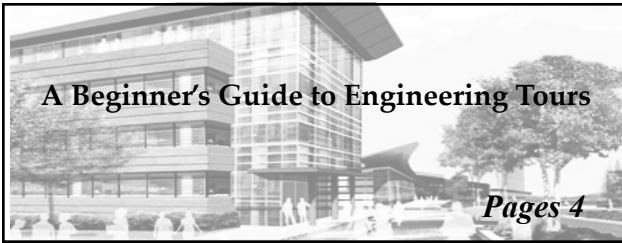


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THE IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 15 | WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009



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<http://iwarrrior.uwaterloo.ca>

The Latest in UW Innovation – A Toronto Residence?



Angelo Alaimo

A co-op student's idea could potentially lead to a UW Residence being developed in the heart of Toronto to aid students who are on coop in the city.

ANJALI GOPAL
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Ever had trouble finding accommodation for co-op jobs in Toronto that included a bed, a desk, and a chair (and *maybe* some hot water) without clearing out your wallet? Well, the latest and greatest in UW creativity and innovation might result in a new residence building—right in the heart of T-Dot.

Currently featured in the form of a Facebook group named “UW Innovative Residence—Toronto”, this new idea for a Toronto-based residence has been steadily gaining popularity among many Waterloo students. The founder, Natalia Moudrak, started the group after she spent five of her co-op terms in Toronto and found it increasingly difficult to get short-term, furnished accommodations to fit her student-budget. Other Waterloo students with whom she consulted before starting the group also agreed.

A hot discussion topic in the group, named “What’s the Problem?!”, has students complaining about various aspects of finding accommodation at Toronto. Numerous students have reported of finding fully-furnished accommodation costs up to \$1500 a month—nearly impossible to pay for unless you’re willing to live with a roommate. Male students also have a tougher time trying to find living spaces, due to fear from the landlords that the place will get trashed. There are a few cheaper alternatives—U of T residences are willing to rent to other students for \$600-\$800 during the summer. However,

with the high demand of co-op jobs in the GTA, it would be impossible (and embarrassing) to house all Waterloo co-ops at other universities’ residences.

Currently, steps are being taken to implement the UW/Toronto Residence idea, although the planning is still in its earliest stages. Moudrak contacted Chris Read of UW Housing, UW Business and Development, and CECS six months ago with her idea. As per the Facebook information page, Moudrak noted that “innovation would have to be in the core of the design – this residence would have to be something UW students can be proud of: modern design, technologically advanced, environmentally friendly, and a great space for networking.” Furthermore, Moudrak also constructed a survey that was sent to UW students currently on work terms in Toronto. The results indicated that the need for a new residence was vital—students who filled out the survey expressed that they wanted the residence to be “fully furnished, with a kitchen, and on the TTC route”. A feasibility study will be conducted in four months.

However, there are many doubts about the likelihood of implementing such an idea. Some students feel that this project is too “hyped up” at its current stages, and interested students are expecting eye-catching residences well beyond the scope of possibility (and price range). Others also feel that having a residence in central Toronto with student pricing lacks practicality. However, Moudrak believes this is

See Housing in the City on Page 4

Frosh Week 2010 Survives Truncation Attempt

ADRIANA CAMERON
2T MECHANICAL

On Thursday November 26th, after months of uncertainty, it was determined that Orientation Week 2010 would indeed be a full week of activities as opposed to the shortened orientation “week” that was proposed by the Registrar’s Office.

The issue of a shortened orientation week was first presented to Senate in January 2009, by the Registrar’s Office as part of the 2009-2010 calendar dates. The shortened orientation week was proposed as a means to ensure that students received the 60 required teaching days per semester. In addition to the 60 required teaching days, it is also required that there be a minimum of 12 exam days, a minimum of 2 exam study days (not including weekends), and that exams be scheduled no later than December 22nd, 2009.

In October 2009, the Registrar’s Office tabled a motion to Senate to address the issue. Two Options were provided for the Senators to vote on. Option 1 proposed that orientation activities would start a day earlier, and that classes would start on Thursday resulting in a shortened

orientation “week”. Orientation activities would run from Saturday to Wednesday, followed by classes on Thursday and Friday, followed by more orientation activities on Friday night and Saturday. Option 2 proposed that one day of Saturday class would occur towards the end of the term, and orientation week would run from Sunday to Saturday as per normal procedure. The motion generated much discussion and the motion was deferred to the November 16th meeting at the request of the student Senators in order to gather student opinion on the subject.

Petitions in support of the full length week were circulated. In addition, many students chose to show their support for a full length week by attending the November 16th Senate meeting, many of them wearing their favourite articles of orientation week clothing.

At the November 16th Senate meeting the motion was voted upon. At this meeting 47 out of 80 Senators were present. Senate is composed of 14 students, 62 faculty and administration, and four alumni. The vote resulted in a tie, as 23 senators were for changing the structure of orientation week while 23 senators were opposed to it. In the event of a tie, the UW

President is given the opportunity to cast a deciding vote. However, President David Johnston declined to vote.

Following discussions between student senators and the Provost on Thursday November 26th, it was announced that Orientation Week 2010 would run in the typical full week format from Sunday September 5th through Saturday September 11th. Although Orientation Week 2010 will be a full week affair, further discussion and broad-based student polling will determine the future length of orientation weeks past 2010.



Chris Zhu

Under the shortened frosh week plan, all students would have begun classes on the Thursday of the week.

Letter From The Editor

Common Misconceptions About *The Iron Warrior*.



TREVOR JENKINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With this being the last issue of the term I'd like to say a big thanks to everyone who helped out make *The Iron Warrior* possible this term. Without all the help and dedication we got, we never would have been able to make it. Thanks! Check out my *IW Staff Appreciation* article below this one for more details.

Since taking over the helm of *The Iron Warrior*, I've discovered that there are a lot of common misconceptions about how we operate, and what we actually do. I figured I'd take the chance to try and clear some of them up before everyone heads off on to work term.

