of the regular French army on the week of the 21st of May, 1871. The Commune, in its haste, apparently just kind of forgot about a gate leading into Paris and the army of Adolphe Thiers simply walked in. This marked the beginning of the Bloody Week, during which the army slogged its way into the center of Paris, street by street.

Captured Communards were lined up against the wall and shot if their hands smelled on gunpowder. The Communards, in turn, executed a handful of political prisoners, held as hostages to guarantee the safety of the National Guardsmen, including the Archbishop Darboy.

Having failed to destroy the actual ‘bourgeois state’, the Commune settled for destroying the physical monuments of the old regime, by burning the Hotel de Ville, the Tuileries, and a host of churches— including, unsuccessfully, the Cathedral at Notre Dame. For a week, fires raged throughout the city of Paris, while Communards and soldiers fought in the streets below.

About ten to twenty thousand insurrectionaries died in the fighting or were executed in the aftermath, including Raoul Rigault and other prominent Communards. Survivors were imprisoned or deported to New Caledonia, before being eventually pardoned in 1880.

This episode effectively marked an end to the Parisian insurrectionary tradition which had begun in the French Revolution of 1789.

If you want a more comprehensive account of the misadventures and deaths of these (and other) plucky rebels, I refer you to Mike Duncan’s podcast, *Revolutions*, which is available on Spotify and is replete with tales of revolutionaries dying in horrible ways. Meanwhile, if you have any other interesting historical events you want advertised to the student populace, reach out to me at iwarrior@uwaterloo.ca!

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ION Train To Actually be In Service

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It seemed, for a time, that the ION train had joined the Winds of Winter, Half Life 3, and the PAC expansion in the hellish limbo of suspended projects— but now the dismal veil has been torn aside and a ray of hope shines through the grey mists. The PAC expansion has progressed beyond a pit in the ground, George RR Martin has announced a tentative deadline of August 2020 for the Winds of Winter, and the ION Train— praise be to God— actually has a grand opening date!

The project was slated for completion in July of 2017. This, very naturally, did not happen, courtesy of Bombardier, and students were, instead, treated to a seemingly interminable round of testing from mid-2018 onwards. This minor inconvenience cost the region upwards of twenty million dollars— but, as they say, all's well that

ends well, and the trains are, at last, here.

Service will commence on the light rail on June 21, 2019. It will run from Conestoga Mall to the University of Waterloo, and from there to Fairway Station through Uptown Waterloo and Downtown Kitchener. Hereafter, students will be able to enjoy a smooth and peaceable train ride to the mall after class, where they will be able to loiter about the food court and peruse the inadequately stocked Indigo. This also represents a victory for students living in Uptown Waterloo, Kitchener and Cambridge, who may gain about a dozen minutes of sleep every morning without missing significantly more class.

The train is scheduled to run every eight to ten minutes during weekdays and 15 to 30 minutes during the evenings and weekends. Given the marvelous competence thus displayed, it is much to be wondered if this hopelessly optimistic schedule will bear any resemblance to reality— but, until the ION train is actually unveiled, we may all shelter in sweet fantasies.

Unfortunately, the unveiling of ION will

lead to major changes in bus schedules. A whole panoply of routes will be 'streamlined', extended, split or discontinued, beginning on June 24 2019. The unhappy denizens who live all along Columbia will probably suffer for want of the 7E, which has been a cherished community institution since time immemorial. Its loss will probably be keenly mourned, not least for students who have 8:30 lectures.

Another point of collateral: the students who have courses in their newer engineering buildings, or who need to find solace in the plaza in between classes. They are apt, now, to find their path obstructed more than previously. Especially to be pitied are those who are still incapable of finding their way to and from the E7 bridge without getting lost, or those too lazy to climb a dozen of flights of stairs. They may find consolation in one fact, however; if they get hit by a train, they need not pay off the rest of their tuition.

This is by no means the end of ION. Stage Two of the ION project will see the LRT system extended to downtown Cam-

bridge. This project is still in its planning phases, having only been greenlit recently by the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, and will probably remain thus at least until A Dream for Spring is published.

It may well transpire that this article is as pointless as Naomi Wolf's book; we may wake on the morning of June 20th to find that the opening is now scheduled for February 31st 2023.



Via Grand River Transit Website

May We Give Credit Where Credit is Due?



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These past months there has been nearly endless commentary about Theresa May's "failures" as she attempted to deliver some form of a Brexit agreement through the British Parliament. Full of political betrayal, including a failed coup by hard-Brexiters of her own Conservative Party and the defeat of her Brexit proposal by the largest majority in recent government history, the struggle that became the bane of the Prime Minister's leadership finally brought the saga to a close. On Friday, Theresa May announced that she would resign as leader of the Conservative Party in June and make way for a new Prime Minister.

There has been much anger directed at May from all sides through the various stages of the Brexit debate following the 2016 referendum. Her opponents (the loudest of whom were once members of her own cabinet) have been quick to blame the Brexit impasse on the Prime Minister's "stubbornness", "inability to negotiate", or any number of other perceived character flaws which they believe are responsible for the lackluster Brexit compromise that she brought to the House of Commons.

