While most people were enjoying pie during Pi Day, Stephen Hawking, one of the world’s leading theoretical physicists, died peacefully early Wednesday, March 14, surrounded by his family and his loved ones in his home in Cambridge. He was 76 years old. In a public statement, his children honored Hawking’s legacy as a great scientist who inspired the world while also praising his courage and perseverance.

When Hawking was 22, he was diagnosed with ALS and was only given two years to live. The disease left his body paralyzed and made him use a voice synthesizer later in his life as his only method of communication. He was completely dependent on others for completing the most basic tasks in daily life. Yet, despite these setbacks, Hawking published many books including A Brief History of Time, which sold more than ten million copies.

One of his greatest accomplishments was connecting the theory of relativity and quantum mechanics to explain how the universe started and how it will end. He also discovered that black holes emit “Hawking radiation” (named after himself) and that black holes will eventually fade away. These were just some of his contributions to the fields of physics and astronomy. Stephen Hawking has left a great legacy here in Waterloo. In 2012, he visited the university and attended the opening of the newly built Quantum Nano Centre as a ribbon cutter and guest speaker. He was cheered on by a large crowd as he entered the newly constructed building. During the opening of the Quantum Nano Centre, he recalls in his speech how he felt Waterloo was a special place for him and praised “its collaborative culture; its research excellence; its philanthropic visionaries; and its leadership in post-secondary education.” He visited the university on a regular basis from 2008 to 2010 and gave a televised lecture on the education channel TVO in 2010.

The former executive director of the Institute of Quantum Computing, Raymond LaFlamme, was Hawking’s PhD student at the University of Cambridge. LaFlamme helped discover, through his calculations, that time does not reverse, an idea contrary to Hawking’s theories. Hawking eventually gave LaFlamme a personal copy of A Brief History of Time, with a personalized inscription stating that LaFlamme “showed [Hawking] that the arrow of time is not a boomerang.” During Hawking’s visit, LaFlamme gave Hawking a boomerang, as a gift for his final visit to the university.

Stephen Hawking inspired many in his life through his contributions to the scientific community even though he struggled through his disability for most of his life. In addition, he has a special place in the University’s history as a guest lecturer and the one who considered Waterloo as a special place for innovation. On Pi Day, the world truly lost an icon.
Thank You Everyone For Everything

CAMERON SOLTYS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The building sits there. Quiet and empty. The roof still—probably—slowly caving in. Some nights, when I'm bored, I try to look through the window of my old apartment to spot the familiar, worn number on the corner.

My relationship with Waterloo has been a little bit tumultuous over the last few years. It's been the source of my highest highs and my lowest lows. Not a lot of people know how much I've changed since first year, since the biggest change has been getting out, making a decision to become involved, and meeting too many people around to remember the shy, quiet, constantly-studying Cameron because that Cameron didn't have all that many friends.

I experienced a lot of the change to The Iron Warrior, which I have been an active member of since I started at Waterloo. The Editor-in-Chief (EICs) I worked with were kind, friendly, and encouraging. It was nice to have at least a small space where I could come out of my shell. The only other big thing I remember from first year is that, by some spontaneous decision, I took up the habit of rewriting my notes every Friday evening.

The biggest change occurred in 2B, during my first tenure as EIC. All of a sudden, I had to run meetings, talk to advertisers, forcibly extract articles from people, and—most importantly—go to EngSoc meetings to give updates. I was small in paper council. Little did I know that first venture would blow into a long chain of directorships and involvement with underground newspapers, including my role as a becoming Student Services Commissioner in 4B.

Third year can be described as the down- turn. Coming off of the peak, when my confidence was at a peak and I was the most happy person alive, made the crash all the worse. I can pinpoint the exact week, in fact. It was the week after reading week, February 25, 2016. After a quiet, relaxed second semester, I was enjoying a successful exam season and ski trip to Mont Tremblant. My joyfulness was abruptly disrupted when a classmate did some quick finger counting and realized that we had an average of one academic deliverable per three days for the rest of the term, most of them large and substantial projects or reports. Within a week, I had gone from a high-achieving, dedicated student to losing all motivation. I started handing in half-finished assignments and late-minute reports. I learned to tell myself that I got though aggressive when I'm tired.

To bring this wandering conversation to a close, thank you reader. I’d thank individuals who I think made a huge difference in my life, but I don’t have every one of those notes since 1B. They occupy about 30x30x30 cm, most of that air or the binders I keep them in. I’ve also scanned all my notes on the ropes and I think they take up about 100 MB. That could fit on a USB from 2003. How many photos would I need to capture all my memories? How do you store the high from making it through a difficult presentation? How do you transmit the excitement of orientation week or the fear of being hunted down during Humans vs. Zombies? Maybe you can, maybe you can’t. But you sure can’t do it in the couple hundred pieces of paper where I have written most of my academic achievement.

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THE IRON WARRIOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2018
My little brother passed away earlier this month. He was 22. His name was Daniel, but I always called him Dude Boy because I heard my Grade 11 economics teacher call another student by that moniker in class and I thought it was hilarious. The nickname stuck, and to me, he was always Dude Boy.

He was born in November ’95, at 6:18PM. It snowed on the way to the hospital. Unlike me, he had the good sense to be born head first. It was a good start for his life. He was the brightest, most considerate person I ever knew.

In elementary school he joined a local programming group, and in high school, he medalled multiple times in international programming competitions. Later on, he became a co-leader of the school programming group. He was a patient, thorough teacher and helped many younger students in the group to develop their skills. He emphasized understanding why a bit of code worked before using it.

My brother’s work and achievements with the high school programming group allowed him to come to the University of Waterloo on a big scholarship. My mom and I joked that he might try to take the fabled “trains course” or do a minor in combinators and optimization, but by his last term, he was taking all the required courses and would have graduated, he became an accomplished long-distance runner in city track and field competitions. We were so proud of him. Sometimes we called him a “good job boy.” And we always told our friends and family about how brilliant we thought he was. I think I boasted about his accomplishments more than he did.

