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the IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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University Eating

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Beginning of Term Pub Success with Frosh

IW News Bureau

Despite some trepidation over the number of under-age students who may attend, the beginning of term pub (B.O.T.) was a complete success.

The wrist-band policy in effect, the broader age-range proved not to be a deterrent to amusement.

Because of the warm weather, the patio was open and was populated in full-force with many people spending nearly the entire evening outside.

Among the evenings entertainment was a visit by The Tool - giving the first-years a second opportunity to see the mascot, but this time in a more intimate environment.

Also received well was the Orientation Week video prepared by Paul Habsch - copies of which should be on sale soon.

The worry of under-age drinking was apparent all during Orientation Week, and was not lessened by the time BOT came around.

Because of the limited response to attempts to solicit security volunteers, there were a barely-sufficient number of security personnel present.

Luckily nothing untowards occurred, and everyone had a great time.

As a stress-relieved at midterms, a Middle of Term Pub is also planned each term - this year it will be held on the 31st of October - be sure to bring your costumes.

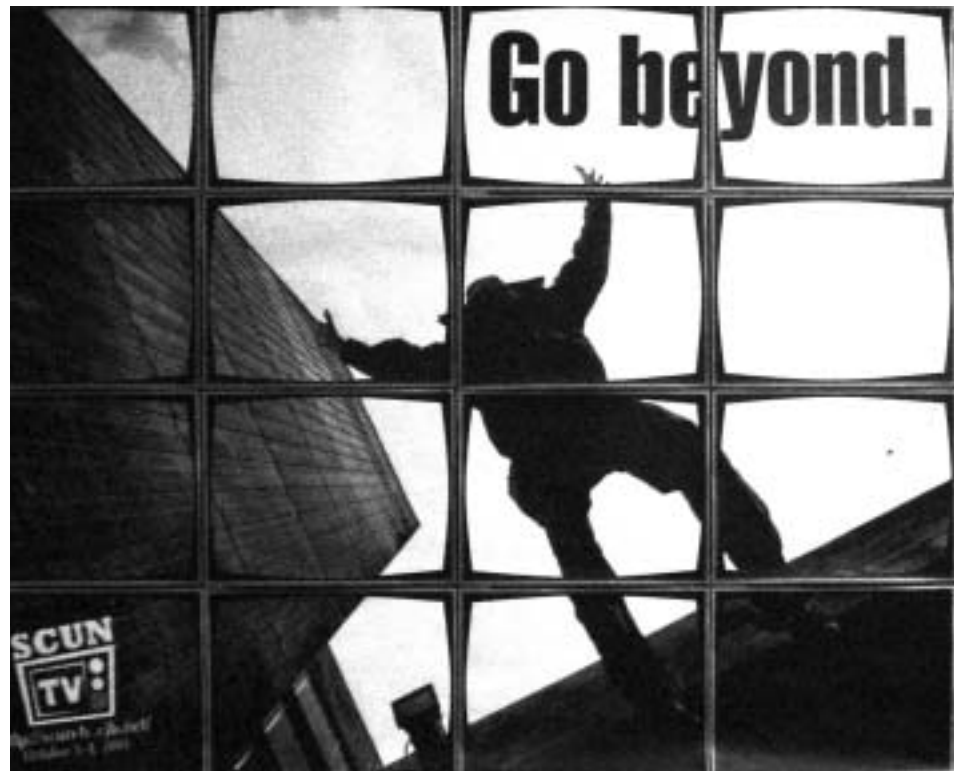
For those of you looking to get involved in future term pubs as security personnel (volunteer and get a free shirt) contact The POETS Managers by email: Garret Smith at g6smith@engmail.uwaterloo.ca, Maria Mammolita at mmammoli@engmail.uwaterloo.ca or Niki Czerniak at neczerni@engmail.uwaterloo.ca.



Enjoying the patio at BOT



E&CE was out in force to the Pub



Expressive promotion makes promise of an exciting Scavenger Hunt

IW News Bureau

You know you want to be there! Dubbed *ScunTV*, the Engineering Scavenger Hunt (Scunt) will start on Friday, October 3rd at noon and continue till noon on Saturday October 4th. Registration is \$45 per team.

This term's Scunt is being run by the 2A Software Engineering class (class of 2007) and is being spearheaded by Robb Effinger and Emilie Lam.

With the number of enthusiastic first-year students on campus, and with rumours of both an off-stream team and a

math team making a run for the prize, it promises to be an exciting and entertaining time.

Planned events include "The Amazing Race Around Campus", "Survivor", "Umpa Lumpa Off", "Homestarody Runner", "Junkyard Wars", "Calvin Ball", "Just for Laughs Gags" and "American Gladiators" among other titles.

For more information contact Robb Effinger at reffinge@uwaterloo.ca, Emilie Lam at eylam@uwaterloo.ca or visit the website at <http://www.scuntv.cjb.net>

Also available on the website is an online registration form, where the \$45 registration fee will be collected at a later date.

The Parties, The Platforms, The How, and The Why Ontario Provincial Election Special

Jeff Henry

4N Computer

On Thursday, October 2nd, citizens from across the province will be selecting the next government of Ontario. With the parties fighting desperately for support, students have the opportunity to put education issues on the forefront and to have their say.

In this issue, I have tried to provide you with the information you need to get informed, to get to the polls, and to make your voice heard.

Student organizations, both national

and provincial, have targeted this election to make education issues a priority for our elected officials. Both the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) have put together informative, comprehensive websites on how the major parties stand on post-secondary education funding, student assistance, and many more. For extensive coverage, analysis, and commentary, visit:

<http://educatedchoice.ca>

<http://voteeducation.ca>

While the party leader's debate already took place on this past Tuesday, an open meeting with the local Kitchener-Waterloo candidates has been scheduled for this Monday, September 29th. The meeting, organized by the faculty association and co-sponsored by student and staff groups,

will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the Student Life Centre, will deal specifically with post-secondary education issues.

The Federation of Students is organizing a bus to register students to vote on October 1st and to take students to the polls on Thursday, October 2nd. For more information see: "How Do I Vote and Why Should I Care?" on page 10.

The local candidates of the major parties were questioned on the issues of tuition and student assistance. To see their responses see: "Tuition, OSAP Questions and Candidate Responses" on page 10.

And finally, as a service to busy engineering students, the platforms of the three major parties have been summarized for your easy reading pleasure. Please see: "NDP, PC, Liberal Platforms: A Brief Analysis" on page 11.

The Kitchener-Waterloo candidates:

Elizabeth Witmer (PC)
Sean Strickland (Liberal)
Dan Lajoie (NDP)
Pauline Richards (Green)
Lou Reitzel (Family Coalition)
Julian Ichim (IND)
Owen Alastair Ferguson (IND)

Useful websites:

<http://www.electionsontario.on.ca>
<http://www.ontarioliberal.on.ca>
<http://www.ontariopc.on.ca>
<http://www.ontariondp.on.ca>
<http://www.FamilyParty.on.ca>
<http://www.greenparty.on.ca>

Continued on pages 10 and 11. See Ontario Election Special.

"A democracy is nothing more than mob rule, where 51% of the people may take away the rights of the other 49." - Thomas Jefferson

Letter from the Editor

Joseph Fung

3N Computer

Editor-in-Chief



As Editor in Chief, there is a constant stress to ensure that my staff is growing and that there are people willing to continue and take over responsibilities in subsequent terms. This often involves cajoling, begging, pleading and on occasion - bribing (yes, we offer free snacks and pop at our weekly meetings and yes, you can have some if you come and write for the Iron Warrior).

Whenever someone is interested in taking on a position, they usually ask what the effort entails - and here's where it becomes sketchy. For some positions - such as Layout Editor or Distribution Manager, the job description is fairly self-explanatory. Not so, however, for the illustrious Editor in Chief and Assistant Editor positions. Both of these positions are a little more difficult to describe in one succinct phrase. Instead, I usually go over a list of the responsibilities inherent in each position.

Which brings me to the point of this introduction - from this point forward, I plan on ensuring that all of my Assistant Editors fully understand the difficulty in preparing a letter from the editor for each issue - especially a letter of this length. Although this could easily be solved by increasing my font size, I'm morally against such shifty tricks as they would have a detrimental effect on the unparalleled quality of this publication.

"But," one may ask, "does this semi-coherent rambling have a point?" Indeed it does! While struggling last night to determine an appropriate subject for this letter, while stress-testing my latest Trillian 2.0 install, my friend asked me why I do so many things? Why do I make myself so busy? I realized that my perhaps masochistic desire to be busy is firmly rooted in what I believe to be the requirements to succeed.

Keep in mind I'm not a motivational-personal-coach-public-speaker-guy whose published "*The Requirements to Succeed*", so it's entirely possible I'm wrong. In the absence of anything else however, I'm going with what I have - and so far I'd like to think it's working. I invite you to think about these two items and draw your own conclusions.

The first thing I espouse is to keep a positive attitude. It seems simple, but I

sincerely believe that not enough people take it to heart. It's not sufficient to simply "look at the bright side" when you're confronted with a problem - it is more of a change to your habits - to the way you look at life.

Those of you who know me know that I tend to laugh and smile a lot (to a disturbing degree some may say) - this is a strong part of keeping a positive attitude. Laughter is good for you and people don't take advantage of this natural stress-reliever nearly enough.

To smile more, it's important to look for the humour in a situation, to look for the pleasantness in a situation - and to appreciate that.

"But," says the resolute stone-face, "what's there to laugh about when I spend all day with my nose in a book or in-front of a lecturer?" This is where what I'm saying is so important. In every-day situations, if there isn't anything funny - ask yourself what would make it funny, imagine that, and smile at the thought.

If you make a concerted effort to do so, you'll find this whole "positive outlook thing so much easier".

Another way to try and improve your positive outlook is to try complimenting people. There have been many, many books lauding the merits of being a positive person and that what goes around comes around, but I believe these books are underestimating the impact of a compliment on the deliverer.

When you compliment someone, you're forcing yourself to look at the positive aspects of that individual. Although one day it may be their clothes, another day it may be about an idea they had and another day it may be about some work they did. Our own insecurities will prevent us from making the same compliment again and again (after all, who wants to look like an idiot who compliments someone's haircut 5 times in the same week) and so by regularly giving out compliments, you'll be training yourself to look at someone positively rather than negatively.

On an easier-to-explain note, I know that I for one take pleasure in making someone else smile, and a compliment is an easy way to do that.

Clearly, trying to keep a positive outlook isn't all that difficult - all it takes is some effort and a game plan. But to me, a positive outlook isn't enough on its own, to succeed, more is needed.

The second requirement for success in my mind is to have a diverse set of experiences and interests. We're living in a changing world and everyone understands

that although specialization can make a very effective employee for a specific job, over-specialization results in an employee who can't be re-hired somewhere else.

This doesn't just apply to job skills.

Over the course of our lives having a broad set of interests and experiences will help is in a ridiculously large number of ways - I will try to describe some examples.

Networking: networking is one of the buzz-words of the decade. Meeting people to exchange information and gain access to their resources and the resources of the people they know - it's a practice with benefits that rise exponentially. Having a diverse background means you'll be more likely to have something in common with someone you meet - making networking much, much easier.

Adaptability: in a rapidly changing environment, it's important to be adaptable. A key part of adaptability is being able to see the similarities between any given situation and something you've experienced in the past. As you can see, there's a direct relationship between how many different experiences you've had and how easily you can adapt.

Skills: every experience you have results in an increased skillset - even if it's not obvious at first. And increased skillset means you'll be better equipped to deal with a situation.

For those of you who don't have a varied background - try something out of the ordinary. Take a belly-dancing class, take a break and work overseas, try something as simple as reading a different genre. You'd be surprised how easy it can be.

So yes, I do have a soapbox and now I'll step down from it. Although they may not be the sum total of the "keys to success", I sincerely believe that having a diverse set of experiences and maintaining a positive attitude are two of the keys.

I am, however, open to the possibility that I'm wrong - and I would enjoy reading your interpretations or your thoughts on what I've said. You can reach me at iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca and I welcome your response.

Cheers,
Joseph

Questions? Comments?

We welcome letters and feedback from all our readers. Please email us at:

iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

the IRON WARRIOR

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ARRR! There be Pirates on These Islands

Jason Griese



4N Computer

For those of you not in the know, season 7 of Survivor started last Thursday. This season sees the contestants battling the elements in the Pearl Islands of the Caribbean. CBS has of course opted to go with a pirate theme for this season. Sweet! So just how was the start of another season of idiocy, dirt, hunger, backstabbing, and insipid philosophising?

The big twist this season involved host Probst sailing the cast out into the middle of the Caribbean for a "publicity shoot" that was really the games' opening ceremonies. After being divided into the Drake and Morgan tribes (Arr!) the cast was then informed that they have to swim to shore from the yacht. This is a particularly awesome manoeuvre as most of the cast are wearing sun dresses and fancy clothes. One guy frets over his Armani suit. Probst dumps the cast into the sea with nothing more than an extra large life ring and a change of shoes procured from the cast's luggage. However, Probst messes the whole sequence up by failing to make the contestants walk the plank.

After a boring swimming sequence (where the big muscled guy can't swim, hee hee!) the contestants arrive what is in effect the reward challenge for the show. The beach the cast lands on is at a local fishing village, where the teams can attempt to buy or barter for supplies for the game. The Drake team makes out like bandits in this sequence. Drakes answer to Peter Jackson, Rupert, gets with the pirate theme by stealing Morgan's unattended dress shoes and trading them in town for food and knives. Sandra uses her Spanish

fluency and massive negotiating skills to get Drake great deals around the village. Her shining moment comes when she convinces a family barbeque to part with their food and cooking utensils for her gold chain. The Morgan team doesn't fare as well, letting their lack of cohesion, poor planning skills, and general impatience to leave the town with what appears to be far fewer supplies than the Drakes make off with.

