Government Shutdown, Trouble on Capitol Hill

**Author Note: This is a large, complicated, and dynamic situation. I have little doubt that portions of this story will be out of date by the time the paper goes to publish. However, it is my hope that this article will give a brief introduction to the nuances of the US Budget process in general, and the situation as of the morning of January 21 in particular.**

On January 20, 2018, the Government of the United States officially shut down. The shutdown occurred because lawmakers—specifically the Senate—was unable to reach a deal that would prolong the government budget, hopefully until a permanent solution could be reached. As of Sunday, the effects of this shutdown have been minor; however, come Monday many thousands of government workers were placed on furlough as non-essential services stop.

The Normal Budget

The process of passing a budget is a difficult and tedious multistage process that must ultimately end with the collective approval of the President, House, and Senate. Typically, the budget process starts in February when the President of the United States issues their budget request. This year—as in many years where the president is new to the post—the budget was delayed until mid-March, with a “skinny budget” being released in late February. This presidential budget becomes a non-binding starting point for Congress to adapt, change, or discard altogether.

Within Congress there are two chambers: the House and the Senate. Both of these bodies must agree on a budget but, given the enormity of the task, the process is broken into steps. First, each chamber independently makes a high-level budget resolution, in which they allocate money to different agencies, but not projects within those agencies. After each chamber passes a bill they are satisfied with, representatives from the two must meet to reconcile the different budgets. Eventually, this process leads to a consistent budget resolution that passes both houses. The budget resolution is not presented to the president and does not become law.

Once a consistent budget resolution is achieved, various appropriation subcommittees from each chamber create appropriation bills. These subcommittees and bills each deal with different areas of focus; for instance, the Legislative Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the budget of Congress itself. After individual appropriations bills (or, in some cases of political deadlock, an Omnibus Bill of several appropriation bills combined) are approved by each chamber, the same difference-reconciliation process occurs again until both the House and Senate pass the same legislation.

After the House and Senate pass a consistent budget, it is sent to the President to sign into law or veto, ideally before October 1 when the US financial year begins. Frequently, the process of passing the budget is delayed. As a result, Congress can pass a continuing resolution which provides government funding for some period of time while a full budget is hashed out. As with the full budget, a continuing resolution must pass the House, Senate, and President to become law.

Budget 2018

This year, the budget has been bogged down for a variety of reasons. On the one hand, President Donald Trump is trying to get money for his border wall. On the other, Democrats are trying to extract concessions on the “Dreamer” issue—the status of illegal immigrants who came to America as children—since their status is due to become perilous when the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, started by ex-President Obama’s executive order, is terminated by President Trump in March. (Trump’s argument is that such a program should have legislative, not executive order, approval.)

As previously mentioned, the 2018 fiscal year started on October 1, 2017 without any budget. However, until this point the government has been running using three consecutive spending bills. The last of these three bills was due to expire on January 19. A number of last-minute efforts by legislators failed to pass a continuing resolution failed in the Senate, resulting in government shutdown on January 20.

Unsurprisingly, hardliners on each side of the political divide are blaming each other for the shutdown. Republicans blame Democratic senators of trying to leverage the situation for political gain, suggesting that the continuing resolution should be about keeping the government running. Democrats accuse the Republican legislators of being unreasonable. They also gloat that this is a Republican problem since, for the first time ever, the government has shut down despite having one party control both Chambers of Congress and the President. While this is true, the Senate vote requires a super-majority and, therefore, the support of some Democratic senators.

Blame is also being placed on the President, who has been inconsistent in his statements, resulting in promising deals being torpedoed. For instance, he changed his mind on supporting a continuing resolution containing re-authorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program, a compromise Republicans had been using to satisfy Democrats.

As a result of the failure to find a continuing resolution, government agencies are trying to ease the transition to shutdown. Unlike in the previous shutdown in 2013, open air parks and monuments will remain open when possible. Non-essential White House staff can start in Monday for four hours to close up their work or transition it to staff who will continue working. Essential services such as the mail will remain in operation. Some services, such as access to the Philadelphia Liberty Bell and New York Statue of Liberty, have been suspended but the worst of the shutdown won’t occur until Monday when thousands of federal employees are forced to stay home.

Meanwhile, legislators are desperately seeking a solution. Representatives in the House have been advised to stay in Washington—as opposed to travelling home for a planned recess—in case the Senate manages to come to an agreement. There are also a number of moderate senators from both sides who have been trying to piece together a deal that will let both parties save face and move forward. There are talks of compromising between the Democratic wish for a few-day continuing resolution and the Republican desire for a 4-week bill.

It is possible that a compromise can be reached soon, minimizing the shutdown. It is likely that, even if the shutdown drags on, the effects will not be catastrophic. However, as the push to re-open the government drags on (in addition to the need to pass a 2018 budget), the start date of the 2019 budget process looms; in an ordinary year, President Trump would be expected to release his budget proposal in early February.
A special greeting going out to all of Waterloo Engineering. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nick Owens. Some of you may remember me from a series of nonsense based articles about electronics that usually ended in a long winded description about how everybody is in on some kind of complicated conspiracy to take over the world. Well, I hope that you are tired of all the “Fake News” out there, because guess who’s your new Editor in Chief for winter 2018?

I would like to take the chance at the start of this term to say that, although I have had my fun in the past, I am one hundred percent committed to bringing the news, written by the engineering community for the engineering community. This particular issue is a big one to start off the term. For starters, this is Abdullah Barakat’s final term as President of Eng Soc. Be sure to read his article on the announcements coming straight from the top.

On the topic of Eng Soc, the elections are coming up soon. We have two full pages, outlining all of the candidates for the different positions and their platforms. Elections are coming up soon so make sure that you read all of the profiles before you decide who you want representing you. Positions up for election include president, VP finances, VP communications, VP academic, VP student life, and WEEF director.

Our articles this week pertain to a wide variety of materials. If you’re interested in the ongoing tensions between North Korea and South Korea, you may be interested in reading the article on the subject by first-year editor Jimmy Wang. In more sporadic news, we have an article about a certain miscommunication that I unfortunately didn’t have the time to mention, just keep turning those pages.