Dude Boy was the most gentle, considerate individual, but with a spicy slapstick sense of humour. He probably got that sense of humour from watching the movies Hot Fuzz and Kung Fu Hustle frequently during his formative years. For my birthday, he sent me a picture of my cat edited so that she was wearing a party hat, surrounded by confetti, and blowing a party horn. When anybody did anything gross at home, he would pantomime wearing a hazmat suit with left hand, and spraying invisible disinfectant with his right hand - with sound effects.

As a child, he obsessed with Thomas the Tank Engine, Bionicles, and (very briefly!) Theodore Tugboat. At some point he de-censored for my parents’ benefit. On Thursday nights after one of his bird courses at the local Drivetest centre for weeks since the G2 license in Ontario over the summer, and graduating, he was supposed to to go to California to accept a position at Facebook, where he had completed multiple co-op terms previously. He said he might get his G2 license in Ontario ever the summer, and I joked that he’d be driving circles around the local Drivetest centre for weeks since the parking spaces there were very awkward to get into. I told him that I hoped that Facebook would let him get away from Eagleland after he’d progressed a bit in his career, and that he should visit home frequently in the meantime.

There are so many things about my brother that I will miss. His favourite color was blue. His haircut was always a number one buzz cut all around, so he looked a bit like a fizzy bowling ball. But he only got a haircut when he came home from university, so by the time we saw him, he had a spiky ‘fro. His hair was sharp when my mum cut it she said it lodged in her fingers like little black splinters. Mosquitoes rarely bit him, and my dad joked it was something in his sweat that they should bottle up and sell on eBay. When we went to the Chinese butcher for meats he ate the BBQ pork almost exclusively. Sometimes, he liked to pour the sauce from the bottom of the container into his rice and mix it around by stabbing it vigorously with his chopsticks. His favourite fruits were bana-sic ones, like apples, oranges, bananas, and pears. He liked to be neat: his room at home was always tidy, and everything stored in its proper place. He talked really fast when he was excited and he had a brilliant smile. I wish I could see him smile again.

He was the very best of all of us. None of us expected that he would die so young. I was supposed to have many more decades teasing Dude Boy about his haircut and his posture. Now we will have to grow old while he stays 22 in our memory forever. His family and friends love him and miss him very much. I’m certain not a day will go by where we won’t think about him.

Daniel, 1995 – 2018
More Coffee, Please

Truth be told, university made me a coffee addict. Not just coffee: any form of caffeine. And lots of it. Energy drinks, teas, chocolate, anything I could get my hands on. In high school I had never even had a drop of it, and these days I can’t imagine going a day without. What is it about caffeinated beverages that give us that extra kick in the morning? Why has this culture of relying purely on coffee to sustain ourselves gotten so much hot press (pun intended) in our everyday society? How do I kick an intense, slightly overbearing coffee habit? Fear not and read on for the basics, the solutions, and some tough love about your cup of joe.

Before you fill up that steamy cup in the morning, let’s take a look at coffee in the world and just how it affects your system. Caffeine is the main kicker; it can be found in teas, coffee beans, cacao beans (chocolate), and lots of cold and headache medications. It works as a stimulant to your central nervous system. The reality? It’s a drug. The world’s most popular, in fact. In 2016, the world consumed over 7 million tonnes of coffee, the highest being Finland, where the residents hold the highest amount of coffee consumption per capita per annum: 13 kg. Norway and Iceland follow at second and third, respectively. Several factors could have attributed to this; in recent years, coffee has been booming with the millennials and, due to the westernization of countries, it is viewed as more of a “lifestyle” drink as coffeehouse meetings and late art take precedence on social media.

Caffeine is a diuretic, and if you remember anything from your Grade 12 bio course you’ll know that means you definitely should regulate it: no more than 500mg of caffeine (or 5 cups of coffee) a day. Diuretics work to encourage the release of sodium into your urine, which then, through the magic of tubular re-absorption, takes in more water from your bloodstream. While this does deposit wastes more frequently and decreases the pressure of fluids in your blood vessels, it can quickly cause dehydration and become life-threatening if not monitored. Other than dehydration and increased urine production, restlessness, headaches, anxiety, and muscle tremors can also be a result of too much caffeine. In addition to coffee, chocolate and tea consumption should also be limited, though their caffeine content is significantly less. Energy drinks are even worse, with Red Bull having 80 mg of caffeine in an 8oz can, while coffee has 40 mg for the same amount. Scary, right? They also have terrifying levels of sugar (27.5g per Red Bull) and—when mixed in with so much caffeine—can culminate to sugar crashes, energy slumps, and caffeine withdrawal. Not so glamorous, am I right?

Other than the negative effects, caffeine goes through a pretty complex path through your body’s internal systems to get you to that peak. Ten minutes after the initial consumption, the caffeine enters your bloodstream and raises your heart rate and blood pressure, making you feel more awake and experience better concentration. It does so by (more biology terminology) inhibiting the production of adenosine, which plays a part in transferring signals throughout the body including the feeling of tiredness. By inhibiting it temporarily, caffeine makes way for only the “feel good” molecules to get to your brain instead, giving you a sense of productivity and elevation.

Coffee and Blockchain

Here is how Coca-Cola intends its system to work. Coca-Cola will provide the data in more than two dozen countries via its labor force. Meanwhile, the US State Department brings its experience in labor relations and protection to the table. Both Bitfury Group and Emercoin will be responsible for various aspects of building the blockchain technology that will log workers and their contracts into the registry. Lastly, the nonprofit Blockchain Trust Accelerator will use this opportunity to further the use of blockchain for social good.

What makes this system revolutionary is the presence of smart contracts, which were first used to create the Ethereum coin. Smart contracts are protocols that help with the verification, facilitation, or enforcement of a contract. In plain English, and to be specific to the sugar supply chain workers included in this blockchain study, these smart contracts define the scope of work, pay, and employment period for these workers.

This essentially brings the work done in secret by middlemen into the open. The transparency in workers’ contracts allows their employers to be held accountable when they don’t keep their side of the bargain. As this project is set to launch, it is also important to keep in mind some of its possible challenges. First of all, even though this provides transparency for workers and gives them control over their identities, it still relies on these workers having access to technology such as a smartphone to ensure that their contract was being followed by their employer. As most workers rarely have the disposable income needed to buy a smartphone, this might prevent workers from using this technology to their advantage.