Some said her plan went too far and would cause chaos. Others claimed it kept the country too close to the European Union. But no one, save the Right Honourable Theresa May, presented a feasible, planned out option for MPs to consider. Sure, there were a series of "Indicative Votes" in Parliament that took place after the House of Commons rejected May's deal, but all these votes – for Brexit, against Brexit, for a referendum, against a referendum, for the Irish Backstop, against the Irish Backstop – all failed. MPs did not compromise nor offer a compromise. Why would they? It's much easier to stubbornly reject everything you don't like and dump the blame on the Prime Minister than it is to show leadership and put aside political ambition in order to deliver progress for the British people.

It's not hard to believe that Theresa May did not love the agreement that resulted from her negotiations with the European Union. But it seemed like she wholeheartedly believed – sometimes to a fault – that it was the best possible compromise for the United Kingdom. She recognized the realities of the situation: the issue of free movement of people, the delicate relationship between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and the economic costs associated with different levels of withdrawal from the European Union.

She also allowed her MPs to vote freely on Brexit matters, knowing full well that many party members disagreed with her plan. May could have easily called for whipped votes and forced MPs that disagreed to resign from her party or stay silent. Instead, she acknowledged the differences in the party and allowed for the party's internal debates to take place in the public instead of behind closed doors. This destroyed whatever control she had over her MPs but supported the most basic principle of riding-based, first-past-the-post electoral systems: that the MP's foremost responsibility is to represent the view of his/her constituents.

The 2017 snap election that May called, where her Conservative Party lost their majority in Parliament, supports this respect for the Parliamentary system. Although the results were the opposite of what she was hoping for, it delivered a proper mandate to deliver Brexit (amongst other things). Theresa May recognized that there were material changes and eventually came to the principled decision that it was important for the British people to have a say on who they wanted to represent them when the final Brexit decision was made. Elections are always risky affairs, but when the challenges a government is facing change dramatically – as occurred with Brexit – it is important for the people to be given the

chance to reflect on who will best support their views on a local level.

The purpose of this article is not to support Theresa May, or her Brexit plan. Those topics would require numerous other articles to discuss properly. But I believe, if we look at solely at the circumstances surrounding Brexit, that the Prime Minister deserves some credit for what she has done. Theresa May took on one of the most difficult tasks when she became the Prime Minister responsible for leading Britain through Brexit. And she stood in the House, time and time again, to advocate for the deal that she saw as the most realistic given the difficult circumstances. She gave the House of Commons numerous chances to offer up other solutions and, when none were given, again presented her own. She may not have been charismatic or visionary or political enough to triumph, but there's no doubt that she acknowledged the importance of the House of Commons in the decision making process and put her job on the line to present a compromise when all other British leaders lacked the balls to do the same.

The Anti Abortion Frenzy

Did She Just Say the F- Word?



SAMRIDHI SHARMA
3N CHEMICAL

So, if you have been following the news at all lately or been on any type of social media in the past week, I am sure that you are aware of the wave of anti-abortion agendas that has taken over the United States of America in the last week. Normally, this is when I would begin my rant about how wrong this is and how we need to change the world one mind at a time, but today, I just want to educate you (and myself, in the process) about what is happening vis-à-vis abortions in the United States.

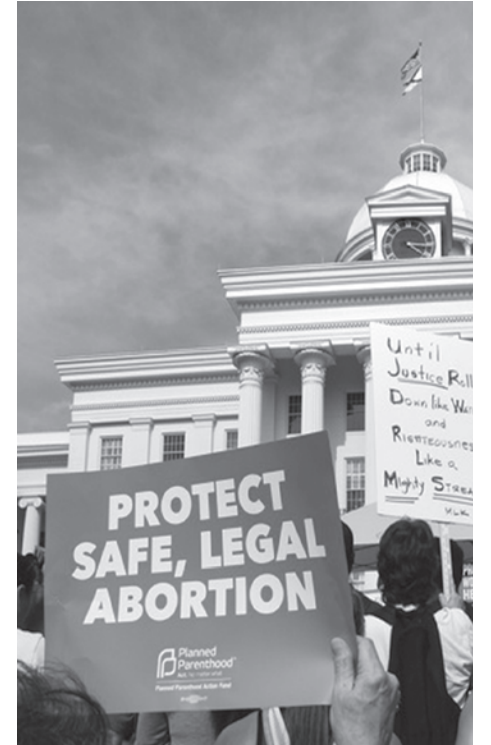
Here is a quick timeline. In 1973, in a landmark decision of the US Supreme Court, *Roe v. Wade*, the court ruled that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution protects a pregnant woman's right to choose if she wants to have an abortion or not. However, this right was ruled to be not absolute, meaning, the government's interest lies in protecting the health of the pregnant woman, and protecting the life of the foetus. Over forty years later, on May 7, 2019, Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed a "heartbeat bill". As the name suggests, the heartbeat bill prevents pregnant women from getting an abortion once the doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat in the womb, which usually happens around the sixth week of pregnancy. This is especially strict considering most women do not even know that they are pregnant at six weeks. But, in an even stricter move, Alabama proposed to completely criminalize abortions, except for when the pregnant women's life is at risk. Not even incest or rape are exempt from the proposed law. Sixteen states in the U.S. have passed or are trying to pass

bans on abortion after a heartbeat can be detected in the womb.

The pro-life school of thought has existed for years. The reason that the *Roe v. Wade* ruling is trying to be overturned now is because the pro-life agenda gained momentum with Donald Trump's appointment of two conservative judges to the U.S. Supreme court. And while the abortion has not been outlawed yet, there is cause for concern.