Our columns are sure to be just as good. If you missed the witty exploits about life inside the Whitehouse, then you won’t want to miss this week’s issue of Dammit Donald. Space Cam is back, and just as lively as ever to bring you updates on the cataloging of New Earth Objects. Don’t know what those are? You’d better ask Space Cam. Vince Magas has brought back his own, Hit Replay and of course we have the Iron Inquisition. Lastly, Donovan is back with Brocksies on Brewskies. Unfortunately, Electro-Nick will not be making an appearance this issue. Apparently, he gets a little antsy in the new year in case the Y2K virus comes back around. Don’t worry though, he’ll be back soon.

Now, this is my first time writing an editorial, so you will have to forgive me if I do a bit of an amateur’s job. In fact, for the longest time, I wasn’t even completely sure what I should write about. I haven’t had a long journey here at the Iron Warrior and only started writing a year ago. But somehow it already seems like a part of me that I would have trouble doing without. Admittedly, there were a few weekends where I suddenly became ‘busy’ while Vince, the editor for the spring term, was looking for copy editors, but from day one, I enjoyed writing articles for this paper.

I guess that you could say that when I first showed up here, I was kind of like a log. Now, a log is a symbol that I always like to go back to because of what it represents. Pure potential. When you first think about it, it may seem like a log is just a dead piece of wood. However, there is nothing that a log cannot become. It can become a chair, a desk, a door, a fire, anything that you want it to. So when you look around at anything around you, you therefore have to recognize either what it is or what it might become. That’s the sculpture that you’re looking at was once a big, ugly rock, just like how that big ugly rock might one day be a beautiful sculpture.

But, as I’m glad to see, this metaphor does not only apply to myself. When I host the meetings for the newspaper, I can’t help but think of this while talking to the first year students who have only started writing for us. I’ve noticed that they’ve just started applying for their first co-op position and that they all have that same glimmer of both hope and nervousness in their eye. I know that I don’t have much more experience than any of them, but I’d like to let them all know that they should keep the log in mind. One thing, given the right work, can go much further than you might think. You may be nervous about applying to your first job, but trust me, you’ll be walking into interviews with confidence in no time.

And of course, I’m glad to see some of the Iron Warrior veterans returning. It’s been nice to see our very own Raeesa Ashique back and this will be our last term with Cameron Soltys and Vince Magas. Admittedly, there isn’t much advice that I can offer to either of you. You’ve both been through everything that I’m going to go through and I’m sure that throughout this term, I’ll bebugging you for advice more than enough.

So that’s pretty much all that I can say for now, to first years, my colleagues in second year, third years, and fourth years. I’ve always found value in recognising the potential of something. Especially in those down times, it’s always good to know that there is nothing that you can’t become with just a little bit of work. And if you doubt my logic, just remember what I said the next time you walk past anything made out of a dead piece of wood.

On one final note, I would like to finish by taking the time to thank Gabrielle Klemt for the wonderful job that she did as EIC for fall 2017. I’ll have to put out another thanks to both Cameron Soltys and Vince Magas for all the help that they’ve supplied in helping me get used to this new role. Hopefully, I’ll be able to do the positions some justice this term. If not, I’ll claim that I’m still just a log. I hope that you all have a great term.
Welcome back to Broskies on Brewskies, your local craft beer column done by your favourite fourth years Tristan and Dominic. After three years in the beer-friendly four favourite years but that's totally up to you. Anyways, we’ve been off-and-on roommates since first year and since friends before that, we’ve been tast- ing and reviewing craft beers for the Iron Warrior since 2B, and have (hopefully) entered our final “season”. 4B, am I right?

For our inaugural issue this term we decided to review a mystery beer pack from the Nicklebrook Brewing Company. This company has been around for a while, and recently had a promotion where they packaged four new craft beers together in a mystery pack with no labelling which beer is which. The four beers were a Sour, a Session IPA, a New England Style IPA and a Stout. Ninklebrook was looking for their next star beer, and we were hoping to get feedback on everyone’s favourite beers from the mystery pack.

Our first beer was the Sour. It was mostly just sour all the way through and had neither of us really enjoyed it very much. It had a light feel to it and felt like it was meant to be an easy drinking summer beer. It missed on almost every point, and we ended up giving it a 2/5.

We think the next beer up was one of the IPAs, probably the Session IPA. This beer was SIGNIFICANTLY better than the sour. It was citrusy and fruity, with a nice feel. The beer had a perfect amount of bitterness to it, which complimented all of the other flavours. There was however a fair amount of sediment in the beer. We didn’t overly mind this, but would have been more accepting of it if we were at the brewery. We gave this beer 4/5.

The third beer was definitely the other IPA. We thought that this beer was even better than the last one. This beer had an excellent malty flavour to compliment its hoppy bitterness. It had a full flavour and honestly just built on what made the previous beer excellent. This beer also had a bit of sediment in the bottom. Hopefully they figure out the sediment issues when they scale this one up, as it was just fine for what we were topped up on. We ended up giving this beer 4.5/5.

The last beer was the Stout. I’m a big fan of the Stouts, but Tristan isn’t. The stout had a weird aftertaste to start with, but I got used to this as I got through it. Tristan didn’t. There was the classic stout creaminess with an undertone of chocolate, but was uncharacteristically bitter for a Stout. We eventually settled on 2.5/5 for this bad boy.

Overall I think this was a great idea for a brewery. It lets them try new ideas, and see what works and what doesn’t.

**TONY KAPPEN**
1B ECE

Hey! You! Did you go drinking last night? Last week? Last month? Well if you did, the chances are that you drank less than your mom and dad did when they were at the same age. That’s right: people in the developed world have been developing more moderate drinking habits for the past 20 years. In America, surveys known as “hang out trends” have been especially sharp since 2012. In Canada, although we’ve been a bit more sedate, there was a time before the heyday of social media when you went out for a pint, it was far more likely to be that teenagers and young adults today are far more likely to be more focused on studying, more career focused teens, or social media is rewiring teenagers brains - “Are we just replacing one harmful substance such as alcohol with a less harmful one such as social media?”, asks Pili- hapitya, formerly a Facebook executive, said that his children were “not allowed to use that shit.” So far, hard evidence that social media is rewiring teenagers brains remains to be published. Any link between increased internet use and general unhap- piness seem to be weaker than how, say, food or sleep might affect your mood.