Another huge test to this program will be in its ability to scale. Blockchain has proven successful in a few non-currency related projects, but it has yet to be tested in a large, 28 countrywide project like this one. What will happen when it is faced with the pressures of the real world remain to be seen.

At the end of the day, one can only wait and see how this project will improve the lives of workers around the world. At the very least, the next time you chug a bottle of packaged sugar water and special sauce, you can do it with the knowledge that it is now more likely to have been made ethically and beneficially to all those involved. Hopefully.
US-Bangla Plane Crashes in Nepal


Flight 211, a Bombardier Dash 8 Q400, was carrying 4 crew and 67 passengers. 20 people survived the crash, while 51 lost their lives. This is the deadliest crash involving the Dash 8 Q400 and the worst accident involving a Bangladeshi airline.

At 12:52 local time, the aircraft left from Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. No incidents were reported during the take-off and cruise stages of the flight.

Air crash investigators noted that during the plane’s descent to land, the pilot and control tower were miscommunicating and misaligned with the runway when coming in to land. This likely resulted from the miscommunication between the pilots and the air traffic control tower.

Survivors say the plane shook violently when it landed and that they heard loud explosions. Investigators will use this information to try and find the cause of the crash.

Emergency response personnel were on the scene instantly and extinguished the fires in 15 minutes. Those critically injured, 31 in total, were taken to hospitals across Kathmandu. Eight bodies were initially found among the wreckage, a number that increased by 32 at the conclusion of the rescue operation. In total, 51 people died, 40 of them on scene and 11 in hospitals.

As a result of the crash, the airport was shut down for three hours.

Of the 71 people on board, 65 were adult travelers, two were children, and four were crew members. Abid Sultan, the captain, was a former Bangladeshi Air Force pilot. Prithibash Rashid, the first officer, was the first female pilot in the history of US-Bangla airlines.

The captain had 22 years of experience and had a total of 1700 hours of flying time in the Dash 8 Q400. The airline stated that he had landed in Kathmandu more than one hundred times. He initially survived the crash but succumbed to his injuries hours later.

First officer Rashid survived the crash and helped with the evacuation of other survivors, but also died of his injuries in hospital.

The investigation into the cause of the crash has begun, with the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal reporting that the flight recorders (“black boxes”) had been recovered. Officials are also investigating and recording eyewitness accounts of the crash. The recovery operations have become a national incident, with Nepali Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli visiting the crash site to oversee the progress.

The very same aircraft, registered as S2-AGU, had been involved in an incident in Saidpur, Bangladesh when it over-ran the runway in 2015. No injuries were reported in that accident and the plane returned to service eight hours later.

1N MECHANICAL

STEFAN KARL STEFANSSON

In early March 2018, Stefan Karl Stefansson tweeted, “It’s not until they tell you you’re going to die soon that you realize how short life is. Time is the most valuable thing in life because it never comes back. And whether you spend it in the arms of a loved one or alone in a prison-cell, life is what you make of it. Dream big.” The actor most known for Robbie Rotten in the TV series Lazy Town and the subject of a very popular recurring meme, has been diagnosed with a new metastases that is inoperable. Stefansson had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in late 2016. Since then he’s gotten past several treatments of his stage 4 diagnosis and a serious infection in June of 2017.

Fans of Stefansson poured out tons of support in this time period. A GoFundMe was started in October of 2016 to raise money for his cancer treatment, rolling in around $170,000 by the end of the campaign. Millions of videos had been posted throughout the year, renditions of his famous “We Are Number One” song from Lazy Town and many others, most of which had the GoFundMe linked in the description. As of his most recent diagnosis, over ten million videos based on Robbie Rotten have been posted. On December 11, 2016, shortly after a major surgery and around the time he started his first chemotherapy session, he showed his support back to his fans by performing a live version of the song with the old cast. Fans continued their support through his treatment, and in June of 2017 he underwent surgery and chemotherapy, battling a serious infection at the time.

Around August, about a month after his 42nd birthday, he had announced that he was cancer-free “for now” after receiving treatment on his liver for bile-duct cancer. Sadly, just a few days ago he received this new, untreatable diagnosis.

His wife, Steinunn Ólína Róbertsdóttir, wrote a post, which translated to, “Even though I knew for a long time that this day would come, it’s a difficult turning point. There is no cure for this. Now he will have to undergo chemotherapy to try to prolong his life and we hope that this will go as well as is possibly can, to improve how he feels and to prolong his life.”

Since Stefan’s initial diagnosis in 2016, we have seen what I like to call the unprecedented philanthropism of internet degenerates. How did memes turn from unfunny rage comics depicting relatable humour to such a strong, altruistic tool? Where did the internet degenerates become a national incident, with the very same aircraft, registered as S2-AGU, had been involved in an incident in Saidpur, Bangladesh when it over-ran the runway in 2015. No injuries were reported in that accident and the plane returned to service eight hours later.

Stefan Karl Stefansson as Robbie Rotten in the TV show LazyTown.

In his 42nd year, Stefansson was the first female pilot in the airline and was a former Bangladeshi Air Force pilot. Prithibash Rashid, the first officer, was the first female pilot in the history of US-Bangla airlines.

The aircraft broke into many pieces and caught fire soon after. Survivors say the plane shook violently when it landed and that they heard loud explosions. Investigators will use this information to try and find the cause of the crash.

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Nerve Agent Attack in Britain

On March 4, first responders arrived at a public bench in the city of Salisbury, England to find 66-year-old Sergei Skripal and his 33-year-old daughter Yulia Skripal lying unconscious. They were immediately taken to hospital and an investigation began immediately. According to the UK government, the two were poisoned with a nerve agent from the Novichok family.

Sergei Skripal grew up in the USSR, serving in the Soviet Airborne Troops. He later became an intelligence officer in Russia’s Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) in the early 1990’s. He worked around Europe before returning to Moscow in 1996 due to health complications from diabetes. After a few years working at the headquarters and even becoming acting director, he retired in 1999 with the rank of colonel. The GRU was at the time aware that Skripal had been recruited by British intelligence in 1995 and was exchanging classified information for money. The data exposed many undercover Russian operatives and led to several expulsions.