There are rape victims out there who are not in a position to raise another life right now. There are people who were failed by contraceptives. There are also people who simply choose to not bring another living person into this world. How is this still a point of argument? People who need to make this decision for themselves are the people who should be responsible for the decision. It does not get any simpler than that.



From *Intelligencer*

The Hypocrisy of Alabama's New Abortion Law

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In 2014 Alabama passed legislation, drafted by Eric Johnston, prohibiting "Sharia law" (whatever that means), claiming it "violates women's rights". Subsequently, Eric Johnston drafted Alabama's new abortion law, one of the most restrictive in the world, which prohibits abortions in all circumstances except "in order to prevent a serious health risk to the unborn child's mother." It also seeks to criminalize doctors who perform abortions with grotesque prison sentences, up to 99 years. This law, which has been widely condemned, demonstrates the hypocrisy and barbarity of the anti-abortion movement which claims to be motivated by humanitarian concerns.

The "humanitarian" concerns of reactionaries can usually be quickly be debunked as a farce. While the corporate press screams about the suffering in Venezuela (worsened by Western sanctions supported by the reactionaries under guise of solidarity with Venezuelans), there is nearly complete silence about the tragedy in Yemen, which is the worst humanitarian crisis in a century, created by the Canada-US-UK backed Saudi bombing campaign. Over 10 million people are at risk of starvation, for the profits of Western arms

corporations and American hegemony, while the media screams about the horrors of "Venezuelan socialism." There is no altruism here, merely a thinly veiled desire for control.

The humanitarian concerns of anti-abortion activists can similarly be rejected. Fetuses, or "unborn children" are an easy group to represent, as pastor Dave Barnhart articulated eloquently. They cannot ask for anything nor can they contradict any of your claims. Unlike migrants, the poor, the incarcerated, or the addicted, they have no baggage, and once they are born they can be abandoned. This is the perfect group to advocate for, for those who want to maintain a humanitarian veneer while doing nothing benevolent. The idea that the protection of non-sentient fetuses is more significant than the bodily autonomy of women is simply barbaric. The state has no right to prohibit one of the most common and intimate medical procedures in our society.

As history repeatedly illustrates, those, like Eric Johnston, who seek to assert that women or sexual minorities are under attack from foreign invaders, often pose a far greater threat to such groups than the "invaders." From the lynching of Black men in the Deep South, often justified on false accusations of sexual violence against white women (who did

not attain suffrage until 1920), to Lord Cromer's claim that British colonialism in Egypt would "liberate" women while he worked against women's suffrage in Britain, Western imperialists and reactionaries have a strong commitment to what Gayatri Spivak has called "saving brown women from brown men." While imperialists shudder at the barbarity of Boko Haram and the Taliban denying education to young girls, they are silent about the US financing of the Contras, right wing death squads in Nicaragua who brutally raped women and worked hard to destroy the remarkable educational and feminist achievements of the Sandinista government. Former Canadian Minister of Defence Peter Mackay claimed "ensuring millions of girls are able to attend school" was the rationale for the War in Afghanistan. Perhaps someone should ask Mackay how he feels about the Canadian alliance with Saudi Arabia, where women have no rights, or whether bombing a country into the Stone Age and murdering civilians is the best way to ensure women's education. Domestic violence in North Africa horrifies Westerners but Bill Clinton's bombing of the Al-Shifa pharmaceutical facility in the Sudan (on completely false information), which killed perhaps thousands of women and inflicted enormous human suffering,

elicits little anger.

One of the most infuriating aspects of the text of the bill and a talking point of anti-abortion activists is that the movement for "the humanity of the unborn child" is an appeal "to the truth of universal human equality", which was the basis "for the anti-slavery movement." This point is barbarous for many reasons, especially regarding the history of the transAtlantic slave trade. Originally the slave trade consisted exclusively of young strong Black men as they were better workers. Black women were kidnapped from Africa and brought to the Americas primarily to serve as reproducers of slaves. To claim that abortion activists would work alongside slavers is so heinous as it ignores the fact that these abortion laws are part of a centuries long tradition of denying Black women reproductive autonomy. Wealthier women (who are more likely white) will likely be able to travel elsewhere for abortion access whereas poorer women (disproportionately Black) may not have that option. The maternal mortality rate in Alabama for Black women is 27.6 per 100000, almost five times higher than the rate for white women. The infant mortality rate in Alabama is also one of the highest in the US and 26% of children in Alabama live in poverty. Lawmakers who are dedicated "to the truth of universal human equality" should seek to rectify the barbaric poverty and inequality that exists in their states, a legacy of slavery, rather than fear monger about foreign demons and marginalize the most vulnerable members of their society.

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The Crisis In Venezuela

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Earlier this year, American senator, Marco Rubio, shared graphic images of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's rape and murder on Twitter. The lynching of Gaddafi was a consequence of American intervention and regime change, as well as anger over decades of brutal repression under his reign. This tweet was an open threat to Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro whose Presidency has been challenged by the President of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido.

Guaido's claim to the presidency, he says, is based on an interpretation of Article 233 of the constitution, ironically drafted by former President Chavez, who picked Maduro to be his successor. Guaido, with the aid of Iran-Contra era war criminal Elliot Abrams and far right Brazilian leader Bolsonaro, recently attempted to topple the Maduro government. His attempt failed but the chaos remains. This episode in Latin America highlights the significance of understanding how this crisis arose, the history of anti-imperialist movements, and attempts to build an alternative to hegemonic global capital.