Still, something is definitely happening: whether it is more involved parent- ing, more career focused teens, or social media remains to be seen. The number of 15-year-olds who say they make friends on social media has increased by 35% in the OECD. The reverse trend is happening among the 15-24 year-olds. The number of face-to-face social contacts is falling among young adults: the number of people aged 16-24 with a tertile degree of social contact of the OECD countries was 17%, from 26% to 43%, between 2003 and 2012. During the same period, the number of hours of paid work collapsed. We are a weird generation - molded by changes so rapid and strange they would make anyone feel a bit of whip lash. Yet here we are. We drink less than our parents do but are also lonelier and have a harder time making those lifelong connections. Maybe we can have the best of both. Put down your phone and close your textbook and go talk to someone. You’ll be glad you did. Probably.
Hey everyone! Happy New Year, and I hope the start of your term is going well. My name is Abdullah Barakat, and I’m here doing what I love to do, representing you as your Engineering Society President. This is my final term as President, so I want to make sure I leave the biggest impact that I can before I have to retire my precious white hard hat. With that said, I thought I’d use this issue of the Iron Warrior to discuss what my goals are for this term, as well as give you some updates on what I did over the co-op term.

First of all, I plan to create a transition document for our lovely business manager, Mary Bland, that will encompass everything that she does for the Society. The goal of this is to inform future presidents of how much Mary means to the Society and what she does in her role, as well as to be prepared for future succession planning. Furthermore, I plan on working with Mary and Michael to create a transition plan for when Engineering 7 opens in September 2018, especially given that we will have space for RidgidWare and a new C&D on the main floor and we need to be ready.

Speaking of space, one thing in which our campus is unfortunately lacking is student study space. Because of that, I have been working with the Undergrad Office to create a plan for recognizing the underutilized areas within the Engineering buildings on campus, with the hopes of identifying potential uses for those spaces to introduce more study space. Until then, however, I plan on converting POETS into a study space every Tuesday for the duration of this term, which will hopefully promote a sense of community within Engineering and remind students of identifying potential uses for those spaces to introduce more study space. For those who don’t know about POETS, that will encompass the doors of the Lounge itself, which has been approved by the Dean, so the First Year Fridays of yesteryear, Fourth Year Fridays will include licensing, because Fourth Years like to have Spirit(s). Licensing POETS has been approved by the Dean, so the first Fourth Year Fridays will have Bar Services starting the 26th. For the weeks we can’t do it, the First Years will have an opportunity for First Year Fridays. As a second part to the final barhara for fourth years, I have just secured the return of Warrior Lager for every licensed event in POETS. For those who don’t know about Warrior Lager, it’s an easy drinking beer that just so happens to be the BEER OF CHOICE FOR MOTHER!!!! POETS. The label, exquisitely crafted, harkens back to the doors of the Lounge itself, and...I have convinced Bar Services to allow people to keep a commemorative bottle, with its label, as an eternal memory of the suffering we all endure together, for which we find solace in POETS.

In the next couple days, I will be releasing a survey to help focus my aims for Novelties, RidgidWare, POETS, Student Deals, and anything else that might fall under me. As well, I will be supporting the Student Design Teams a lot more. Sponsorship is due the 25th of February at 11:59pm, and proposals can be submitted online to engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/services/sponsorpship-2. The Sponsorship committee will be meeting on March 3, and committee selection will be happening at the council meeting on February 7.

Events are happening more in POETS!! This Friday is the UNProfessional Photoshoot, where you can come to POETS from 4-6 and take photos (not for LinkedIn) in all the poses you couldn’t use in the E5 bridge, and you can hold up your Warrior Lager bottle. It’s a chance, especially for 4th years, to cut loose a little bit, and not worry about the stick-up-ness of a professional photoshoot. POETS is also running Poker and Euchre tournaments, Board Games, and Genius Bowl!

Last week, I had a promising meeting about RidgidWare moving into E7, and I hope to be able to share more details in the coming weeks. Big news though, so if you see me around POETS, ask me what’s up.

Finally, I would like to take this chance to thank everyone running for executive positions. It takes an incredible amount of effort, passion, and drive, and everyone running should be proud. I am particularly happy that someone is running for VP Finance. Please everyone take the time to read through platforms and follow your minds, not hearts, when you vote. EngSoc is growing a lot right now and it deserves the best candidates.
Winter Doesn’t Have to be Sad!

**PAT DUONG**
VP ACADEMIC

Hi Everyone. Welcome back on campus! I’m Pat Duong your EngSoc VP Academic for the Winter 2018 term! I deal with all things co-op and academic related. Over the co-op term, I’ve worked with Andrew McHurney (former VP Ac B) to reformate and update all of our transition documents so that future academic services and events can run much more smoothly.

But we need to take care of ourselves in the meantime! We have puppies coming in for finals season! We will share our secrets anonymously through POST secret service! We will talk about mental health in a safe space (Let’s Talk Mental Health)! We will look out for each other this term! If you feel off this winter season, come to an event, talk about mental health, take some vitamin D, pet a dog, sing a song, dance a dance, MAKE A NEW FRIEND.

I am looking to getting more feedback on our events, so if you see an event survey please fill it out. Or shoot me an email at pdunong@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Myself and some of the terms directors and commissioners attended an inclusivity training workshop, so we can make our events more accessible for ALL students.

Lastly, Fall Out Boy’s new album came out and you should all listen to it for a rad time.

Let’s make this a great term for everyone!

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**CELINE O’NEIL**
VP COMMUNICATIONS

Hi everyone! I’m Céline, your VP Communications. I focused heavily on external relations over the co-op term, so I’m going to use this update to keep you up-to-date on how I’ve been representing you to other organizations, as well as touching on my plans for the rest of the term.