After the teams arrive at their respective base camps, we get to compare the two teams camping skills. Once again, Drake comes out on top by managing to build a decent shelter, secure a water supply, catch enough fish to feed eight people (Rupert's initiative, after he realized that Burton's massive effort of one fish would only be enough if he followed up by invoking the power of Christ), fix their clothing situation (Mr. Armani had to turn a pair of scissors on his suit, hee hee!) and still have enough time to throw a party fuelled by the jug of unmarked liquor purchased in town. Morgan struggled with camp placement after their first choice turned out to be under a crumbling shale wall that became infested with crabs at night. They also had difficulty finding water, even though a well was marked on their maps for them. This was all occurring despite the presence of a scoutmaster in full uniform, which proves that all modern boy scouts are completely helpless without a McDonalds within a half hour drive of their current location.

The first immunity challenge was quite imaginative, as the two teams had to move a cannon from one side of an island to the other through an overland obstacle course. Drake managed to lead Morgan all through the course until a misstep on the final beach caused them to become bogged down, allowing Morgan to pass them. Morgan powered towards the finish line,

until they too became bogged down mere feet from the finish. Drake used the opportunity to retake the lead and win the immunity idol. Incidentally, this season's idol looks like someone took a skull and axe set from Value-Village and glued an Oreo into its eye socket.

The post-failure infighting at Morgan was especially fierce this year, with early fingers being pointed at the Middle-Aged

Scoutmaster Lill and Ryan S., who was accused of slacking during the immunity challenge despite televised evidence to the contrary. However, the axe fell on Nicole, who was unanimously voted out after her inept attempts at double-dealing came to the attention of her other tribemates.

Continued on page 7. See The Usual Bunch of Losers.

inCO-OPetence

Bill Hates
Special to the Iron Warrior

Disappointed faces, worries about failure and getting a job, financial paranoia, panic...No, this isn't ranking day. It's September 22nd, the first deadline for the first posting for the first double cohort coop term.

For all those who wisely chose to drop off their resumes hours in advance, picture this scenario: you arrive at the TC at 7:45, 15 minutes before the bins are supposed to close. You are alarmed to see a line of students extending up the stairs to the ground floor, yet the scene seems orderly enough so you take your place at the end of the line.

Ten minutes later, still not in the basement and a little more nervous, you overhead an announcement, "The Tatham Centre will close in 5 minutes," and you notice some wily transcript bearers cutting the line. In panic, you also jump the queue and try and push your way through to the I-240 bin room just in time to hear a student wearing a fluorescent very yell out: "Everyone please leave. Don't make me push you

out!"

Sad, but true: people who had been queuing civilly for 15 minutes were not given the chance to drop off their resumes for the largest posting of this term. Why did this happen? Why were the doors to the bin rooms and he building locked at the same time, effectively trapping over a hundred students in co-op limbo? Can't 425 bucks per student pay for a sign that says: "Building doors close at 7:45pm. Bin doors close at 8pm. We strongly suggest you arrive early!"

Remarkably, one question failed to be asked in the subterranean chaos: Where were the leaders? Where were those who gave such inspiring speeches about ambition and professionalism and the top ten skills that employers look for?

In the end, if it weren't for he generous negotiations of Officer Hunter, a sad lesson would have been driven home to those students who were not fortunate to arrive 20 minutes early: sometimes you have to physically force you way in the world to get ahead. Perhaps co-op is teaching us more about real life than we suspect.

the Iron Inquisition

Chris McCullough, 2B Chemical

What was the best part of Orientation Week?



"Rolling in the mud with Justin."
Eric Stevens - 4A Mechanical



"Back to school shopping at Zellers!"
Matt Strickland - 2B Electrical



"Watching the Frosh meet the TOOL. The whole ambience was pleasant."
Justin Bishop - 4A Systems



"Toga Party."
Lori Versteeg - 1A Arts



"Haggis: The TOOL made me eat it."
Matt Rendal - 1A Mechatronics



"Having to do things like the ELPE instead of fun events."
Mayunthan Nithiyatham - 1A Systems



"Waiting in huge lines."
Zamir Ahan - 3B Computer



"The enthusiastic frosh."
Josh Levitz - 3B Mechanical

Opinion

The Art of Living

Sabrina Mu
2A Systems

Mad crams for exams, with practically no sleep; Vector cereal for breakfast, lunch, and dinner (in a cup); psychological hell induced by stress, loneliness, and the terrible fear of failure, pretty much sums up my 2 years of university experience. In my post-quarter-life crisis state, I came to the realization that school should not be this hard, and in fact school IS NOT that hard. Life is really what everyone makes of it, and with a well adjusted perspective, a well defined set of core priorities, and the willingness and dedication in living a good life, every average soul can make university "the best of the times", without suffering through "the worst of times".

May truth be spoken, with my academic, extra-curriculum, and emotional record, I do not feel qualified to write a column on the so-called "art of living". I wonder if this series of articles will become a running list of "what not to do," instead of useful recommendations on "what to do"? Or else, would it be better to ask a well-rounded "superstar" to share ones' success stories? But personally, I don't think studying for 3 hours for every hour spent in lecture, or taking mini breaks every hour to reboot your short term memory, or meditating on a formula until it eventually sinks in, deeper, deeper, and deeper into your inner conscience is useful advice. Nor am I inspired by those who become the chair of 4 volunteer committees, while maintaining a 95% average, while performing in a band, working aboard, and feeding the hungry and the poor. (Often, they leave me in awe and sheer self-contempt for being so average) This column is certainly not for geniuses or saints (though we know that they are among us), but rather, its purpose is to share some heart-felt things that I learned in university life, all too often by the hard way with other average human beings.

In "loo", as I perceive it, life is mostly divided into four portions; studies, living necessities (food, clothes, shelter), social life, and love life (which could be a subset of social life, or may be completely non-existent). To kick start this column, I'd like to share 10 simple things that I wish I knew as a frosh about learning and cramming and everything in between.

1. *You need to study. No matter how smart you think you are, or you really are, it is crucial to put in a decent amount of time and energy into this activity. After all, you or your parents paid big bucks for it. Who knows, you may really become a more "critical thinker" as the administration propaganda suggests. The term "decent" varies from person to person and everyone needs to find their "comfort zone" by themselves.*

2. *It doesn't matter how many hours you study, it only matters what you have accomplished in those hours. Therefore, productivity is the key to success.*

3. *There are only a few time slots that are "good for study" in a day. Again, the length and frequency of these slots differ from individual to individual. For me, I am most productive between 2:00 and 5:00 in the afternoon, and between 7:00 and 11:00 at night. Therefore, it is a good strategy to save the "fun stuff" to the after hours when you are brain-dead anyways.*

4. *Group work has to be constructive. It is ALWAYS better to study with your best*

friend, than your significant other. When studying in groups, try to keep the group small (less than 5 people at one setting), and strive to eliminate pro-longed breaks and keep the discussions school related. Usually, it is better to read on your own, and then attempt questions in groups. Because, the "clicking" of knowledge is a very personal experience, while the success rate in "getting" the question can be boosted by group confidence and collective understanding.

5. *Don't worry about studying. Too often, we spend time panicking about a test, a major assignment, or an exam. It is really better to just stop panicking and get on with studying. Chances are, if you feel "guilty" or concerned about your academics while doing something that you would normally enjoy (i.e. hanging out with friends, movie), then really you should just open a book and start studying.*

6. *Don't over plan the material that you are going to learn in each day, and don't overestimate the amount of time, energy and patience you are devoting to that*

endeavor. Make a list of all the things that you want to do in order of importance, and then cross off the second half of the list.

7. *Have realistic expectations of the marks you will be getting, especially for frosh. If you are not used to seeing any number except 9 as the first digit in your mark, then you are most likely to be disappointed. As an exercise try to mentally accept Min (your average in high school with the digits reversed, 60).*

8. *Read ahead. Instead of opening the textbook 2 days before finals, it is good if you can just skim over the material before it is covered in class. It gives context to the lectures, and helps you to grasp the most important points that you need to master.*

9. *During exam crams, always do past exams. Memorize the questions and answers if necessary. Profs almost always recycle questions.*

10. *Bug your TAs during the term, not just before finals, even if they seem dumb or can't speak English. At least, they can show you some insights into what to emphasize in the material.*

To Date the Frosh, or To Not Date the Frosh: That is the Question.

Christos Sarakinos
4N Electrical

At the urging of the Editor, I have written an opinion piece on the contentious issue of dating Frosh. Before I go on, allow me to begin unorthodoxly by giving the answer to the question immediately, for those impatient individuals who read only the first paragraph of each article. The answer, my friends, is this: to not date the frosh.

Engineering students are lacking in female representation. That is to say that the percentage of females in Engineering is sadly below the percentage of females comprising the general populace. As a result, in our faculty, it is fairly easy for female students to find prospective mates, while the same can certainly not be said for male students.

Now, as guys went through their first few years, they noticed something peculiar: girls shunned the advances of men of the same age, while the same girls

responded to the advances of older guys. This led to one unmistakable conclusion: young girls find older guys more attractive. The young guys, realising this, waited patiently for a time when they would be the older attractive guys. This situation has been perpetuating itself for generations.

It is high time that the cycle is broken, for one very simple reason: imbalance. Although I suspect the Editor's intention of this article was to provide the forgetful student body with a reminder that the Frosh are getting younger and younger (and therefore illegal), I find the imbalance aspect to be of equal importance.

Whether those involved admit it or not, inherent to dating someone of a moderately different age (i.e. 4th year dating a Frosh), is an imbalance of power. The younger person attributes to the older one many favourable qualities, but their view is skewed because of their immaturity.

A simple example: The impression-

able Frosh girl thinks "He's so cool. He knows everyone, and where all the parties are!" The truth of the matter is that this is a function of his experience, and is not particularly impressive. In retrospect, many a girl has felt foolish at having gone out with an older guy for the wrong reasons.

The resulting above-described relationship is hardly based on the most solid of foundations. Add to that the fact that different age groups have different expectations from a relationship, and you have a veritable recipe for disaster.

So, to my senior engineering brethren, I say, do not prey on the innocent Frosh. Give them at least a term to come into their own, and adjust to university life. At that time, you will have the opportunity to woo them legitimately with your adequate charm, rather than wooing them now with such insignificant trivia as to the meaning of the acronym P.O.E.T.S.

Is This Textbook Worth Every Penny, Or Just One?

Edward Tan
2A Computer

I'm sure by now that most of you have already waited in that wonderland line-up outside of the bookstore. Not only do you have to wait for over an hour to get into the bookstore, but you walk out a few hundred dollars poorer. This causes most people to ask themselves, are their textbooks really worth all that time and money. In some cases, it's not.

So how do you know if a textbook is really worth that hundred dollars? The best way is to ask upper year students what they thought of their textbooks. If they tell you that their textbook was amazing and then offer to sell you one that's so new it looks like it hasn't been open before, think twice. By the way, if anyone's looking for a first year C++ programming textbook, I got a very useful one still in its original wrapper.

The next step would be to check

out the used bookstore. They rarely have all the textbooks that you need. However, if you're lucky, you'll be able to buy most of your textbooks with an occasional obscene picture drawn into a random page or two. The used bookstore does have a no-refund policy so make sure you're going to need that textbook first. Buying the wrong edition is also a big mistake. You might as well spend that extra 20% to buy a new one.

Another option you have is to share textbooks with a roommate or floor-mate in the same program. If you have a

really good friend, you can even borrow their textbook. However, if you find that you're always fighting over that one textbook, then it's probably useful enough to purchase another one.

There are some things that you should not put off buying. You should buy lecture notes and course notes as soon as possible since they are fairly inexpensive. Not only do they save you time and work by reducing the amount of notes you have to write down, but they are also a great resource for studying. This is especially true if you have handwriting like mine. I

write my notes in English, but they resemble Chinese more if I ever tried to read them. Any textbook that you have to use for more than one course is also a good investment.

Always consider all the alternatives you have before buying a textbook. Buying the wrong textbook is not the same as deciding to try the vegetarian meal at the café. Remember, the last thing you want to do is to end up trying to trick a frosh into buying one of your useless textbooks. By the way, the C++ textbook is still up for grabs.



POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

Is a Wet Frosh Week Better?

Jeff Henry
4N Computer

The frosh are younger and therefore less mature, more and more of them are below the legal drinking age, and alcohol sales at more and more frosh week events have lost money. However, not only are the basic principles and goals of the university's orientation week policies and general alcohol-related policies laudable but they also point to the benefits of holding a wet frosh week.

Back in 1997, the Provost's Advisory Committee on Orientation determined that a safe and fun orientation for all students was a key element of the first year experience. The purpose of orientation for frosh was specified as "to experience a balanced introduction to the social, academic and residential aspects of university life with the guidance and support of upper year students" on, among other things, a principle of "balance and moderation." Orientation week should also provide frosh an opportunity to "experience, in a supportive and informed environment, the process of adapting to new and challenging situations which may involve alcohol and a variety of new relationships."

The viewpoint that introduction to alcohol in a balanced manner with support and guidance followed along the lines of University Policy 21 – Alcohol Use & Education, which begins: "The philosophies and requirements outlined in this policy have been designed to create an environment in which the responsible use of alcohol is understood and promoted."

