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## The Student Service Transformation "The Centre" - A New Addition to Needles Hall



Student Service Centre - Communications Department

**The Student Service Centre was created to help students navigate the services offered across campus.**



**SAMRIDHI SHARMA**  
3B CHEMICAL

Stepping into Needles Hall from the Ring Road, you might be pleasantly surprised to see a new and colourful space comprising of front-facing desks, comfortable sitting space, kiosks at every entrance and a huge screen playing a queuing sequence. This is The Centre, currently operating out of the Registrar's Office. The goal of The Centre is to offer more services in one place. It is a more centralized location where students come in, sign into the kiosks with their student number or WatCards, and even schedule appointments about things you would usually have to stand in line for at the Registrar's Office. The best part? The TV in the front tells you when you can expect your turn to be. It has a "Now Serving" section and an "Upcoming" section which displays the numbers on the students' tickets. If you are only there to pick up

and/or drop off a form, you can select that option on the kiosk, and you should not be waiting for more than a few minutes for your turn.

I had the wonderful opportunity to have a chat with Director, Nancy Heide, and Communications Specialist, Christie Ledgley about The Centre. Heide shared some of The Centre's future plans about installing monitors on the inside as well as the outside walls. The plan is to have one monitor displaying the queuing system, one marketing retail and print solutions, one providing important information such as deadlines for various forms, one displaying world events, and then replicating the system on the other wall. Other ways to incorporate technology at The Centre is by having a knowledge-based chat box that would answer common questions that students have. This system-answered chat box is a campus-wide initiative that should be released this spring. Apart from adding technology to The Centre, they have also added five new forms on the e-commerce platform. Also, now you can go on Quest

and run a Proof of Enrollment request, which has been run over 20,000 times in 3 months since the option has become available.

That is not all! The Centre is now open for longer hours. So, fret not, engineers, you won't have to skip class or lunch to do that thing you have been putting off for about a month now. The Centre is open from Mondays to Fridays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, except on Wednesdays when it is open till 6:00 pm. They also have six consultation rooms, coloured for all the faculties. However, that does not mean you will be put in the consultation room coloured for your faculty. Nonetheless, walking into the consultation rooms is, in fact, a feast for the eyes. While The Centre tries to help you at the front, when faced with more complicated requests they will route you to someone else who will then meet you in one of the consultation rooms.

"Never turn requests away," seems to be the mantra at The Centre. If you call them with an atypical request, chances are they will try to find the answer themselves before transferring you to someone else.

The Centre is based on feedback from students and operates with the aim of improving student experience.

The Centre is acting as a central location for WatPD and Edge, a department currently located in East Campus 1 (yes, we have an East Campus - it's on the other side of the train tracks and I don't mean metaphorically). Service Canada also comes into The Centre on the last Friday of every month to issue social insurance numbers. The Centre is actively looking to share the space with more departments and maybe even student groups who can use the consultation rooms. Currently, they are in talks with the Centre for Career Action to use the consultation rooms as interview space.

If you would like to avail yourself of the many services offered by The Centre, such as financial aid, CPP forms, letter of permission, proof of enrollment, and many more, or if you have any other questions about the university you can even make an appointment with The Centre using the Portal! You can also call The Centre at 519-888-4567 x 42268.

# Letter From the Editor

## A Feminist's Response to the Gillette Commercial



**SAMRIDHI SHARMA**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Remember me, the wildly opinionated girl from your second favourite column in the paper? Does feminism ring a tiny, little bell in the back of your mind? I'm back – and with even more zeal. They gave me way too much power for their own good, and before we know it, the paper will engulf itself in hard-hitting and opinionated vocabulary. Before you even get a whiff of the paper's doings, the paper will be calling itself self-sufficient and driving itself home from the printer's.

I am Samridhi, your new Editor-in-Chief. I am a chemical engineering student with the dream of making it big as a journalist. Why, you may ask? Why would anyone want to be a journalist when you could be sitting at an oil refinery in Alberta? Well, first of all, I tried, and second of all, one of my first memories as a kid is sitting in the back of the car with my dad driving, busy in conversation with my mum. "She could be a journalist," he told her. I didn't even know what a journalist meant. They explained it to me as someone who writes for newspapers, and I just thought about the stacks of newspapers that we had delivered to our home – at least five different subscriptions, two of them in Hindi. I thought about how every morning my granddad – who has also been a journalist – would browse through the papers with his tea. I just knew, journalism was my calling. True story!

Thence began the constant writing, scribbling on any paper that I could find, keeping a blog, and numerous failed attempts at keeping a journal. I was never behind the idea of keeping a journal, but my granddad insisted, saying "What if someone needs to write your biography someday?" Honestly, he has more faith in me than I ever did, so this one goes out to him. He proofread my poems, while I got mesmerized by his poetry, published in fancy books that had already lost their hardcovers.

Now that you know me in a way only two other people do, i.e. my parents, let's talk about some drama that has forsaken the world in the form of that Gillette advertisement. You know the one – a bunch of men keeping other men from doing some stupid things. Well, here's my opinion on it – bravo! I know, you must be surprised. I, a feminist, believe that feminist men exist and should be commended.

For those of you who haven't watched the video, please do. It is on YouTube. Just search for the Gillette commercial

about toxic masculinity. It is only a couple minutes long and definitely worth the watch. It comprises of tiny video clips where men are choosing to be decent human beings. There are dads breaking up fights between their sons, telling them, "This is not how you treat people." There are men stopping each other from harassing women. My favourite clip, however, is of a dad standing in front of a mirror with his toddler saying, "I am strong!" as he encourages his daughter to repeat after him. These are the kinds of men we need in this world – those who empower women, those who stand up for what is wrong, and those who encourage other men to be "the best a man can get".

Honestly, I am so disappointed in how people are responding to the video. Having watched the video about an hour ago, there were sixty thousand likes and eighty thousand dislikes. Just having browsed through ten comments, it is so sad to see that more than half of the people are threatening to shift to another razor brand, and why? I have a couple of theories.

I think that these people are insecure. They see someone like themselves being mirrored on television or other broadcast media, and they think to themselves, "Wait, I do this too. Are they implying that I'm a bad person." You know what, TV-Watcher, I think you must be because this commercial stands for everything good in this world and if you can't see that, if you are blinded by your perspective. If you can't have an open mind, maybe you are the type of person to be targeted by this video.

Which brings me to my next theory. These people have a bias towards how they think men should be. They think that men should be strong. Which is fine, people should be strong. But the problem is that these negative-commenters on YouTube believe that to be strong, you need to never cry, you need to impose your strength on other people by suppressing their strengths, you need to fight each other in order to physically overpower your opponent, and you need to put out this perpetually angry energy into the world so that others are intimidated by you. But we know that is wrong, right?

This brings me to my final theory. People are hiding behind the "men will be men" mentality. I believe this just stems from stubbornness. How dare they tell us to change? How dare they tell us we aren't good enough the way that we are? How dare they promote positive masculinity where men are expected to express their emotions in a healthy way? This, in my opinion, is the worst case out of all the three, because here the person is accepting of their flaws in a way that makes them feel like their flaws are necessary. It is a bias stemming not from ignorance, but from acceptance, and I do

believe that this is so much harder to fix.

Then there are the people saying things like, "I appreciate the message, but this is not the right way. Why are they using their brand to showcase toxic masculinity?" Or, "Why do they have to be right in my face about this stuff?" To you I say, the video reached you, you are against it, deducing from the theories above, this is exactly the right path that Gillette took to propagate this message. After all, they are a razor brand that caters to men, as a woman, I am just really happy that they used this platform to do some good in the world.

It is heartbreaking how many men we lose because they don't have a healthy avenue to express their emotions. Mental illness is a thing that exists in so many different ways. You are not weak for visiting a therapist, you are not weak for crying, you are not weak for being you. Men, we need you in our lives, and as a feminist, I really do appreciate the good men in mine. That being said, please seek help if you feel like you need it because you deserve it.

Watching what Gillette has done in such an eloquent way, I really hope more men join the team and empower the people around them. The feminist movement has been around for centuries and we need more men joining our ventures. We need more men telling their daughters that they are strong, more men learning how to do their daughters' hair the right way, more men setting examples for their sons to follow. Let's change the implication of "men will be men". "Sucking up" is not a proof of strength. Bullying and intimidation are not tools to use so that you can have your way. We need to stop justifying bad behaviour using anatomy. Identifying as male does not give you a free ride through whatever mess you create. Be strong so people feel supported by you, don't pull people down to showcase your strength. In short, don't be toxic.

That being said, Gillette really has my full support and I am sure other feminists would agree. Men deserve so much more than society allows them to have. And if you still think your choice to switch to another razor is going to give Gillette a run for their money, think again! Men aren't the only people who need razors and I am sure more and more women would switch to Gillette after discovering their new campaign. I know I will!

As my rant comes to an end for this editorial, I really hope you will all keep the conversation alive. What other brands do you think should come out with a social agenda? What are some issues that you feel really passionate about? I am always looking to hear what our readers have to say and it would be amazing to know who reads these editorials! Reach out to me at [iwarrior@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:iwarrior@uwaterloo.ca).

**THE IRON WARRIOR**

The Newspaper of the University  
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**Winter 2018 Publication Schedule:** January 23, February 6, February 20, March 13, March 27

The Iron Warrior is a forum for thought-provoking and informative articles published by the Engineering Society. Views expressed in The Iron Warrior are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Engineering Society.

The Iron Warrior encourages submissions from students, faculty and members of the university community. Submissions should reflect the concerns and intellectual standards of the university in general. The author's name and phone number should be included.

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# Calgary Catholic Priest Charged with Sexual Assault



**MRIDU WALIA**  
MECHANICAL

Allegations have surfaced against a Catholic priest working at St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church in Marlborough, a residential neighbourhood in the city of Calgary, Alberta. The priest, Malcolm Joe D'Souza (age 62) is being accused of sexually assaulting a woman on several occasions in the church about six years ago between September and October 2012.

The victim, an adult woman, reported being sexually touched without consent on

several occasions by a priest at the church. Following these allegations, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary also received allegations involving two minors and several adults who were allegedly sexually assaulted by the priest between the years 2010 and 2016, when he was assigned as a pastor at St. Mark's.