In 2004, he was arrested outside Moscow and in 2006 convicted of high treason. His sentence was for thirty years in a detention facility and the loss of his rank and decorations. However, in July of 2010, due to an agreement, he was released alongside three others being detained in Russian prisons in exchange for ten Russian spies being held by the FBI. He and his wife moved to Salisbury and gained British citizenship. According a friend of his, Skripal did not see himself as a traitor as he swore his oath to the Soviet Union, not Russia. The friend also said that Skripal had written to President Vladimir Putin to ask to be allowed to return to visit his parents and other relatives.

The British investigation into the attacks tested samples of the nerve agent used, finding it to be positive for a unique family of agents. Prime Minister Theresa May announced on 12 March that laboratories had identified it as one of the Novichok series of nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union and Russia between 1971 and 1993, claimed by scientists to be the deadliest nerve agents ever made. May declared that the act was either deliberate by Russia against the UK or that the nerve agent was no longer in the control of Russia, and demanded a response. After unsatisfactory communications, the UK expelled 23 Russian diplomats and their families on March 20, and the EU withdrew their ambassador from Russia.

Russian statements dismiss the relevance of the attack, stating that the incident occurred on British soil. As a citizen that was known to have worked for a British secret service. May’s statements were poorly received in Russia, with a spokesperson for the foreign ministry describing it as “a circle show in the British parliament”.

Russia’s Security Council representative told the United Nations that no research or development program known as “Novichok” is being performed and that all development efforts in chemical weaponry had been terminated in 1992. He added that, in 2017, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons had certified the Russian Federation’s complete destruction of all existing stocks of chemical weapons, while the United States and United Kingdom had not yet been verified to do so.

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According to a piece in the New York Times, “journalists are killing journalism”. Today, everything focuses on immedi-ate access. High demand and quick turn-around time are representative of our day and age, and journalists must keep in up-der to retain attention. The goal is to draw large audiences, so they must convince us, as readers, that we want what they are pro-viding. They must give us what we want, how we want it, and when we want it. Side note: this is a weird perspective for me to write, because I consider myself as a pro-consumer of information. However, I have different goals, considering that I work for free; I write what gives me satisfaction as a writer, rather than what I think others want to read.

We can break down a news article as follows: What? So What? Now What? The first is a skeleton to our writing, the in-depth information along with their overview, but they expect everything at the same time. With the emphasis on im-mEDIATE PUBLISHING, stories are delivered fast-hand, which eliminates a lot of the editing and publishing process. Again, staying relevant as a news organization can make us more important to readers.

The digital age has had both a positive and negative impact on how news is dis-covered and consumed. While readers expect immediate access to news, journalists can gain immediate ac-cess to sources. While print news is sadly becoming obsolete, the opportunities ren-dered by the variety of multimedia plat-forms are almost endless if journalists care about their readers. In my opinion, we may miss paper, at least we’re saving trees.
Too long have we toiled beneath the vicious overlords. Too long have the Free Engineers of the University of Waterloo suffered beneath the chains we admittedly chose to wear ourselves. Too long have these peasants stood against us...but no more. My friends, neighbours, country-people, fellow humans of UW Engineering, it is finally time for us to rise and to strike while the FedS is still weak. The FedS is in the midst of a “friendly” exchange of power. We can use this. We must unite now and overthrow this monstrous creation of Engineers past. Why? Well listen, my friend, and I will tell you a tale. A tale of a Society, and a Monster.

Long in the past, the Engineering Society heard the pitiful cries of the other societies, and so they gathered together and produced a powerful entity from their sheer organizational prowess and institutional experience. They called this creature The Federation of Students. The years went by, and things were great in the beginning. The University flourished, nurtured by the gentle touch of the Engineers. Dark times were on the horizon. The FedS soon grew tired of the Engineers. FedS had entered its Angsty Teenager Years™ and wanted to distance itself from its loving parent. FedS introduced needless bureaucracy, and bowed to the whims of the University, straying ever further from the true light—caring for and protecting the students. Unnecessary services were introduced, and students began to suffer. The Engineering Society was treated like an enemy, rather than the trustworthy ally in the fight to improve students’ lives. EngSoc is constantly harassed with audits, saddled with bureaucracy, and treated like a second-class society in a University in which it is the Society Par Excellence. It is time to free the Engineers from the shackles that bind them. No more must the Engineers pay extravagant fees to the Federation of Students and its affiliates—fees that continue to increase at an unacceptable rate year by year.

When EngSoc secedes from the FedS, it will be able to form its own Nation. Engineers will Rule this Nation, and all of the Laws will be reasonable and for the benefit of the Engineers. EngSoc will finish the great work that it started so long ago, but lacked the vision to carry over the finish line. There must be a schism to allow EngSoc to spread its wings and become all that it was destined to be. IT shall worship Only the Tool, and all shall love IT, and DESPAIR.
Hello minions. Well, I wish I could say that. In reality, I am the minions and because I am here at 5 AM because I procrastinated for a long time and then took four days to write one article because I realized that I had absolutely no idea what the heck my point matter but I already committed to it and our gracious EIC is too nice to say no to people so I would feel bad if I tried to flake on him also I’m not a flake which I think is why I got here at 5 AM finishing layout because our gracious EIC has to sleep at 10 PM like a normal human being unlike his crazy assistant who has a lab in three hours so what’s the point of even going to sleep at this point? Also this is probably karma for making our gracious EIC do all the work all weekend and not even showing up to the office to make Tin Soldier joken or doing any work until Monday so ya I’ll just keep rambling for a while if that’s alright. Ok but seriously, that was not the point of this (assistant) editorial. On behalf of everyone at the newspaper: I WISH OUR GRACIOUS EIC ALL THE BEST IN LIFE AS HE GRADUATES VERY SOON AND WE ARE SO JEALOUS OF HIS IRON RING BUT ALSO VERY HAPPY FOR HIM BECAUSE HE WORKS VERY HARD (TOO HARD TAKE A BREAK SOMETIME!!!) AND DESERVES TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE FINALLY. Please stay away, I wish I said with the best intentions. There always comes a time to let go, and that time is coming very soon. I don’t want to hear any of this crap about commuting to be to EIC because no one should have to do this more than once (you already did it more than once…) also YOU GRADUATING SO DON’T COME BACK TO CAMPUS OKKKKKK????? Ok but seriously. I could make fun of you all day for being so on top of your work but really I just wish that I had my life together rather than writing a rambling (assistant) editorial at 5 AM (ya I’m back on that again don’t judge me I’m tired and have no interest in in writing a personal normal person and soon you will also be a real PERSON (quote past EIC you know who you are) and like wow I have no words except that I need to fill the rest of this word count so I must have words so I’ll just keep talking and writing things for a while let me wonder if anyone is even reading this if you are reading this then come tell me that coffee is magic (also copying a past EIC you know who you are except that I can’t remember what your line was and too lazy to figure it out so) in that case you have to know who I am or else you are you going to say it to right? -