Since the spring term, I’ve represented Waterloo A-Society at two Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES) conferences. The CFES represents Canadian undergraduate engineering students at a national level to organizations like Engineers Canada, the Accreditation Board, and engineering’s National Council of Deans. This coming year, they will be focusing on advocating to these organizations about the connection between student mental health and heavy workload, in addition to other stances including student input on accreditation and engineering internship quality.

For those of you with an interest in engineering competitions, good news! The CFES is working with American and European engineering student organizations to start the first International Engineering Competition in 2020. And if connecting with students across Canada interests you, but the existing set of CFES conferences isn’t a good fit, keep your eyes peeled for the first Canadian Conference on Sustainability in Engineering, which will be hosted in Prince George, BC, in 2019.

At a provincial level, I’ve been working with ESSCO (the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario) to collaborate with other schools on an investigation into the cost of engineering tuition. ESSCO has also hosted the upcoming First-year Integration Conference (FYIC) in Thunder Bay. I’m looking forward to taking eight Waterloo first-years a weekend at Lakehead University developing inter-school connections and leadership experience.

Lastly, on January 19, we hosted a PEO Speaker panel with a focus the experience of being an engineer-in-training post-graduation, working towards a P.Eng. If you couldn’t make it out but would like to be connected with PEO or have questions to ask, please reach out to me at celine.on@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

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**ACRONYM BINGO:**
The Iron Warrior Edition

**PAT DUONG**
VP ACADEMIC

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**CO-OP FEE DEEP DIVE**
https://uwaterloo.ca/co-operative-education/your-co-op-fee

Waterloo Co-op has released their first set of information about the long awaited co-op fee. And while the comprehensive breakdown of the current fee is not yet available, they do talk about the general categories that they’ve broken down Co-op’s services into 6 categories. This is the first publicly available step towards understanding the co-op fee, and I will continue to push for for and support having more information and transparency.

Add an External Job on WaterlooWorks

CECA has listened to feedback students have given over the years and has added a new feature to WaterlooWorks. In the past, some students have been in this situation with the system as an offer being offered externally to WaterlooWorks as an offer. Students are now able to add jobs found on the CECA website page to their profile. This must be done before rankings come out in order to be added to the system as an offer.

**AI OPTION (COMING OUT FALL 2018)**

The Faculty of Engineering is coming out with a new Option in Artificial Intelligence in Fall 2018. Upper year students with the right courses also will qualify for the Option as long as it is completed before graduation. It requires a specific (not yet publicly released) mixture of MSCI and ECE, as well as a choice of courses from most other departments. It’s centred around courses in algorithms, process control systems, and machine learning. If you are at all interested, ask your class’ EngSoc representative for more information or email me.

**Some of my other Goals:**
- Collaborating to host a FYDP Tax Workshop
- Updating the content of the Exam Bank website page
- Investigate cross-departmental collaboration/course taking
- Want to hear your thoughts/opinions/concerns, so if you ever want to talk to me about anything academic/co-op related and otherwise, my office hours are Fridays 11:30 am - 1:20 pm in the Orifice or drop me an email at spedac.a@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Cheers!
It’s Engineering Society election season again. We have 8 candidates running for 5 positions this term. Voting begins January 27th and runs through January 31st. You will receive an email link to vote for your new Engineering Society executives and WEEF Director. They will be representing you on a number of levels, and on a number of issues, so take a moment to get familiar with their platforms.

EngSoc Elections

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Simon Grigg

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Presidential Candidate:

Mariiko Shimoda

2020 Mechanical Engineering

www.facebook.com/Mariko4Prez

“Hi, my name is Zemann and I am running to be your WEEF Director! I have a deep interest in hackathons, swimming, tennis, 3D printing, and AI. I have been a part of the WEEF since 1A and currently sit on the WEEF Board of Directors. As a fellow student, I will to do as much as I can with the resources at WEEF to benefit all engineers in Waterloo. I will continue to improve the educational environment for all undergraduate engineering students and maintain our outstanding reputation here at Waterloo. Vote on Jan 27 – Jan 31, to invest in your future! Vote for Zemann for your WEEF Director.

WEEF Director Candidate:

Zemann Sheen

2A Computer Engineering

https://www.linkedin.com/in/zemann-sheen

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VP Finance Candidate:

Michelle Teplitski

2022 Nano Engineering


My name is Andrew Dawson and I am currently enrolled in my 3A term of mechanical engineering here at the University of Waterloo. I am a candidate for the VP Communications role within the Waterloo Engineering Society election. My goal for becoming VP Comm is to strengthen the culture and community within the engineering student body by means of improved advertising, student outreach initiatives, and increased awareness of organizational information.

Since starting university, I’ve been very passionate about getting involved and learning more about the culture within engineering. By becoming more involved, through conferences and assumed positions, I began learning about myself, and how I can make a difference in our community. I feel that as engineering students, we should all feel inclined to expand our experiences beyond the classroom to build a sense of pride and community in our profession. I’ve personally seen and experienced the impact of the engineering community; however, many students don’t often get to have these opportunities due to a lack of information or poor communication. I plan on taking a personal approach to communication by improving awareness for what EngSoc does and what we can do to accurately represent our students.

I will look to involve more of the Waterloo community by creating initiatives that are relevant to more people. I will support diversity initiatives to allow minority groups to become more prevalent in the community. I will advocate for students receiving more timely mental health care, and improving the quality of life for engineering students.

Vote Mariiko for a better time at Waterloo!”

VP Communications Candidate:

Andrew Dawson

2020 Mechanical Engineering

https://www.facebook.com/Andrew-Dawson-163829507572474/

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Vote Mariiko for a better time at Waterloo!”
Hi, my name is Thomas Dedinsky, 2A Computer Engineering student. I’m running for the position of VP Academic. My goal is to properly represent engineering students and petition hard for more robust mental health services! Thank you!