The diocese released an official statement on Saturday, October 27 at 5 PM (MDT) stating, "Bishop McGrattan has removed Fr. Malcolm D'Souza from St. Bernard's and Assumption parishes and placed him on administrative leave. Fr. D'Souza is currently prohibited from exercising priestly ministry in the Diocese of Calgary". Fr. D' Souza was put on administrative leave

by the diocese last fall and was arrested on Friday, 11 January 2019. He is next scheduled to appear in court on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

Even though the allegations against the priest by the alleged victim include multiple inappropriate incidents, he has been charged with only one count of sexual assault based on current evidence. However, police investigations are ongoing and therefore there lies the possibility of additional victims coming forward. The diocese is fully cooperating with the police investigations but refuses to provide further details till the investigations are completed. They are also encouraging people with "relevant information" to come forth and

contact the police, regardless of when the assault occurred.

Staff Sgt. Bruce Walker with the Calgary Police Service sex crimes unit says investigators have seen an increase in complaints about historic sexual assaults. Walker believes that the reason behind this is that the topic of sexual assault is becoming less of a "taboo". He said, "It's quite prevalent in any community" which is why people feel more comfortable talking about it with their friends and family. There is no time limit to how long the victim has to report a sexual assault and the police can investigate assaults dating back decades, therefore, he encouraged people and victims of sexual assault to contact the police.

# Ontario Government Makes Changes to Financial Aid



**SAATVIK WALIA**  
3B COMPUTER

On 17th January 2019, Doug Ford's government announced new payment changes and funding for post-secondary education in Ontario. The provincial government reduced the tuition fees for domestic students in Ontario by 10% for post-secondary education. The government made this announcement, with the goal to "keep more money in the pockets of Ontario's students." The tuition changes would save Ontario university students an average of

\$660/year and college students \$340/year. These savings are replacing the free tuition grants and have left many students wondering how this change will affect their futures.

OSAP is now focusing directly on low-income families. Along with the mentioned outstanding qualification, the Ontario government is also eliminating the six-month grace period on interest. This six-month grace period allowed students to find a stable job after they graduate with exemption from any interest being collected on their student loans. With the golden six-month grace period gone, the students will now have more responsibilities with less time to save up money and pay off their loans.

OSAP is changing the grant-to-loan ratio

to a minimum of 50% loan from Ontario post-secondary students which will mean that no student can receive more grants than they do loans. By ending the grace period for the students, the greater loan amounts for the students mean more stress and add further complexities.

With such major structural changes, the province's post-secondary schools will take a significant financial hit. According to the Globe, one-third of the university and college revenue comes from tuition and a 10% cut would result in a \$300 million annual loss from the university system and around \$30 million annual loss from the college system. Under Ford's government, certain institutions, like Ryerson's new Faculty of

Law, are restricted to allow students to apply for an OSAP loan.

Elimination of the free tuition grants and the six-month interest-free grace period has caused a lot of anger among students. They are now starting to believe that the 10% tuition reduction will not help them afford university. On January 18th, Canadian Federation of Students held an emergency rally in front of Queen's Park. One of the speakers, Lucinda Qu, president of the Equity Studies Student Union said, "investments in social infrastructure and quality, critical, public education—investments, in other words, that are for all of the people—are what's proven to save money and save lives."

# Student Life as We Know It Is About to Change in Ontario

**LINDSAY BOYD**

CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS (CASA)

OTTAWA, January 21, 2019 – The Government of Ontario recently announced changes to post-secondary education in the province that have serious ramifications for students. Veiled behind the announcement of a 10% tuition fee reduction, the province has also cut grants for low-income students, eliminated the 6-month grace period on loans, cut post-secondary institution funding, and altered campus student life as we know it.

The "Student Choice Initiative," as it is referred to in the Ontario Government's announcement, means that fees for what the government considers to be "non-essential" student services will soon be optional. Without enough buy-in from students, who now also have to deal with the pressures of reduced financial aid, the services available on post-secondary campuses will suffer cuts or disappear entirely. While the details remain vague, this could affect:

- Student transit passes;
- Health and dental insurance plans;
- Campus life (i.e. Welcome Week, campus bars, clubs and groups, events);
- Support centers (i.e. peer support, equity centers, food banks);
- C a m p u s newspapers;

- Fair and transparent academic appeals;
- Student representation on important committees (i.e. curriculum committees);
- Student employment opportunities; and
- Federal, provincial, and local advocacy efforts.

It's disappointing to see government positioning this move as being "for the students," when in fact these services exist on campus because students democratically voted to have them.

"Students stand to lose a lot from this decision," says Adam Brown, CASA Chair and University of Alberta Students' Union VP External. "It's more important than ever that students be informed about the services provided by their

student associations on campus, and that they stand up for them. In particular, I would encourage students to learn about the work that student associations do behind-the-scenes. This includes non-partisan advocacy work, which is critical for keeping governments and school administrations accountable, and for making sure there are consequences when students' needs are ignored."

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations stands with all affected students to oppose the actions taken that threaten to reduce or eliminate student services, campus life, and advocacy efforts in the province.

Elimination of the free tuition grants and

the six-month interest-free grace period that helped students to attend university has caused a lot of anger among students. They are now starting to believe that the 10% tuition reduction will not help them afford university. On January 18th, Canadian Federation of Students held an emergency rally in front of Queen's Park to express their views against the new changes. One of the speakers, Lucinda Qu, president of the Equity Studies Student Union said, "investments in social infrastructure and quality, critical, public education—investments, in other words, that are for all of the people—are what's proven to save money and save lives."

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# Canada's Divisive Pipelines

## Answering All of Your Pipeline Questions



**GABRIELLE KLEMT**  
3B GEOLOGICAL

This article will attempt to explain everything you've ever wondered about pipelines but have been too afraid to ask.

### What is a pipeline?

In the last few years in Canada, you've likely heard a lot about pipelines. Some things you've heard may have been good, and some bad. If there's one thing you do know about pipelines, it's that they're divisive... and Trudeau is trying to make things better?

Trudeau and pipelines come up quite often together because when Trudeau came into office, plans for three pipelines were in the final phases of development. Shortly after coming into office, Trudeau's government approved the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain project and the Enbridge Line 3 but rejected the Northern Gateway line. The Line 3 project is the one going to Wisconsin, USA, and is in fact only a replacement of the original line which has been in operation since 1968. Shortly after Kinder Morgan's approval, activists started coming out in earnest against the proposed expansion of the Trans Mountain (TM for short). The Line 3 renewal project hasn't really come up often in the news, so while it is a major pipeline project in Canada, I'm not going to talk about it very much in this article. Following the backlash over TM's approval, Trudeau went into damage control. They wanted the pipeline built, but they wanted the public to be okay with it too, so they started the consultation process... and that's where we still are today nearly three years later.

So how do we define pipelines? Are they only for crude oil? How long have they been a thing? Pipelines are simply a more efficient means of transporting a substance from one place to another, and you can transport anything you want in them. Canada's first pipeline was a natural gas line built in 1853 to Trois Rivières, at 25 km it was the world's longest pipeline (that record now stands at 3787.2 km!). By 1953, Canada had five pipelines, and TM began operation, bringing crude oil from Alberta's oil fields to the coast of BC where it could easily be sold to emerging Asian markets. The reason Canada has so many pipelines is because of the size of our country, and the fact that much of it

is uninhabited wilderness. Also, we don't have the capacity for refining all the oil we draw but to believe we wouldn't be having a debate if we could process our own oil is false. Canada does refine some oil, about a quarter of what we produce, and that quarter is more oil than Canadians use. Building more refineries would be more expensive than it's worth for us, although it's something the government and oppositions have talked back and forth for decades.

### Who cares about pipelines?

You might be thinking it's all well and good that we transport things with these pipes, but who actually cares? Well, I mentioned foreign markets because as the second-largest producer of oil after Saudi Arabia, Canada helps supply oil to much of the world. The oil producers themselves care a lot, this is how they make money after all, and as I said before, pipelines are the most efficient means of transport. As Canadians, we should all care about things that have major effects on our economy, and potentially our environment, but I understand that it can be difficult to wade through the politicization of pipelines to get to legitimate, unbiased facts. And a group which has become increasingly more vocal in the last decade, are the First Nations and settler groups living along the paths of pipelines. They care a lot and they want the world to know it. I'm not saying it's bad they care either, they have absolutely every right.

And how right are they to be worried about pipeline failures? How common are those and what are the consequences? For that matter, what are the other options?

The Canadian Transportation Safety Board (TSB) has two categories for classifying pipeline events (or occurrences): accidents and incidents. Accidents are the more severe of the two and include situations where a person is killed or injured, the environment is damaged, or there is a serious fire, explosion or the pipeline is otherwise majorly compromised. An incident is anything involving the release of a product to the environment. As you may expect, incidents are a lot more common than accidents, and according to the TSB, in 2017 there were 74 incidents of product release. Evidently any product release is not ideal, however, the majority of releases were less than 8m3 of product, and in 2017 there was only one release 1001 and 10,000m3. To give some context, 10,000m3 is approximately equal to 13,900 hot tubs. This sounds like a lot,

and it is, but of the 127 incidents in 2017, only half involved any product release at all.

2017 saw 5 pipeline accidents, more than both 2016 and 2015 which both had zero. Five may sound like an awful lot of accidents but on the whole, it's below average for accidents in a given year. In the last decade, there were a total of 72 accidents and no fatalities associated with any of them. Still, I'm sure you'd like the number of accidents to be lower.

Despite what may seem like an awful lot of unrefined product being released into the wilds every year, at least it is in the wild. What I mean to say is that at least no one has been killed in any of the pipeline occurrences in the last 10 years. This doesn't mean it is impossible, but it is very unlikely. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of rail transport. The nature of rail transport requires that trains pass through towns and cities, so when railcars carrying oil derail, not only is there leakage to the environment, but the likelihood of an explosion is greatly increased due to the energy generated by friction trying to stop the train and the engine powering it. Because these accidents happen so close to towns, human fatalities usually occur. You've probably heard of the Lac-Mégantic disaster in which 47 people were killed when a train derailed and exploded.