We Receive Student Funding

This is probably the biggest misconception of all. *Imprint* receives \$3.30 from every student on campus (which is refundable). *Math-NEWS* receives \$5.50 from every math student (which I believe is refundable). *The Iron Warrior* receives nada. That's right- we're actually free! Because of this fact, you cannot get your *Iron Warrior* fee refunded at the beginning of term, no matter how hard you try. PLEASE STOP COMING TO OUR DOOR AND ASKING!

The Iron Warrior operates primarily on funding we receive through advertising, unlike the other student media outlets on campus. In all honesty, it's a crappy model to survive on since we become extremely strained during economic downturns, such as this past term where we lost a large number of co-op advertisements. In addition, past advertisers, such as Campus Housing, cut back significantly on the size and number of ads they ran. Since we're not the primary newspaper on campus (damn you *Imprint!*), we often lose a large number of off-campus advertisers to them since they've got the larger distribution area.

Even though we get most of our operating expenses through advertising, we are also extremely reliant on the Waterloo Engineering Endowment Fund (WEEF) to fund our capi-

tal expenses. If you ever question the value of WEEF, just realize that *The Iron Warrior* as it exists today wouldn't be here without them. WEEF stickers are on everything in our office, from our computers and monitors to our camera and voice recorder. Without the existence of WEEF, and students' continued support, there'd be no way for us to have adapted to the digital age way back when.

The Editor-in-Chief/Staff Get Paid

HA! We wish! If you do want to thank us for our hard work this term, I think we'd all be more than willing to go out for a beer on you! :-)

We Make Up Terms for People on Co-op

While most of you are probably use to the XN & XT designations now, I have to realize that a large number of people on campus are not familiar with the designations we use. Basically, the way it works is that the co-op term AFTER your #A term is your #N term, while the coop term after your #B term is your #T term. So for example:

2A (school), 2N (coop), 2B (school), 2T (coop), 3A (school). Make sense?

Why do we use N & T? I have no idea but it's just the convention from years past and like every random sign convention in PHYS 115 & 125, we just stick to it. (EDIT: Turns out it was *Bahman Hadji, EIC from S07*)

You Need Experience to Volunteer

While experience is an asset, we're more than willing to provide enough training for you to take on a role. While we primarily need writers, we also are in need of photographers, copyeditors, webmasters and layout people. We were fortunate enough to have had a large number of frosh fill these roles this past term but since most are 8-Stream and switching over to A-Soc, a lot of the talent and dedication will be departing. That means more roles to fill!

If you are interested in volunteering, send us an e-mail at the beginning of Spring term and we can give you more details, or just stop by the office anytime.

With my final bit of column space left I'd like to take a chance to reflect back over these past five issues and the journey roller coaster ride that it has been.

I think the biggest challenge I've faced this term is the rising cost of publishing. The costs have jumped 10% to 50% depending on the issue size which meant more costs to cover. Thanks to additional advertising from the Engineering Society and the Dean's Office we've been able to cover most of these unexpected costs but money has always been a major concern of mine. I wasn't able to follow through on a large number of layout changes I had planned for this term which is unfortunate, but I'll try to incorporate these changes in future terms when we're in a better position.

I think Frosh Recruitment was something that went very well this term. Like Engineering Society itself, we had a HUGE number of extremely dedicated and involved frosh come out to our meetings, submit articles, and help with production. I hope that this will help to establish a strong foundation of the future EIC's who will be able to come to the table with awesome ideas for revamping us and directing us in the right direction.

One other thing I think we did well was getting a diverse range of content. A major constraint on this though had to be the financial situation. There were times when we should have increased our issue another four pages, but due to the fact that another four pages means an extra \$300, we just couldn't justify it. As a result, a large amount of content did end up getting pushed back an issue, or worst of all, getting cut entirely. This is also a biggest regret of mine since I believe that if people can take the time to write an article that's at the university level then it deserves to get published. My motto this term was "We publish (almost) anything", and while I tried to live by it, I ultimately was faced by real world constraints that limited this.

Overall, I hope that you enjoyed *The Iron Warrior* this past time. I'd just like to thank everyone again who helped out this term. I've had a fun, albeit stressful, time being your EIC these past three months. I'm sure that Amrita Yasin will do a fabulous job of keeping everyone informed this upcoming winter term.

This isn't goodbye, just see you later...

IW Staff Appreciation



TREVOR JENKINS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I've been fortunate to have an awesome team of individuals who've contributed to *The Iron Warrior*. Without their hard work and dedication this newspaper would have been nothing. There are a couple of individuals and groups of people I'd like to publicly thank.

First off, I want to thank all the frosh who've gotten involved in *The Iron Warrior* this term. Frosh seem to have made up almost a half of our on-campus team this term which is awesome! Thanks for the help with writing articles, covering events, taking photos, developing our soon to be launched website, doing layout, helping with proofreading and ever other daunting task I forced upon delegated to you guys this term. Good luck to those of you who will be moving over to Amrita's term in the winter, and see the rest of you in the spring!

Next off I'd like to thank all our regular senior contributors. Whether you wrote a regular column or covered events that popped up, you all did an awesome job! Nothing is better when you're EIC than having an established group of core people who you can always rely on to produce awesome content on time.

I'd like thank a couple of specific individuals as well. First off, a huge thanks to Sydney Bateman who took the lead on copy editing this term! Another big thanks to Adriana Cameron who was here as late

as me every Sunday night during production. Your help with proofreading and my forcing you to write cover story articles at the last minute made my life slightly less stress-free. Thanks! Next off- Kevin Ling, the EIC from Winter '09 and a good friend of mine. Thanks for all the help and advice in getting things rolling. I never realized how many minute details there are to deal with on the administrative side of EIC. Thanks for all the wisdom and guidance. I'd also like to say a huge thanks to Angelo Alaimo who took on the role of Photo-Editor and Assistant-Editor this term. You seem to have a picture for every story, and your photo editing turnaround times will never cease to amaze me.