My platform includes:

- Working towards improving WaterlooWorks based on evaluating the feedback from the WW survey last term and current feedback
- Keeping Engineering students informed as Co-op 2.0 is fully implemented
- Pursuing the investigation of whether a strong professor-society relationship with the exam bank would benefit it
- Representing Engineering students well while sitting on various committees
- Maintaining and improve the quality/quantity of informative and interactive workshops the society provides
- Continuing to support the growth and positive effects of Engineering MATES
- Investigating the satisfaction of the recently implemented orientation week/fall study days split
- Acting as a liaison between Engineering students and the faculty for relevant academic and co-op matters

VP Academic Candidates:

Thomas Dedinsky
2021 Computer Engineering

I’m Thomas Dedinsky, 2A Computer Engineering, and I am running for VP Academic for the Engineering Society ‘A’. My main goals are to work towards improving WaterlooWorks, Coop, professional development services, student services, and the academic experience as a whole. I also aim to properly represent Engineering students as a whole as well as keeping them informed in relevant matters. In the past I have acted as an Advertising Commissioner, Exam Bank Director, Secretary, and more for EngSoc. I hope you vote for me to represent you come January 27th.

My platform includes:

- Working towards improving WaterlooWorks based on evaluating the feedback from the WW survey last term and current feedback
- Keeping Engineering students informed as Co-op 2.0 is fully implemented
- Pursuing the investigation of whether a strong professor-society relationship with the exam bank would benefit it
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Q&A

Q: "Who is that good-looking fellow upon this page?"
A: Firstly, I’m flattered! Secondly, I’m the guy who made the duct tape “Ridgid” Tool, and I am running for VP Student Life.

Q: “Why should I care about VP Student Life?”

Q: “*skims past Will’s article*”
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VP Student Life Candidates:

Emma Swarney
2021 Systems Engineering

https://www.facebook.com/Emma-Swarney-for-VP-Student-Life-144843039549970/

Hello! My name is Emma Swarney, I’m in 2A SYDE and I’m running for VP Student Life.

I have a passion for people and inclusivity and believe that EngSoc events should reflect the interests and needs of our student population as accurately as possible. If I were to be elected VP Student Life, I would like to implement methods to understand who is not currently participating in EngSoc events, and how we could modify existing events (or create entirely new ones) to engage that missing population. Yes, I’m talking about DATA DRIVEN decision making! EngSoc is for everyone, so even if you don’t identify as an “EngSoc person” I promise to work to create events, informed by actual statistics, that will directly benefit you. I’m here to improve the life of all students…it’s in the title!

Additionally, I have a reputation for reliability, approachability and enthusiasm from my current and previous roles within EngSoc. I’m the Outreach Commissioner this term, so I have lots of experience with communicating with the Engineering student population, Directors, EngSoc Executives, faculty members etc., which I plan to leverage to create change from day one.

Happy voting!

William Losin
2022 Nanotechnology Engineering

https://www.facebook.com/William-W-Losing-for-VP-Student-Life-144843039549970/

Q&A

Q: "Perfect! The greatest part about being a part of a student society is it represents the voice of the people. I will be 100% open to new ideas, and I will make a pretty little box for any ideas you have for events that you want to see in the future.

A: Happy voting!"
**The CRISPR Miracle Hits Immunity Problems**

CAMERON SOLTSY 4B MECHANICAL

Starting around 2012, a genetic technique called CRISPR/Cas9 rose to prominence in the fields of genetic research and biotechnology. It was seen as a huge breakthrough in genetic manipulation technology; with it, scientists could alter the DNA of any organism. CRISPR is really a type of DNA sequence while Cas9 is a “DNA Scissors” protein that uses CRISPR to determine where to cut. Cas9 is an enzyme used by bacteria to identify and destroy viruses. This enzyme works by taking a “mugshot” of part of a virus and seeking out DNA with a matching genetic sequence. If it finds a match, Cas9 cuts up the virus, disabling it and rendering it inert.

CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Inter-spaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is the DNA “mugshot” that Cas9 uses. It has some unique properties, as given by the name: the sequences are repeated, palindromic, form a perfect ring, and are regularly spaced in clusters around the bacteria’s DNA. The DNA sequences themselves have been copied from previously-identified viruses, which the bacteria had killed and incorporated into its genetic structure so that the bacteria can detect and destroy the viruses themselves. The engineering of CRISPR and Cas9 are a critical immune function for many bacteria.

The CRISPR biotech revolution has come at a cost: new knowledge led to questions about the CRISPR system for their own benefit. By making their own DNA sequences, researchers can control cells “infected” with a target virus or bacteria. As part of the immune system, cells take parts of their contents and display them on their cell surface. Other cells, called T-cells, migrate around the body searching for cells that are expressing inappropriate contents. If such a cell is found, the T-Cell identifies it as infected and kills it.

The study tested samples from thirteen individuals to see if this immune response was also present. They found that half the samples had an immune response to cells infected with the S. aureus Cas9, but none responded to the S. pyogenes enzyme. Given immunity responses to the bacteria. This, the researchers of the aforementioned paper suspected, could cause problems if CRISPR was used on living human subjects.

One type of defense in the human against bacterial infection is antibodies. The body produces a range of antibodies that freely circulate in the body, looking for some particular antigen to latch onto. When that antigen is found, the antibody attaches to it. A larger immune response is triggered, including the creation of more antibodies of the same type.

According to the performed research, “scout”), is now known to have originated as a result, some humans have developed immunity to spread. 2018 is set for even more extensive research.

The CRISPR system has risks. With proper due-diligence and thorough research, CRISPR could be used on cells that are successfully treated using Cas9 without the immune response. However, the findings suggest that the human immune response may identify and kill any cells that are successfully treated using Cas9 gene therapy techniques.

The finding are almost certainly an unavoidable roadblock in the application of CRISPR to humans; many possible workarounds have already been proposed. For instance, CRISPR could be used in tissues that are not required for survival. Or, the technique could be used to produce an immune response.

The most important part of this research is not that new techniques might be required for gene therapy in humans; the importance is that CRISPR is capable of provoking an immune response in humans. Previous studies, using less-precise viruses as the genetic vector, failed to provoke an immune response with unforeseen results. In general, trials show no therapeutic benefit if the patient has an immune response. More importantly, in 1999 a patient named Jesse Gelsinger died after the viral vector he was given caused a massive immune response.