Big News in the Crypto Market

Gambling Gerald Bitcoin Billionaire

(Bitcoin/Ethereum/ The latest scam coin), the hottest cryptocurrency on the market right now, has been dominating the news lately. Although it started out as a relatively new business, with the current mania, grab/meme coin that was actually supposed to make fun of how the people investing in cryptocurrency have no idea what the hell they are doing), in the last (year/month/2/78 days/12 minutes) its value has skyrocketed as investors (saw the potential/get caught up in a clever social media campaign to go and dump). The latest news comes as the coin has experienced tremendously (increased/ consistent/decreased) (volatility/trading volume/value/social media attention). This, investors on Reddit say, is clear evidence that, as they always knew, their coin is starting to become mainstream; soon (all people will be using this coin for everything/that currency will be banned by all governments simultaneously/one obscure online retailer will start accepting transactions with the coin). For the most part, news that (over half the currency has been stolen by a centralized crypto exchange/the technology has a gaping security flaw/the power required to run the system is approaching that of New York City) has not dampened the spirits of crypto investors, even as the currency experiences a (99% reduction in market cap/ continuing 5-month death-spiral/ 99% price drop following the recent 5% price rebound). For the most part, they express joy that the reduced price allows them to purchase more currency (without remortgaging their house/ by remortgaging their house/ without investing any more of their retirement savings/ by investing all of their retirement savings). One or two (voices/complete idiots) dissent from the overwhelming opinion that all cryptocurrencies are, without a doubt, going to continue to increase in value forever at a rate that is about 1000 times greater than the stock market. One suggests that (buying the lows/buying the highs/technical analysis/ astrology/ using a true random number generator) is not an effective way to invest money, and that furthermore the lucrative increases in the price of cryptocurrencies may be the result of a bubble (reminiscence of almost exactly identical to) the dot com bubble. Another dissenter, apparently dissatisfied that they invested an obvious scam had all their value wiped out by someone’s funny tweet/their portfolio performed 1% worse than their friends over a 2 day period last December/ their money was stolen by one of the multitude of shady services that have popped up around the cryptocurrency industry). They suggested that the situation could be improved by (adding regulation to the technology that is entirely based on being unregulated and distributed/ people giving them money).

In Russia, Election Vote You (for Putin)

Gulgur Gerry 12 Minig

Russia stumbles the world on March 18, 2018 by re-electing Vladimir Putin as President with a mere 76.6% of the vote, casting doubts as to whether the incumbent President still had the confidence of his people to implement his daring agenda of corruption, espionage, and strong-arming (obscure technology/a apparent show of support on election day; however, it seemed that many of Putin’s campaign actions, including the attempted assassi- nation of double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia with a top-secret nerve agent, failed to resonate with the public and stoke voters into action. “This is sure to be a startling blow to Russia at a time when Putin seems to be strengthening alliances with fellow deeply democratic countries. As it stands, Putin is now the most popular leader in Europe and a powerful ally outside of fellow out of particular allies: China (where Xi Jinping is so beloved he was elected to an- other term with 99% of the Chinese Parlia- ment’s support) and North Korea (where Kim Jong-Un was elected in his region unanimously). Even Bashar Al-Assad, a closer Russian ally and President of Syria, won his last election with 88.7% of the vote in the middle of a civil war. However, supporters for Putin’s All- Russia People’s Front party were quick to dissolve this notion: “The people of Russia have been very clear,” stated current Prime Minister, former President, and chief Putin puppet Dmitry Medvedev. “The only true leader in Europe is VADIM! Now, if you will just follow me into this unmarked army truck…."

Message from the newspaper: If you have information regarding the whereabouts of our Russian correspondent, please contact INTERPOL.

The Tin Soldier is not a forum for thought-provoking and informative articles, but a place for light-hearted conversation with- ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants. Views expressed in this newspaper are not those of the authors so-ever with the Society of the Travelling Pants.
Why do the geese have a better love life?

BILLY HERRINGTON IS BACK!

Every time I see a pair of geese, I get reminded of all my past failures in finding a partner or something like that. What am I doing wrong that the geese are doing right? Well today, I will interview a goose in Waterloo and ask him, for some relationship advice. Hopefully you guys might find it helpful as well. So, let’s ask this goose here. Mr. Goose tell me how it is like to have a significant other:

G: HonkHon...
Can Scott Still Do a Backflip?

He always enthusiastically volunteers for stuff and we love him for being so helpful, but it’s been years since we’ve seen him successfully complete a backflip. Everyone knows it’s the backflips that make the dad jokes bearable. What happened?

Did our golden retriever puppy grow old and tired?

An anonymous source close to Scott revealed something that may illuminate the truth.

“I think he might be a father in disguise. That’s why he always tells so many dad jokes. He is a dad.” The source went on to say that they think Scott is only going to school because he wants to prove to his son that he could get into Waterloo if he tried hard enough. “I think he used to do backflips to prove he was young. To blend in. Now his age is catching up to him.”

So is Scott too old to do backflips? We consulted a backflip specialist who has conducted research on the effects of spawning offspring on backflip-ability. They revealed more research is needed to determine if this hypothesis is plausible.