I'd also like to take the chance to make three announcements. First off, I'd like to congratulate Adriana Cameron who won the prestigious Editor's Award for all the time and effort she made to *The Iron Warrior* this term. Next off, I'd like to congratulate Jon Martin who won the Iron Pen Award for having written the most words for the newspaper over the last five issues. Finally, I'd like to announce that pending approval from The Iron Warrior Advisory Board this week, Angelo Alaimo will be taking over the helm of *The Iron Warrior* in the spring '10 term. I've had the chance to work with him over the past two terms and I think he'll do an awesome job! I wish

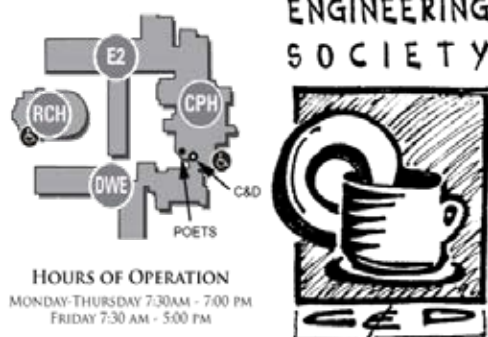
him the best of luck!

Thanks again to everyone who helped out in some way over the past term. Without all of you, none of the issues would have come out this term. If you are interested in getting involved, stopped by *The Iron Warrior* office in the winter or spring terms and ask how. We always need more people to help out and make us the best paper we can be!

MORE THAN JUST COFFEE & DONUTS

The EngSoc C&D has more than just Coffee and Donuts. Stop by for a variety of freshly prepared sandwiches, baked goods, soups, and more! It is run by students for students, so the prices can't be beat!

There are a variety of specialty coffees available - including fair trade. Bring your own mug to help the environment too!



HOURS OF OPERATION
MONDAY-THURSDAY 7:30AM - 7:00 PM
FRIDAY 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

THE IRON WARRIOR

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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Amrita Yasin

The Iron Warrior is a forum for thought-provoking and informative articles published by the Engineering Society. Views expressed in *The Iron Warrior* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Engineering Society. The Iron Warrior encourages submissions from students, faculty and members of the university community. Submissions should reflect the concerns and intellectual standards of the university in general. The author's name and phone number should be included.

All submissions, unless otherwise stated, become the property of *The Iron Warrior*, which reserves the right to refuse publication of material which it deems unsuitable. The Iron Warrior also reserves the right to edit grammar, spelling and text that do not meet university standards. Authors will be notified of any major changes that may be required.

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Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



Thumbs up to Don Fraser's letters to the editor in the past few issues! Especially for the part about students on construction co-ops!



Thumbs up to the turnout in the Engineering Society election. WE SET A NEW RECORD BABY!



Thumbs up to the WEEF funding allocations for the term. The \$85,000 that was allocated will make this faculty a better place to be.



Thumbs down to the end of an awesome term! Awesome turnout to every event, overflowing issues of The Iron Warrior and an overall increase to spirit in the faculty issue.



Thumbs down to Google Wave for being useless. Really, what is it supposed to be used for exactly?



Thumbs down to winter weather for slowly showing its face. I want my green spring term back!



Thumbs up to the Wonders of Winter display in Waterloo Park. I can finally feel the Holiday spirit coming back.



Thumbs up to Breakfast at Angie's. Delicious home-style breakfast, awesome service, and no line ups to get a table. Take that Mel's Diner!



Thumbs down to Campus Rec for kicking us out of our intramural gym half an hour early. Why did we pay our fee again?



Thumbs down to profs who teach half of the course in the last two weeks of classes. You really want to complain that students have issues with time management skills.



Thumbs down to thieving roommates who steal your food out of the fridge and cupboards. I'm not rich and I can't afford to feed you as well. The least you could do is ask me!



Thumbs up to a full Frosh Week! Student Senators and the Provost FTW!



Thumbs up to the Tool Bearers for selling cookies last Friday. They're so much better than what my mom makes!



Thumbs down to starting to get homesick. I wanted to avoid that place all term but now it's only a few weeks until I finally get to go back.



Thumbs up to a winter coop in Waterloo. I get to party all week and not have to worry about school...



...oh wait. I still have PDEng. Triple thumbs down to that.

Letters to the Editor

RE: PDEng

Dear Editor,

Well, now after reading both PDEng's presentations in the last two issues, I have the following observations:

- Why does it take the PDEng staff so many pages to say anything of substance? **ans:** The more one has to read and the longer it takes, the more weary one becomes and the more one despairs of ever finding a resolution to the problem at hand.

- OK so the staff can read all the recommendations made by three studies and make a chart summarizing them ... WE can do that! What we want to know is: What are they going to do about the recommendations??? and when??? We want action **now**. Never mind "Business as Usual". **Suspend the program** until and if we resolve this issue.

- So many of the recommendations deal

with the present bad relationships with students, faculty and employers, that one has to conclude that PDEng has alienated all of them!!

- If all the recommendations were implemented and the PDEng staff were granted "**the resources**" ... "**required to move forward**" as stated by PDEng Associate Director, then the PDEng staff would grow, become more entrenched, and more difficult to remove. This is **exactly what we don't want!!**

- With so many recommendations, obviously there are all these things **wrong with the program** ... a **total disaster** ... the simple solution ... **End it now!** ... Is this rocket science?

It's time to take off the gloves and say what needs to be said:

Everybody and his dog and cat and hamster know that the PDEng program is a **cash cow** designed to extract from the Ministry of

away from the sausage fest that is our faculty, have fun, and enjoy the fact that we're women. It was a way to poke fun at the image of women the media so often portrays, but without being super girly or drinking our faces off.

However, our act drew some concerning comments. As previously stated, it was meant for fun and as satire, but was apparently interpreted by some audience members as a bunch of Christmas whores shaking their junk on stage in an attempt to get the entire audience hard.

The first concern came about from the way we were introduced. In Mean Girls, the Plastics act is introduced as "Santa's Little Helpers", and therefore we requested to be introduced as such. However, instead of meeting our request or even introduce us as our signed-up name of "Eng Girls do the Jingle Bell Rock", we were introduced as "Santa's Slutty Helpers". This was extremely inappropriate, and not a single one of us enjoyed it. Calling women sluts and men studs is a double standard that somehow

Colleges and Universities funds for being a 12-month-of-the-year educational institution. This is a flim-flam of the government for several reasons:

- PDEng is not education. It is jumping through the hoops (busy work) for all students out on their work terms and it annoys to no end the students AND the employers (including me who hires and supervises 35 engineering students per year) by stealing time from their employment duties.