These major train derailments which kill people may be less common, but minor derailments causing leakage to the environment aren't. Trains aren't any better an option than pipelines, but I'll present you with a few more arguments now so you can make up your own mind.

### Pros/Cons of pipelines

What, then, are the arguments on both sides of the debate? I just want to give you the arguments, rather than the reasoning behind them because most are self-explanatory and this article is already uber-long.

#### Pros:

- The pipelines are essential for Canada's economy
- Resource development promotes job growth in the middle-income sector
- Pipelines don't generate emissions while rail transport does

#### Cons:

- It's against Canada's climate goals to be funding infrastructure for high-emitting industries
- Pipelines are a threat to local ecosystems

• The pipeline was approved without enough consultation with Indigenous stakeholders

In response to these concerns, you might feel forced to choose between the economy and the environment. This is not the case. While it isn't possible to eliminate the possibility of uncontrolled releases to the environment, it isn't as though we're throwing environmental concerns out the window. Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is always doing research into how to prevent ruptures, and whether the diluted bitumen is corroding pipelines (don't worry it's not!). Don't forget, it's the pipeline companies who are responsible for regular check-ups and maintenance on the lines, and unused lines have to be carefully decommissioned the way you would a fuel storage tank. Additionally, you can even get more information in the form of a podcast called "Pipelines 101" created by NRCan.

Where does all this leave us now? In August of 2018, the Federal Court of Appeal overturned the government's approval of TM on grounds that the National Energy Board's (NEB) review was flawed. The Court of Appeal ruled that Ottawa failed in its consultation with First Nations groups. Despite this, Ottawa went ahead and bought the project from Kinder Morgan. Since the fall, Trudeau has been holding town halls to engage stakeholders and communicate the details of the project to the public.

They're also looking into the decision by the Court that the NEB failed to look at the effects on the whale population due to increased shipping traffic.

Now that you have all the info I can give you, I hope you feel confident talking about these things with anyone you might meet on the street, in class, or at home. And I hope they can give you more perspectives to consider. Pipelines are a major part of Canada's economy, and there's no easy fix one way or another to make everyone happy. The best thing we can do as citizens is be informed but drudging through all the information out there can be exhausting – I don't want to tell you how long it took me to research this article.

This was a long heavy article, so if you made it all the way to the end, here is a fun fact. At one point I typed into Google "Why did Canada buy..." and I was going to click pipeline when I read the line below it which was suggesting to me "Why did Canada buy the giant rubber duck?". Why the heck not.

# Wet'suwet'eh First Nations and RCMP Reach a Deal Regarding Pipeline Construction



**KIRSTEN EHLERS**  
1B BIOMEDICAL

In B.C., last week, the Wet'suwet'eh First Nations and the RCMP reached a deal regarding the construction of the pipeline that runs through their territory.

The deal comes after a very complicated dispute about the pipeline being constructed in Wet'suwet'eh First Nations, which includes a large region of Northern B.C.

Members of the Wet'suwet'eh First Nation were upset that the natural gas company only had permission from the elected band councils, and did not have

permission from the hereditary chiefs, to work on their land. TransCanada signed a contract with elected leaders of First Nations along the route of the pipeline, however, the hereditary leadership is now saying that the contracts do not apply to traditional territory of the First Nation.

The Unist'ot'en camp was built in 2010, which blocked a road that the natural gas company needed to access for building. In December, the B.C. Supreme Court gave Coastal GasLink an injunction so the road would not be blocked. The Unist'ot'en camp called this an "act of war".

Later, another camp called the Gidimet'en camp blocked another road near the town of Houston where the workers were building. On January 7th,

after setting up a checkpoint to block access to the public and the media, the RCMP arrested 14 members of the Wet'suwet'eh First Nation who were protesting the proposed pipeline in the Gidimet'en camp.

The dispute has been resolved, at least temporarily, by the deal between the Wet'suwet'eh Nations that was made a few days later. The deal states that the First Nation has agreed to let the natural gas company, Coastal GasLink access to its roads and comply with the injunction given by the B.C. Supreme Court, and in exchange, the RCMP will remove a roadblock blocking a Unist'ot'en healing camp. Chief Na'Moks stated that the hereditary chiefs do not condone the project, citing potential damage to the

watershed and wildlife. However, the hereditary chiefs want to protect the First Nation's members. The deal will allow the construction of a natural gas pipeline through the Wet'suwet'eh territory to Kitimat.

The arrests as a result of the protest sparked national disputes about the tense relationship between the Federal government and the First Nations. Trudeau addressed the issue in a town hall in Kamloops. He described the importance of the the development, construction, and exporting of Canada's resources. He also briefly mentioned the need to develop a different relationship with First Nations.

Additionally, people are concerned about the progress of future pipeline projects in the area.

# Seals Invade Roddickton, Newfoundland



**MRIDU WALIA**  
MECHANICAL

Roddickton is a town on the eastern side of the Great Northern Peninsula in Newfoundland, Canada. It is a relatively small town with a population of approximately 1000 people according to the census profile in 2016. Recently, the town was invaded and overrun by herds of stranded harp seals crawling on the roads, driveways, and in the parking lots of homes

Harp seals are commonly found in these

three regions: the Greenland Sea, White sea, and Newfoundland in Canada. These seals spend most of their time swimming in the water and resurface only to get dry and warm, mate, give birth etc. Residents report that the sightings began around the time of Christmas last year and but have increased progressively over the last week.

Naturally, this is causing the residents of Roddickton a great deal of inconvenience and disturbance. Since it is illegal to touch marine animals according to National regulations, residents find themselves unable to help out these stranded seals. As a result, they have to watch them suffer and starve, though harp seals can

store sufficient fat in their blubber layer (thick layer of fat under the skin of all marine animals) allowing them to last for extended periods of time without eating. Authorities have confirmed that two seals were struck by cars and killed on Tuesday, 8 January 2019. The grey coat of the seals acts like camouflage on the roads and this has unfortunately led to accidents.

The reasons for the seals to be onshore are pretty straightforward. Harp seals migrate south from the Arctic every winter. Therefore, they come to the coast early during the season when there is only a little ice. However, the water freezes behind them and thus the seals get disoriented and confused and often end

up finding their way to land. Scientists describe another reason could be global warming, which leads to the thinning of ice due to climate change, causing the seals to move closer to the land, to get warm or mate, when there is less ice on the coast, and end up getting stranded.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) took to Twitter to reassure the residents of Roddickton that they are working with the communities and authorities to monitor the situation and actively working on relocating the seals to local waters. They also reminded the public that it is both illegal and dangerous to try and approach or attempt to capture marine animals.



Wikimedia Commons under Public Domain

Harper seal mother and pup.

## China's Moon Seedling

### The Heartwarming Tale of a Cotton Seed on the Moon



**GABRIELLE KLEMT**  
3B GEOLOGICAL

Before I tell you some sad news, can I tell you something spectacular? Sometimes I can feel bummed by the monotony of everyday life. The drudge of schoolwork, the over-commitment to extracurriculars, worrying about assignments I seem to be the only person who hasn't finished; it can all start to become too much. When these things happen though, it's important to remember that somewhere out there in the wide world, outside the university bubble we all live in, extra-ordinary things are taking place every second of every day. Recently China did something extra-ordinary and it made my day better. I hope it will make yours better, too.

What magical thing has China done? Only gone and grown a cotton seed on the face of the moon! You know, that uninhabitable wasteland sparkling whitely up in the night sky? That's the one, and China is about to turn it into a beautiful forest, one seedling at a time.

The Chang'e 4 Mission is behind this historic achievement, and researches at

the Chongqing University announced the news with photos of the baby plant in action. The seed was transported to the moon along with several other seeds, some yeast, and fruit fly eggs. These are contained in a sealed metal cylinder which has its own light source and a water feeding tube. This experiment is being carried out to see if a self-contained ecosystem can exist off of planet Earth – the plants will produce oxygen, and the yeast and flies will consume the oxygen to produce carbon dioxide for the plants to use, in a cycle as old as... well maybe not time but certainly as old as photosynthesis and biotic cells!

This first seedling was spotted on January 7, four days after the Chang'e lunar lander reached the "far side" of the moon. Obviously, this was an occasion for much excitement – if we can grow things in that strange wasteland, we can grow things anywhere!

The excitement, however, became short-lived when it was recently reported that the frigid night temperatures of the moon's surface – down to -173°C – were too much for the plant. It died and hasn't shown itself again.

Now, you may feel disheartened by this news, and in fact I was nearly devastated, but next time, they'll provide temperature

control, and if it fails again, well that's how scientific progress works! We have to fail before we get things right! And don't be too sad, this may be the first plant grown on the moon, but it isn't the first plant grown in space. Way back in 2010, astronauts had already grown lettuce, zinnias and more on the Space Station. It could be argued that growing food in spaceships is even more important than growing food

on the moon – growing food means you don't need to bring as much with you on long trips. Just think of the possibilities out there in the universe if we can grow things IN SPACE!

So, yes, I baited you with some exciting news, only to bum you out with some sad tidings. However, this is not the last you'll hear about this story I am sure! Keep innovating, we'll catch up again soon!



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# The Bombshelter Pub Closing This Winter



**MRIDU WALIA**  
MECHANICAL

After nearly 40 years, the campus pub located in the Student Life Centre (SLC), famous for its hashtag fries, Trivia nights and Bomber Wednesdays has been permanently closed. The Bombshelter Pub has incurred financial losses estimated around \$1 million in the last five years. The Federation of Students (FEDs) published an article on Monday December 17, 2018 announcing that “The Bombshelter Pub will be closing its doors to evaluate new ways to

revitalize the space and enhance the student experience”.

Kurt MacMillan, current FEDs VP of Operations and Finance, had been an employee at The Bomber for four years and wrote how he had observed multiple changes happening at the pub, including the decrease in sales and traffic as well as the frequency and popularity of Bomber Wednesdays. Some students believe the issue lies mostly in the management of pub. Some complaints include the slow food service and that the pub was not very spacious. Ron Kielstra, a graduate student, says, “You would think that selling beer on campus would be guaranteed way to make money, but the space wasn’t conducive to

big events”.