From the discovery of its vast oil reserves, which are the largest in the world, to the 1980's, Venezuelan elites enjoyed the highest standard of living in South America. However, the country suffered from persistent social inequalities and extreme poverty. Racial and class hatred were, and remain, strong. The 1980's oil glut had severe consequences for the Venezuelan economy, which faced many issues exacerbated by the austerity programs and state repression of the ruling neoliberal oligarchy. Against this backdrop, Hugo Chavez attempted to seize power in a coup in 1992. Although this failed, it earned him a significant base of support and in 1998 he was elected as president of Venezuela.

The beginning of Chavez' reign was tumultuous, with a rise in economic growth, followed by a drop as a result of falling oil prices. The situation was exacerbated by an attempted American coup in 2002. However, after the coup was subverted, the Venezuelan economy grew substantially under the Chavez government, largely driven by high oil prices. Inflation, unemployment, and poverty all dropped significantly between 1998 and 2013 and the GDP per capita more than doubled.

However, despite major improvements, Chavez never diversified the economy and increased the country's dependence on oil revenue. He also lowered oil production and gave significant amounts of oil away for free or sold it below market value to places such as Haiti. Chavez overspent on social services and did not save enough for future economic problems. Corruption was also a problem for the government; loyalists, rather than technocrats, were given control of the expropriated industries, and the regime was criticized for authoritarian tendencies. However, it should be noted that corruption and authoritarianism are common in developing countries and were present in previous Venezuelan administrations. Venezuela also faced significant economic reprisals from the United States and other Western powers, in the form of coup attempts and sanctions beginning in 2015. Whether American sanctions and sabotage or government mismanagement is primarily to blame is largely irrelevant. These factors have both contributed to the crisis.

Guaido's claim to the presidency is highly contested. The recent elections were likely fraudulent and the main opposition did not participate; however that does not necessarily legitimate Guaido's claim. Chavez was also called a "dictator" by the press, when he was elected in internationally monitored elections and maintained strong popular support. Dubious democracy is far from foreign in the region; in Brazil, Lula de Silva was barred from running for office, but the results of those elections were not disputed. Guaido supporters claim that he is a social democrat or centre-left politician; however Venezuelan analysis asserts that every politician supported by Washington is declared a moderate, no matter how extreme. Regardless, whether his rise to power would be desirable is not the central question. Maduro has not agreed to step down and the military remains favourable to the current government. This makes a peaceful transfer of power unlikely. Maduro and his allies also refuse to hold another election as they are currently deeply unpopular. What then, remains?

American sanctions and threats of military intervention must be adamantly rejected. The history of US intervention in Latin America should assure anyone that the United States does not have the best interests of the Venezuelan people at heart. American regime change or intervention has led to worsening situations in Haiti, Yemen and elsewhere. The human rights record of Columbia, Saudi Arabia,

and UAE are far worse than Venezuela. The example brought up by Marco Rubio is telling. Gaddafi was admittedly brutally repressive, but he also transformed Libya into the most prosperous nation in Africa with the fifth highest GDP per capita and impressive literacy rates. The aftermath of American military intervention has been devastating for Libya, which now has burgeoning slave markets and is marked by sectarian violence. This clearly illustrates that the United States has no concern for the people suffering but is rather determined to destroy any government opposed to their neoliberal hegemony. Beyond the question of unintended consequences, the United States has no business interfering in the affairs of a sovereign nation whose citizenry- with a few exceptions- overwhelmingly rejects military intervention. Military intervention would qualify as the crime of aggression in international law.

The sanctions on Venezuela must also be opposed as they directly harm the poorest Venezuelans the most. Journalist Abby Martin asserted that sanctions are essentially an act of war, and the sanctions were likened to "medieval sieges of towns" by former UN special rapporteur Alfred de Zayas. The sanctions and economic warfare by the US and other Western powers have a severe impact on the economy and are killing civilians, according to Alfred de Zayas and the Center for Economic and Policy Research, despite claims by American media that they are "limited" and political in scope. These sanctions have greatly impacted the economy, costing billions in government revenue each year- revenue which could buy food and essential supplies. The economic warfare against Venezuela is reminiscent of Nixon's goal of "making the Chilean economy scream" after socialist leader Salvador Allende was elected in the 1970, and before toppling the government and imposing a fascist military dictatorship ruled by Pinochet.

A negotiated settlement between the government and opposition, as Mexico and the Vatican have offered to mediate, is the only way forward. To end the economic crisis, economic warfare must end. The world must reject the logic of imperialism and military intervention, and respect the sovereignty of an independent nation. Propaganda reminiscent of previous American imperial wars in Iraq and Vietnam is already being shamelessly distributed by the media. The future of Venezuela should be determined by Venezuelans.

How could this story have gone differently? Despite the disaster in Venezuela, leftist governments across Latin America have had major successes that deserve to be recognized. According to the Washington Post, "under Lula, Brazil became the world's eighth-largest economy, more than 20 million people rose out of acute poverty" and the country's living standards improved significantly. Rafael Correa's leftist government in Ecuador also reduced the poverty levels, raised living standards, and made the country more egalitarian. El Salvador, Costa Rica, Uruguay, and Bolivia have all had significant economic growth and reductions in poverty levels as well. Women's rights, workers rights, and the rights of sexual minorities have been expanded in many of these societies. These changes are remarkable. After five centuries of colonialism and capitalist exploitation, these countries have moved towards more egalitarian prosperity, democratization, and regional integration. There have been many problems, which persist. However, the successes need to be recognized and celebrated.