- The truth is that we educate for **8 terms/14 terms = 57%** of the time and deserve no more than any other institution that has no work terms and a summer off.

- It seems ironic to use a so-called "course" that deals with "ethics" to do the boondoggle.

If we have to raise funds by alienating ALL the engineering students AND many employers AND many faculty, then we should choose one of the following:

- **do without the funds**
- **raise funds another way**

We had better pay attention to the reaction of the employers, or we will have a serious problem getting our students hired. This could easily counteract any financial advantage of running the program in the first place. We could then call it "PDEng for the Unemployed" ... something to do while waiting in line to collect unemployment insurance or living on a park bench.

MacLean's Magazine wouldn't think so highly of us if they knew what was going on.

If anyone took the independent review down to Queen's Park and explained what they are funding and how it affects those concerned, I'll bet the family farm that the funds would be cut off.

Yours truly,
Don Fraser
Engineering Undergraduate Office

RE: 'Santa's Little Helpers'
Performance at TalEng

If you stuck around past the election results at TalEng this Tuesday, you would have witnessed about 20 girls from all across Engineering performing the "Jingle Bell Rock" dance from Mean Girls. I am writing this letter to the editor to address some concerning comments made about the act, and to dispel any sexist ideas associated with it.

Firstly, the idea to perform this dance came when Mean Girls was played in POETS recently. A couple of girls were sitting in POETS watching, and came up with the kind of idea that's normally fleeting and never comes to fruition - to do the dance at TalEng with as many engineering girls as possible. However, this idea was seen as so ridiculous and hilarious that it actually happened. Yes, the dance is provocative, but we know that. It was done for fun, and as a way to bring together girls in Engineering. This dance provided a way for us to get together

has still not been thrown out, and as women in engineering, we do not enjoy that mentality. We were not there to be slutty, we were there to have fun and to show that there are girls in engineering and we can be attractive and comfortable with the fact that we have XX chromosomes.

Before I move on to the next concern, I'd like to refresh your memories on the definition of feminism: pursuit of equality between the sexes. It is not, as many interpret, the belief that women are better than men and should rise above them. I think that almost all of us can call ourselves feminists, regardless of our gender.

The other comment made was along the lines of our act setting feminism and our gender back 50 years. This particular comment on our dance was exactly the opposite of what feminism strives for: it was an attempt to shame us, and it made it sound as if we were a bunch of stupid whores vying for attention. Additionally, not only was it not feminist, but by not allowing us to have fun and express

our sexuality, it is an act of repression. So when you're trying to be a feminist, maybe you should focus more on letting women do what they want, just the way men are able to, instead of degrading us. Making us apologize or feel guilty about the fact that we feel good about ourselves and our sexuality is setting us back to the Victorian ages.

Finally, I want to ask: why do people have such a problem with a bunch of girls wearing tank tops and shorts (the way you would in the summer) and dancing around, but are so supportive of topless girl's boat races? Why are you alright with women in a club dancing in a manner far more risqué than we did at TalEng, but not with a group of your peers celebrating their gender and bonding over a fun experience?

All we ask is that next time, before you pass judgment on women having fun together, you think about what you're really saying first.

- Anonymous

Enginuity EXTREME !



ALISON LEE
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

This year's Enginuity EXTREME challenge was a showdown of some of Waterloo's most creative and resourceful plumbers. There was representation from most disciplines, and even some upsets by the underdog 1A teams.

Enginuity requires a combination of puzzle-solving skills, inventive use of materials, and improvisation. It started off in POETS with sheets of brain-teasers which the groups had to solve throughout the night. Teams then had to break off, and compete in a number of design challenges. There was a marble run upstairs, where they scrambled to build the most epic marble track possible. In the CPH foyer teams designed and tested catapults made from popsicle sticks, spoons, elastic bands, and whatever else they thought might work. Inside POETS, the bridge-builders had to use popsicle sticks, cardboard, hot glue, and other craft supplies to construct the strongest bridge. All design teams were on a time budget, which led to some creative-yet-questionable design changes in the final minutes.

Everyone took a break for free pizza before the bridge-testing began. This was a chance for teams to scramble to finish the puzzles, while trying not to get too excited at the answers and scream them out. To add to the pressure, there

were bonus challenges of paper airplane-folding and sticking a toothpick through a balloon. These were individual challenges that tested a team member's solo thinking skills. Paper airplanes are harder to fold than you might think if you want ones that go where you want them to - just ask anyone who went to EngPlay. Most people succeeded in sticking the toothpick through the balloon with the help of copious amounts of Vaseline, earning extra points for their teams.

Testing the bridges revealed some shocking victories. A few bridges collapsed after a couple of magazines, such as the nano-scale bridge that failed to function under classical physics. The computer engineers used primarily cardboard with a solid plank design, and a creative laser show to sell it. In the end, the strongest bridges withheld stacks of magazines and a water cooler jug. The winning bridge even held out over teams with upper-year civils. It's on display in the orifice for anyone who wants to test it out.

After the final scores were in, the results were announced. In third was SYDE'14, in second was CEmen (Comp '14) and reigning victorious was CHE '13OOM (Chem '13). All participating teams won P**5 points. Enginuity was made possible by a dedicated organizing committee and volunteers, who pulled off a great event. Who knows what the next Enginuity will bring? Teams will return with more experience, and new teams may once again prove to be tough competition. The only way to find out is to be EXTREME and sign up!

TO Rez Idea Brought Forth

Housing in the City
Continued from Page 1

more of a "misconception" than an actual "problem".

"The main misconception comes from the name chosen for the group . . . the word "innovative" [has] an association with luxury and looking fancy," wrote Moudrak in a recent e-mail. "To clarify . . . "innovative" meant looking at cost savings solutions and seeing if installing greenroofs, utilizing grey water, etc. makes sense."

"UW has a spirit of innovation," she added. "If the project goes through, it should ideally portray this image and showcase the technological abilities of its students."