As a FEDs Executive last year, MacMillan had to formally review The Bomber and recommend changes. The decision to not re-open the pub in the new year was made by the senior management at FEDs that included MacMillan. The Bombshelter pub employees were recruited through FEDs and about 40 staff members have lost employment, “(but) we do have opportunities elsewhere for these students to still have part-time work,” MacMillan said.

The Federation of Students wants to use this as an opportunity to expand the student experience by having renovations and giving it a “newer” look to match more developed areas of the campus. MacMillan

stated that they will be consulting with the undergraduates to come up with ideas on how to utilize the space best and enhance student experience. According to him, “There is nothing set in stone for it”, but the plan is to have a social gathering space for the students like The Bomber provided. He also estimated that it would be about a year before they came up with something new for the space.

The last two events for The Bomber: Last First Bomber Wednesday and New Year’s Eve (NYE) 2.0 were held on January 9, 2019 and January 16, 2019 respectively. This gave students a chance to give The Bomber a proper send-off and reminisce about the great times and celebrations.

## Engineering Exchange?? But I’m only in 1B!!

**CINDY HOWE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Yes it IS too early in your academic career to go on an international exchange but it’s NOT too early to start planning for it!

It’s a great opportunity and privilege but you must prepare, organize and plan. You could be among the 15% of your class who go on this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Most students go on exchange in 3A or 3B or both. But you have to start planning early!

What is an academic exchange? You’ll get to spend one or two academic terms at a partner university where you’ll take courses equivalent to those your classmates will be taking at UW. It is common practice for engineering exchange students to remain on the same academic schedule as the rest of their cohort and graduate with their class.

We have exchange partnerships with

over 80 top-tier universities in about 30 countries around the world. So you need to investigate which partner best suits your needs; many of our exchanges are restricted in numbers, some are open only to certain disciplines of engineering, for others you need to learn a new language. In some cases, it’s best to go for a one-term exchange; in others, two terms work out best.

All this is a part of planning for your future career which could take you anywhere in the world.

To get started, visit our website (search for “Engineering Exchanges” from the UW home page) for all the details. And also be sure to attend one of the information sessions scheduled this term (details can be found online as well as on facebook).

On Facebook, look for the “Waterloo Engineering Exchanges” group, which is for all outbound and inbound exchange

students. It’s moderated by me as well as the EngSoc Exchange Directors. By the way, my office is located in E7, Room 7434 and I can be reached at either [cindy@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cindy@uwaterloo.ca) or [eng.ug.exchange.askus@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:eng.ug.exchange.askus@uwaterloo.ca). Be sure to arrange a meeting with me to chat about the exchange possibilities for you.

Don’t let this opportunity pass you by! The application process takes more than a year of lead time. Applications must be submitted by November 1 for the following academic year. For example, if you want to go on exchange for your 3B term (Fall 2021), your application must be submitted in Waterloo Passport by November 1, 2020.

Finally, exchange is great for fun, travel and adventure. You’ll visit parts of the world that stay-at-home students may never experience. Don’t take my word for it; read what a recent exchanger had to say:

“The cultural experience alone has

helped me grow so much as a person. Immersing myself in and adapting to a completely unfamiliar culture is such a valuable learning experience and it really taught me a lot. Academically, I feel as if I came back from exchange a stronger student as I really meshed well with the style of teaching in the Netherlands. The professors were all very well educated and interesting to learn from, and it was interesting to see how engineers across the world are taught to approach certain problems. This experience has helped me professionally as I have made quite a few connections with professors at TU Delft, and I have learned so much about so many different European cultures that I more equipped to adapt to different people in the workplace.”

Brenda Zuccaro, NanoEngineering  
Exchanged to TU Delft, Fall 2017

And when asked what advice she would give to students contemplating an exchange: “JUST DO IT!”



APPLY BY

FEB  
15

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CHAMATH PALIHAPITIYA (BASc '99, Elect) is the founder and CEO of Social Capital.  
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## I am not a Feminist, But...



**SAMRIDHI SHARMA**  
3B CHEMICAL

### DID SHE JUST SAY THE F-WORD?

Whenever I openly express a feminist opinion, or declare that I am, in fact a feminist, in a roomful of people, more often than not, I am met with a response which follows a certain template. First, there is that eyebrow twitch of surprise, something along the lines of being taken aback, like they are trying to say, “You? I never pegged you as one of them!” Then there is a stutter. Like they want to respond in a way that they would tell a Flat-Earther that the Earth is round, and the moon landing was a real event that happened.

And finally, there is the actual response, often beginning with an “um, I’m not a feminist, but...”

So here is my response to your, “I’m not a feminist, but...”

Why aren’t you a feminist? Why is feminism such a taboo opinion to hold, according to you? What are you against really? Are you against women’s right to vote? Because women’s right to vote would not have existed if not for feminism. Are you against having women study in these classrooms? Because that would eliminate almost half of the best doctors, engineers, scientists, artists and you wouldn’t want to deprive the world of that, would you? Or are you just against women expressing their opinions? Because that is censorship, and in the grossest way possible.

What bothers me more is that there are women out there who claim to not be feminists, and I don’t understand why! You are who you are because women back in the day put their feet down and demanded what was theirs! Don’t let their legacy go to waste. They left you a world where you are at par with all the men in your life. Well, almost at par, there is still the issue of unequal income and whatnot. Cherish it. Had it not been for feminist movements, we would not have had a world where we have similar issues as the other sexes. Now, it is our duty to further feminism as a lifestyle. We are who we are because someone stood up to the system. All we need to do is keep standing. It’s not as hard.

And honestly, being a feminist is a win-

win-win situation for all parties involved. Feminism is not about pulling people down, but lifting people up with you. A true feminist knows that all people can be victims of assault or violence and would never disregard you based on your gender, whatever it may be. So if you are hiding behind the shadows of “equalism” because you don’t want to be ridiculed for being a feminist, I urge you to educate those around you. Feminism isn’t about the superiority of one gender over another, it is about providing a ladder to those who are deep in a pit so that we can all stand on even ground, together. The next time someone looks at you with some scrutiny and asks, “So, what, are you a feminist?” Proudly proclaim, “Yes, I am a feminist, and here’s why...”

## Annual Women’s March Faces Controversy and Cold



**RAEESA  
ASHIQUE**  
4B ELECTRICAL

The third annual Women’s March was held on Saturday, January 19, becoming tradition after 2017 when half a million women and allies marched on Washington in response to Donald Trump’s inauguration, protesting the sexist, racist, and misogynistic attitudes that he promoted. This year’s protestors faced controversy and poor weather conditions, amid the government shutdown. March organizers were accused of anti-Semitic attitudes, and there were fundamental ideological differences as to who gets to own and define the March. Snow and freezing rain were in the forecast, and the National Park Service was not plowing the roads due to the government shutdown, so the original route had to be changed.

Thousands showed up to march in DC, rather than the hundreds of thousands that were expected. Lower numbers were also observed in New York, Los Angeles, and other cities. Organizers had actually debated the effectiveness of holding another march, even before the controversy was raised, knowing that they could never meet the overwhelming turnout of the first year. Considering this, it is difficult to estimate the extent to which the weather and the controversy impacted the turnout. However, parallel marches were held in both New York and Philadelphia, indicating an ideological split, although

some protestors simply chose a particular march or rally based on convenience of location. Several supporters and progressive organizations, including the Democratic National Committee, withdrew their support. Many actively stayed home in protest.

Interestingly, success rates can be a demotivator. According to Jo Reger, professor of sociology at Oakland University in Michigan, said that, “Marches or movements can lose some momentum when people see some of their issues being addressed...With the recent midterm elections, some may feel like the country is going in a different direction after the Trump election and that may lower the numbers participating.”

Teresa Shook, a retired lawyer from Hawaii, is one of the founders of the March. She accused four main leaders of the march of anti-Semitism. In a Facebook post, she said they had “steered the Movement away from its true course” and were not doing enough to separate from groups prejudiced against Jews and LGBTQ people, calling for the leaders to step down. Linda Sarsour is a Palestinian-American with a history of vocally criticizing Israeli policy, and Tamika Mallory has associations with Louis Farrakhan, Chicago-based Nation of Islam leader. Bob Bland and Carmen Perez were also included in the accusations.

Mallory attended a Nation of Islam event last winter where Farrakhan praised her, and in the same speech said, “The powerful Jews are my enemy.” While Mallory condemned the remark,

she maintained her association with Farrakhan, and has also publicly praised him. Farrakhan’s group has been classified as an anti-Semitic hate group.

The four leaders have denied the charge. Sarsour expressed regret that they were not “faster and clearer in helping people understand our values.”

Even so, the March saw enthusiasm and emotion to the same level as past years. A sea of pink “pussy hats”, which were popular at the first march, was again observed. Protestor Rachel Stucky told the New York Times: “I came two years ago. It’s definitely smaller, but the spirit is very much alive...The experience I had two years ago was indescribable. I wanted to feel that way again.”

There were calls for unity between women of all backgrounds. Sadiqa Reynolds, president of a Louisville Urban League, said there is no room for racism or exclusion: “I represent black women, who can take no comfort in silence.” March leaders promoted their newly released political agenda, celebrated the record number of women who have been elected to Congress, and highlighted the importance of an intersectional movement led by women of colour.

Some marched to protest the border wall or the travel ban on those from majority-Muslim countries, some marched to stand up for reproductive rights, some marched to reject the rise of the far right, and some marched to call for an end to inequality, the gender pay gap, and violence against women. One key point is that this march is about more than Trump.

They all marched for women’s rights.

Unfortunately, the marches did not attract many high-profile national figures. In attendance in Iowa was Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, who recently announced that she is running for president in 2020. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez spoke at the Women’s March Alliance rally in New York, and Representative Ayanna Pressley spoke in Boston.

Parallel marches were also held across the US, Canada, and other countries. In Toronto, hundreds gathered in downtown despite the cold and snow, in solidarity with the Washington march. They were also protesting the provincial government, saying that women do not want to return to the days when they had fewer rights. Organizer Bianca Spence said, “The theme of our march is: We will not go back.” In Winnipeg, marchers highlighted the importance of inclusivity and raised awareness about violence against women. They wore red scarves to represent the issue of violence against indigenous women and girls, which was an idea suggested by the Native Women’s Association of Canada.