Clashes Between Anti- Government Protestors and the Army in Caracas, May 1st (Via CNN)

Point Vs. Counterpoint

POINT

STONE HE
2B MECHANICAL

During this time of year, grade twelve students are confirming their offers and preparing for the next step of their lives. Some of them will go into engineering, where they will either specialize immediately, or take a year or two to decide what engineering discipline they would want to pursue. Some may already picture where they will be after graduation, while others are still deciding what they want to do.

An unspecialized first year makes it more difficult for students to transfer to another engineering program, even when the two programs are within the same department. Moreover, a general first year program with competitive entrance to certain programs could be a way to motivate students to get better grades. In addition, unspecialized first years could broaden a student's exposure to other engineering disciplines, which could help them become a more well rounded and interdisciplinary engineer.

One of the advantages of a general first-year program is that students are exposed to different fields of engineering, which allows them to make a more informed decision when they do decide to specialize. Even students feel that ready to specialize in their first year might change their minds when they get a taste of what their field is really like. It would be better for students to be exposed to different engineering fields in first-year, rather than discovering that they did not like their program later and redoing first year again. Students can get a better idea of what they would specialize in if a general first year program is implemented.

With a general first year program, first-year students could obtain a base knowledge in all fields of engineering. Even though some engineering students have done work outside of their own specialized fields, being exposed to a variety of fields in a more formal teaching environment would make it easier to do work outside of their specialization.

In some schools, such as McMaster

Should Waterloo Engineering have a general first year?

University, students specialize in their respective engineering programs after first year. However, since the spots in the upper year programs are limited, the university offers students with a higher admission average a free choice to any of their upper year programs. A similar system involving first year marks could also be implemented. Having a general first year program could be a way to motivate students to develop better study habits and obtain higher grades.

Therefore, the general first year program would be beneficial for students who are not sure what they want to do, and students who want to focus on one field but are willing to learn about the other engineering fields. Being in a general first year can sometimes motivate students to perform better to get the specialization they wanted. Overall, a general first-year program would open more doors and opportunities for first-year students than specialized first-year programs. It would make students try out different fields of engineering before making a life long decision to pursue a certain path.

KAI HUANG
2B COMPUTER

The fact that many other engineering schools have a general first year before branching off into specialty subjects is a fact that astounds me. The main arguments that can be found for the general first year are that it allows all students to be on the same page in terms of academic skill, that it allows students to understand exactly which discipline they would prefer to specialize in, and that it allows students to make a wide range of friends. None of these reasons, in my opinion, are significant enough to justify the negatives.

I do agree that a general first year can help in bringing everyone up to speed, especially with how education between schools is known to have such incredible discrepancies. However, due to this, many of the courses become review material to a vast majority of the students, and the question becomes whether it is worth it to hold an entire class back just to benefit the select few. I don't believe it is. Further, if a student is accepted to a University program and chooses to go there, I believe it's a fundamental assumption that the student feels that they are prepared to succeed. It is not the University's responsibility to make up for anything the student themselves lacks.

As far as understanding disciplines go, I disagree that any of the generalized first year courses do a very good job of portraying what further study in that field truly entails. Take McMaster University, for example; the only first-year courses they offer that feed into a specialty are the two chemistry courses, the materials course, and the computation course. While it is possible that a student may realize how much they love chemical engineering after first year, it's much more likely that they just enjoyed the structure of the course or enjoyed the Professor behind it. At Waterloo, even with a specialized first year, most people only really realize they want to change specialties during second year, where courses take on more depth. Finally, it's

COUNTERPOINT

also worth noting again that a general first year for this reason holds back all of us that went to University with a clear idea of where our passion lies.

As far as making a wide range of friends goes, I don't think this has any particular bearing. Having classes shared with every other engineering student means that many of your friends in first year might just drift away later on, and besides, it's a lot easier to make friends if you join a club. Regardless, I think this is a moot point and honestly doesn't deserve much bearing.

My point after all this is honestly pretty straightforward. Most of the purpose of general first year involves sacrificing the needs of the many for the needs of the few. While those that enter without sufficient background or those that enter without knowing a direction may benefit, the vast majority will be forced to suffer through boring classes discussing subjects they're disinterested in. Perhaps their marks will even suffer, causing them to be at a disadvantage in the end. Students would be substantially less employable after the first year, simply because they don't know anything in their field.

High school is provided to everyone as a basic right, allowing them to have enough fundamental knowledge on various topics to choose their own path in life. University is a privilege and a task that students take upon themselves. They should not have to be hand held through school, and the University should not sacrifice the education of everyone else just to assist a select few.



Sandford Fleming Foundation

Professionalism.
Leadership.
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The SFF Memorial Leadership Award Nominations

In recognition of the late Professors Saip Alpay and Wm. C. Nichol, and Sam Ceccerallo, Robert Elligsen, late former students of the Faculty of Engineering The Leadership Award is granted to an intermediate-level undergraduate student in the Faculty of Engineering who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Faculty in the promotion of extra-curricular activities, including, but not limited to: Intramural Athletics, promotion of Engineering Society and Sandford Fleming Foundation events, competitions, etc., and for the support of associations, both on and off campus.