The Facebook group further adds a list

of ways UW students from all academic fields—not just engineering, but also fields such as mathematics, economics, and more—can play a crucial role in the design of this project. No definite time frame, or even confirmation of carrying forward this idea, has been given as of yet. The upcoming feasibility study is crucial in implementing this project, especially to determine how the finances will work out given student rents.

If you'd like to add your own ideas to "UW Innovative Residence - Toronto!", or would simply like to spread the word, visit the Facebook group! After all, this is just one more way to show that whether it's Waterloo or Toronto, UW will, eventually, RTW.

So They've Finally Come to Visit...

Touring the Campus for Beginners

KATE HEYMANS
1A CHEMICAL

Maybe it's both your parents, or perhaps just one of them, or maybe even your grandparents but nevertheless someone has finally decided to honour you with a visit. So of course you are going to go shopping (take advantage of their credit card) and you're almost certainly going to have

to go out for lunch or dinner at some point (some good food at last) but inevitably you are going to be obliged to give them a tour of the famous University of Waterloo campus. So where do you start?

You will of course have to show them CPH, the heart of undergraduate engineering cannot just be ignored. This calls for a small break in front of CnD and you almost certainly have

to rave about the opportunities and events to be found in POETS. The Orifice must be mentioned as well, and you should certainly point out the large crest next to the door. The calendar outside the office should also be admired (you might even see some events you weren't aware of) however you may not feel the need to explain

to your guests the meaning of D.U.S.T.E.D. and B.O.A.T. Racing. The TOOL must definitely be mentioned at this point but you must not and cannot reveal any information about its possible and rumoured whereabouts to outsiders. As you blabber on about EngSoc (and how it's so much better than other student societies) you might want to make your way down to E2.

E2 or Engineering 2 does have a couple of surprises worth admiring. First of all there's the WEEF lab, which you'll notice just as you step into the building from CPH. At this point you should probably launch into a grand speech about the Waterloo Engineering Endowment Fund and how this year they handed out 85,000 dollars for the benefit of engineering students at Waterloo. After your guests have been sufficiently awed by the splendor of the lab you can make your way down the hall. At the junction of the building you can point out the Frosh Week trophies next to the staircase. Rave a bit about Frosh Week and how you did things you never thought you would have the nerve to do. Wacky stories about the random animals that always seem to make their way onto campus during frosh week will probably entertain your guests.

You will at some point need to show them the lecture halls and classrooms where you spend

try, and adds a lot of perspective to the factors that drive you and your environment, especially when you return to Waterloo. It's a great way to meet a lot of fun people and build international connections. Even more importantly, you might get to learn a new language, and helps you find some of the so many amazing opportunities in your future that are just waiting to be found."

(Lee Anne Belcourt, 4A EE)

4. It is definitely a great opportunity where you learn about another culture, walk the grounds of history and encounter it in real life, meet people from around the world who will inspire, motivate and change you and you'll come back home totally energized! Not only that, but you also get to eat things you have never eaten before (uh-roasted beetles in Cambodia anyone?), do things that you never imagined yourself doing (Scuba Diving the reefs of Andaman Sea in Thailand? Trekking the rainforest of Borneo?), step out of your comfort zone and experience the local culture.

One the most amazing experience I had was when I was traveling solo in Melaka, Malaysia. I was at a restaurant and wasn't sure what to have for breakfast and this father saw me sort of confused. He comes over explaining to me all their different kinds of food. And then he invites me join him and his family for breakfast! There was a big family as they had relatives dinning with them that day. They were the kindest people I ever met...totally welcomed me in and in the end refused to let me pay. He insisted that it'll be his treat. It was definitely the best meal I ever had. So incredibly kind to welcome strangers! :)

I highly suggest that you think of what YOU want to get out of this exchange and not where your friends are going. While on exchange, the greatest opportunity is to meet people from various different countries, getting to know the locals and experiencing life as the locals do. If you are constantly with your friends, would that give you the opportunity to really live the new life?"

(Poroshat Damavandi 4A EnvE)

These aren't all exactly "tweet size", and I had hoped for more, but, with only a few hours to reply, we got a pretty good response. These comments have some good advice in them. If your interest has been piqued, get in touch with Cindy Howe, go to the Engineering Exchange Website www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~exchange, and start planning your adventure on Exchange!

the most time. At this point you can always talk about how bad (or good) your profs are, how uncomfortable and squeaky the chairs are and mention any other random fact you know about the buildings you spend your daily life in. If you want to convince them that the lecture halls are really bad then you may want to consider showing them the rooms in the basement of RCH.

At this point if you really cannot think of any other buildings to show off, you may want to consider the following: Dana Porter Library; the view from the top (spare your guests the pain and take the elevator) is amazing and you can always mention that rumour about how it's sinking into the ground, Davis Center; it's such colourful building, sure to cheer anyone up, SLC; mention the random events you've attended at the Bomber and explore the underground (did you know there was a Hair Salon?) and if all else fails, visit the Environment and Information Technology building; there's dinosaurs and a really cool fountain.

At this point you've certainly exhausted your guests and your knowledge of random, interesting facts about Waterloo so it's probably time to head to somewhere comfortable and sit down for a nice long chat. After all, your guest is probably interested in talking to you if they took the trouble of coming to Waterloo.

What People Say After Exchange

PETER ROE
DIRECTOR OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

I asked Cindy Howe (cindy@engmail.uwaterloo.ca) to contact students who have been on exchange and solicit "tweet-size" comments on their experiences. Because I'm going away to drum up more exchange opportunities, we didn't have time to get many replies. So here are all four of the responses that came in half a day:

1. "I went to Nanyang Tech. Inst. in Singapore for my exchange. Overall, it was a splendid experience. In my opinion exchange is enjoyable by everyone no matter what kind of personality you have. When you go to another country and find yourself in a totally different environment, and experience a complete different culture, you get to be yourself in a completely different way. I feel that I would not have enjoyed my stay in Singapore as much as I did being a student. This is because University life is a totally different life style and it brings to you many conveniences such as meeting locals of the same age group and other foreign students who are there for the very same reason you are.

If you love travelling, then exchange is definitely a must for you! If you select Singapore as your destination or any other country in that region, it is very convenient for you to visit several of the nearby countries. Weather is almost wonderful all year round, except that certain exotic places may not operate during monsoon seasons. And watch out for the Tsunami!