Despite the negativity and division surrounding this event, it also symbolized success. The protestors celebrate the success which followed or was engendered by the original March, such as flipping the House to the Democrats and electing an unprecedented number of women to Congress.

The original March gave rise to success, and this one was a celebration of that success.



Erin Scott/Reuters

Annual Women’s March on Washington.

# Welcome Back to Campus, Let's Get Started

## The Slumber Ends



**BENJAMIN BEELEN**  
VP ACADEMIC

Something about co-op makes time fly by and also crawl at the same time. But we're back, and boy am I excited to get things going. First off, I listened to your feedback from last semester, and mental health initiatives are on the forefront of my mind and plans for this semester. Ad-

ditionally, I'm going to be advertising my Iron Warrior articles more, as many of you asked for me to hold a blog or similar; to you, the person reading this, advertise this article and the Iron Warrior to your friends!

I'm back on track and trying to get calligraphy on grad photos in time for the 2019's departure, you can expect to see poll's on which font we can choose from once we hear back from the photo people™.

And don't worry, I'm continuing to

ask faculty to come to our council meetings as guest speakers so that you can hear first hand what our faculty is working towards. So far, Ajoy Opal (Gordon Stuble's successor as Associate Dean Teaching) will be visiting council meeting 3 on February 6th, so if you want to learn more about the campus wide course critique changes, make sure you're there!

So, now that you know what's to come, what's different about this semester? First of all, the co-op process is starting a week early this semester because of our

classes starting later than they usually do. Main round starts on JANUARY 18TH and applications close on the 22ND! Interviews will start on JANUARY 25TH and go until FEBRUARY 28TH. There are no classes during reading week, so if you're looking to head home, you don't have to worry about a surprise interview! (Note: This is at least the case with this semester and might not always apply to reading weeks/Fall Breaks of the future). Main match/ranking is on March 4th! Continuous opens on March 6th!

## New Year, Same Me (Honestly, Who Sticks to Resolutions?!)



**AHLEY CLARKE**  
VP STUDENT LIFE

Here we go Winter 2019! We are back in action and ready to run some amazing events! If you're new here, hi! I'm Ashley, the VP Student Life for B-Society. I hope that you had a great holiday break, and even more so that you're happy to be back on campus.

We have a lot of great events planned

for this term, including some classics such as Coffee House and TalEng, some brand new events like Fingerpainting Night, and a twist on an old favorite! The Engineering Society is excited to announce that we will be holding our termly Semi Formal dance as a joint event with AHS, so keep an eye out for ticket sales to start in February for one of the biggest events of the term!

In the upcoming weeks we have a very full schedule, including a Mocktail Making Workshop on January 23rd, Fingerpainting Night on January 24th, Coffee

House on January 30th and TalEng on February 1st! All of the details for these events are available on our Facebook page, as well as the EngSoc website.

School can be fun while seeing friends and socializing, but we also know that homework, projects and studying for exams bring a lot of stress with them. This term we also focus on mental health, bringing you events such as Puppies in POETS around midterm and final seasons, and Post Secret twice through the term as well.

In addition, I am always look-

ing for more feedback on the events that are run by the Engineering Society, so feel free to reach out to me via email ([vpstudentlife.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpstudentlife.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)) to give feedback and ideas about events! I am also available in the EngSoc Office (CPH 1327) most days at lunch from 11:30am-12:30pm.

Finally, if you're in need of some good music that makes you forget about winter I highly recommend the new Imagine Dragons album *Origins*.

Let's make this an amazing term!

## New Term, New Goals



**MICHAEL BAUCHEMIN**  
VP FINANCE

Hello folks, and welcome back for a final round of Michael Beauchemin, VP Finance. This term, there are a lot of exciting things coming and I am definitely planning on going out with a bang! First thing's first:

### RidgidWare Grand Opening

**January 29th (11:00 - 13:00).**

RidgidWare is now OPEN in E7!!! It is just across the hall from the new E7 C&D, in E7 1419. Our regular hours of operation are Mondays and Wednesdays-Saturdays 13:00 - 18:00. The E7 RidgidWare represents the culmination of more than a year of work from Katie and I and we're super proud to see it take off like this! We now have a tool loan program (electrical and mechanical kits, screwdrivers, saws, hammers, clamps, etc...), mechanical hardware (screws, nuts, bolts, washers...), material for laser cutting, and much, much more! We're working on getting our stock online, so expect that to happen soonish.

Now that that's out of the way, I can get on with my regular stuff. Coverall sales are happening this week on January 22nd, 24th, and 25th, and on the 22nd, I will also be running an EngSoc Financial Literacy workshop (geared more towards understanding

student organization finances than personal). I can also affirm to you that the fundraising for The Trevor Project has resulted in a cheque to the value of \$2,747 being issued and sent to the charity. I'd like to thank everyone again for the amazing work you did to fundraise that amount.

My initiatives this term include a Run Your Own Event idea, P\*\*5 Revamp, the Tool Loan Program in RidgidWare, Fourth Year Fridays, and bringing new policy to the Engineering Society. This

last is to make note of what Katie and I learned in the negotiation process for RidgidWare and protect the Society in the future during negotiations. For Run Your Own Event I will be co-developing a framework for evaluating student ideas as events in partnership with Ashley, your VP Student Life. The P\*\*5 Revamp is long overdue and is intended to simplify a complex system and make it work for you. Fourth Year Fridays is a continuation of my goal from this time last year and it's to thank the Fourth

Years for all the hard work and dedication they have shown over the past 4+ years of their degree. It will take the form of licensing POETS as the beginning of each pubcrawl (except the first and the IRS crawl), and partnering with Board Games, to bring POETS some life in this deadeast of seasons. If you or your class is interested in decorating POETS for one of these Fourth Year Friday days, please get in touch with me at [vpfinance.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpfinance.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

Until next time! Michael, Signing Off!





# Sacrifice

## A Comment on the Engineering Society



**KATIE ARNOLD**  
PRESIDENT

The Engineering Society isn't perfect. We have rapid turnover and internal drama. We have issues getting enough volunteers, and attendance at some of our events isn't stellar. We lose progress on initiatives because of lack of communication across A and B Society or transition to the next exec team. For engineering students on the outside looking in, I can understand it might be intimidating to try and get involved in an organization where most of us met and connected when we were in 1A. My current exec team is full of people I have known for years; people I volunteered with or attended EngSoc events with long before any of us thought about running in an election. And that can be scary, if

you're trying to break into this group.

***The Engineering Society is for all undergraduate engineers. Our events are for all engineers, our elections are for all engineers, and our services are for all engineers.***

A thought on Sacrifice. Your Engineering Society executive are unpaid, 20-h-per-week (minimum) volunteers. We have full course loads, and many of us are in our most difficult academic terms. All of our commissioners and directors are unpaid volunteers with full engineering course loads. The events we run and services we provide come at a personal sacrifice. We sacrifice study time, we sacrifice sleep, we sacrifice personal relationships. A lot of the effort that goes into the Engineering Society isn't fully appreciated. Our VPs

Academic don't have to miss classes to try and make the Co-operative Education program stronger and safer for our students, but they, like the rest of us, bite the bullet to bring the best to our students.

Our staff in the C&D, Ridgidware, and EngSoc Office are paid part-time with full course loads. Our full time staff, Mary, Lily and Ashley manage our day-to day operations in the EngSoc office and C&Ds, and are some of the most hardworking people I've ever met. Mary Bland has been working extra hours in an effort to ensure the new EngSoc operations in E7 are up and running efficiently and effectively and has made many sacrifices for the Society previously.

The Engineering Society runs on Blood, Sweat, and Tears from our volunteers and staff, and our biggest accomplishments were championed by unpaid students. My frustration with another student-run

corporation on campus is that they appear to burn money as a fuel and look down upon the member societies. I've seen paid staff positions with less efficacy or responsibility than our volunteer roles. I've seen the Engineering Society executive workload equated to 2-5 hours per week, (Federations of Students Council Procedure 24), two categories below Federation Councillors (5-10h per week). I would like you to present me with a Councillor that commits 10 hours per week to the Federation, or an EngSoc Executive who only commits 2h to the Engineering Society.

My biggest frustration is when I was told President Richard thinks that the Engineering Society should stop complaining when the Federation violates the Societies Agreement (on three separate occasions). I know that the Federation Executive work hard, but I think that they need to acknowledge that so do we.

## Oh, What a Fall it has Been!



**GRANT MITCHELL**  
VP COMMUNICATIONS

Hey there everybody! Welcome back to another awesome B-Society term. I'm Grant Mitchell and I'll be your Vice President for the next 4 months (the last 4 of my 16-month term). Now, lets get into what I've been up to for the last 4 months.

This past fall term was an incredibly busy term in the VP Communications portfolio. A large part of my job is representing all of you to the Engineering Student Societies Council of Ontario (ESSCO) and the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES). You can think of these like our own Engineering Society, just on the Provincial and National scale respectively. This term,

both groups had lots going on.

To start off, we sent Katie (President) and myself to the President's Meetings for both ESSCO and CFES. President's meetings are an opportunity for VP Externals from all over Ontario and Canada to get together to make decisions about the future of the societies and exchange ideas. If you want to know more about what went on at PM, please feel free to reach out to me.

We also sent delegates to the Professional Engineers of Ontario Student Conference. This conference is run by ESSCO and it's all about making the transition from being a student to becoming an EIT, and eventually getting your P.Eng. It's a conference that is especially applicable to all of you 3rd years who will be graduating in 2020, but any level of engineer can benefit from attending and I encourage everyone to apply next fall term.

Next came the Conference on Diversity in Engineering in November. This conference is all about promoting and developing diversity in all forms in engineering through collaboration and education. It's an incredible opportunity to learn about all different facets of diversity and how we can apply basic concepts to our own lives to make everyone's lives better. CDE also serves as meeting time for member schools of EngQueers Canada.

Last but not least, we sent a team to CFES Congress which is another General Meeting of the CFES. It's a week-long conference bringing students from across Canada together to share ideas and network. It's also where VP Externals meet to discuss the future direction and initiatives that the CFES will take.