Nominations for the Memorial Leadership Award can originate from student groups, faculty members, or other individuals. A Letter of Nomination and Letters of Support from colleagues, faculty, and others familiar with the nominee's accomplishments are extremely important and form the major basis upon which the Executive Committee of the Sandford Fleming Foundation will form its decision. Nominations must be submitted to the Foundation by April 30, 2019 and/or before the last day of the student's 3A term.

The Memorial Leadership Award consists of a Certificate plus a citation, and an honorarium of \$1,000.

Nominations Must be Submitted to SFF Office Manager by August 31, 2019

E2-3336, Extension 84008, sff@engmail.uwaterlo.ca
www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff

A Q&A into the roles of the EngSoc Executive

THOMAS DEBENSKY
VP ACADEMIC

Hey readers! For the first exec article of the term, since the Engineering Society Executive election is happening right now, we decided to do a little Q&A of our own and ask each executive a few questions about their role.

What is one thing you didn't expect from this role when you started?

Mariko: That I would receive so many friend requests from people I don't know. It's okay though, keep em coming.

Andrew: I had expected that I would spend much more time in my position on the internal responsibilities of my role, however, was surprised to learn just how much there was to work on in the external engineering community. It's unfortunately a lot of information that becomes difficult to filter for our community.

Emma: I didn't expect to have to intervene with my directors and commissioners as much as I did. As VP Student Life last term, I had to manage

5 commissioners and 53 directors, so I shouldn't have had the expectation that everything would run perfectly. But having to basically run an event like FYELC by myself after knowing there were issues months beforehand with communication and dependability of others failing was very frustrating. Luckily, most of the people I worked with were gems.

Thomas: As VP Academic, one aspect of being an exec I didn't think about is how much work I do that's not exclusive to my portfolio. A lot of time is spent with tasks in common with other exec, such as running EngSoc class rep elections, being a spokesperson for EngSoc at an open-house, or even making the exec and comm board outside of the Orifice. It all assists running the society and bonding with exec a bit so I'm content with helping with it.

Michelle: I got elected in 1B without having much experience in EngSoc, so basically every part of my role was unexpected. No matter how good the transition docs and meetings are, you won't know the role until you're in it.

What is the most enjoyable part of your position?

Mariko: Getting access to important people to help advocate for issues that affect students. I bother a lot of faculty members regularly.

Andrew: I'd say it's tied between working with people of different backgrounds and experiences from across the country and seeing delegates from our school go out and become motivated to do more within our own community.

Emma: Realizing goals that I have. I know most people are sick of me talking about data by now, but I love what I've been able to do with it. I organized the massive EngSoc data survey in the fall, and it took a lot of work. I put in the time to do research on what needed to be assessed, investigated other examples on campus of how surveys were run, worked with students in fine tuning the questions, and even got it approved by the UW ethics committee. All of this was to make a survey which would better assess why students were and, as importantly, why they weren't coming to events. This all concluded with a report, which just came out last week and you should read! It's at bit.ly/2VW9xOx if you have a few mins.

Thomas: Wrapping up an investigation. Often you get tasked with looking into items (sometimes that other people should have done ages ago) related to academics and co-ops, issues that directly affect you and your constituents. Being able to communicate with the proper channels to find clarity and concrete information to help figure out a solution, or at the very least an assessment, is incredibly satisfying.

Michelle: Sponsorship presentations! I love watching student teams present the things they're working on and passionate about. Very cool stuff!

What is one piece of advice you would recommend for an incoming executive in your role?

Mariko: Be afraid to make mistakes and don't stress over what others think of you!

Andrew: Manage your expectations and don't take things too personally. The politics (both legitimate and not) at the national level can be frustrating. Focus on how your representation can impact the key contributors to your own school.

Emma: Make sure you're being inclusive when planning your events. I tried helping make policy for this actually, you might have seen it at WJGM, but this was to allow for more inclusive event-running. There was a lot of Christian-normative planning of events previously, and major religious holidays were being ignored, which then led to conflicts such as food-heavy events run on days of fasting. So if board doesn't go through with this, make sure to be aware of this, and implement a calendar of important religious holidays that can be used as reference when planning events.

Thomas: Start your initiatives early. Unless you can do it yourself or you can pester people with in-person meetings, items that you want done quick are going to stay in the email slowlane for a while. Emails may get passed around contacts, rested on for a few days or weeks at each checkpoint, and will go sometimes a couple of months before getting resolved. So if you want to run for VP Academic, make sure you're organized and proactive.

Michelle: Take it easy and stay in school.

The Engineering Society Executive election for 'A' Society is currently ongoing. The campaigning period finishes at the end of May, so make sure you know who's running and what they're running for. For more information on the candidates, go to bit.ly/EngSocVoteS19. Voting is from June 1st to 5th on vote.feds.ca.