In light of the double cohort and the multiple institutions across the province removing alcohol from their frosh weeks, the decision of whether or not to keep alcohol as a potential part of orientation week was stated in the December 2002 update to the PACO report as follows:

"The committee decided to not remove alcohol from Orientation Week. We cur-

rently offer a safe Orientation program where we are able to provide students an opportunity to drink responsibly. UW has a very inclusive program and by removing alcohol we would be excluding those who are of age and who choose to drink from the events. We have a good system in place where we treat the students like adults. UW has worked too hard for the past five years to develop programs where the emphasis was not on alcohol. By removing alcohol we would be taking steps backwards in our accountability."

The argument to have a dry frosh week is often stated that the quality and usefulness of the event with respect to the goals of orientation is enough to draw frosh to the events. Alcohol only leads to more problems and also has a poor cost-benefit in light of the age of the current and future batch of frosh.

The flaw in the argument is not that events must have alcohol to be fun enough to draw the majority of frosh in. The flaw is also not alcohol-related problems arising at events, as risk management and planning have worked their way into orientation week significantly enough that the problem is minimized. The flaw stems from the tendency of the first year population, mostly free of the bonds of parental oversight, to flock to alcohol in dangerously uncontrolled settings. And while diminished attendance may result from the removal of alcohol from some events, that would not be the biggest failing of orientation week. If the alcohol limits of the first year population are tested at Toga, there are controls to ensure that those students imbibing too much make it home safely and not to end up face down in the gutter, say, outside Phil's.

The cost of including alcohol at events is, perhaps, becoming a greater burden on the orientation committees but with a goal of safely transitioning the frosh population to a new community with new experiences, the cost to the frosh, for whom the week is run, is lessened as a result.

John Olaveson
2A Civil

Everyone who experienced Frosh Week here at Waterloo enjoyed wet events like Monte Carlo night. What would Frosh Week have been like if those events had not offered alcohol? Would the experience of Frosh Week have been as good? Let's imagine for this article that no wet events were held during Frosh Week. What would be the effect?

Frosh Week's main purpose is to offer an entertaining introduction to the University of Waterloo. But Frosh Week is also designed to let Frosh get to know each other, feel like they're somewhere they fit in, and maybe teach them a few things about themselves and life.

Certainly there are many people in this society that would say alcohol is a great way to make an event more entertaining. Sure, at first alcohol can be a pleasant thing. But what happens if a person goes overboard on alcohol and ends up being sick? There's nothing quite like holding someone's hair as they throw up into a toilet. And cleaning vomit off the floor is another wonderful experience. What would happen if a Frosh had too much to drink and got sick in the middle of the dance floor during Monte Carlo night? All the nearby Frosh would have pleasant stains on their formal wear. The dance would be cancelled (at least as long as it took to clean up the mess). Somebody would have to look after the sick Frosh to make sure he/she was alright. That's a lot of Frosh affected adversely by one student who can't control alcohol.

Drunk people, even when they don't become violently ill, can ruin an event for others. An inebriated Frosh might make inappropriate and unwelcome advances on other Frosh or maybe even leaders. The drunk Frosh might decide to cause some property damage (Frosh often don't have as strong a connection to this university as upper-year students do). Acts of vandalism might occur, whether against University property or against Frosh. Who wants to have their car windows smashed? Anyone? I'll take any offers.

A drunk Frosh is not just a danger to others. He/she is a danger to him/herself. This Frosh will likely return to residence still drunk, possibly to dangerous levels. Who is going to watch over this person? The Don, you say. What if the Don has several of these drunk students to deal with? Should the Don open up a drunk tank for the night, offer his/her room as a sanctuary to all those who had too much to drink? What an imposition to the Don! That's more than they should have to deal with in any given week.

Suppose the drunk Frosh does not return to residence, but instead decides to go out for more partying. The dangers of alcohol poisoning will only increase. But this time there's no Don to take care of the Frosh. The Frosh would be in a potentially unfamiliar city with potentially no one who knows how to get back to campus. Finding a bar near here is easy. Finding the University could prove a lot harder, especially when drunk. The goal of Frosh week is not to lose Frosh. If even one Frosh is harmed during Frosh week, this reporter is confident that Administration would ensure that future Frosh weeks would be very different, and a more bor-

ing, than even a dry week would be.

And now let's turn to issues of equality and majority. Over half of the incoming Frosh are now below drinking age. If the of-age Frosh are allowed to drink, it is an act of discrimination against the young students. One group is being treated differently based on something as trivial as age. Now in the past, when most new students were of-age, this discrimination was not given much consideration. But now that the majority of students cannot drink, the issue should be reconsidered. After all, we live in a society where the majority vote gets its way.

If some Frosh are drinking and other Frosh are not allowed to drink, the young Frosh would potentially feel isolated from their peers. Or in this case, as the majority can't drink, the drinkers would feel isolated. In any event, the removal of this feeling of isolation would allow a given Frosh to feel more comfortable around more people and open the way for interaction. And meeting as many people as possible is one of the goals of Frosh Week.

Alcohol is treated as a big deal during Frosh Week. Everyone talks about "the wet events" like those nights are the only exciting parts of the week. And this simply is not true. Many of the events hold equal or greater excitement as the wet events. If the wet went away, the now-dry events would be just as exciting and would hold the same anticipation for leaders and Frosh alike. Junkyard Wars, anyone?

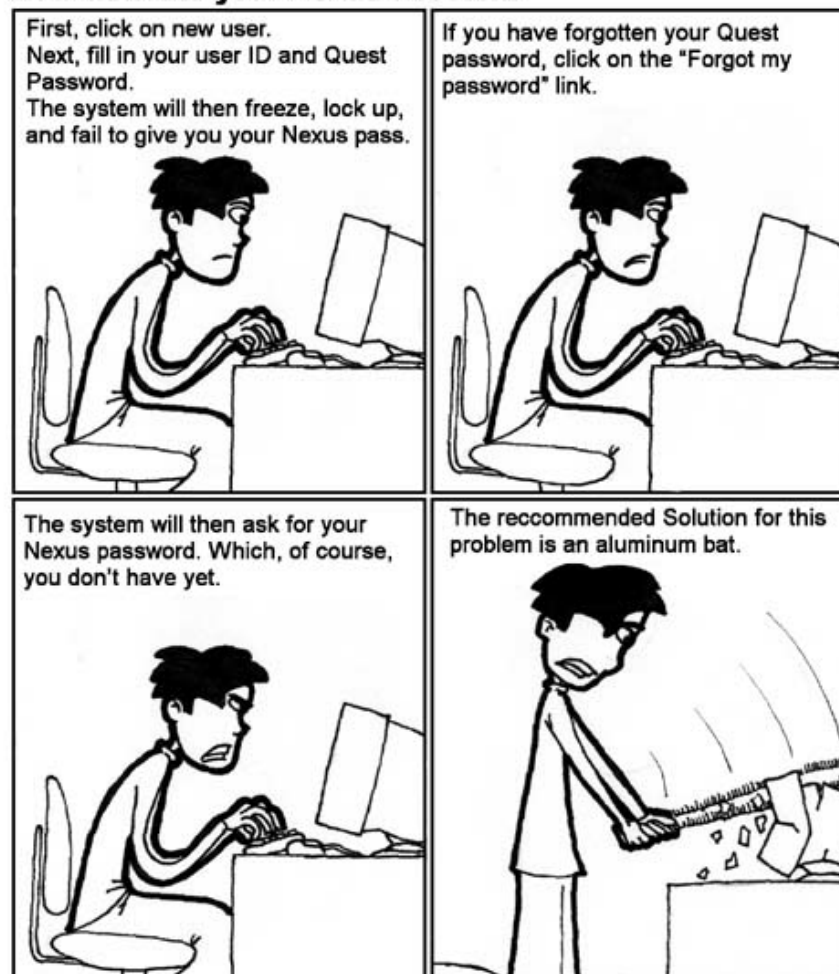
What would be the downfall of losing alcohol at Frosh events? Well, bar services would lose income. Conversely, the Frosh would keep more money for important things, like books and food (and I know some readers will be thinking, "They're just going to spend it on more alcohol elsewhere" and to this I say, "It's cheaper from the beer store anyway.")

A dry Frosh week would upset a few people. I've heard nothing but complaints from the current Engineering population concerning the potential transition to a dry week. Now think about the leaders who volunteer their time to make sure the Frosh enjoy the week. Is it fair to place those leaders into situations where they would need to deal with drunk Frosh? They are trained for it, I know, I was there. But that training lasted for about thirty minutes and I for one do not feel confident giving any first aid beyond the application of a bandage. And that training happened months before Frosh week. And I don't even need to take the training again before the next Frosh week. The upper year students may grumble at the idea of a dry Frosh Week, but as a leader I would not complain.

Let's sum up. What would be lost by switching to a dry Frosh Week? A bit of income for bar services. The excitement of having a drink with your new friends at Monte Carlo or Toga Night. What would be gained? Freedom of mind for the leaders. Equality among the Frosh. Fewer incidents of alcohol abuse and the related clean-up. It looks to this writer that a dry Frosh Week will be better for everybody.

Editor's Note: Point vs. Counterpoint is intended as a forum for objective and thought provoking debate on various issues. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the author(s), the Iron Warrior, or the Engineering Society.

How activate your Nexus account.



Ryan Consell

Engineering Society Executive Reports

Money, Money, Money!

Grant Holohan

Vice President,
Finance



In this short spiel, I'll be discussing the budget, donations, and last term's P**5 winners.

The EngSoc budget was announced at the second council meeting. If you missed the meeting you can check the budget in hard copy format in the Orifice. It's in the top drawer of the filing cabinet by Betty's desk. If you're too lazy/shy/apathetic to come to the orifice, you can check the budget online on the EngSoc website.

Part of the EngSoc budget every term is put aside for donations to various teams,

clubs, and other engineering-related student run groups. To apply for a donation, you must submit a letter requesting funds, including a detailed breakdown of where the money you request will be spent. All requests must be dropped off in my box (VP Finance) in the orifice no later than Friday, October 3. The donations will be decided upon at the third EngSoc council meeting on Wednesday, October 8. Group representatives are asked to attend this meeting if they'd like to address the council.

On a similar note, classes who finished in the top three for P**5 last term must submit an expense form ASAP to receive your money.

That's it, enjoy the few weeks before midterms start.

"The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time." --- Bertrand Russell

Non-Stop Start of Term

Josh Levitz

President



Hey Everyone,

Hope the first couple weeks of classes are going, umm, well, as good as the first couple weeks of classes can go. Its been quite the non-stop start to the term, and it looks like we're in for a great semester.

So to get right into it, I want to thank the thousands who came out to the first couple engsoc meetings, especially all the frosh. We must've set some sort of record for number of people and we appreciate that. After this week we're back to the meetings every 2 week schedule so keep on attending and staying involved.

My big issue right now is the co-op process for those finding their own job, but still enter the co-op process just in case. As it stands, students who have signed up for the co-op process have until the day before any interviews start to secure and accept their own job, while still being able to drop out of co-op. Once interviews start, however, students have to attend any interviews they may get, and if they happen to secure their own job outside the co-op process during this time, they cannot accept that job immediately. They must finish the first round process and if the student happens to get a job through co-op, they have to take it and deny the outside company. I will be talking to those in charge of co-op, and writing a proposal, to see if there is any chance

of making this more accommodating to students, and any input you may have is much appreciated. Please email me at bsoc_prez@engmail with anything you have to say about this whether you're for or against the way it is done now. Thanks in advance.

Other than that, I plan on getting some more answers for you about our continually rising tuition and hopefully we'll be having a Dean's forum sometime this term with the new Dean, Adel Sedra. As well, to let you all know, I attended an alumni reunion the first weekend of school and I got some good ideas from some alumni there. Hopefully we can work on incorporating some of those into the current Engineering Society.

I'm going to keep this first article short so please let me know if there are any other issues which are of concern to you right now. I'm looking forward to representing you all to admin, other faculties and schools, and the alumni. Good luck in the upcoming term and see you all around!

Josh Levitz

bsoc_prez@engmail.uwaterloo.ca



WEEF Is Good!

Erin Young

WEEF Director



The first few weeks haven't gone as smoothly as I thought they would. Our WEEF computer suffered a little and had to undergo some repairs this term. We're back up and running now, delayed just a few days with refunds and such. Refunds will be running until October 2nd; please check the WEEF door for the hours. The refund statistics will be posted in a further IW article.

If you have submitted any purchase forms please be advised that the computer has delayed us but we are working diligently to get everything up to speed. Also, Mary has been putting in long hours to reconcile all of the accounts. She is doing a wonderful job. Thanks Mary!

It won't be long before we will be asking for proposals. Please remember to submit a hard copy with the appropriate format to me by the deadline (will be announced later). Late submissions will not be approved.

A notice to student teams: please photocopy all of your receipts and cheque request notes and submit both the photocopy and the original. This will help you receive your cheque in a more timely manner. Also, please include a purchase order number on purchase requisition forms. Ask myself if you have any questions.

If you have any questions about refunds or anything else please don't hesitate to send an email to WEEF@engmail.uwaterloo.ca, or drop by the office and speak to me.

ENGINEERING
SOCIETY



Did you know you can earn valuable P**5 points for volunteering time at the C&D? Email Mary Bland at mbland@engmail.uwaterloo.ca to schedule your shift.

Fun for all the Family!!!