I recommend that you are well aware of the course contents before your exchange and that you obtain approvals for all of your courses beforehand. Don't forget to obtain a bank draft from here which can be deposited into a bank in your country of choice. Do not travel alone! If you are travelling alone then make sure you don't reach the country too late. This way you can make friends from the very start and plan out your travels. It is highly recommended that you master the art of bargaining when you go out shopping... it also helps to travel with a local of the country you are visiting." (Muhammad Hemad Khan 4B EE)

2. "There are two types of people in this world: Ones that like to stay home and ones that explore." and "Don't stay in Waterloo in between October to June - exchange is your only hope." (Albert Chen 4A SyDe)

3. "Going on exchange gives you the chance to experience a new lifestyle in another coun-



CPH should be the first stop of any tour of the engineering buildings.

Trevor Jenkins

Region Plays God, For Science!



JON MARTIN
2A CIVIL

A recent article in the KW Record proudly showed off a brand new device that will hopefully start showing up in every ambulance in the near future. The device in question is a small machine called an “impedance threshold device”, it resembles a door knob, and will cost approximately \$75. The device is used in conjunction with CPR when a person has a heart attack, to improve blood flow to the heart. The device has been undergoing clinical testing over the last two years, with Waterloo Region paramedics among eight Ontario ambulance services in the study.

With the clinical trial now finished results are looking extremely positive – in some areas the chance of survival of an out of hospital cardiac arrest was increased from 8% to as high as 23%. This amazing improvement will hopefully prove the effectiveness of the device and get it out there saving lives as soon as possible.

Unfortunately some lives may have been lost in pursuit of the proof needed to implement the device. The study was conducted as a ‘blind test’ with half the ambulances having real devices and half having fake

devices. This is where the question comes in, how many people died who could have been saved had the paramedics been given a real device?

I personally was shocked when I read the article, thinking of all the families who will now be wracked by the thought that their loved one could still be alive. Couldn't the study have been implemented across the entire fleet of ambulances, with results compared to historical data rather than splitting the response type? The standard blind test used in drug testing involves the patients signing a waiver, they acknowledge the chance that they could not receive the new miracle drug that could save their lives. They participate because there is a chance it could help them. In the case of a person suffering from a heart attack before being treated by paramedics, where is the waiver, where is the consent? Every person has the right to life saving treatment, that is why we Canadians pride ourselves on our health care system.

In this case it appears that science has taken precedence over human life, a terrible thing could be prevented if your flip of the coin is favourable. Do you get the new life saving treatment, or not, who knows? I just hope the clinical reviews and legal battles are quickly resolved so that these life saving devices can begin to help everyone, in every corner of the world.

EngSoc Election Results



MICHAEL SELISKE
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

The elections have concluded, and your new Engineering Society ‘B’ executives have been chosen. If you have been living under a rock for the last week and still don't know the results then I guess I'm not writing this article for nothing.

Running from Saturday November 21 to Tuesday November 24, the on-line voting period witnessed 1200 people answer their emails and vote. This works out to be 33.67% of eligible voters, which shattered the previous voter turnout records of terms passed. The first years turned out in droves making up 41.1% of the total votes with the class of 2013 totalling 18.9%, 2012 with 18.8% and 2011 with 12.2%. Each individual department came out fairly equally, but Mechanical took the cake with 15.7% of the total vote.

With multiple contenders in 4 out of the 6 races, the election was very exciting and tense. Election Results were announced at TalEng following the entrance of The Tool. After the announcement, the new executives put on a skit to introduce themselves to members of

the present engineering student body. The new executives will officially be sworn in at tonight's (December 2nd) Engineering Society Potluck meeting. The results of the election are as follows.

- President**
Scott Rankin
- Vice-President External**
Kevin Ling
- Vice-President Internal**
Peter Kelly
- Vice-President Education**
Alex Hogeveen Rutter
- Vice-President Finance***
Mina Labib /Jon Warren
- WEEF Director**
Graham Stonebridge

*Mina Labib and Jon Warren are no longer one candidate according to the policy manual so Mina will be your VP Finance starting next term and continuing through the summer and then Jon will pick up the remaining 8 months starting Fall 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing exec, Colin MacPherson, and Angelo Alaimo for filling for me for class visits when I couldn't attend. I would also like to thank all of the candidates for running great campaigns, and lastly, I'd like to congratulate the winners wishing them a very successful 16 months.

Santa Claus Parade Festivities



CAILIN HILLIER
2B GEOLOGICAL

On Saturday November 21st, the Kitchener-Waterloo Santa Claus Parade took place in all its glory. The parade traveled along King Street, from Erb Street in uptown Waterloo to Cedar Street in downtown Kitchener. The KW Santa Claus Parade, organized by the Lions Club of Kitchener, celebrated its 45th anniversary this year. Over 101 different groups, including 14 bands and many floats, horse drawn vehicles, and walkers participated in this year's parade. I think the best costumes belonged to a bunch of Alice in Wonderland characters that definitely should have been at Semi Formal.

The weather was mostly cooperative, with no precipitation during the actual event. Although the sun wasn't out, everyone's smiles certainly brightened the day. Once the parade started going, the temperature out on the parade route was dandy as well.

The Engineering Society was the only University of Waterloo affiliation to participate in the parade. Our float was a fun representation of our faculty.

The Mini Baja Team and Clean Snow Mobile Team had their vehicles on our makeshift-trailer-float, with many team members walking alongside during the parade. Their enthusiasm was a great contribution to the day. EngSoc President, Cat Hay, and six Toolbearers rode along the parade route in the back of the Student Team pickup truck, proudly displaying The Tool. On several occasions, engineers standing on the sidelines watching the parade ran up with their iron rings to touch The Tool.

The directors of the Santa Claus Parade, Andrew Fisher, Dave Halford, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to both Andrew Spreitzer and Rob Sterling for picking up the trailer and driving in the parade. Also, to everyone that helped to decorate, many thanks! Things went off without a hitch (get it, hitch... like a trailer? Oh, too funny).