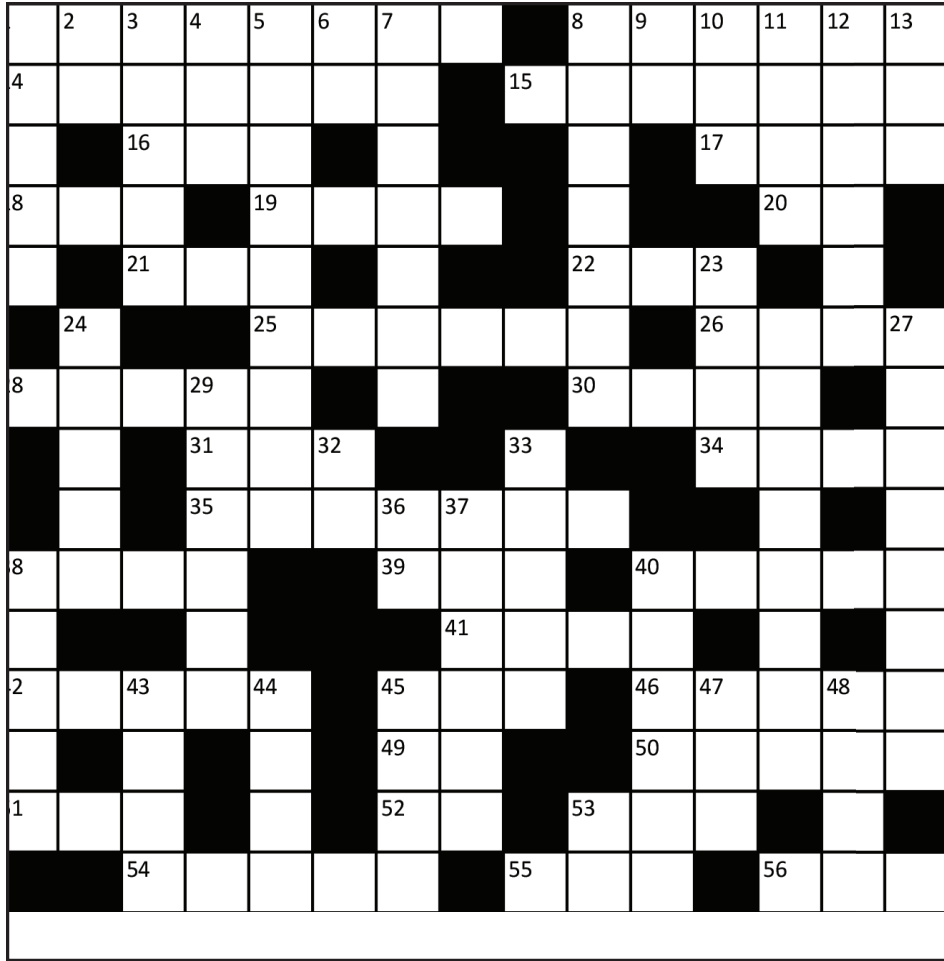
Upcoming Events Calendar

Wednesday May 29	Thursday May 30	Friday May 31	Saturday June 1	Sunday June 2	Monday June 3	Tuesday June 4	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/event/calendar/
DIY Beeswax Paper 4:30- 6:30 PM POETS UI/ UX Workshop 7 - 9 PM QNC 1502	Technical Interview Workshop 5:30 - 7:30 PM DWE 2402 Maker Club 5 - 10 PM First floor of E7	Tea Time Chill 4:30 - 6:30 PM POETS Professional Photoshoot 5:30 - 6:30 PM Rock Garden		Ultimate Frisbee Tournament 10 AM- 2 PM			
Wednesday June 5	Thursday June 6	Friday June 7	Saturday June 8	Sunday June 9	Monday June 10	Tuesday June 11	
	Maker Club 5 - 10 PM E7 Foyer Free Food 11:45 AM - 1 PM E7 Foyer					Clothing Swap 6 - 8 PM POETS	

The Iron Crossword

I'm out of Puns

STONE HE
2B MECHANICAL



ACROSS

- 1: Known for a University famous for its co-op pro-gram.
- 8: Known for its double decker buses.
- 14: Natural minor scale.
- 15: A person from this city may call himself a sand-wich.
- 16: Vegan and vegetarian restaurant in Montreal
- 17: Her story takes place in Avonlea
- 18: Long and skinny aquatic animals.
- 19: Therefore.
- 20: Gaming company that charges money for every-thing.
- 21: Used to rescue lost planes (abv)
- 22: Time zone that this newspaper is distributed in (abv)
- 25: Region in western Sudan known for an on-going war.
- 26: Major objective in Operation Overlord for the Brit-ish and Canadians.
- 28: Porcelain that came from this country of the

same name.

- 30: Marvel Comics' primary creative leader (first name).
- 31: Beer with fruity taste.
- 34: Stay in place immediately
- 35: If you break the rules, this is what you'll get.
- 38: Synonym for shout.
- 39: " _ □ □ " (pinyin only)
- 40: Big oil company.
- 41: Accidental in music or a type of housing.
- 42: Capital of Belarus
- 45: Known for the Grey Cup.
- 46: Famous last stand during the Texas Revolution.
- 49: The product conforms to the health, safety, and environmental protection standards in Europe.
- 50: a "staple" to college/univeristy students in case of tight finances.
- 51: Organisation that loves their guns.
- 52: Known for the Beanie Babies franchise.

- 53: CFB Gagetown ICAO code.
- 54: Known as the " _ Meat Grinder" during the Great Patriotic War.
- 55: Homer Simpson's catch phrase.
- 56: Guitar amplifier manufacturer, news website, or a far-right party.