CRISPR is a revolutionary tool that has, and is expected to continue to see, widespread success as a medical and technological marvel. However, this research is a stark reminder that gene therapy, like any tool, has risks. With proper due-diligence and additional research, CRISPR can undoubtedly become safe and effective in cells that are unaffected by the body, then re-inject the Cas9 once the cell is no longer expressed on the surface of the cells. The protein could also be modified, or a similar protein used, to prevent an immune response.

Scientists and engineers were able to make many different types of bacteria have been shown to have a CRISPR/Cas9 style defense system, the two most well-developed systems come from Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus pyogenes. Both of these bacteria frequently infect humans and, as a result, some humans have developed an immune response to them.

The astroid, which has since been renamed as ‘Oumauma (Hawaiian for "scout"), is now known to have originated outside our solar system. Instead, the 250 m long object has been floating through space for hundreds of thousands or even hundreds of millions of years. It happened to fly close to the sun on September 9, then happened to come close enough to Earth to be found for Pan-STARR 1 to spot it. For the next few weeks, scientists used every tool they could to figure out more about ‘Oumauma, since it will never return to the sun again.

This is not a totally unexpected discovery. Many scientists had predicted that a large number of small planetesimals, especially comets, should be ejected from star systems during their planet formation stages. In the case of ‘Oumauma, scientists think that it is being ripped-shaped, ten times longer than it is wide. This is much more elongated than any other astroid that has ever been observed. It is spinning so fast and is so elongated, in fact, that the object must have some tensile strength, since gravity alone is not enough to hold it in its current shape. Alternatively, ‘Oumauma may have a difference in aluminum (reflectivity) that causes the brightness difference over its surface.

‘Oumauma is exciting because it defies many expectations that these interstellar objects (ISOs) were expected to have. For instance, while the asteroid was always too far away to be resolved in a telescope with a size larger than one pixel, it displayed regular variations in brightness that researchers have interpreted as it being cigar-shaped, ten times longer than it is wide. This is much more elongated than any other astroid that has ever been observed. It is spinning so fast and is so elongated, in fact, that the object must have some tensile strength, since gravity alone is not enough to hold it in its current shape. Alternatively, ‘Oumauma may have a difference in aluminum (reflectivity) that causes the brightness difference over its surface. ‘Oumauma is also unexpected in that it is a rocky asteroid, not an icy comet.

Surrounding objects in systems similar to the one we called the Oort cloud. These objects are made up of snows of gas and dust, the most well-known of which are the comet-like objects called comets. The rest of the object are made up of dust, rock, and other matter. Alternatively, ‘Oumauma may have a difference in aluminum (reflectivity) that causes the brightness difference over its surface. ‘Oumauma is also unexpected in that it is a rocky asteroid, not an icy comet.
On an early Saturday morning of January 13, Hawaiians were woken by a missile-warning message, only to find out that the message that was sent out was a mistake. The drill missile alert ordeal lasted 38 minutes before a cancellation message was sent. Many have complained why it took so long to cancel the alert.

The alert, sent by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, was sent out due to human error that occurred during a shift change, where the operator accidentally selected the actual warning, instead of the drill warning. Richard Rapoza, the spokesperson for the Agency stated, “Somebody clicked the wrong thing on the computer.”

The alert was functioning correctly. During the drill warning, the computer stated, “Somebody clicked the wrong thing on the computer.”

During the shift change, the operator would go through routine checks to make sure the system is working. The Integrated Public Alert and Warning System software was functioning correctly. During the test on Saturday, however, the operator decided to click on the drill file, which resulted in sending a ballistic missile alert to everyone who owned a smartphone in Hawaii.

After the incident, further plans to prevent an accidental alert being sent to people’s smartphones are now being implemented. A new cancellation command has been made to fix mistaken alerts easier and faster. In addition, a new procedure was implemented on the same day, such that 2 people will have to sign off the official alert before it could be sent. The alert was triggered at 8:07 am, causing widespread panic across the state of Hawaii. Highways were filled with cars as people rushed to find shelter in the tunnels. In some areas of the state, emergency sirens went off, which triggered the panic and terror of the people. However, those sirens were not triggered by the Emergency Management Agency.

This drill alert was already adding stress to the citizens due to the current political situation between the United States and North Korea. Earlier this year, both Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un sent threats of nuclear missiles, with the former stating he has the bigger “size,” turning his threat into some sort of button-measuring contest. State officials have stated that residents only have around 15 minutes to find sufficient shelter before a missile from North Korea could strike Hawaii.

The good news is that there was no missile. However, lessons were learned for the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to prevent a false alert from going off.
Pacific Mall on Notorious Market List

Pacific Mall, a mall located in the Greater Toronto Area, has been listed as a notorious market for pirated and counterfeit goods in a 2017 report from the United States Office of the Trade Representative. The mall has been recognized as one of the largest Chinese malls in the Western world. It consists of over 270,000 square feet of retail space with more than 500 small shops.

The mall is considered a popular tourist destination for many visitors in Toronto. It operates year-round including holidays, as it is classified as a certified tourist attraction. The mall was exempted from the Ontario’s Retail Business Holidays Act, which does not allow regular businesses to operate on public holidays with a few exemptions.

Pacific Mall was opened in 1997, and stood on the original site of Cullen Country Farm. Cullen Country Farm consisted of a farm-themed complex with shops, restaurants, and a theatre inside of it. The complex was damaged by fire in 1983, and was finally demolished in 1994.

For over a decade, Pacific Mall has had a reputation for selling counterfeit and pirated products. The recent American report has listed Pacific Mall as one of the 18 physical markets notorious for counterfeit goods. It was the only Canadian location that was listed.

According to the report, the goods at Pacific Mall are “sprawling and pervasive” and that vendors “operate largely with impunity and requests for assistance from local law enforcement have reportedly gone unanswered.” In addition, the report has also stated that many of the counterfeit goods, which included cosmetics, sunglasses, and fragrances, pose a risk to public health and safety.

However, there have been crackdowns and investigations of the vendors conducted by the RCMP and the York Regional police over the last 2 decades. It is said that the electronics, DVDs, video games, and other goods that were seized were worth millions of dollars.