Matt Strickland

Vice President,
Internal



The month so far has been packed with stuff to do and October promises to follow up with even more great events before mid-terms begin to gnaw at our conscience. The first week of class saw a number of Engineering Society open houses. POETS, the Orifice, and the Engineering Darkroom all opened their doors to showcase some of the many services offered by EngSoc. Beginning of Term Pub and its preceding festivities were well attended and well received. The Frosh Week video, shown at BOT, highlighted some of the week's best (and worst) moments. For those interested, copies are going to be made available in the Orifice sometime in the near future—keep checking in. This past weekend was the term's Three-On-Three Engineering Basketball Tournament, an event which always

draws a good number of teams. Finally, the drama production got off to a good start by holding two nights of auditions last week. The directors of the play are still looking for people interested in helping with the show through—to name but a few—the role of set and costume designers, advertising, and stage managing.

What's already gone on, however, is nothing compared with what's to come. In the next few weeks you can expect to see some of the Engineering Society's premier events. Enjoy shooting people, but hate the mess? EngSoc is throwing a LaserQuest trip this coming Tuesday, September 30th. There are only 30 spots available on the \$15/person outing, so sign up in the Orifice as soon as possible. A classic tradition, the term's Havenger Scunt, is going down October 3rd and 4th, courtesy of Softcorps, the 2A Software class. The Math team is organizing a huge squad so we need as many classes—first years in particular—to come out and represent our superior faculty. The Engineering Semi-Formal is shaping-up to be something you won't want to miss. It's slated for

Saturday, October 4th with tickets going on sale next week. Keep your eyes peeled for posters announcing the theme and location. Last, but certainly not least, is B-Soc's well-loved B**5 Tournament: the Big Bad B-Soc Bowling Bonanza. For next to no cost, participants get a night of bowling, some beverages, and a bus ride to the alley. Class teams are, as always, encouraged.

One last thing, before I wrap this up. I'd like to congratulate the first years that have made an effort to participate and get involved with the Engineering Society so far. The first EngSoc general meeting on Wednesday, September 17 was incredibly well-attended (easily the greatest number in recent history) with about 200 people packing into CPH 3385 - the meeting room. Furthermore, we've had a ton of enthusiasm in regards to first year class reps and first years undertaking directorships. Already, some frosh classes have begun working on getting class mailing lists, websites, and even class names up and running. Awesome job guys!

Peace out.



How Many Days 'Till IRS?! GradComm Update

Daren Toppin & Jen Saunders
B-Soc GradComm Chairs

Another year, and another graduating class is nearing the end of its journey. But, as we say our farewells to B-soc, there are a number of events planned for the next few months. These events are organized by none other than the Graduation Committee, otherwise known as Gradcomm.

First, every Wednesday Gradcomm sells pizza in CPH Foyer. This is a great way to meet your recommended dietary

requirements or extend your residence meal plan. We also hold other fundraisers, like wine tasting which is currently scheduled for September 30th in the Gradhouse. Then there are the ever-popular "slave" auctions... you can look for auction posters on the walls of Engineering later this term. And of course, what graduating year would be complete without les tours de pub?

So what else is there? Well, aside from various grad things like the Ridgid Book (our yearbook), grad photos, and so on, most of the big stuff won't happen until the winter term. If you are around in February

and March you might notice a lot of the fourth years acting strangely as we reach IRS day, and then you'll see just how good engineers can look during Gradball. Those are just two of the winter events organized by Gradcomm. Remember, though, you don't have to be graduating to take part in most Gradcomm events. All you need is a willingness to enjoy yourself!

Your Gradcomm Chairs,
Daren Toppin
(datoppin@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)
Jen Saunders
(jlsaunde@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)

Special Events

Sarah Sirega
3B Civil

Your special events directors, myself and Amy Gill, have many exciting events planned for this term.

Upcoming events include a trip to Laser Quest on Sept. 30, a trip to the Aud for Students' Night during Oktoberfest, a trip to the Brunny, lip-sync contest, and much, much more. Keep your eyes open for more information to follow through posters, emails, the engineering society website, or by word of mouth.

To obtain information about upcoming events drop by the Engineering Society Office (the Orifice) and leave a message in the special events mailbox. Come on out and have a blast. Tickets are now on sale for Oktoberfest and the Laser Quest trip.

The Adventures of an Engineer in the Arts Department - Fun with English!

Stephanie Purnell
4A Chem

This term I've decided to take an English course. "A what?" you say. That's right, but not just any English course—a Science Fiction English course. Since I'm finding this class so interesting, I'm going to share my ongoing literary adventures with you. I'm going to discuss the books we read for class—many you may have read before—and the ideas that tie them all together. There will be talk of symbolism and metaphor—do not be alarmed! These are the stuffs that make the Sci Fi genre great and the stories timeless.

The major works studied so far in class are Asimov's Foundation and Foundation and Empire, as well as Clark and Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. A quick run-down of the stories for those who haven't read the books follows. The Foundation series deals with a Galactic Empire that is crumbling. Hari Seldon is a scientist who perfects the science of psychohistory, which allowed him to predict the future of mankind; the future was ten thousand years of anarchy. Using this knowledge, he established a Foundation of men at the edge of the Galaxy. The purpose of the Foundation was to lessen the years of barbarism that were to follow the

ruin of the Empire.

2001: A Space Odyssey traces human evolution through time—if you haven't seen the movie or read the book, it is difficult to explain.

To start off, there are certain tenets of SF that define it: the use of the novum, the use of symbolism and the use of nostalgia. The novum refers to an idea, person, thing or characteristic that is unfamiliar. In Asimov's Foundation, the novum is the science of psychohistory—a science never before conceived. The novum is usually used to give symbolism to something in our world.

This brings up the next point—SF uses "difference" to make us see everyday things or ideas in another light. The novum of psychohistory can make us uncomfortable by eliminating the possibility that the future is our choice. The reason that difference is characteristic of SF is in part because of the evolution of the genre. In the past century, SF was written by people who were rejected by "normal" society, and their experiences show through in their stories. In the first part of the century, SF authors were primarily white and male, albeit outcast to some degree. In the sixties, women and minority writers began to appear on the scene, rounding out the experience base of the SF authorship.

SF uses symbolism, as do other genres,

but the difference in SF symbolism is that it is explained in concrete terms. These terms must be valid for the world where the story is set—for example, HAL's disassembly in 2001. HAL is the artificial intelligence controlling the spaceship, and when he malfunctions, the astronaut, Frank Poole, must reduce HAL to basic functions. The symbolism of Hal's mental deterioration is explained by Poole removing chips in HAL's CPU. The symbols in SF are functional pieces of the story, more so than other genres.

Another defining characteristic of SF is its nostalgic style. Although SF writing has a superficial preoccupation with the future, this is merely new packaging to present old ideas. Also, nostalgia helps to reconcile the difference of the SF novum to the reader by surrounding it with the familiar. In the Foundation series, the government is an Empire; a feudal system that is taken from our past. As well, the language and demeanor of the characters conjures images of the 1950's—when the series was penned. In this way, SF stories are dated, but this doesn't serve to lessen their appeal.

These are the main ideas that will be used to analyze the works in my SF class as the term progresses. Hopefully, you'll get have a new way to appreciate SF literature—I hope I will, too. Until next time, happy reading!

Task Team: An awesome way to get involved

Sarah Sirega
3B Civil

Classes are now going full steam ahead, and the work is piling up, but this doesn't mean that you have to drop out of all extra-curricular involvement. If you're looking for a way to get involved with the Engineering Society without getting it over your head then task team is what you're looking for.

The task team is a group of people that sign up to receive emails about short-term help requirements. For example, if a director needs help painting posters, setting up, or just needs a couple extra volunteers to make the event run, they'll send off an email to the task team and whoever is available to help emails the director to organize with them.

To subscribe, just email task_team_b-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you all out on the list and at some of the many events this term.

The Usual Bunch of Losers

...continued from Page 3.

If this episode is anything to go by, the cast this season are the usual bunch of losers and whiners who have nothing better to do than lie on some beach and complain while thinking up increasingly bland pronouncements to make during their interviews. Notable exceptions are Rupert,

whose hard-work, good humour, and the fact that he took to thievery with minimal prompting made for some entertaining television, and Sandra, whose humorously blunt commentary livened up some of the more dull moments of the show. The most notable villain from this show was Osten, who made his television debut telling women he just met to flash their breasts for

supplies, was generally bossy without knowing what he was doing, and his decision to sell his belt at the market treated TV-Land to forty minutes of his blurred-out butt and some unnecessary nudity.

The brightest spot of this show was the challenges, which were as imaginative as they were challenging for the contestants. The market sequence played like an

episode of The Amazing Race, and spared us from having to watch the usual 'play club med style games for fruit' sequences while the cannon race was thrilling and interesting to watch. If the rest of the season's challenges prove to be as interesting, this season might be worth watching. Or they could just crank up the pirate theme and I'll be completely hooked. Arrr!

Upcoming Events from EngSoc

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4	Wine Tasting Tickets available in the Orifice (\$15) See the EngSoc whiteboard for further event info
	Cake Decorating Contest	LaserQuest Wine Tasting	Gradcomm Pizza	*Election Day* Boggan-Burgers	Scunt Tours de Pub	Scunt Semi-Formal	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
B**5 Nauticals			EngSoc Meeting 3 Gradcomm Pizza	Boggan-Burgers	IW Submission Deadline	Athletic Event	

Orientation Week

Welcome to the University of Waterloo



During Junkyard Wars, the Frosh were required to build a pop-can collector, build a tower of said pop-cans, then build a device to destroy the other teams' towers.



Supervision ensured safety during the week and encouraged the Frosh



The "Tang" leaders hard at work

Are you a first year student? Have some time to kill?
Write for the Iron Warrior!
Email iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca



The double-cohort helped contribute to the annual "sea of frosh" that moved between events



Taking time out for a dance at Mel's Diner



The design and construction during Junkyard Wars was always a team effort



Leaders were always around to maintain security and safety for events.

loo - Orientation Week 2003 Special



Like every other colour group, "Tang" decorated their headquarters according to a theme



Some "Fuchsia" Frosh enjoying the food at Mongolian



Fake tattoos left some interesting burns



"Fuchsia" was sure to not miss the three-horned goat



Sandford Fleming Foundation
E2 3322, ext 4008, sff@engmail
www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff

The Waterloo Campus Committee of the Sandford Fleming Foundation maintains an active awards program at the University of Waterloo. The value of awards and other programs of benefit to students during the 2001/2002 academic year was approximately \$38,000. The Foundation will provide many grants, prizes, awards and scholarships during the present academic term. Funding for these events comes from engineering student contributions and depends on them for continuation.

Technical Speaker Competition

Please check with your class representative for the exact date of the competition in your department. Winners from the departments will participate in the Faculty Competition on **Thursday, Oct. 16 at 10:00 a.m. in DWE 2534**. The winner of the Faculty Competition will receive \$300 while all other participants in the Faculty Competition will receive \$50.

All students are invited to participate in the Department Competitions. The presentation should be based on a work term experience, including one or more satisfactory written reports but not necessarily the most recent report. If you are interested in participating, please pick up an information package from your department's undergraduate officer.

Debates

Please contact your department undergraduate office if you are interested in participating in the Sandford Fleming Debates. The winners of the faculty finals receive \$100 each and the runners-up receive \$50 each.

DATE Nov. 3, 4, 5
TIME 11:30 – 1:00
PLACE DWE 2534

Finals: Friday, November 7
Noon
DWE 2534

Refreshments will be served at the finals
Everyone is welcome

Ontario Elections Special

Tuition, OSAP Questions and Candidate Responses

Jeff Henry

4N Computer

The following questions were posed to the Kitchener-Waterloo candidates of the Liberal, Progressive Conservative, and New Democratic Party.

Question One:

Deregulated tuition has become a growing burden on engineering students. However, given that provincial funding per student has declined in real dollars over the past decade and that the inflation rate at the University of Waterloo numbers between 4 and 5 percent, engineering students understand why the university has placed the burden on them; that is, as an attempt to maintain our quality of education. The question is, what is your plan to ensure adequate funding for quality accessible engineering education?

Question Two:

Student assistance through OSAP has not kept up with the monetary realities of being a student since 1993. As cost of living calculations and per-year maximums remain set at 1993 levels, the necessary level of assistance for students is no longer being met. Further, the federal Millennium Scholarship Foundation awards, which were provided in order to reduce the student debt burden, have not been exempted from OSAP student resources assessment thereby making them effectively a federal transfer to provincial coffers instead of alleviating the student debt issue. With respect to these and many other issues (i.e. <http://www.ousa.on.ca/docs/pdf/pl1101.pdf>), what is your plan to address the student debt load issue and the current inequities in the OSAP assessment and repayment process to ensure students have access to quality education without having to mortgage their futures?

Editor's Note: The NDP replied on time, the PCs replied with only an attached platform document that the printed response was derived from, and the Liberals replied barely ahead of the paper being sent to the publisher.



Dan Lajoie
NDP Candidate

1) In the New Democratic Party's (NDP) platform for the Ontario Provincial election, Practical Solution #1 for quality post secondary education in Ontario is: Cut college and university tuition by 10% and ensure that no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons.

The NDP would immediately reduce college and university tuition fees by 10%. Deregulated tuition, at law, engineering, medical and business schools, would be rolled back and re-regulated. It's not acceptable if only the children of the wealthy few can become doctors and engineers.

Under the Conservatives, Ontario's per capita funding for post-secondary education has fallen almost to the bottom in North America. The NDP would reinvest to bring Ontario's funding to at least the national average.