All in all, it was a great day. Whoever does this directorship in the future should really go overboard. This event has a great amount of potential to really showcase the Engineering Society in a positive light to the community. The parade was filmed by Rogers TV; if you missed it on TV these past few weekends but still want to check it out, it is still airing Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 6:00 PM, Saturday, Dec 12, at 2:00 PM, and Monday, Dec 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM.



Andrew Spreitzer

Homework Headaches- A Move to Ban Homework?

HOBYUNG LEE
2A MANAGEMENT

So it all started with a Calgary family. After going through years of homework struggles with their kids, a Calgary family took matters into their own hands and finalized a legal contract with their kids' school stating that their children would not be given homework.

According to this contract, the teacher can't send home any school work that will contribute to their grades. They can only be marked based on what the teacher sees in the classroom. But the kids have to hold up their end of the bargain too. They must complete all their work in class and go to class prepared every day. Once they get home, they must practice an instrument and read every night.

And this contract got me, as well as a lot of other people, thinking.

Is there too much homework given to kids?

One of the main reasons as to why this family implemented this contract was because they were sick and tired of constantly struggling with their kids every night, standing over them and waiting for them to finish up. And don't get them wrong, they value education (the parents are lawyers). It's just that they wanted to focus on homework on their own terms. For example, their daughter had trouble spelling, but they couldn't focus on that because she had a bunch of other homework to do.

And that's fair. If I have trouble doing my multiplication tables, shouldn't I be focusing on that instead of other stuff? If I have trouble on a reading assignment because I can't read, is finishing that math assignment really going to help me out?

And to help out their no homework policy, there have been studies that show there is no direct correlation between the amount of homework a student does and school success in the early grades. In terms of time spent on homework, the study says that for every grade you're in, you should do 10 minutes of homework a night. So if you're in grade 2, 20 minutes of homework a night, grade 3, 30 minutes etc. And

once you get to high school, homework should be capped at 2 hours a night.

And for this family, the implementation of this contract means a year spent as an actual family. No more pencils, no more books, no more nights of long division and book reports.

But is this actually a good thing? Are the parents doing a service to their kids by getting rid of homework?

While the idea of going through school without homework sounds like absolute bliss, isn't the idea of getting rid of homework, or even reducing the amount kids are getting doing a disservice for their future education?

Truth be told, I don't remember a lot about my homework schedule when I was in grade 2. I remember that I did get some, but I don't ever recall it bringing me to the verge of tears. I remember going home, sitting in front of the TV and watching Arthur and The Magic School Bus. I'd then eat dinner, watch some more TV, then get started on my work. Did I hate it? Of course I did. I just wanted to watch more TV or go play tag outside. But looking back now, I had already done all those fun things. While homework was an inconvenience, it never got to the point where I could never have fun or play. That's what Waterloo has done, but not grade school.

I don't know. Maybe it's gotten much more hectic. Maybe they're sending kids home with hours and hours of stuff to do.

But to recall on something that actually happened in this century, high school was never too bad. And when it did get bad, it was only because I always left things until the last minute.

Yes, certain things came easier to me than to other students. Like math for example (totally not a lie...). But at the same time, I could never get good grades on any of my essays while others could write wonderful perspective pieces on *The Handmaid's Tale* in a single night. And speaking of which, isn't that what the 'applied' and 'academic' courses were made for? It makes sense that some things come easier to some than others. Hence the streaming. Now, I'm not saying that the system in place is perfect, but it's in place for a rea-

son.

And again, to my recollection, it was never about the amount of homework, but how I managed my time. For me, it's always been about time management, and it still is to this day. The only reason why I'm sorta decent at managing my time is because I had no other choice back in high school. Yes, I still slack off, but through the experience of getting homework, I've managed to kinda keep things under control.

Which brings me back to the family in Calgary.

I've never been a parent. But from what I understand, running a family is crazy work. Like, stupid-crazy-stressful-I-wanna-shoot-myself-while-laying-in-a-pool-of-acid-watching-nothing-but-Twilight-and-getting-pooped-on difficult. And with that being said, would all that be possible without some semblance of time management skills? Isn't that what homework helps to develop?

I remember in high school (and even today) when I would complain that there was just too much work given to us, say how unfair it was and yadda yadda yadda. But is it really too much? Just look at all the kids who do well, both here and back in high school. They were always on top of things. Heck, they could probably do even more work and still have time to spare. And why is that? It's because when the smart folk and the not-so-smart folk get an assignment, the smart people get on it right away. Me? I usually leave it until a couple days before its due then scramble to catch up and finish. If I had started right away, I'd probably be hard pressed to complain.

Look, every single one of us in engineering are intelligent, capable people. We wouldn't be here if we weren't. Now, we all know how hectic it can be, the amount of work, blood, sweat and tears that need to be invested to get a barely passing grade in MATH115 (I say all this hoping that I'm not the only one who has no idea what a vector space is). [Editor's Note: I assume it's like a crawl space, but instead of storing junk you keep your extra vectors] For the amount of work that we do, would 2 hours a night in high school have pre-

pared you? Not me. And I wasn't. Time management (or lack thereof) is a big reason why I've failed a semester.

The big issue seems to be the amount of homework kids are getting, and I don't necessarily agree. I went through high school and I feel as if it wasn't enough. Maybe I needed more preparation. I don't know. But what I do know is that people shouldn't be focusing on the amount of work given, but the quality of work. I think parents should be asking teachers not about the amount, but about what they're kids are actually doing. For example, I once had to create a huge poster full of cutouts from magazines and the internet about my favourite artists in music. A full, 2-bristol board poster. What on earth does a poster have to do with anything? It's not going to make me any better at the sax, and I spent countless number of hours on something that I know contributed nothing to my education. The only thing it did was raise my blood pressure. It was literally close to killing me. It's stuff like that that needs to be addressed. So instead of complaining about amount, it should be content under question. Parents should be asking "Does this assignment help my kid understand what's going on?". Not saying "My goodness he has 4 assignments due next week!".

It's not the perfect solution, but I think it does a whole lot more than just asking for a reduction in the workload.