This fall term has been busy, but it's been a great time. I highly encourage everyone to check out the Engineering

Society site and lookout for the reports outlining what all of our delegates did at each conference. Keep your eyes out for applications in the future if you want to attend a conference.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have. Stop by the EngSoc Office or email me at [vpcomm.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpcomm.b@engsoc.uwaterloo.ca).



## Upcoming Events Calendar

Wednesday Jan 23	Thursday Jan 24	Friday Jan 25	Saturday Jan 26	Sunday Jan 27	Monday Jan 28	Tuesday Jan 29	Check out up-to-the-day event postings on the EngSoc website at <a href="http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/event-calendar/">engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/event-calendar/</a>
<b>WiE Wednesday</b> 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM E7 1327 & E7 1331  <b>Mocktail Making Workshop</b> POETS 6:00 PM - 8 PM	<b>Coverall Sales</b> 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CPH Foyer  <b>Exchange Info Session</b> 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM E7 3353  <b>Fingerpainting Night</b> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM POETS	<b>Coverall Sales</b> 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CPH Foyer  <b>Fourth Year Friday</b> 12 PM - 4 PM POETS  <b>Cover Letter Workshop</b> 6 PM - 8 PM WEEF Lab			<b>EngiQueers</b> 6 - 9 PM POETS	<b>Ridgidware GRAND OPENING</b> 11:00 AM - 1:00PM E7	
Wednesday Jan 30	Thursday Jan 31	Friday Feb 1	Saturday Feb 2	Sunday Feb 3	Monday Feb 4	Tuesday Feb 5	
<b>EngSoc Council Meeting #2</b> 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM E7 3353  <b>Coffee House</b> 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM POETS  <b>P&amp;P Presentations</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>Clothing Swap</b> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM POETS	<b>TalEng</b> 8:30 PM - 11:30 PM Wilf's Restaurant & Bar	<b>Dungeons and Dragons</b> 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM POETS		<b>EngiQueers</b> 6 - 9 PM POETS	<b>SolidWorks Workshop</b> 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Multi Media Lab	

# Point Vs. Counterpoint

POINT

When Should New Year's Resolutions Start?

COUNTERPOINT

**GABRIELLE KLEMT**  
3B GEOLOGICAL

Have you ever found yourself totally terrified of December 31st? Paralyzed by the prospect of another New Year's Eve party where people will be talking about "new year new me"? Have you ever dreaded the next day when everyone's favourite question becomes "What's your new year's resolution?"? If you haven't, you should, and if you have, you know the reality of resolutions only too well.

Sure, it's nice to change something or decide to focus on something new to improve your health or mental well being in the new year; but you don't need the pressure of doing it when you're grumpy, hungover, and still eating leftover Christmas chocolate! Save the self-improvement for when you've had time to really settle into the new year. Try it on for a month, see how it feels, get a taste for what you might actually want to do differently now that you're on the other side of the countdown. Resolutions are like fine wine my friends; the longer you ruminate on them the better they will be when you actually start them. Of course, you do have to eventually start them and I am telling you the time to do that is February 1. A month-old bottle of wine may be nasty, but it's a hell of a lot better than the smashed grapes you put in a bottle last night at midnight and took a swig of the next morning. (Did I take that analogy too far?)

No doubt you've heard the stat that most people give up on resolutions by February. This is no coincidence. Starting a workout regime when you haven't left your couch for a week because it was the Holidays is the antithesis of fun. Wait until you get back to work or school and you start feeling sad, alone, and left out working at a desk all day or working on assignments at 3AM – now that is a real motivator to get yourself to some cycle classes and find your Soul. Trust me when I say eating only peanuts and ramen for a month after being pampered with delicious foods by your family over the break will get you right in the mood to start learning how to properly cook meals for yourself.

Starting anything in January is brutal, not least because it's always dark and cold out

– spring feels like 100 years away. I have no motivation to eat healthy and exercise when I can live in bulky sweaters and coats, but by February I'm starting to remember that reading week is coming up, and suddenly spring will be on us like a lichen on a rock – you don't notice it and then it's everywhere and you're the only one not wearing shorts to class. February is, as my high school conductor used to say during concert season, Crunch Time. If you're going to start it has to be February or it'll never happen; and there's nothing engineers love more than working under pressure.

Want more facts? Still not convinced? January is a full 2-3 days longer than February, but if you're still going strong on your February resolution by March, you can still say you've been doing it for a month!

January is the worst time to join any new venture, because undoubtedly there are a billion other people who have resolved the same thing as you who will be killing your vibe. Have you been to CIF recently? I haven't because I'm waiting until February when all the January starters have stopped coming and I can teach myself how to use a dumbbell without 40 other people waiting to use it after me.

Most people can't make it through that first January month of resolutions, and it really is no coincidence. Sure there are no real numbers about the amount of people who get through a February resolution, but if there were I am sure you'd see an increased success rate. That is 101% a real truth. I am spilling the tea here on some major reality that the reduced January gym memberships want to keep from you people!

People might try telling you that you're doing new years wrong by starting your resolutions in February, but you can just remark that they obviously already gave up on their resolution to keep their noses out of other peoples' business, and walk away. You're better than them. Or at least you will be by the time February rolls around. And if you can't make it through February, March is just as good a month to start over again.

**SAMRIDHI SHARMA**  
3B CHEMICAL

Picture this: it's December 26th, you are sitting at the dinner table with that holiday weight keeping you from being the best version of yourself you can be. You know you want to do something about it but New Year's Eve is just four days away and if you start now, you'll be gaining all that weight back in one night before you even visually assess or appreciate any results. What is the solution to this dilemma, you ask? Well, the last hurrah, of course!

So you eat whatever you please up until the last day of December and on the first of January, you are satiated enough to cut yourself off from things you don't want in your life anymore. The food that is weighing you down? January 1st is when it ends up in the trash! Those home workout videos that have been sitting in your "Watch Later" pile? Pull them out, get your shoes on the mat, and start counting. The people around you are doing it, you can too! Why would you start in February, when you can start in January and make another month count!

I mean, it only makes sense to start in January. Chances are that you are just coming back from a co-op or have a job that gave you a Christmas bonus that covers a little something from your resolution goals. If you wait until February to start your resolution, I can assure you that money would have been spent on some more unhealthy habits already. You would have had that all-you-can-eat sushi at that new place already, you would have made a couple trips to the pop-and-chips convention and, well, the bonus would have been burned to cents by now. You'd have regrets by February, and a penny. Why would you do that to yourself? Why?

And if that isn't enough reason to start your New Year's resolutions in January, here's another perspective. Let's say your resolution is to have a planner for the year. Why would you start planning your year in February, when the planner begins

from the month of January? Imagine the gap! Imagine the things you will miss and the meetings you will forget to attend because you insisted on holding off on your resolutions in January?

January is a month of no affairs. There aren't a lot of celebrations past New Year's Day so you can really get down to achieve your goals without any distractions. You won't have to carry the guilt of straying from your goals so soon after you started. Whereas, in February, there is Valentine's Day. What are you going to do, not go on that date your partner spent six months planning? Come on, you are better than that.

And of course, there is the issue of the length of the month. It is believed that you make a habit out of something if you repeat it 30 times. February only has 28 days, 29 if you are lucky. January has 31. If you crunch the numbers, it is more probable for you to achieve your goal if you start in the month of January than if you start in February. It is plain statistics.

Also, what would you tell your friends when they ask you what your New Year's resolution is come January? Are you going to tell them you are starting in February? At that point, it is not even the New Year, and it sure as heck isn't a resolution. It is an intervention you staged for yourself, and that is just sad. No one wants to be friends with someone who stages their own intervention. In most cases I would tell you to stand out from the crowd, but here, I would have to disagree with myself in most situations. Follow the herd. There is an added benefit to that:

No one will see how bad you form is at the gym! If you go in January, that is. There will be so many inexperienced people around you, what are the chances that you will catch the attention of that one person who knows exactly what he is doing and will insist on teaching you his ways? Whereas, in February, the population at the gym would have dwindled and you would be the only one not doing things right. How would you like that?

After all, come February, would you even remember what you were planning for your resolution last year? My bet is 'no!'. Then, just stick to the status quo and let things be. Just be one of the 40% who doesn't quit the gym in January itself.

**Editor's Note:**

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



## Sandford Fleming Foundation

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### The SFF Memorial Leadership Award Nominations

In recognition of the late Professors Saip Alpay and Wm. C. Nichol, and Sam Ceccerallo, Robert Elligsen, late former students of the Faculty of Engineering

The Leadership Award is granted to an intermediate-level undergraduate student in the Faculty of Engineering who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Faculty in the promotion of extra-curricular activities, including, but not limited to: Intramural Athletics, promotion of Engineering Society and Sandford Fleming Foundation events, competitions, etc., and for the support of associations, both on and off campus.

Nominations for the Memorial Leadership Award can originate from student groups, faculty members, or other individuals. A Letter of Nomination and Letters of Support from colleagues, faculty, and others familiar with the nominee's accomplishments are extremely important and form the major basis upon which the Executive Committee of the Sandford Fleming Foundation will form its decision. Nominations must be submitted to the Foundation by August 31, 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 30, 2019**

E2-3336, Extension 84008, [sff@engmail.uwaterlo.ca](mailto:sff@engmail.uwaterlo.ca)  
[www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff](http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff)

# American Government Shuts Down Over Border Wall



We are back once again with “Damnit Donald”, chronicling the absurdities and scrapes which have characterized every day of Donald Trump’s presidency.

## The shutdown

The US government has been shut down since December 22; currently in its fifth week, this is the longest shutdown in American history. 800,000 federal workers have been unpaid since then, leading to 1500 appeals on the crowdsourcing website GoFundMe, to finance basic living expenses and necessities. Of these workers, 380,000 are furloughed, meaning they are on unpaid leave. The remainder are working without pay.

President Trump is demanding \$5.7 billion in funding for his wall, which he says is needed to end the security crisis on the southern border. Opposition Democrats refuse, calling it a waste of taxpayer money. Since Congress was unable to pass the budget, the government is in shutdown.