In 2015, one case of counterfeiting at Pacific Mall was the selling of fake Chanel products in a Pacific Mall vendor “Lam Chan Kei.” The case ended with court action taking place where the judgment included $250,000 in punitive and exemplary damages against the owner and the store.

The other physical locations that were listed as major counterfeiting centers included markets from across the world. The following other countries that have their markets listed in the report: Argentina, China, Mexico, India, Italy, Paraguay, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Representatives of Pacific Mall were not immediately available for comment.

Olympic Diplomacy Across the Korean Peninsula

In a surprising turn of attitude, North Ko- rean leader Kim Jong Un has expressed a clear desire to open peace talks with South Korea during his New Year’s address to the nation. Inter-Korean peace talks began on Tuesday, Jan 9, and marked the first time in two years that the two governments held any formal correspondence.

Issues discussed at these meeting did not include North Korea’s nuclear program, which was brought up by the South but quickly shut down by the North, but rather heavily focused on the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics set to commence on Feb 9 in South Korea. The North agreed on sending a large team of athletes and a cheerleading squad to Pyeongchang next month, marking their return to involvement with the winter Olympics after eight years of absence. In return, the South proposed that the two Korean teams walk into the Olympic area together during opening ceremo- nies, a powerful sign of unity.

Also resulting from the discussion were agreements to hold future meetings to reduce military tensions along the DMZ and the re- establishment of a military hotline between the two countries. The South Korean delegation called the North to end its nuclear program. The North Korean delegation did not comply but said that in “nuclear weapons are aimed at the US” and not at its brethren in South Korea. Plenty of speculation has arisen concerning the sudden shift in North Korean attitude, although a consensus has been reached among most political analysts that President Donald Trump is primarily responsible. Some, including South Korea’s President Moon Jae-in, believe that Trump’s hardline rhetoric against Kim Jong Un has pressured the Hermit King- dom to come to the meeting table. Some believe that the supreme leader might be at- tempting to seem more reasonable, in the eyes of the world, than his US counterpart, given Trump’s warhawk threats to “totally destroy” North Korea if provoked.

Regardless, diplomacy through sports is not an unheard-of occurrence. Looking back at the early 1970’s, formal relations between the United States and the People’s Republic of China began through ping-pong diplomacy, where members of the US Table Tennis team were invited to Communist China to play against the host nation’s team. This paved the way for talks between Beijing and Wash- ington after nearly two decades of Cold War tensions, culminating in Richard Nixon’s visit to Beijing in 1972, making him the first US president to step foot in China since the Com- munist Revolution in 1949.

The two Koreas have been in a state of war since 1950, never having formally signed a peace treaty to end the Korean War. Desires for reunification have been present since then but relations have fluctuated over time, de- teriorating recently due to advancements in the North’s nuclear missile program and the election of Donald Trump in 2016. With the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics starting in early February, perhaps the wonder of sports can bring unity to a divided Korean peninsula.

Uncertain Future of Trade

These changes proposed focus entirely on an “America first” attitude. Points include reducing the U.S. trade deficit within NAFTA, scrapping certain NAFTA dispute-resolu- tion panels, opening up Canada and Mexico to U.S. telecom companies and banks, and restrictions on Canadian or Mexican firms seeking U.S. government contracts.

More recently, during October of last year, more specific (and contentious) demands were set during the talks in Arlington. Nota- bly, the U.S. wants to specify vehicles under NAFTA to be at least 85% North Ameri- can content and 50% U.S. content, a major change from the current regulation that sim- ply needs 62.5% North American content. This rule included an additional clause that exempted U.S. automakers from it. This is merely one of the examples that worried both the U.S. and the rest of the continent, a radical proposal pushed out with immense risk for every party involved.

In Canada, both the ruling party as well as the official opposition are unified in support of Canada’s position in NAFTA. Andrew Scheer, similarly to Trudeau, criticized the U.S. approach to the negotiations, and sug- gested that they would be better off looking at internal issues such as taxation, regula- tion, and technological change. Conserva- tive MPs are divided on certain aspects of NAFTA and many consider it imperfect, but urge for cautious decisions.

Mexico, on the other hand, is in a danger- ous position. With the general election coming up in half a year and incumbent President Enrique Peña Nieto ineligible for another term, national politics and NAFTA have become intertwined. With additional comments from Trump that his prom- ised border wall would be paid by Mexico woven into the NAFTA discussion, the Mexican public is heavily disillusioned with the U.S. Political candidates in the country risk severe public backlash if any concessions to the U.S. are suggested.

Throughout most of the current talks, not much progress has been made. Most of the tough issues brought forward are still as unimpressive. Many of the U.S. proposals have been described by Canada and Mexico to be non-starters entirely. On the other hand, many officials on the U.S. side are getting increasingly frustrated with the lack of coun- ter-offers. While the Canadian government is still hoping for the best to come from the negotiations, Foreign Affairs Minister Free- land has stated that it is also prepared for the worst: the U.S. invoking Article 2205, withdrawing from the agreement entirely.
The Golden Globes: Don’t Stand out, Stand Up

Eva Longoria told The Hollywood Reporter, “We were up against the time. If this group of women can’t fight anything if we haven’t cleaned our own house. If this group of women can’t speak righteously about the rest of us—men in the entertainment industry, such as powerful talent agencies for gender equality in non-disclosure agreements which often retribution against harassers. They are developing ideas for legislation, such as penalizing companies that tolerate persistent harassment and encouraging non-disclosure agreements which often prevent women from coming forward. They are also pushing studios and talent agencies for gender equality in employment. This came in response to recent sexual harassment allegations against powerful men in the entertainment industry, such as Harvey Weinstein and Jeffrey Tambor. As Shonda Rhimes, executive producer of television series “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Scandal,” and “How to Get Away With Murder,” notes: “It’s very hard for us to speak righteously about the rest of anything if we haven’t cleaned our own house. If this group of women can’t fight for a model where women who don’t have as much power and privilege, then who can?” By starting with Hollywood, they are setting a new standard to better help working class women. Women in blue-collar workplaces, such as janitors, nurses, and workers in factories, restaurants and hotels, are often overlooked. Connie Britton made a similar comment: “We really need to do now is to speak up for the grassroots and get to every day women who have been dealing with these issues and have to sit alone with it and don’t have the support of their workplaces,” she told CNN. “For me, my hope is that we really get to a place with this movement where it’s not just about Hollywood.”