2) The NDP would implement a NEW student assistance plan that would help all who qualify. It would provide up-front grant assistance and also help those receiving help under the Ontario Disability Support Program and those who are part-time students.

The Conservatives' cuts to Ontario's student loans have meant 40% fewer students receive help to attend college and university. One telling indication of how seriously the Conservatives have allowed students' hardship to become is the proliferation of food banks on campuses. Ten years ago there were none. Last year there were 12 food banks. This year there were 20 and more are expected in fall 2003.



Elizabeth Witmer
PC Candidate

Our plan to improve our post-secondary education system by making it accountable for excellence includes the following commitments:

- Ensuring availability with more than \$2.6 Billion in funding for the biggest capital investment in post-secondary in nearly half a century.

- New investments of up to \$300 million a year in the QUALITY of education in colleges and universities through two Quality Assurance Funds.

- Doubling the size of our student assistance program with another \$400 million in funding.

It costs taxpayers billions of dollars a year to underwrite the REAL costs of post-secondary education. The educational institutions and the students who attend them benefit from that taxpayer support, and must be accountable for their parts of the system on The Road Ahead.

We will tie a greater share of funding for colleges and universities to how well their students fare after graduation, and other key performance indicators.

We are also doubling the funding of our generous student assistance program and limiting how much debt an individual can accumulate. We are committing another \$400 million to the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund, which will enable an estimated 400,000 students to attend college or university over the next decade.

Our careful balance between student assistance and student contribution has been a fair and reasonable compromise. In fact, university enrollment is at an all-time high - proof that the system is accessible to those who want to take part.



Sean Strickland
Liberal Candidate

1) An educated and highly skilled workforce is a competitive advantage in the knowledge economy. The best workers attract the best jobs with the highest pay. The Ontario Liberals will build the best workforce in North America.

We believe that every qualified student, regardless of income, should be able to access high quality, post-secondary education.

We will leave it up to our post-secondary institutions to determine the entry requirements for academic programs.

The Ontario Liberals will immediately freeze tuition fees in both regulated and deregulated programs.

We will review the appropriate course of action vis-à-vis private institutions.

Our plan for post secondary education will increase capacity in our colleges and universities by at least 10% over five years. This will allow our colleges and universities to hire more faculty. In addition, we will recruit new faculty for colleges and universities by creating a Faculty Recruitment Fund to help our institutions attract up to 800 of the world's best minds.

2) Our plan for making post-secondary education accessible for more students includes: tuition waivers, a tuition freeze and an improvement in eligibility and loan amounts for the OSAP program.

The Ontario Liberal Party does not support the expenditure of public dollars on private By limiting their access to student assistance, the Harris-Eves government punishes students from middle-income families, students who work to pay for their education and part-time students. We will make the Ontario Student Assistance Plan work for more students by expanding eligibility and increasing loan amounts.

We will help Ontario's neediest students with tuition waivers worth 50% of their tuition fee. This will help 16 000 students pursue higher education.

The Ontario Liberals will immediately freeze tuition fees in both regulated and deregulated programs.

How Do I Vote and Why Should I Care?

Federation of Students
<http://www.feds.ca/vote>

Why Vote

There are two fundamental reasons to vote: first, you can have a significant effect on the government that gets elected. Each provincial party is promising different solutions to questions of tuition, financial aid, and funding for quality - and your vote can have an immediate impact on the solution that is implemented.

By voting, you also increase the impact of the student voice. Student Unions have representative lobbying politicians in Queen's park constantly, but while students continue being an under-represented group at the polling booth, those politicians have less reason to listen to us. So get out there! Make a difference in Ontario's universities. And have your voice heard on Thursday, October 2nd.

Now that you want to vote, here's the Where and How.

Where to Vote

If you live on-campus at Waterloo in the Villages, Columbia Lake Townhouses or the Affiliated Colleges, you will be voting in the great hall of Village 1. Students who live in UW Place will vote in the community centre of Beck Hall.

Students who live off campus will have to vote at their local polling location in the community. A listing of polling locations is available on the Elections Ontario website by going to <http://www.electionsontario.on.ca> and clicking 'Where do I vote?' You can also vote at the advance polling location. The main one is at the local returning office at 56 Noecker Street. Note that until Friday, September 26th, you can vote when you get registered, as this is also a polling location.

The Basics

There are two easy ways to get registered to vote. First, you can attend the student Rally at Laurier on September 25th. Secondly, you can catch the FEDSVote!

bus to the returning office on October 1st, leaving from the SLC. Third, you can walk or take the bus to the returning office - its not too far from Laurier.

You can also register on the day of voting, but this could mean long lines and long waits, so the federation, and Elections Ontario discourages it.

You need two pieces of identification to register to vote. The first is a piece of ID proving you are who you say you are, with your name, and signature on it. Credit card, license, health card, social insurance card all suffice.

You also need to prove that you live in the Kitchener-Waterloo riding, so you need piece of ID with your name and signature on it. A lease, a bill, or invoice with your name and local address are examples. The easiest proof of local address is a print of the address form from Quest.

Simply log on to Quest, click 'Your profile', and then 'Address'. Make sure its the right address (you can change this through Quest), and then print it off.



NDP, PC, Liberal Platforms: A Brief Analysis

Jeff Henry
4N Computer

OUSA, CFS, and countless others have analyzed where the three major parties stand on the issues. However, engineering students have labs, assignments, and numerous other things we're actually doing instead so it would be logical to assume that an even briefer analysis was appropriate.

Ontario New Democratic Party (<http://www.ontariondp.on.ca>)

The NDP platform is founded on the belief in public power in control of our fundamental institutions. They summarize their platform as:

- Stopping hydro privatization and deregulation and ensuring clean, reliable public power at cost
- Extending public home care, creating 100 new Community Health Centres and cutting long-term care user fees. Cancelling plans for private MRI/CT clinics and privately built hospitals and put funds back into public health care
- Keeping our drinking water public and protecting water from source to tap
- Ensuring every student has the opportu-

nity to excel, guaranteed by a dedicated Education Excellence Fund that takes the politics out of education funding. No public funds for private schools.

- Immediately increasing the minimum wage to \$8 an hour, prohibiting scabs and treating injured workers fairly
- Freezing rents for two years, building at least 32,000 units of affordable housing and increasing shelter allowances
- Cutting tuition by 10 per cent and ensuring that no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons
- Lowering transit fares, shortening waits and reducing gridlock with a dedicated transportation trust fund
- Reducing childcare fees to \$10 a day for 18 months to 5 year olds in non-profit, regulated childcare, and creating 20,000 new childcare spaces
- Protecting your pension from inflation and letting you take it with you from job to job

Public Power can be found at: http://www.publicpower.ca/our_platform/publicpower_platform.pdf

Ontario Progressive Conservative Party (<http://www.ontariopc.on.ca>)

The Progressive Conservative platform is one that emphasizes the strength of lead-

ership on The Road Ahead. After cutting taxes 225 times since 1995, a mortgage interest tax deduction to save homeowners up to \$500 a year, a educational property tax break for seniors, tax deductions for family caregivers, and tax relief for job-cutting businesses are on the Tory road. Municipalities will no longer be able to raise taxes without the referendum-derived consent of the taxpayers and powerful Quality Auditors will ensure the wisely spending of tax dollars in hospitals, school boards, and municipalities. Balanced budgets will continue to be the norm and the \$10 billion increase in health care spending since 1995 will help provide shorter waiting times for priority services that are guaranteed to be within recommended medical limits. No strikes during the school year, 1,000 more police on the streets, expansion to the provincial highway system, and stronger consumer protection laws are also on The Road Ahead. Negotiations with Ottawa will also allow for a made-for-Ontario immigration deal to allow provincial discretion in allowing skilled immigrants in while keeping criminals and terrorists out.

The Road Ahead can be found at: http://www.ontariopc.com/TheRoadAhead/English/THE_ROAD_AHEAD.pdf

Ontario Liberal Party

(<http://www.ontarioliberal.on.ca>)

The Liberal platform asks Ontario electors to Choose Change this election. This philosophy, dubbed the radical centre by some journalists, is reflected in the Ontario Liberal platform. McGuinty's team will ban two-tier health care, smoking in public places, junk food in our schools, and the waste of taxpayer's money on partisan government advertising. It will cancel the Harris-Eves government's \$3.2 billion corporate tax giveaway and the \$500 million handout to private schools. It will deliver smaller class sizes, mandatory learning until age 18, a university and college tuition fee freeze and a 10 per cent expansion in post-secondary spaces, 8,000 more nurses and 1,600 new hospital beds, 20,000 new housing units and double the provincial investment in public transit. It will replace the coal-fired generating plants that pollute our air, and prevent the raiding of our water supplies for profit. On the Liberal site, they cost out the changes they intend to bring in their platform along with state the assumptions they made in arriving at those costs.

Choose Change can be found at: http://www.ontarioliberal.on.ca/en/platform/comp03_pla.pdf

Movie Review: Anything Else

Steph Purnell
4A Chemical

While the movie trailers advertising Anything Else make little to no mention that Woody Allen wrote and directed the movie, it is without a doubt a Woody Allen movie through and through. Jason Biggs and Christina Ricci are touted as the headliners of the show, but in true narcissistic Allen style, his character talks more than almost anyone else. The plot of the movie centers on Biggs' character, Jerry Falk, who is a neurotic, and showcases the many problems of his life. He has a shrink that won't listen, a loser manager that guilted him into continuing their business arrangement, and a girlfriend who is manic. All of

these people he refuses to leave, for whatever reason.

This movie is reminiscent of Annie Hall, except Allen is too old to play the young neurotic character, and Biggs takes on this role with ease. His monologues and stutterings are exceptionally well done, and his character is more believable and engaging than Allen's previous ones. This is possibly because he is better looking and therefore easier to relate to—he



Christina Ricci and Jason Biggs

doesn't seem to deserve his personality, whereas Allen's characters always do. Allen's character in the movie is, predictably, an old cynic with a touch of crazy. It is interesting to see the next generation of actors stepping into Allen's shoes, and how Allen keeps his vision without being the main character.

Christina Ricci plays the girlfriend, thoughtless and excessive. Falk sees her as a sex kitten—irresistible—that I found implausible.

This could be because she was known to the audience as a manipulator and seen more objectively, but there was something missing from her character. It was well performed, but there was lack I couldn't put my finger on...the only negative aspect to the film.

The setting was (of course) New York, and the scenery was beautiful, particularly during Biggs and Allen's walks through Central Park. This could be another way Allen tries to appeal to a newer audience—there is a minimum of brown in the backdrop.

All in all, the movie was vintage Woody Allen and definitely enjoyed by my housemate and myself! But don't take our word for it...go see for yourself.

Bottom Line: Neurotic Woody fun.

Praying to Mary Jane Canada's Proposed Reformed Marijuana Laws

Chun Lam
2B Chemical

DISCLAIMER: The author does not promote the use of drugs to enhance people's lifestyles as it leads to major terminal health ailments such as cancer and organ failure.

That's right, the mythical evil drug of many names – ganja, weed, mary jane, marijuana – is a drug of many personalities. However, with all the negative hype, the Canadian government has proposed changes to the drug laws on cannabis.

The drug itself was criminalized in 1923 under the Opium and Drug Act by the Kitchener's own Mackenzie King. It was then made more stringent in 1997 by the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. These rules state that possessing, growing, and selling marijuana lead to criminal charges.

A major contributor to the criminalization of cannabis was the sensationalistic, hysterical, and unscientific writings of

Emily Murphy, Canada's first female magistrate. She wrote, for example, that people who are high on marijuana become 'raving maniacs and are liable to kill or indulge in any form of violence.' It is widely speculated that the powerful business lobby of chemical companies, such as Dupont Co. succeeded in banning Marijuana because of its male derivative, hemp, a particularly strong natural fiber. The ban would undermine sales of the newly discovered nylon fabrics and petroleum derived products.

For many years people have felt that the zero tolerance rule for marijuana was too harsh; being caught with as little as one gram of marijuana lead to a charge of possession of cannabis with a criminal record; thereby preventing people from becoming professional workers (i.e. doctors, lawyers, engineers). In recent years, people in several provinces who have been charged with possession of

small amounts of cannabis have challenged the possession laws under the criminal code as being unconstitutional because the laws deny the use of weed for medical purpose. These court challenges coupled with a large backlog of court cases with regards to possession of marijuana lead the courts to ask the federal government to clarify the laws on marijuana for medical use.

With pressure from the courts for clarification and two reports – a senate and a parliament report on marijuana recommending the decriminalization of possession of small amounts of weed - in May 2003, Martin Cauchon, the federal Justice Minister,

proposed reforms to the drug laws relating to marijuana. Under the reforms, marijuana would still be illegal to possess, but possessing 15 grams of marijuana or one gram of marijuana resin would become a civil offense, not criminal. That is, being

“...[marijuana users] are raving maniacs and are liable to kill or indulge in any form of violence”

caught with that amount of marijuana would lead to a ticket, and no criminal charge.

If the laws do come into effect, possession of a small amount of marijuana would not result in a criminal record. This is important to all you who have aspirations to become professional workers – teachers, nurses, and doctors - as criminal records prevent people from becoming involved in a professional occupation. Currently, the drug laws are in a state of flux, where it is still a criminal offense to possess weed. However, the courts of Canada have informed the police forces of Canada not to charge individuals with possession of small amounts of marijuana. ASSUMING THE REFORMS PASS IN PARLIAMENT - All you aspiring engineers, you can toké and still get your professional engineering certification too.