Every year, federal government agencies submit requests for funding which Congress has to pass, after which the President signs the budget legislation for the next fiscal year. This should be finalized by October 1. If they are unable to pass the budget due to impassable differences, there are two options: a continuing resolution can be reached, which is a temporary agreement based on the previous year’s requests. Alternatively, the government shuts down, in which case all non-essential discretionary functions are stopped until the budget can be passed.

Essential services continue, with employees forced to work without pay. These are mostly related to public safety, such as border protection, hospital care, air traffic control, law enforcement, and power grid maintenance. Nonessential services are stopped, and workers are on temporary furlough. These include food inspections, access to national parks, and tax refunds.

The US Department of Justice is also affected: many lawyers and judges are furloughed, while others are working without pay. In general, criminal investigations continue, while federal civil cases and immigration cases are suspended.

The President’s pay cheque is not affected, and neither is Congress’s, although in this case, the Congress funding bill has already been approved. Other agencies do not get annual funding, and hence are unaffected; these include social security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

To simplify the situation, imagine Donald Trump throwing a tantrum. He demands \$5.7 billion, Mommy says no, he yells, “Fine! I’ll do things my way!”

At this point, there are several ways the situation could end: Trump gives in, the Democrats give in, Trump makes a deal with Congress, or Trump declares a national emergency. In the final scenario, Trump could use his presidential power to bypass Congress. This is an unlikely course of action because it would draw a lot of political and legal backlash. In the past, Republicans have opposed the idea of Democrats using this strategy to legislate gun control, or another controversial issue; hence, they would be concerned if Trump were to use this power.

It should have been anticipated that the President’s announcement on Saturday, January 19, would offer no relief. He suggested two compromises to break the “logjam” over the shutdown: extended protection for Dreamers for another three years, allowing them to get work permits, and extended visas for TPS (Temporary Protection Status) holders for three years. In return, of course, he still wants funding for the wall.

The Democrats rejected his proposal even before he made the speech. Democratic Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi said, “Unfortunately, initial reports make clear that his proposal is a compilation of several previously rejected initiatives, each of which is unacceptable and in total, do not represent a good faith effort to restore certainty to people’s lives.”

Currently, over 300,000 people from countries affected by war or disasters are allowed to live and work in the US under TPS.

Around 800,000 Dreamers – people who, as children, illegally entered the US with their parents – are enrolled in DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). DACA protects them from deportation and allows to work, but not to get citizenship. Trump has been attempting to rescind this program.

Last week, Trump invented a solution he believed to be much more brilliant than attempting to throw the Democrats a bone: fast food. He hosted the Clemson University football at the White House to celebrate their victory in the national college playoffs, feeding them piles of food from Wendy’s and McDonald’s: “we have pizzas, we have 300 hamburgers, many, many French fries, all of our favourite foods.” Trump paid for the feast out of his own pocket – let’s remember, while government employees are struggling to pay rent – and justifying this gesture as such: “The reason we did this is because of the shutdown. We want to make sure that everything is right, so we sent out, we got this.” Of course, the correlation between passing the budget and eating a lot of calories has yet to be resolved. The whole scene is overwhelmingly and disgustingly Trumpian.

## How to get impeached

Buzzfeed published an article that President Trump instructed his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen to lie to Congress about Trump’s prior plans to build a hotel in Moscow. Cohen was convicted over the case last month.

Trump retaliated, saying that Cohen had lied to “reduce his jail time”.

Office of US Special Counsel Robert Mueller also called the report inaccurate, although it did not specify which parts: “Buzzfeed’s description of specific statements to the Special Counsel’s Office, and characterization of documents and testimony obtained by this office, regarding Michael Cohen’s Congressional testimony are not accurate.”

Had there been truth to the report, this would be an impeachable offense; persuading a person to commit perjury constitutes obstruction of justice. While there have been murmurings in the past about obstruction of justice, hard evidence would be needed.

Buzzfeed thought, incorrectly as it seems, that this was the evidence needed.

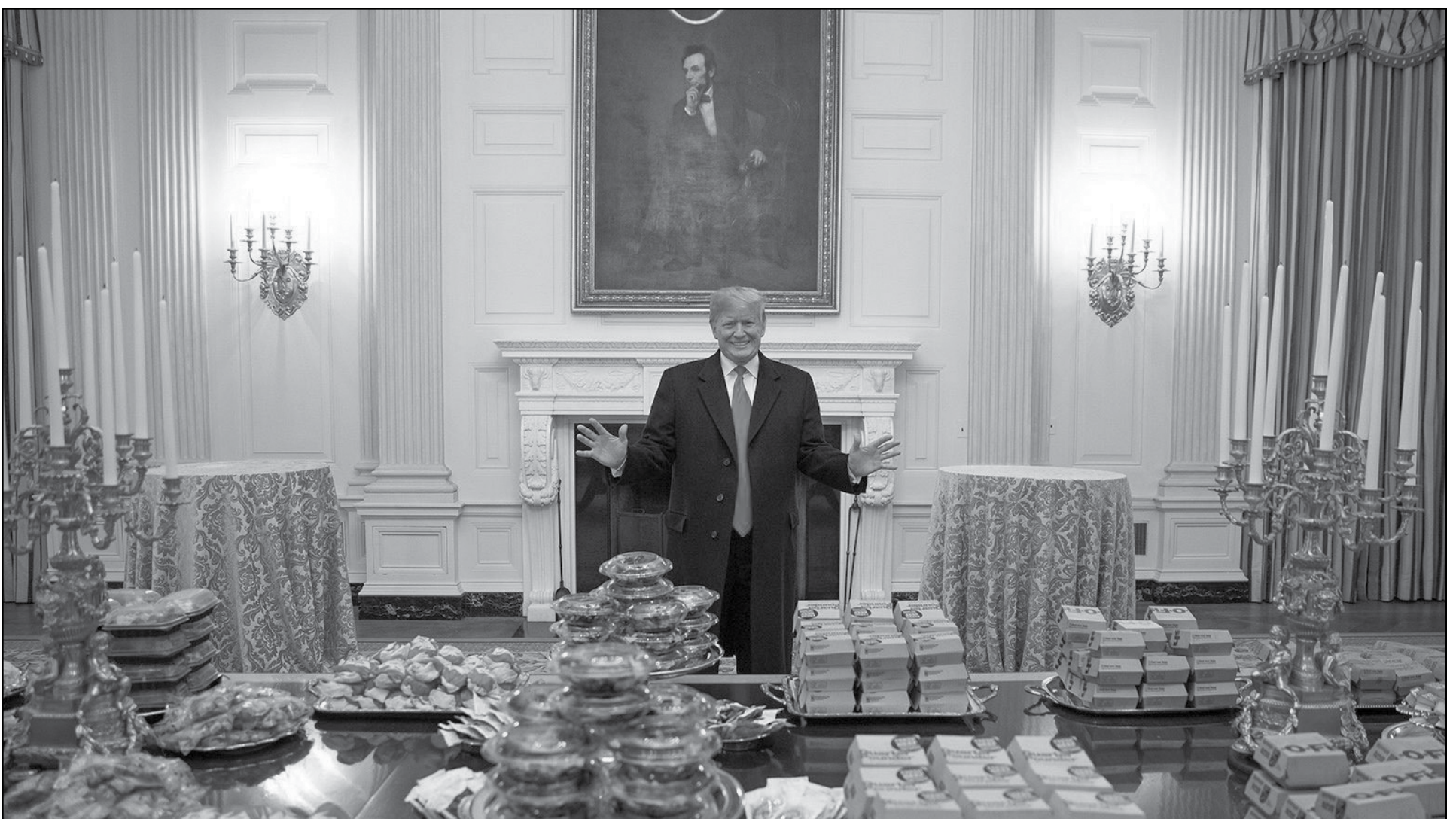
But have hope! There is another situation of questionable legality. On Thursday, the Wall Street Journal reported that the committee in charge of Trump’s inauguration is under federal criminal investigation. This committee raised \$107 million in donations, of which about \$14 million came from donors who worked for securities and investment companies, and \$10 million from people with real-estate industry connections. The investigation is looking into how the money was spent, and what the contributors stood to gain.

## A win for women

On the bright side, amid financial worries and fast food feasts last week, women’s rights had a win. The Trump administration’s new birth control plan, which was supposed to come into effect nationwide last Monday, was blocked by US federal judge Wendy Beetlestone of Philadelphia. The new plan would allow employers and insurers to decline providing birth control if it violates their “religious beliefs” or “moral convictions”. She granted the injunction requested by Attorneys General in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, which stated that this new rule would make it harder for many women to get free birth control and would be an undue burden on individual states.

A similar ruling was passed on Sunday, January 13. California Attorney General Xavier Becerra led a coalition of fourteen Attorneys General, getting a preliminary injunction to block the new plan. She said afterwards: “The law couldn’t be clearer – employers have no business interfering in women’s healthcare decisions. Today’s court ruling stops another attempt by the Trump Administration to trample on women’s access to basic reproductive care. It’s 2019, yet the Trump Administration is still trying to roll back women’s rights. Our coalition will continue to fight to ensure women have access to the reproductive healthcare they are guaranteed under the law.”

Apparently, this is the bright side: women are not losing the rights that they have worked so hard to gain. This is 2019, right?