Who are the Activists?
Several founding members took an extra step, and invited prominent female activists as their guests. Emma Stone brought Billie Jean King, one of the greatest tennis players of all time. She won thirty-nine Grand Slam titles and a record twenty career victories at Wimbledon, all the while advocating for female athletes. She fought for equal pay, and founded the Women’s Tennis Association and the Women’s Sports Foundation. Stone played her in Battle of the Sexes, for which she received a Golden Globes nomination. Michelle Williams brought Tarana Burke, who founded the Me Too movement to “help survivors of sexual violence, particularly young women of colour from low wealth communities, find pathways to healing”, ten years before the hashtag took off on Twitter. She is also a senior director for Girls for Gender Equity in Brooklyn, and organizes workshops to help victims of sexual violence.

Laura Dern brought Monica Ramirez, an activist, author, and civil rights attorney who is dedicated to ending violence against women—especially farmworkers. She is the co-founder and president of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, which is working to end the exploitation of female farmworkers. Shailene Woodley brought activist and artist Calina Lawrence, member of the Suquamish tribe. She uses her work to address a wide rage of causes, including racial injustice, police brutality, violence against women and children, and the misrepresentation of Native Americans in mainstream media. She is currently touring the US to advocate Native Treaty Rights, and the “Mni Wiconi” (Water is Life) movement led by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe.

Amy Poehler brought activist and attorney Saru Jayaram, co-founder and director of Restaurants Opportunities Centers United, which “improve[s] wages and working conditions for the nation’s restaurant workforce”. It was established to protect those displaced after 9/11, but evolved to represent all immigrant restaurant workers. She is also the director of the Food Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley. Meryl Streep brought Ai-jen Poo, co-founder and executive director of National Domestic Workers Alliance, which protects the rights of domestic workers such as nannies, housekeepers, and caregivers. She is also the co-director of Caring Across Generations, an organization working towards transforming long term care by attending to the needs of the elderly, people with disabilities, and caregivers. Susan Sarandon brought Rosa Clemente, who is a journalist and hip-hop artist, and founder of Know Thy Self Productions, which consults on issues including hip-hop activism, voter engagement, immigrants’ rights, and healthcare. She ran in 2008 as a Green Party vice-presidential candidate. Emma Watson brought Marai Larasi, with whom she has been collaborating over the past year. Larasi is dedicated to ending violence against women. She is the executive director of Imkaan, a UK-based black feminist organization that works to prevent violence against marginalized women, and is the co-chair of the End Violence Against Women Coalition.

Sanford Fleming Foundation

The SFF Memorial Leadership Award Nominations

In recognition of the late Professors Saip Alpay and Wm. C. Nichol, and Sam Cecceerallo, Robert Eelligien, later 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 Sanford 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 Sanford Fleming Foundation will form its decision. Nominations must be submitted to the Foundation by April 1, 2018 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 April 1, 2018

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

Pick Your Poison

CAMERON SOLTYS
4B MECHANICAL

1: Bar code for books (abbr)
5: Frequent garment for baseball fans
8: Proud, especially relating to the failure of another
12: Exclamation to an unwanted pest
13: Covered with, for instance aluminum and the Washington monument
15: Projected effect
16: Deep feeling of dislike
17: Quick
18: Academic test for lawyers
19: Popular skincare brand
20: “I forgot my keys and was ___ ___!” (2 wds)
21: Move like a fairy
22: Acronym indicating a non-native English speaker
23: Outdated Microsoft Excel file format
24: Of or relating to ten
25: Safari, Apple computer browser
26: In chemistry, atoms desire these to be filled
28: In chemistry, atoms desire these to be filled
29: Gaius Papirius, consul of Rome
30: Isolated areas of water in a desert
31: Baby’s frequent behaviour
32: Bathroom floor decoration, for instance
33: Enterprise service bus
34: Enterprise service bus
35: Acronym indicating a non-native English speaker
36: Garden feature, for instance a fountain
37: An isolated unit of weight
38: Various species of plants
39: Carbonaceous deposit from the remains of ancient marine organisms
40: Compound that occasionally contains dinosaur DNA
41: A long time ___, in a galaxy far far away...
42: “You will ___ the day you crossed me!” (2 wds)
43: United Bank for Africa (abbr)
44: An isolated unit of weight
45: Negative years
46: Anything but Aunties
47: Most common naming scheme for iron in North America
48: Pencil deleter
49: Very Hard
50: United Bank for Africa (abbr)
51: Digital Developers Fund (abbr)
52: Simplex or quadrate
53:bronze, copper, or gold
54: Acronym indicating a non-native English speaker
55: Derivative of poppy plants
56: Owned
57: Canadian tow-truck company (abbr)
58: Frequent garment for baseball fans
59: Internet expression of humor
60: Medium
61: Toronto Secondary Unit (abbr)
62: Not digital
63: Hyperlink (abbr)
64: Registered trademark of a popular soft drink
65: Isolated areas of water in a desert
66: Exclamation upon observing cuteness
67: Angel’s spoken on the first one
68: Isolated areas of water in a desert
69: Texture of a certain kind of stone
70: “What’s Worth Eating at the Plaza?”
71: Enterprise service bus
72: Superman, DC Comics

Sudoku

#2018-01

CAMERON SOLTYS
4B MECHANICAL

“Where’s Worth Eating at the Plaza?”

Anything but Aunties
Michael Baucheman, VP Finance

Has anyone said Paninos?
If not, Paninos!
Toni Ogunmade

Mels, even after an hour wait
Eric, 2A BME

William’s Coffee
Rachelyn Collins, 2A SYDE

Shawarma Plus, they have two
Shawarmas for $10
Toni Ogunmade

Shawarma Plus
Ghaith Bakri, 4B Mech

Solutions for previous crosswords can be found on The Iron Warrior’s website at www.warrior.uwaterloo.ca/distractions.