Editor's Note: The Iron Warrior does not promote the use of marijuana or any other restricted substances. This article is intended to inform our readers and to promote thoughtful discussion.

Columns

Exploring Online Personals

Jay Liu

3B Computer



As an avid user of Yahoo's free email service as my spam-receiving account, I have been exposed one too many times to the full-screen animated ad for Yahoo Personals. As a simple man who has yielded to many temptations several times more severe, I finally found enough spare time to conduct some "research" into this business venture. It is the right time, too, as many maturing young adults, having just left the stigma of being 17 behind, are embarking on a long and tedious educational journey somewhere far away from their families and homes. It is understandable, then, that a slight surge in demand for companionships makes even common sense seem too complicated to explain.

The great part of using Yahoo Personals for a Yahoo user is that there is no extra sign up process. All that's needed is a click of a link, and you join the family. Yahoo allows you to wander aimlessly through its archive of pretty faces for however long you prefer, and there were indeed quite a collection of pretty faces. However, the number of results that were returned after a simple geographical query still seems disappointing.

The logical step, of course, is to make oneself available, which is done by creating a personal profile. It's a very simple process whereby a few pieces of biographical information of you and your ideal match are collected. A short essay of 120 characters lets you freelance your way out of obscurity. Lastly, a picture is highly recommended since the stats show an almost doubling of response rate, because, after all, superficiality is simply an instinct that is itself superficially suppressed by society. The profile and pictures are then sent for review by Yahoo "professionals", who get the first laughs, and then are released to the public for historical archiving purposes. The process takes less than 24 hours, which is good for those desperate to get something going.

The reply process is where money starts to drizzle in as a problem. Yahoo Canada has a pricing structure similar to cell phone plans. After all, human emotions are simply another tradable commodity to faceless multinationals fighting prospects of delisting from Nasdaq. For 30 dollars, you get to message your new love interests for a month. For those doing the math, that's 6 bottles of beer with generous tips at Fed Hall, which I think sounds like a surer bet for a wild Thursday night.

Next up: Match.com; the golden jewel of dating and relating. And it shows. The selection of people is far larger. Creating a profile here, though, is a little too elaborate for my personal taste. I do give credits to the good people who came up with the 10 page questionnaire for creating multiple choice answers that are tolerably amusing, but when the question "Do you have any kids" could be answered with "Not that I know of...", an awkward feeling of being at the wrong place sets in. Just to complete the picture, Match.com has a similar pricing structure as Yahoo, but the prospect of hitting the gold mine is larger due to the much more comprehensive profile. Being an established brand also helps to draw a larger crowd. The last neat fact I want to mention is the possibility to include a video clip of yourself on your profile,

although a two minute limit isn't going to allow for any KaZaA-worthy home productions.

After dropping by Meetic.com, the repetitive accounting of identical profile questions is starting to get to yours truly. The fact that each service provider is zealously guarding their own database of members goes directly against their supposed purpose of maximizing the chances for singles to find perpetual bliss. This is a textbook example of where corporate interest is directly contradictory to the interests of the consumer.

The last service that I dragged myself into was Lavalife. Most Torontonians may be familiar with their artfully emotive cartoons in the transit system. A former colleague of mine also once shared with us his favourable experience with this particular service. For anyone who's interested, their Toronto office is in Etobicoke near Burnhamthorpe and Highway 400, in case you are interested in finding a meaningful employment for those programming dudes out there.

At any rate, you are immediately presented with three choices at Lavalife. "Dating" means finding friends. "Romance" means dating in this perverse world. "Intimate encounters", as you may discover soon enough, do not mean private conversations with your Supreme Being.

Personally, the overly simplified interface on the profile page really let me down. I was expecting much bigger things. From a technical standpoint, the use of frames looks genuinely amateurish. Although there is significantly less information required here than at the previously mentioned websites, you are allowed to make three profiles; one for each type of relationship search.

What did make me breathe a sigh of relief is the more affordable credit system Lavalife has devised. Instead of forcing down on you a recurring monthly contract, you are allowed to pick and choose the amount you want to spend. It's a "pay and talk" system, where you are being metered by the minutes, so if nothing happens for a month, you don't have to pay for it. Of

course, if love letters start to flood in like Arizona rain, I don't think it's a credible argument to complain about the cost.

At the end of the day, with a stringent budget of zero dollars and nil cents, I came back empty-handed. The only thing I got out of my two hour expedition into the world wild web is enough material for this piece of mock investigative journalism. Next to pornography, online dating is the most popular by-product of the Internet. It is the logical next step from the traditional newspaper classifieds, except that the whole world can see you and read about you. This new comfort level of pouring your heart out can be fully attributed to the false sense of anonymity. Anyone who is motivated enough can leaf through the pages and pages of half-truths-half-lies that I left behind during my trip. That remains the awkwardness of the Internet: anyone - future employers, disgruntled colleagues, jealous stalkers - can find out about your dirty fetish secrets in two clicks, and the only way you can prevent that is to leave lies for the world to believe.

University Eating Eating for Free

Ryan Consell
3N Mechanical

There are two main problems with eating well at university: cost, and time. Some people claim that they can't cook, that is a lie. Cooking good meals doesn't take skill. Cooking takes time and instructions. With a half-decent cookbook, a couple of hours, and some quality ingredients, anyone can make good food. This series of articles will endeavor to prove that you can do the same with none of those available to you.

The first area of university eating we're going to explore is the deep and rich category of free food. Whoever said there's no such thing as a free lunch lied. There are free lunches, and they're usually pretty fun too as long as you don't take yourself too seriously. The trick is, of course, to know where to look.

The first place you should look is anything that looks like a place that your class rep should be. These events almost always have a free meal and rarely check to see if you actually belong. Some of these items include EngSoc Meetings, Course Critique stuffing and reading, department lunches, etc. Really, anything that looks dull has food and usually requires less work than cooking. Just be careful of what you volunteer for.

Next, there are charity events. The

university sponsors several different types of charity and university information events; anyone staffing them usually gets a free meal AND a T-Shirt. Most of these events are more fun than they sound and (if done right) take less of your time than cooking.

Another great place to get a lunch is industry lunches. There are quite a number of companies that frequent the university trying to woo prime talent before they even hit the work force. This is often done with food and toys. Sit and laugh as heads of industry try to convince you that their company is the ideal place for you while you eat on their bill.

Moving away from honest acquisitions and into the slightly more questionable realms of morality and ethics, there are a couple of ways to get free meals simply by appearing genuine.

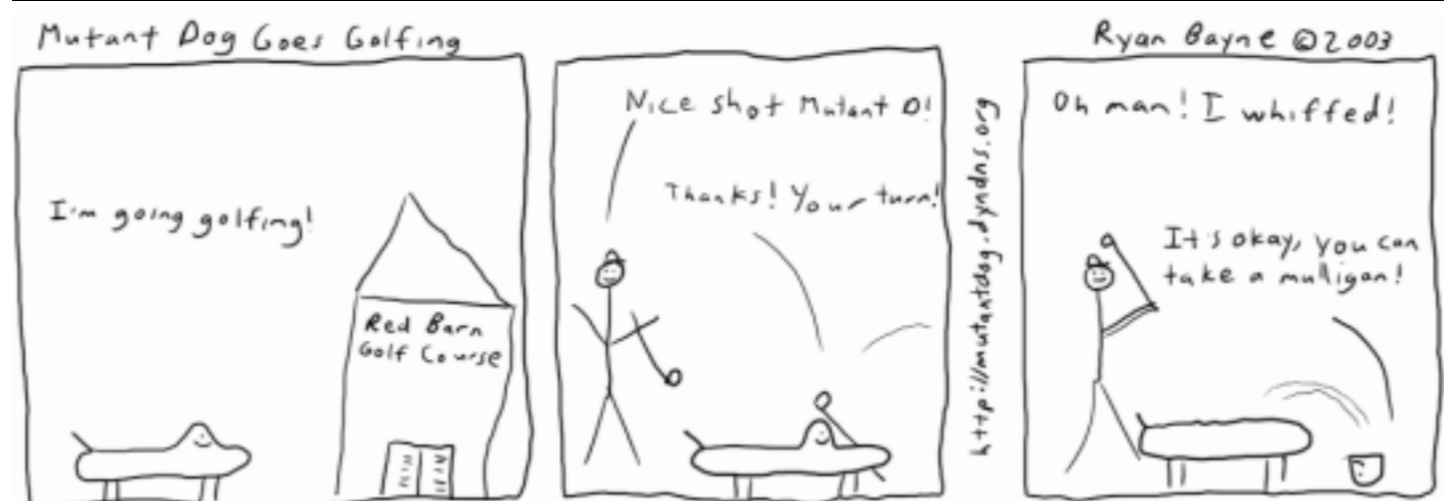
First, there are several groups on and around campus that are actively trying to recruit members. There are some religious groups, some pyramid schemes, some networking nut jobs, and some that are a combination of the three. What does that mean for you? Free lunch. Show even the slightest amount of interest and you're almost guaranteed an information session with snacks and beverages. A bit of quality fast-talking and you can get yourself taken out to the restaurant of your choice.

Next, there are housemates. Your

housemates very rarely know how long food has been in the fridge, nor do they care to eat food that's starting to spoil. With some careful use of the phrase "This looks like it's starting to turn bad. Are you going to eat it or should I throw it out?" you can acquire almost any perishable food item in your fridge that's over a week old. Most people also consider pasta to be cheaper than air, thus, are willing to let you steal meal-sized portions without a thought. (More on pasta in later issues)

Finally there are organizations to which you do not in any way belong. This school easily has a thousand different organizations. Each of which is in a constant state of membership turnover thanks to the nature of our university. This provides many opportunities for healthy eating. Keep your ear to the ground for lunches involving large sounding groups. Show up and act casual. It's not unusual for there to be a member that people don't recognize. Often they'll try to invent a story for you. This can give you valuable information about the club and help you blend.

For closing remarks, it seems prudent to include a warning. Though all of the afore mentioned techniques are viable; they come with risk. It is easy to get yourself into difficult situations with any of them. So execute with discretion and moderation. Thank you and good night.



World Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention

Ellen Kaye-Cheveldayoff
3N Systems Design

Attending a conference is an opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and meet people with whom you share a common interest. The 61st World Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, held in Toronto this year, was no exception. As an avid reader, I was delighted to be surrounded by the authors and fans of books I've enjoyed. Yet one would not have to be a reader of science fiction to enjoy this conference -- it has appeal for anyone who is interested in costuming, the process of writing, folk singing, and the influences of social trends, technology and culture on our lives and our future.

Like any of the 4000 attendees of the 5-day event, I had to continually choose from a multitude of things to do and see. There were often about 20 events running simultaneously in the rooms of the Metro Convention Centre and Royal York Hotel. In addition to the biggest two events, the Hugo Award ceremony and Masquerade, there were a Dealer's Room, an Art show, several panel discussions, "filking" (participatory folk singing with a science fiction or fantasy slant to the lyrics), costuming workshops, writing critiques, movies, anime and more. I tried to sample a little bit of everything, while focusing on meeting and talking to the authors whose works I admire, whom I have not previously had the opportunity to meet.

Part of the unique appeal of this convention is the extent to which the fans can mingle with the authors they admire. Informal sessions, called Kaffeeklatches, were organized so that no more than ten people were in a room, talking with an author for an hour and a half. In addition to this, authors could be found at readings, signings, and panel discussions. There was an atmosphere of being open to interaction, an attitude of approachability, that pervaded the convention.

This atmosphere extended to more than just the author-fan relationship. Diversity in all its forms was embraced. There was an impressive accessibility to people with disabilities that indicated a higher-than-usual level of preparation by the organizers. A significant number of attendees were mobility-impaired or sight-impaired. There was also a range of ages, though primarily members were middle-aged. In addition, more than 20 countries were represented among the attendees, including Japan, Australia, South Africa, Israel, Britain, Canada and the United States.

Canadian science fiction and fantasy authors who were present at the convention include Spider Robinson, who was the toastmaster, Robert J. Sawyer, who won this year's Hugo for Best Novel, James Alan Gardner, Edo Van Belkom, Tanya Huff, Guy Gavriel Kay, Andrew Weiner, Julie Czerneda and Karl Schroeder. International authors such as Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman, Connie Willis, Nancy Kress, Elizabeth Moon, Esther Friesner, Larry Niven, Geoffrey A. Landis, Catherine Asaro and Mike Resnick as well as editors such as Stanley Schmidt (Analog), Gardner Dozois (Asimov's) and John Clute (Encyclopedia of Science Fiction) were also participants.

Science fiction writers have an important relationship with scientists and engineers -- they imagine how our world and technology could be different, based on the scientific and technological advances we produce. And we, in turn, sometimes build what they imagine. Modern cell phones bear more than a passing resemblance to Star Trek communicators. Modern submarines are similar to the vessel commanded by Jules Verne's Captain Nemo.

As an engineering student, I am continually exposed in the classroom to the principles why our current technology works. I am rarely exposed to a discussion about the broader implications or frontiers of our technology. These kinds of discussions were abundant at the conference, and in the works of the authors present.

I was reminded of this special relationship between science fiction writers and engineers when I went to a panel discussion on the feasibility of building a "Beanstalk" or space elevator. The most expensive factor in space technology is the cost of escaping the earth's gravitational pull to get materials to orbit, and a space elevator has the potential to reduce this cost by a factor of 100. The panel of scientists and science fiction writers (including some people who were both) discussed the technical feasibility of building a beanstalk, and its social implications. The consensus appeared to be that we are technologically very close to being capable of building a space elevator. One of the panelists said that there is a private company, called Liftport (www.liftport.com), that plans to build a beanstalk within 15 years. Potential implications included space tourism, photovoltaic power plants in orbit as a source of clean energy, and political decisions regarding the location of the base of the elevator.