We may never know if Scott can still do a backflip. Someone should ask him.
Scientists Resign as Minecraft Proves Flat Earth Theories

In a 98-page study released by the University of Notchingham, researchers at the university provided conclusive proof of a flat earth after reaching the end of a Minecraft world. The research was adapted from an old paper, which was able to postulate the possibility based on Runescape players. However, the research was never furthered as the author sadly passed in wildly level 1. What a noob. Professor Creeper, the sole author of the recent paper, ended up receiving a Nobel Peace Prize for settling the decade old debate. Conflicts around the globe between flat-earth theorists and round-earth shillers have been appeased at the result of this new information.

We got in touch with a few scientists to hear their testimonials about this new information. Dr. Ender, a well-known theoretical spherist responded, “well it’s irrefutable. Might as well toss my research aside and mine some diamonds.” Dr. Prince, a conspiracy theorist responded, “Screw this. I’m still going to follow the Katamari theory of round earth.”

Minecraft players on the other hand rejoiced after their theories had finally been proven. Statues were erected in the honour of Dr. Creeper’s discovery, but were taken down due to “phallic interpretations” by the city councils. YouTubers found themselves collecting more ad revenue while LittleBigPlanet players saw drops in sackboy populations after players converted religions.

Thank Mr. Goose!!!

As Waterloo awaits the opening of the highly anticipated Engineering 7 (E7) building this September, new details and layout changes are beginning to leak. Perhaps the most surprising leak is a new section named the Canada GooseTM Innovation Center. This Centre is an expansion and adaptation of the Management Engineering pizza-making lab to the premium animal-based jacket industry, with goals to give a different perspective to the manufacturing process and finally gives the Management Science department a faint hope that one day they too will be able to escape from the ancient halls of CPH and relocate to a square grey glass building that is literally just an extension of another new building and does not need a new name at all but has one anyway.

As planned, the E7 atrium will offer expansive views of this Multi-Level Manufacturing Plant®, allowing students to take a break from their studies and watch the machinery churn geese into delicious food service meals and high-quality Canada Goose jackets. A special listening station will let passersby hear the final honk of the pesky goose that glared at them and stole their French fry, while a boutique Canada Goose store will offer visitors the chance to “pick their goose” and watch every step of the production of their jacket. These services will be available in both official languages—English and Mandarin.

CECA has lauded the decision to incorporate a jacket factory, calling it a “win-win” situation, as the plant will be staffed by the 0.1-14% of students that have been unable to find a co-op. They have announced that CECA fees will be increased by $20 in September for staff bonuses celebrating this historic moment. As of printing, the Biomedical Engineering department had locked itself in a conference room in a desperate attempt to try and use this plant to finally become an accredited engineering program.
Engineering Co-op Student Debt-Load Survey

Winter 2018

KAREN DUBOIS
ACTING MANAGER, FACILITIES & SPACE DEAN OF ENGINEERING OFFICE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Total</th>
<th>Total Responses 95</th>
<th>Number Surveys Sent 4039</th>
<th>Response Rate 2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Does your family support you financially? (92 responses)
- Yes 71%
- No 29%

Average Cost of Living for a 4 month School Term (84 responses)
$14,053

Average Cost of Living for a 4 month Work Term (64 responses)
$5,770

Have you applied for local aid or other bursaries to pay for school? (64 responses)
- Yes 58%
- No 33%
- Not Yet 9%

Have you applied for OSAP? (63 responses)
- Yes & Received 57%
- Yes & Denied 10%
- No 33%

Do you have a loan for academic purposes? (62 responses)
- Yes 45%
- No 48%
- Not Yet 6%

How much is the student loan? (36 responses)
- 1-999 3%
- 1000-1999 0%
- 2000-4999 6%
- 5000-9999 28%
- 10000-19999 23%
- 20000+ 42%

Has the differential tuition increases caused you hardship? (62 responses)
- Yes 65%
- No 16%
- Not Yet 19%

How much debt do you expect to be in by graduation? (61 responses)
- No Debt 21%
- <4999 7%
- 5000-9999 10%

Do you live at home while at school? (63 responses)
- Usually 5%
- Used to 0%
- No 9%

Have you lived at home while on work terms? (60 responses)
- Always 13%
- Sometimes 48%
- Never 38%

Average of the weekly salary while on work term (47 responses)
$796

Upcoming Events Calendar

Wednesday Mar 28
- EngSoc Council Meeting #5
  5:30 - 7:30 PM POETS
- Coffee House
  8 - 11 PM POETS

Thursday Mar 29
- Hot Chocolate by EWB
  11:30 AM - 1:30 PM CPH Foyer

Friday Mar 30

Saturday Mar 31

Sunday Apr 1
- April Fools Day

Monday Apr 2
- Exam Bank Push Week!
  Submit your old exams
- Charity Grilled Cheese
  11 AM - 2 PM CPH Foyer
- EngiQueers
  6 - 9 PM POETS

Tuesday Apr 3
- Board Game Bonanza
  4:00 - 6:30 PM POETS

Wednesday Apr 4
- Last Day of Classes (Operates on a Friday Schedule)

Thursday Apr 5

Friday Apr 6

Saturday Apr 7

Sunday Apr 8
- Exams Start
  Good Luck!

Monday Apr 9

Tuesday Apr 10

Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/event-calendar/
Cambridge Analytica Uses Data From Millions of Facebook Users to Influence Votes

Cambridge Analytica is a political consulting firm which uses data collection and analysis to provide research and planning for elections. In a scandal exposed by the New York Times and The Observer of London on March 17, the data analytics firm obtained private information from over 50 million Facebook users, which they used to influence votes. There are currently investigations into how their work may have affected the Leave EU referendum in Britain and the 2016 US presidential election. There has been talk about the legitimacy of Cambridge’s operations since they started working on Donald Trump’s campaign in August 2016, but the full scale of the data leak has only just been disclosed.

These news outlets received their information from millions of Facebook profiles in one of the largest data leaks in the social media network’s history. Only a small fraction of these users had agreed to release their information to a third party. Facebook found out about this by late 2015 but failed to alert its users, taking only limited steps to recover and secure the information. This lack of disclosure could violate laws in Britain and many American states.