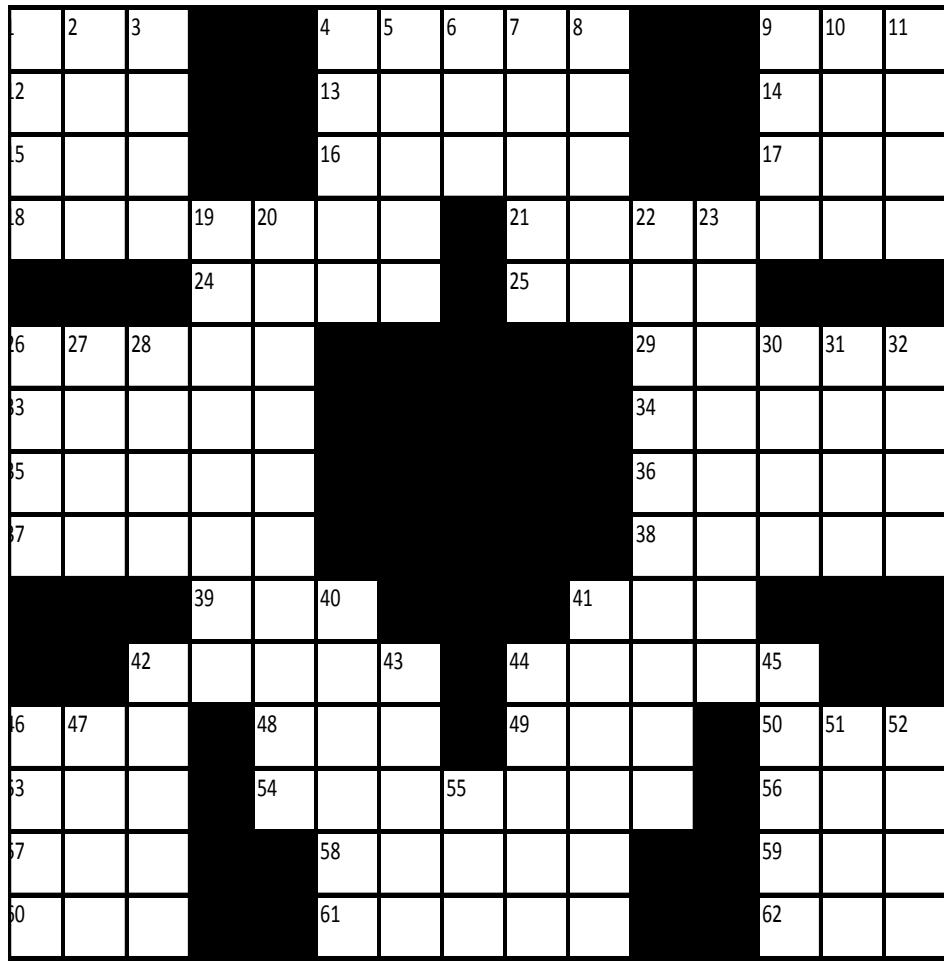
White House via The Washington Post

Donald Trump hosts a “fast food feast” for the Clemson University football team.

# The Iron Crossword

## Science and Technology

SAATVIK WALIA  
3B COMPUTER



**ACROSS**

- 1: Abbr. applied to people with autism
- 4: Spanish island in the Mediterranean Sea
- 9: To make an attempt
- 12: Cable used to play music in car
- 13: Saliva falling from the mouth
- 14: Athletic association for Canadian universities (abbr)
- 15: About flammability limit of a gas (abbr)
- 16: German for fir tree
- 17: Software library for MRI brain imaging data (abbr)
- 18: World's first flexible phone
- 21: To carry out
- 24: Electrophysiological monitoring method to record brain's electrical activities (abbr)
- 25: Free from danger or harm
- 26: Not comparable
- 29: Group of ships sailing together
- 33: A programmed mechanical device
- 34: “\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ there for you”, Friend’s

- theme
- 35: Form of printing process (abbr)
- 36: Negligence or fault
- 37: An enlarged and convoluted vein
- 38: Largest part of the hip bone
- 39: None at all
- 41: Curved leaves of the Camellia sinensis plant
- 42: City north of Salt Lake City in Utah
- 44: Category of literary composition
- 46: Top level domain for education
- 48: “When is X expected to arrive?”
- 49: \_\_\_ circuit consisting of resistor, inductor and capacitor
- 50: Most commonly used to depict geography
- 53: Shortcut commands are - CTRL+X for windows and COMMAND+X for mac
- 54: In a shiny manner
- 56: Paying off real estate mortgages (abbr)
- 57: Design and management framework about

- empathy-informed solutions (abbr)
- 58: Antivirus computer application
- 59: Batteries used by electric vehicle manufacturers (abbr)
- 60: International fraternal and religious organization (abbr)
- 61: Type of very slow tempo in music
- 62: A Scot word for dove

**DOWN**

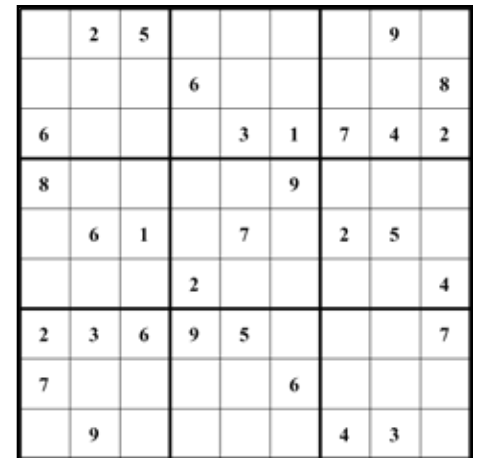
- 1: Dividing one by two
- 2: Add \_\_\_ to the fire
- 3: Central shaft for a rotating wheel
- 4: Attach this to your pet’s collar
- 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Mendez Portela, a Spanish footballer
- 6: Region of Waterloo’s rapid transit system
- 7: Areas subject to particular restrictions
- 8: Virtual assistant developed by Amazon
- 9: Also known as bean curd
- 10: Corrosion of iron
- 11: A type of lock
- 19: Popular term sometimes used for photocopying
- 20: Oxides containing five atoms of oxygen
- 22: Ratio of work output to work input
- 23: Network technology that facilitates mobile device communication
- 26: Adult Residential Fire Victims (abbr)
- 27: Typhoon \_\_\_\_, two tropical cyclones in the northwestern Pacific
- 28: Ridesharing company
- 30: Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory (abbr)
- 31: Child and youth mental health research unit at University College London (abbr)
- 32: Group of individuals working together to achieve their goal
- 40: Capable of causing death
- 41: “\_\_\_\_\_ Win”, book by Peter Guber
- 42: To be more successful than
- 43: Person showing a lack of experience
- 44: American non-profit online magazine
- 45: To correct usually by textual alterations
- 46: Reflection of sound
- 47: A \_\_\_ is used in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
- 51: Ammunition informally called \_\_\_
- 52: Unit prefix denoting one trillionth
- 55: Numeric data type for undefined value

# Sudoku

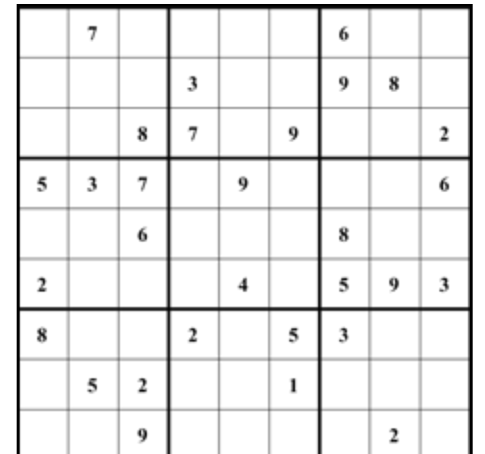
#2019-01

SAATVIK WALIA  
3B COMPUTER

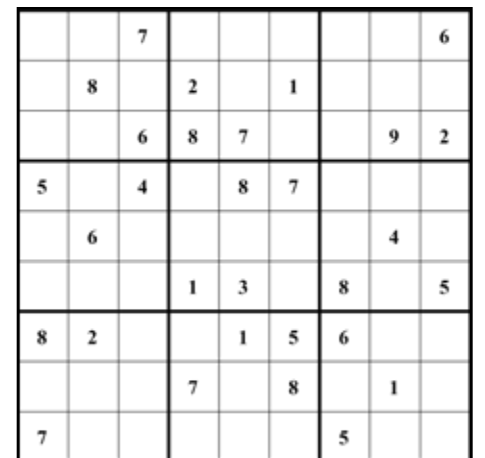
Easy



Medium



Very Hard



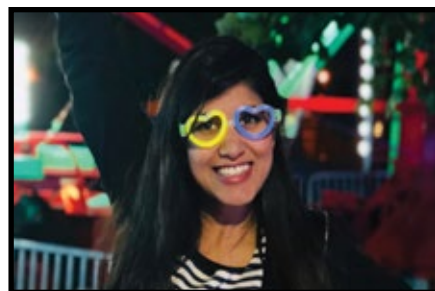
Solutions for previous crosswords can be found on *The Iron Warrior's* website at [iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/distractions](http://iwarrior.uwaterloo.ca/distractions).

**THE IRON INQUISITION**  
Miridu Walia, Mechanical

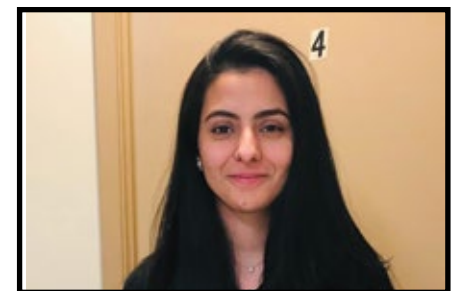
### “What will you miss the most about Bomber?”



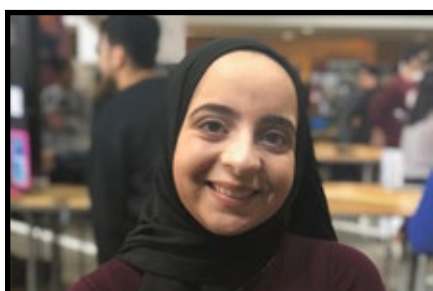
“I’ll miss it as a space to hang out with friends.”  
Rue Wang, 1B GBDA



“I will cherish the memories and miss the experiences.”  
Sameen Waseem, 3B Mechanical



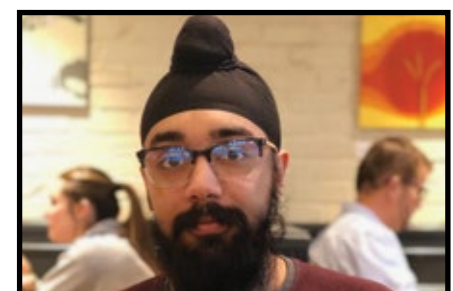
“The future generations will miss out on it, but again, there’s always more.”  
Anum Yaseen, 4B MATBUS



“Food!”  
Sarah Masri, 4A Sociology



“Attending Bomber events with friends.”  
Felicia Lu, 4A Computing and Financial Management



“Watching the FIFA World cup with my friends.”  
Yuvraj Singh, 2B Mechanical