Other panel discussions touched on developing areas of science, and issues in writing science fiction. For example, a panel that included Terry Pratchett and Connie Willis discussed the process of doing research for a science fiction or fantasy novel, including the techniques that they themselves have used with such success.

The most suspenseful part of the convention, for me and for everyone else, was the Hugo award ceremony. The awards are as prestigious in speculative fiction as the Academy awards are in movies, and the results are not known until announced at the ceremony. This year, rocket-shaped awards were plated with gold, instead of the usual steel, in celebration of the award's 50th anniversary. Canadian Author Robert J. Sawyer won the coveted award for Best Novel, for his book "Hominids", as well as the Japanese Seiun Award for best translated novel for "Illegal Alien."

In contrast to the Hugo ceremony, the Masquerade was characterized by a sense of playfulness. The presentations of the elaborate costumes often included elements of humour that drew roars of laughter from the audience. Skits included Gimli The Dwarf and Legolas The Elf from the Lord of the Rings shopping at the Gap, a shabbily dressed man begging for "small change for Canadian science", and a young snake-haired girl who became paralyzed after seeing her reflection, thus demonstrating why Gorgons are an endan-

gered species.

The location of the World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) moves from city to city each year. This year's convention, named "Torcon 3" by the ad-hoc committee who organized it, is the third time that Worldcon has been hosted in Toronto. A video shown at the Masquerade had highlights from the previous Torcons in 1948 and 1973, including footage of the late Isaac Asimov, and many costumed people. Then as now, most attendees of the conference wore casual shirts and pants, but the media gravitated towards the eye-candy of the costumes, including werewolves and scantily clad young women.

The location of a Worldcon is decided two or three years in advance, at a meeting held during the Worldcon. This year, Los Angeles won the bid to be the host city in 2006. There is already a distinct rivalry between the 2007 contenders: Columbus, Ohio, and Tokyo, Japan. This rivalry was most manifest in the parties held in the evening hours of the convention. Each contender tried to throw the best party, in the hopes of soliciting support for their bid. The logic appears to be that if the committee can throw a good party, they can organize a good convention.

The first WorldCon was held in 1939 by a group of science fiction fans who had corresponded by newsletter, and wanted to meet in person. It started out as a simple, informal gathering, but since then has grown into a sophisticated conference with carefully planned programming and events. The organizational ability, party skills, and enthusiasm of any contender are therefore duly scrutinized. And of course, it is a good excuse for a party.

The parties of the bidding cities were only a few of the many parties that were held each night. Some experienced Worldcon attendees advised me that they were a great opportunity for networking, and for getting to know fellow fans.

"...a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and to meet people who share a common interest"

A convention or conference is a wonderful opportunity to be exposed to new ideas and to meet people who share a common interest. It is a worthwhile enrichment to an education that offers much of what the classroom experience does not. It is a way to expand one's horizons, think more broadly about issues, and learn about cutting-edge work in the field from the people who work in it.

There are many conferences aimed at undergraduate students, including the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference (CUTC) set for January 22 - 24, 2004 in Toronto, the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Conference set for February 4-8, 2004 in Toronto, the Canadian Student Summit on Aerospace (CSSA) set for January 30-February 1, 2004 in Waterloo, and the First Year Integration

Conference (FYIC), available only to frosh, in February 2004 in London, Ontario. Becoming involved in organizing a conference, or volunteering for it can also be a valuable experience, and all of these conferences offer that opportunity. I wholeheartedly recommend it.

If you want to attend or volunteer for Worldcon 2004, you will have a significant distance to travel. It will be held in Boston, at the end of August. If you would like to vote in the Hugos, you can pay a lesser price to have a "supporting" (as opposed to "attending") membership, and send in your nominations and votes by mail.

However, there are some smaller science fiction conventions closer to home, such as Ad Astra in Toronto, April 2-4, 2004 and Con-cept in Montreal, November 8, 2003.

I have had some excellent experience going to conferences, including Worldcon, CUTC and the EWB conference. If you choose to take my advice and broaden your horizons in this fashion, may you similarly be inspired and enriched by the conferences you attend.

Smiling Over Sickness

Zahra Nensi
President, S.O.S.

Smiling Over Sickness is a student-run organization whose goal is to make sick children smile. This objective is achieved through voluntary services provided within the local community. These services include the organization of various fundraising events such as:

1. Trick-or-Treating for sick children in local hospitals
2. Wheelchair basketball tournaments and other sporting events and leagues
3. Coffee Houses
4. Regular visits to the Pediatric ward in various health institutions
5. Much More!

Smiling Over Sickness (S.O.S.) also participates with other children's charities in the area and promote similar events. In the last year S.O.S. promoted the Shave for a Cure Campaign for Pediatric Cancer Research.

Positions that are available within the organization for the upcoming year and their roles include:

Vice President: Aiding the President in

his/her responsibilities of overlooking all promotional and fundraising aspects of the club and represent the President in his/her absence

Treasurer: Responsible for overlooking all financial aspects of the club including money raised from fundraising events and received through Feds and other donations.

Advertising / Promotions Co-ordinator: Responsible for ensuring that events are well advertised on campus as well as off campus when necessary.

Fundraiser Co-ordinator: Responsible for devising unique ideas for events and organizing them to raise funds for pediatric cancer research.

Smiles Squad Co-ordinator: Responsible for coming up with unique ideas to put smiles on the faces of the children involved with S.O.S.

If you are interested in becoming a part of our executive team, or a member of S.O.S., please e-mail soswaterloo@hotmail.com. Our first meeting will be held on Friday September 26th in the Physics Building, Room 150 at 2pm. Look out for our booth at Clubs Days for more information.

On Campus

CECS Online Update - A Student Perspective

Naureen Hassan

2B Chemical



So what's happening with the co-op Access system this year? When I was in first year, there were rumours that the co-op application process would be implemented online. This was during the summer of 2002. Apparently, there were some problems and therefore, the project did not progress as anticipated. During winter 2003, CECS Online was supposed to be activated but there were too many bugs in the system. The latest development of CECS online was in place during spring 2003 for students in selective programs (e.g. the teaching option). How successful was it? The students in the teaching option were basically the guinea pigs for CECS online. They were quite successful actually...

So how does it work? Students would be able to view all the jobs online and apply online. Well, students would have to create their resumes online with HTML editor in the Netscape composer and copy

and paste it onto the system. There can be a maximum of three resumes for each student and students can customize their resumes according to the jobs they intend to apply for. There are options to include marks if preferred, because there is a check box for it. The biggest advantage was you could pick your own interview slot. There will be a list of interview times and you can pick the time you want to be interviewed. It's on a first come first serve basis. It's great for solving conflicts during class times, midterm etc.

What's the main catch in the system? Well, students complained about the fact that they didn't have enough time to prepare their resumes because they only heard about that option once they commenced school. They weren't informed of CECS online during their co-op work terms. Some students found it difficult to create the resumes using HTML. Another problem with the online system was that students couldn't have any additional attachments like reference letters or portfolios, etc. Students can't exceed 30K for their resumes which is about 3 pages and there can be no graphics. You must be thinking who has a 3 page resume anyways.. well for grad students it is a problem because they don't have the option of

putting detailed experiences CVs. There were restrictions on fonts, only the basics like Arial were available. The problem with these resumes was there was no originality, every resume looked pretty much the same, only the experience differed from person to person or the style in writing. There were minor bugs here and there but the tech support was actually very reliable.

There are many advantages of having CECS online. Think about how much money it would save you photocopying. I am sure all of you at one point have made those last minute visits to Kinkos to photo-

copy, not to mention the endless lines in the co-op building at around 7pm by the photocopy machine. CECS online will save us both time and money.

So what's happening now? Co-op is still working on improving CECS. Students will get the option of creating a link from their resumes to their web page. In winter 2004, CECS online will be implemented on more students in programs such as accounting, teaching, architecture, approximately 800 students. Eventually the system will be in place for all programs including engineering and mathies.

CECS.online Project Aims for a May 2004 Launch

Olaf Naese

Communications & Public Relations Administrator, CECS

Waterloo, ON – Sept. 19, 2003 – UW's Co-operative Education & Career Services (CECS), together with the Information Systems and Technology Department (IST), is developing an online system to handle student job applications, employer job postings, candidate selection, interview scheduling and database management. The system is being designed to efficiently handle the co-op records and transactions of more than 4,000 co-op students and 3,000 employers as well as approximately 15,000 interviews per term.

During the May 2003 term a beta test of the system was conducted using students from the Teaching Option, a small, independent group of co-op students. The test provided valuable feedback and the CECS.online project team was able to identify issues and refinements as well as to re-examine the implementation timeline.

A second, more comprehensive pilot is being planned for a yet-to-be-determined group of students in the January 2004 term. Whereas the May 2003 pilot involved only a partial version of the new system, the one in January 2004 will include all components to be used by co-op students during the job application/interview process.

The projected implementation date of the full system is now the May 2004 term. In setting this date, the CECS.online project team is taking into consideration allowing enough time to:

- complete any remaining development and properly testing the entire system
- deal with any outstanding functional and technical issues
- train various user groups

The next media update on the progress of the CECS.online project will take place at the beginning of January 2004.

Additional information about CECS.online, including periodical progress updates may be found at www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocprg/

BRIDGING THE GAP LECTURE SERIES

Creating Canada's Future Leaders
UW's Innovative Master of business
Entrepreneurship and Technology Program

Presented by:

Dr. Howard Armitage,

Director and Founder of the Centre for Business
Entrepreneurship and Technology

Tuesday, September 30, 2003
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
CPH 3385

Noteable CECS Dates

Sept. 26: POSTING #3 EXPIRES 8 PM

Sept. 29: POSTING #4 AVAILABLE BY 12 Noon

Workshop: Interview Skills: Selling Your Skills. Don't stop at the fundamentals; you must also prove your skills in the interview. Here is your opportunity to practice and improve. NOTE: Please attend only if you can stay the full two hours. 3:30-5:30 (TC Room 2218)

Sept. 30: POSTING #4 EXPIRES 8 PM

Workshop: Career Decision Making. Self Assessment, Occupational Research, Information Interviews, & Career Decision Making. After this session you will be in a better position to assess yourself and your "fit" in the world of work. 10:30-12:00 (TC Room 1208)

Workshop: Owing Your Own Business: Next Steps. Picking up where "The Basics" left off, this workshop will offer a more in-depth discussion on start-up issues: strategy and operational tactics, marketing, finance, human resources, R & D. 4:30-5:30 (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 1: POSTING #5 AVAILABLE by 12 noon

STUDY ABROAD FAIR
11AM – 3PM SLC

Workshop: Interview Skills: The Basics: Learn the fundamentals of successful

interviewing. 3:30-4:30 (TC Room 2218)

Workshop: Interview Skills: Preparing For Questions: Discuss and learn from actual excerpts of actual interviews. 4:30-5:30 (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 2: POSTING #5 EXPIRES 8PM

Workshop: Business Etiquette and Professionalism: Proper etiquette is crucial to a successful job search – and your career. This workshop will cover dining etiquette as well as appropriate behaviour at interviews, employer receptions/sessions, and other networking activities. 2:30-3:30 (TC Room 1208)

Workshop: Taking Care of Business – Session I: The basics of consulting: what it is, what consultants do, how to decide what to charge, where the costs are, how consultants are used, how to get started. 3:30-7:30 (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 6: Employer Interviews Begin (includes Chartered Accounting)

Workshop: Interview Skills: The Basics: Learn the fundamentals of successful interviewing. 3:30-4:30 (TC Room 2218)

Workshop: Interview Skills: Preparing For Questions: Discuss and learn from actual excerpts of actual interviews. 4:30-5:30 (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 7: Workshop: Faculty of Education Talks: Brock University, the University of Western Ontario, University of Toronto, York University, Lakehead University, OISE (MA), Trent University. 10:30am-5:30pm (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 8: Workshop: Faculty of Education Talks: University of Windsor, University of Ottawa. 10:30-12:30 (TC Room 2218)

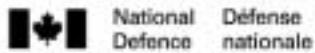
Workshop: Faculty of Education Talks: Queens University, Nipissing University. 1:30-3:30 (TC Room 2218)

Oct. 9: Architecture: Hand in 1 copy of Resume Package to CECS drop-off slot by 8PM

Workshop: Are You Prepared to Work Outside Canada?: An introductory workshop intended to help you to determine your readiness to work outside Canada, and provide some advice on beginning the process. 10:30-11:30 (TC Room 1208)