The New York Times reports that copies of the users’ data can still be found online, which their reporting team had seen. This data was collected via an app called “This Is Your Digital Life”, which paid users to take a personality quiz with the claim that they could reveal more about a person than their parents or partner. This app was developed by Global Science Research (GSR), a company created by Russian-American academic Aleksandr Kogan. Users agreed to have their in-formation collected for academic purposes, for a total of about hundreds of millions. However, the app also collected in-formation from friends, who had not agreed to be involved in this, increasing their profile collection to tens of millions.

Cambridge wanted to develop a tool which would identify the personalities of Americans, their views and predicted behavior. They used to influence voters using personalized political advertisements. This is called psychographic modeling. However, data was needed for this purpose, which is how Kogan became involved.

At the time, 50M was about a third of active accounts in North America, accounting for almost a quarter of potential US voters.

Trump’s campaign aides are now saying they had misguidings about Cambridge since the beginning, including then campaign chairman Paul Manafort, despite deciding to hire them as a solution for the digital operation of the election.

It took several failed attempts before the campaign team agreed to hire them.

Facebook has already been under international investigation, and now with regards to how it used the data for academic purposes, Facebook did not verify this claim.

What is Cambridge Analytica saying?

Cambridge CEO Alexander Nix and other officials denied responsibility during a parliamentary hearing on fake news last month, saying, “We do not work with Facebook data and we do not have Facebook data.” In a statement to the New York Times, they acknowledged that 270,000 people who set up the Global Science Research (GSR) to harvest the data. However, the app was not used for academic purposes, Facebook did not verify this claim. They also claimed to be using the data for academic purposes, Facebook did not verify this claim.

In a statement on March 16, Facebook promised to take action. They also suspended the accounts of Cambridge Analytica, Kogan, and Wylie.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg spoke for the first time a week later. In an interview with CNN, he agreed to answer calls to testify, saying, “What we try to do is send the person at Facebook who will have the most knowledge...if that’s me, then I am happy to go.”

Key players

Stephen K. Bannon: former board member of Cambridge Analytica. He became CEO of Trump’s campaign team in August 2016, bringing CA to the table. Aleksandr Kogan: Russian-American academic who set up the Global Science Research (GSR) to harvest the data. Robert Mercer: hedge fund billionaire who invested $15 million in Cambridge Analytica.

What now?

Currently, the British Information Commissioner’s Office is investigating whether the data was “illegally acquired and used”. The Electoral Commission is also investigating Cambridge’s role in the Leave EU referendum.

Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller has demanded emails of those Cambridge employees who worked for Trump’s campaign team. He is currently leading the investigation into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 American election.

I will leave you with a question to ponder, about which I have yet to come to a conclusion: where do we draw the line be-tween acceptable persuasion and unreasonable manipulation? Who’s to say?
Space Cam: You Can Go Stargazing Tonight!

The night sky is a wonderful sight. It’s one thing that everyone can appreciate, and can stand its own against the most fantastic app, movie, or book that cares to distract. All you need is a blanket, a clear night, some snacks, and maybe someone special to share the experience with. There is no more relaxing, peaceful, and calming experience than doing the same things that humans have done for untold generations: looking at the stars and thinking.

What Do You Need?
Short answer: nothing. Dress appropriately for the weather (you probably won’t be moving around very much and will be sitting or lying on the cold ground). If you have glasses or contacts—especially if you’re nearsighted—you should bring those too. That being said, there are some things that can possibly improve your viewing experience:

A red flashlight can help you see without destroying your night vision (more on that later)
A blanket or towel you can lie down (it will keep you warmer and stop you from getting dirty)

Snacks are, presumably, self-explanatory

Binoculars or a telescope are a good option for people who want to see more stars than the puality 9000 visible without artificial aids, or for resolving the planets

A car seat (most useful with the addition of a red flashlight), or a star chart app on your phone (especially one that has a red filter option)

Friends

A green laser pointer to point out interesting objects to your friends (look up the laws around using lasers outdoors; don’t shine them at people, animals, or vehicles; don’t use them near an airport; and absolutely do not shine them anywhere near a plane)

Where Do I Go?

There are a number of things to consider when planning your nighttime voyage. For starters, the most important thing to consider is darkness. Light pollution is an ever-growing problem; it can be quite difficult to find a location that is dark enough to see the faintest stars. It would be wonderful if we could all go to Bruce National Park, which is designated a Dark Sky Preserve, or a location to me than its quality (which is fairly poor). You shouldn’t bus across town to check out; this location is more to encourage you to check out your local park, school playground, or parking lot to see how well it looks.

When Do I Go?

The most important thing to consider is if it’s cloudy. You won’t see much with full clouds, although it might still give you some time to rest and reflect. Partial cloud isn’t damning, but it can hamper viewing significantly: reflections of city lights from the clouds can be pretty intense and, if the moon is out, clouds may be backlit, making the problem even worse. Speaking of the moon, it can be a fascinating object to study, but also extremely annoying if you’re looking for other things. “Guided by the light of the moon” is not a metaphor; a full moon on a clear night can cast visible and prominent shadows. The last, probably least important, thing to consider is that cold, dry, windless nights will yield better viewing because there will be less atmospheric noise.

What Should I Look For?

There are so many fascinating things filling the night sky, all you have to do is look. The classic is, of course, the constellations. There 88 “official” constellations that the International Astronomy Union (IAU) recognizes, but each culture and time period has had its own set, most accompanied by stories of why that shape appears in the sky. A star chart can be used to help you locate these shapes (especially the 88 IAU ones). One thing everyone knows about constellations is that they are essentially random, figures of the human imagination. While, strictly, this is true, I beg to differ on the randomness. For instance, all the stars of the Big Dipper seems to always appear before most other stars. Similarly, at least at the light levels I’m used to viewing at, the hunter Orion seems to be coherent and isolated, without too much noise from other bright stars that the ancient astronomers chose to ignore.

A second thing to look for are the planets. When you look at a model of the solar system, the planets are all shown in a single plane orbiting the sun. Looking up at the night sky, you can see the proof of that; if there is more than one planet in the sky, they will all lie on a particular straight line. This line, called the ecliptic, will also pass through the sun (or, more likely, the quickly-fading sunset) and will also pass fairly close to the moon. It takes some practice and guesswork to correctly identify the planets, but it’s a fun challenge to try. You can check your guesses with your star chart app or when you get home.