DOWN

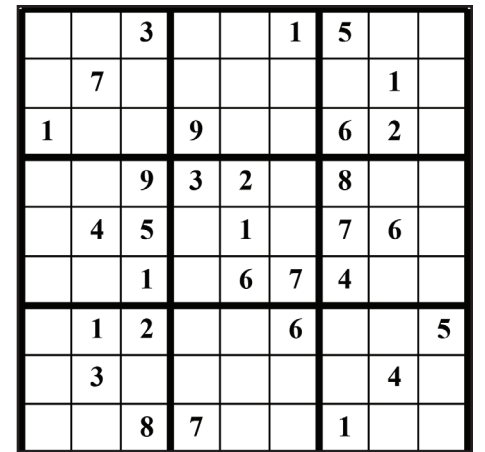
- 1: Country east of England.
- 2: 2 letter designation for FR Toyota Corollas in the 80s.
- 3: "For Whom the Bell _"
- 4: Rock band that makes use of violins and cellos.
- 5: Archie comics takes place there.
- 6: Abbreviation of the 2nd most populus city in USA.
- 7: What the Jelly-filled donuts actually are.
- 8: Rammstein's guitarist
- 9: Chanted during meditations.
- 10: Professional basketball in North America.
- 11: Science fiction novel published by Frank Herbert.
- 12: Very fancy and detailed.
- 13: Famous anime from Gainax (abv)
- 23: A system to prevent midair collisions.
- 24: Lines the coast of West South America
- 26: Bloodiest day in US history.
- 27: Won 52 battles but well known for losing his last one.
- 29: Pizza originated from this city.
- 32: Half the width of an em for a piece of type.
- 33: Ring of coral island that has a lagoon in the mid-dle.
- 36: Used to keep cool during the summer (abv).
- 37: The Ship That Would Not Die
- 38: Country on the Arabian peninsula that is next to the Gulf of Aden
- 40: Found in potatos, rice, wheat, and corn.
- 43: Close to.
- 44: Another term for cannabis
- 45: Large Chinese TV broadcaster that is broadcasted in many languages. (abv)
- 47: Los Angeles International ICAO code.
- 48: Written message that's shared to a large group.
- 53: Slang term and can be used to grab attention.

Sudoku

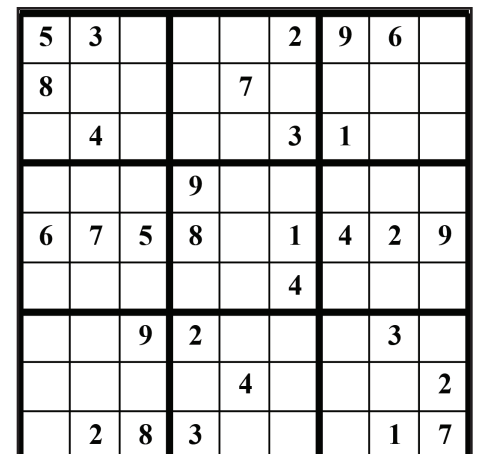
#2019-05

JANNY WANG
2B NANOTECHNOLOGY

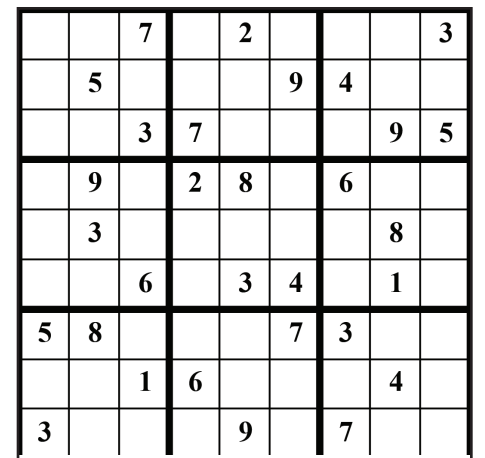
Medium



Medium



Medium



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

THE IRON INQUISITION
David Jimenez, 1B Chemical

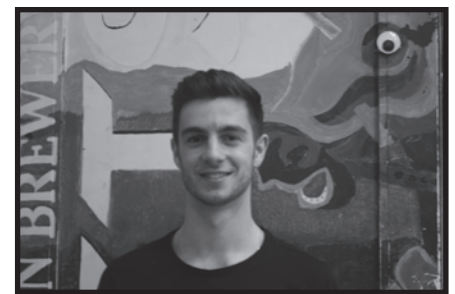
"What would you do if you see a cover letter is required on a job application?"



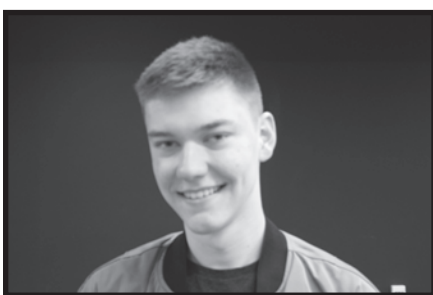
"Two copies of my resume. Worked for my last two co-op jobs."
Andrew Dickson, 2B Mechanical



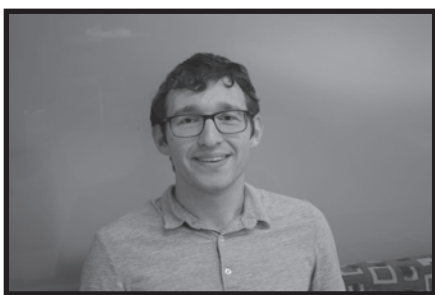
"Next!"
Abi Cotter, 2B Management



"I write a cover letter for every job I apply to."
Dante DiGiuseppe, 2B Mechanical



"Not apply."
Jonathan Suderman, 3A Mechanical



"I would apply anyways."
Philipp Kern, 4th year Mechatronics (exchange)



"I would just write it depending on the job."
Mohammad Sajjad, 3A Mechanical