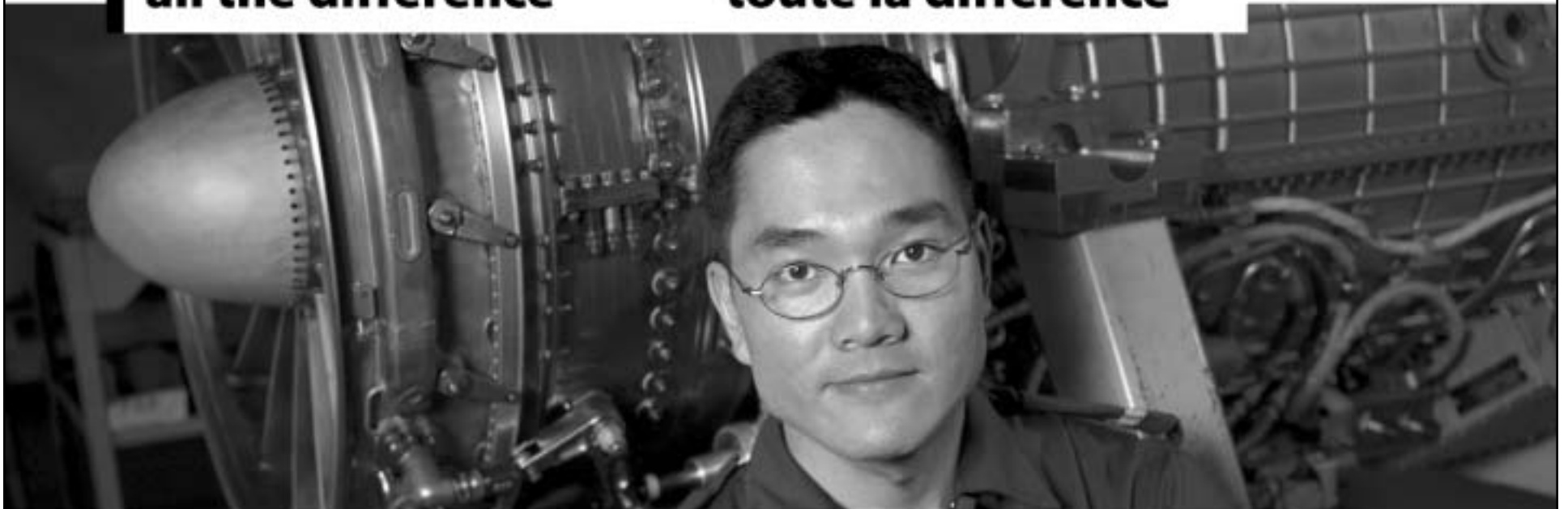
Workshop: Job Search Strategies: Learn the "how to" of job/work search, networking, and employer research. Creative and traditional methods are explored. 2:30-4:00 (TC Room 1208)

Workshop: Taking Care of Business – Session II: Case studies will be reviewed and critiqued, and there will be opportunity for a thorough discussion. 3:30-7:30 (TC Room 2218)



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Waterloo Through My Eyes Time Flies...

Christine McCullough
2B Chemical

I was sitting on the steps of POETS the other day, working on an assignment for the IW (they work me so hard) when I looked up and realized something, there were different, new people behind the fold-out tables harassing everyone who passed to buy pizza. Gradcomm 2003 had, well, graduated, so it was now time for Gradcomm 2004 to take the reigns. I'm neither here nor there regarding the fact that the class of 2003 is no longer swaggering down the halls of engineering. I liked some of those people, and didn't like others; I broke even on that class. The thing that gave me a warm fuzzy feeling about seeing these new, loud people pushing pizza on all passers-by was the obvious fact that if the class of 2003 is gone, and the class of 2008 is now here, I am one year closer to being the class depending on pizza sales to fund my graduation party. Yeah, I am one year closer to graduating.

It has been said time and time again, "time flies when you're having fun". I think I am going to make an amendment to that, "time flies when you're having fun, beer, midterms, hangovers, finals and workterms." Think about it, doesn't frosh week seem like yesterday? Alright, for

some of you it was yesterday, so this might not be that apparent to you at this point. But this four month cycle of school, work, school, work really accelerates the passing of time. That means at one moment you are sitting back relaxing thinking how great this term is going to be because you have so much time to do everything, and the next minute you are cramming for finals because somehow all that spare time got consumed. In the same way, you start your workterm thinking how awesome it is and all of a sudden you have a work report due and have no idea what you spent the last four months doing. Time flies...



Every Wednesday at lunch, Pizza is sold in CPH foyer

This leads me to my point, I will be in the graduating class one day, hopefully sooner rather than later. And I will probably be one of the chosen (read "the I guess no one else is going to do it, I'd better help out") volunteers who inflict the sweet, sweet smell of pizza on the CPH foyer every Wednesday. I hope that those of you who are still around (I'm talking to you '07er's and '08er's) will buy a slice every now and again (of course it's a better deal if you buy two...).

As I sat on the steps of POETS I realized something else, hold on for a little bit of cheese here, our time as classmates, as rivals and as people just passing each other in the halls saying 'hi' is limited. Five years seems like a long time at the outset;

who am I kidding four months can seem like an eternity sometimes (I'm referring to all of you that were stuck in Smooth Rock Falls last term), but it's not. Use your time wisely. Don't waste your time worrying about the person who puts effort into pissing you off, it's not worth it. Focus on cultivating relationships with

people who offer support, a shoulder to cry on or just a good laugh when you need it. The experiences we share in our faculty are unique and will result in friendships that could last the rest of your life. Allow yourself the time to be a part of those relationships. And please, give in to your pizza cravings every once in a while.

Taking Care of Business: A Primer on the Nature and Practice of Consulting

Date: Part 1: Thursday, Oct. 2/03; Part 2: Thursday, Oct. 9/03

Time: 3:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Location: University of Waterloo

Instructor: H.D. Covvey, Professor, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo

This is a 2-part introductory course on technology-related and management consulting. In part 1, we examine the nature of consulting, and consider topics such as which types of services to offer, solo versus multi-staff formats, starting a practice, marketing and selling, the financial aspects of a practice, operating and managing a practice, and delivering and evaluating services. We discuss questions like: How do you find prospective clients? How much should you charge? How do you do effort estimates and what if your estimate is wrong? What initial investment is required? What is a good business model? Then, we consider the client's perspective, identifying appropriate and inappropriate uses of consultants, the role of the statement of work, how consultants are and

should be selected, and how to and how not to manage consultants. We detail pitfalls, potential conflicts, and mistakes and how to avoid them. In part 2, we present consulting cases and engage in group discussion of issues and their resolution.

Register At: Career Services, Tatham Centre University of Waterloo

Early Registration Fee: \$20/session received by 4:00 p.m. September 30, 2003

Registration Fee: \$25/session received after September 30, 2003

Contact: Career Services, 888-4567 ext. 4047; careers@uwaterloo.ca

Hosts: The infraNET Project & Co-operative Education and Career Services, University of Waterloo

Sponsors: Center for Information Systems Assurance, University of Waterloo

All fees will be donated to the University of Waterloo Fundraising Campaign for Health Informatics Research.

Columns

Frosh Week Experience

Michael Simoes
1A Chemical

For me, the frosh week experience can be summed up in one word, AWESOME! I was expecting to be hazed, put through some gruelling tasks, and getting filthy in the various activities that would take place throughout the week, and I was surprised that I had fun without all that.

Being a Green "Doozer", a theme based on the television show "Fraggle Rock," I had a great group of leaders that introduced me to engineering life in a good way. They encouraged us to yell, scream, and have our throats sore the next day and that is exactly what happened. By the second day we were tired and we could not yell anymore, yet we were still encouraged by the leaders to start chants and just have a great time with the events.

The events were moderated by EDCOM, the dreaded Men and Women in Black Hard Hats that struck fear, or lack thereof, into the hearts of the frosh. When we initially met EDCOM in a lecture hall in Carl Pollack Hall (RCH), they stormed in playing hair metal music, which I just wanted to mosh out to. Then they began to yell and scream, and surely, the sledge hammers they were wielding were put into use. I thought this was the highlight of the week because it was the peak of things to come throughout the week.

Although we paid for the yellow hard hats through our orientation fees, we still had to earn them by proving that we are worthy soon to be engineers. The tasks that we had to perform outlined the five principles of engineering, which are organization, communication, leadership,

integrity, and teamwork.

The next day, in our yellow hard hats, the frosh gathered on the Village Green to participate in the Junk Yard Wars. This was a very fun and very challenging activity, and I enjoyed how it was incorporated into the week. The end result was not that successful, and it showed us that we have a lot to learn in designing and building structures to complete the task at hand.

During the week, we got a services tour of the campus to learn where everything is, and how to get involved in the various recreation activities that are available to us. Also, we got to watch a show called "Single and Sexy" which was very funny, but gave a very strong message to the frosh. The Lunar Luau was an evening activity open to Engineering, Mathematics, and Environmental frosh where we got to sing karaoke, dance, and play various games. It was a good way for us to interact and meet new people.

The week ended with the Scavenger Hunt. This was a very tiring yet informative event, because I was one that went on the road trip on foot. Covering our hard hats in aluminium foil so that our minds cannot be read by them was quite hilarious, passing by different people saying things from, "How did I know that they were engineering frosh?" to "Must be one hell of a hard week for them." Taking pictures to tell stories of the places we visited was quite fun, and seeing the three horned goat at the park zoo was funny.

Overall, the frosh week experience for me was great, and it was a great introduction to university life. All those involved who put together the week did an excellent job in putting together a week without alcohol but still packed with loads of fun.

Gob a Success at Fed Hall Concert Review

Michael Simoes
1A Chemical

On Tuesday, September 16th 2003, Feds presented, GOB with special guests, Kazzer and Cauterize. This was my first experience in Federation Hall for a concert, other than Meet the TOOL during Frosh Week, so I have no basis for comparison, but I still have a good taste in music, so that definitely must count for something.

The show was an all-age event for University of Waterloo students, and nineteen and over for non-UW students. The prices for tickets (\$17 for UW and \$19 for Non UW) were quite reasonable seeing as they had a mainstream band headlining the show. For me, the show was worth every cent I paid.

With doors supposedly opening at 8:30, the line outside the door was about a block long. After a 45 minute wait in line, the doors finally opened. At this point in time, with my legs about crumble, I was saying to myself, "This show better be worth this wait."

After waiting in the upper level of Fed Hall, the band Cauterize played a half hour set, with about 8 songs in it. For a curtain jerker band, they were excellent, and they got the crowd ready for Kazzer and GOB. They were a punk rock band, and really, nobody knew who they were. The sad thing is, there was still a line outside the door, and those people missed a great band play.

After a wait, while the take-down and set-up of the instruments was going on, the crowd anticipated the home grown hip-hop punk band, Kazzer. Well, for me, they sucked. Their set was about 45 minutes long, and I honestly could not tell how many songs they played because they all sounded alike. Their generic sound, which is ripping off bands like Rage Against the Machine, and Beastie Boys, who are superior in guitar skills and

vocals, was an insult to what they did to revolutionize the music industry. Well, another thing, I could not understand a word said, and the only thing that was interesting to see was the break dancer on stage dancing to the music. To end their set, which was to the applause of the majority of the crowd, they played a cover of a classic song, "Highway to Hell", originally sung by AC/DC. Kazzer is a hip-hop punk band covering an old school rock song, and they totally butchered it. I was glad they got off the stage.

Finally, GOB came out, and began playing their set, which lasted about an hour. It contained a little bit of old school

"(The mosh pit) was fun, but also a little scary, because of my short stature, I could have easily been trampled on, but it would have been worth it."

songs like, "Soda" and a cover of "Paint it Black." They also played some of their newer songs like, "Ming Tran" and "Give up the Grudge." By this time, I had entered the crazy mosh pit, and this was the first time that I ever went into a mosh pit. It was fun, but also a little scary, because of my

short stature, I could have easily been trampled on, but it would have been worth it. During their set, they began to play "Tequila", an old jazz standard, and finally, someone brought them some tequila, which they shot down.

On their closing song, several members of Kazzer ran into the mosh pit and began to body surf, which I thought was pretty cool.

Overall, for my first concert at Federation Hall, I was quite pleased with how everything ran, the service at the bar and the excellent music of GOB and Cauterize. But, a few things I observed which I thought were stupid, that being, breaking up the circular mosh pit that had formed during GOB's set, and the disciplinary action against those who body surfed in the pit. This is a rock concert, and people came out, paid their hard earned money, to just let loose and to not allow that was quite unintelligent. But, the concert was worth every cent I paid for it.

Old, Freaking Old

Archimedes McGuire
4N Nanotechnology

<Begin Whiney Ranty Tirade>

So - last Tuesday, at the prodding of my inner child, I decided to go to the Gob/Kazzer concert at Fed Hall. Okay, so admittedly, I should've been warned by the fact that it was a Fall term, and that the concert was being held at Fed Hall that I might be slightly more aged than the average concert goer. But no, I did not heed these so glaringly obvious warnings, and after ending an arduous day of work, I grabbed my Gob ticket and started towards Fed.

What greeted me outside was a line-up of very young looking people. If I were to guess, I'd say their ages ranged from maybe 16 to 19. 20 tops. It was daunting - especially to an "old fart" like myself. I who had never been so easily scared was shocked to find myself afraid of standing in line with these strange young creatures.

However, my inner child pushed some more. I swallowed my fears, and took my place at the end of the queue.

However, as I spent more time in line, I found that my fears were somewhat justified. I listened as frosh queried each other about their legal drinking status, how Engineering money had created Feds (and how Laurier only had a Turret because they had no engineers), and how Kazzer was "super duper hot!". I couldn't take it. I felt old, wiser and deathly afraid of these people. I definitely did not belong. I squelched my inner punk child, and gave away my ticket to a more worthy, and younger student.

As I ran away from the scene, I flipped on my iPod and pulled up a listing by genre - 'Punk'. As the Sex Pistols started to reverberate in my ears, I came to a final realization. From now on, I, a "daddling old one" would leave the punk concerts to the kids, and the punk music to my iPod and my inner child.

<End Whiney Ranty Tirade>

Launch a career Final year undergraduate students

Information session
followed by refreshments
Monday, September 29, 2003
6:00 p.m.
Tatham Centre,
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