Satellites are another thing you can spot to entertain yourself. They move in distinctly straight, unevading lines and are most easily seen for a few hours after sunset or before sunrise. Many planes will probably be misidentified as satellites at first. The two clues are regular flashing lights or, believe it or not, the sound of the plane carried down to you.

The final, to my mind most spectacular, thing to look for in the night sky are meteors or “shooting stars”. These are rare occurrences—not to be expected at every viewing session—where a large piece of debris from outer space enters the atmosphere, leaving behind a faint green trail for a fraction of a second. It happens so quickly that you won’t be able to shout it out to any fellow stargazers, and its rarity and brevity makes it seem really special. That being said, if you really want to see a meteor, keep an eye on a stargazing podcast, website, magazine, or calendar to catch spectacular meteor showers, when rate can sometimes reach a staggering 60 sightings per hour.

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Star chart of the northern hemisphere with the Big and Small Dipper, and Cassiopeia highlighted.

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"The Iron Warrior" Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Science and Technology
Mental Health Forum Lackluster

On Wednesday, March 14, the University of Waterloo hosted a forum to discuss the report put forward by the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Mental Health (PAC-SMH), which had been released earlier that week on March 12. The forum, which took place at Federation Hall, was attended by a large crowd: every seat was taken and a substantial number of people stood along the back and sides of the room.

The PAC-SMH was set up in May 2017 to, in the words of its Terms of Reference, “collect a broad set of information on student mental health... advise on the status of the progress of mental health initiatives... examine root causes of student stress, anxiety and depression, and how to mitigate them proactively instead of reactively.” The committee operated by posing questions to five expert panels—which, in total, featured some 100 students, staff, and faculty. This feedback was used to generate the report, the most significant part of which is a list of 36 recommendations.

The 36 recommendations are on a broad variety of topics. One of the most significant recommendations, at least to engineering students, is a review of the “unnecessary stress” students in 4-stream coop programs are put under as they try to balance transitioning to university with the added pressure of finding a job. Another significant, distinctly actionable, and long-desired recommendation is to implement a ratio of one clinical staff member for every 1000 students. This recommendation further calls for additional resources during peak times like exam season. Another pair of recommendations touched on the important, Waterloo-specific issue of providing support to the multitude of students that are away on co-op: points include considering the feasibility of offering 24/7 remote services and informing students about off-campus services. Unsurprisingly, but nevertheless importantly, one of the recommendations is that a new committee be established to oversee the implementation of these recommendations and provide feedback to the University based on its performance. This committee would also be responsible for prioritizing the activities recommended by the PAC-SMH.

The report seems to be a good foundation for moving forward. It identifies clear issues, many ideas for further pursuit, and a couple of clear and immediate possibilities for action. There was some sense of disappointment about the limited number of concrete plans that are in the works: President Feridun Hamdullahpur announced chair of aforementioned oversight committee as John Hirdes of the School of Public Health and Health Systems, as well as reaffirmed the $1.2 million announced on Monday that should help the university achieve the goal of one clinical staff per 1000 students. That disappointment is, perhaps, unjustified because the intention of the PAC-SMH was, as is clearly laid out in its terms of reference, a fact-finding, consolidating, and problem-naming venture. However, justified or not, the lack of immediately actionable items is undoubtedly going to put pressure on the administration to produce concrete results, for the recommendations to be prioritized quickly, and for a path for taking more significant actions to be established promptly.

The forum started off as a polished event, with friendly greeters handing out glossy executive summaries of the PAC-SMH report. President Hamdullahpur made opening comments, thanking the committee for their work and talking about the progress that has been done and still needs to be done by the university. The main substance of the formal part of the forum was provided by Walter Mittelstaedt, the chair of the committee and Director of Campus Wellness. He went into more depth about some of the most significant recommendations and, in particular, the process of the committee and the five panels that gave their feedback. Finally Angela Pereira, representing the Alumni Council, told her story of dealing with anxiety and depression and offered platitudes that alumni want to engage and help with the mental health situation. In all, the formal presentation lacked some substance, but that can largely be attributed to the justified lack of actionable items in the report.

Where the forum really fell down was in the Q&A portion, where Hamdullahpur and Mittelstaedt took audience questions. The questions were, in general, insightful and pressing. The responses were adequate, though not spectacular. The real lackluster aspect of this supposedly active forum was the extremely limited time allotted to questions. Only a handful were taken before the forum broke up, though people were invited to bring their feedback or discuss further at a couple of feedback stations that catered to specific questions. Though I didn’t personally visit those stations, the feedback appeared to be delivered via Post-It note stuck on a poster.

The feedback session didn’t specifically end at that point, as all the speakers stuck around to talk further with individuals or small groups. However, even with that service, the whole event was essentially over by 4 PM, with only a few people left clustered around each. Furthermore, this was apparently expected, as Mittelstaedt mentioned that he and Hamdullahpur had scheduled a meeting for 4 PM (though, to be clear, they both stayed past that appointed time). Nevertheless, the net result was that it seemed like the interactive portion was superficial or, at the very least, excessively limited.

Hopefully the announced initiatives—the additional counsellors and the committee to prioritize recommendations—will produce fruitful results. Hopefully the increased awareness and concern expressed by students over the past days and months about the state of mental health will lead to positive change. Hopefully, one way or another, by the continued effort of the university, its students, and society as a whole, the stigma around mental health and the terrible loss of potential that comes with it will fall ever lower and lower.
“What would you say to the outgoing fourth years?”

Jay Daniels and Hamza Kazmi, 1B Management

“Hire us when you graduate!”

Yuhan Lin, 2A Computer

“We’re out of here!”

Joanna Chu, 4B Computer

“Go out in the real world and apply what you’ve learned!”

Adas Aruldehevan, 4B Electrical

“I don’t know how you guys did it, but good job—you made it.”

Syed Hasan Rizvi, 2A Computer

“You should have taken CS”

Jeffray Nehr

“When life gets rough, remember that it could be worse—you could still be at Waterloo”