Other Homework Bans In Canada

The *Toronto District School Board* implemented new homework restrictions in Fall 2008 that included:

- No homework during long weekends or holiday breaks.
- No homework for those below Grade 6, except for reading and talking to their parents and a cap of 1 hour a night for those in Grade 7 and 8.
- No more than two hours for high school students.



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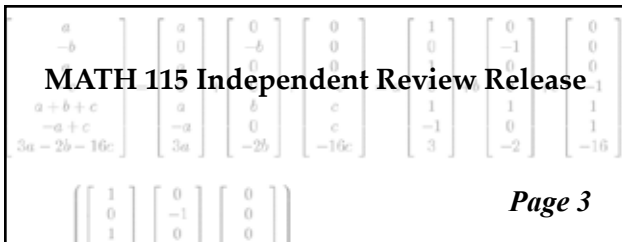
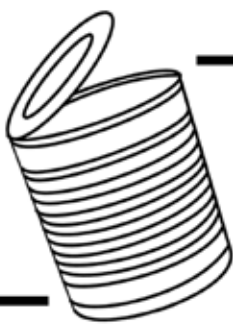
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OMG- We're done layout before 9pm!!! NEW WORLD RECORD!

New FEDS Building Referendum Heats Up

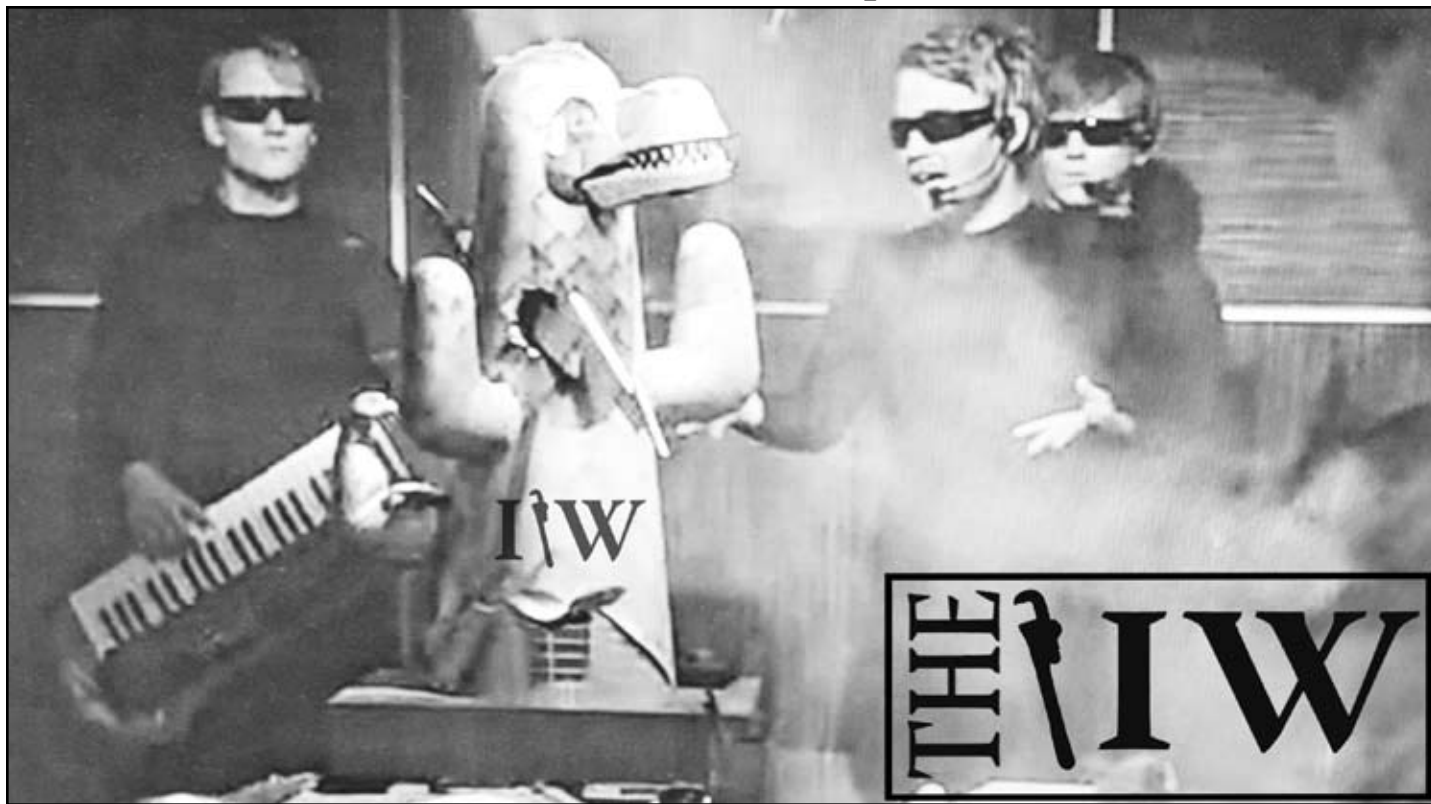
The Iron Warrior Decides It Needs More Space

BARNEY STINSON
GOLIATH NATIONAL BANK TIN SOLDIER

In light of students voting against the Student Services Complex in the recent Federation of Students (FEDS) referendum, the administration has been much more lenient and open to alternative suggestions on how to use the now unallocated space of parking lot H. *The Iron Warrior* was first on the scene to cover this story, and took the opportunity to attempt to solve its own lack of space problems.

With the recent surge of first-year interest in *The Iron Warrior*, the small, windowless office in what appears to have formerly been a laundry room is proving to be inadequate for the growing conglomerate. Meetings have become overcrowded and one of the Assistant Editors has resorted to arbitrarily punishing staff members by promoting them to Advertising Manager. So far this has proven to be a highly effective approach to reducing crowding, however it is unlikely that this solution can be permanent so a new building will be ultimately required to support the needs of a thriving media outlet.

As *The Iron Warrior* has been having some financial difficulties in recent years, a FEDS referendum was the best way to go since the cost of the building would be coming out of the pockets of future students. Furthermore, *The Iron Warrior* would not have to spend its own resources



Swedish architecture collective (not company) SVEN! display the proposed Iron Warrior building. Students will take to the polls to fund the project in an upcoming referendum.

on advertising since FEDS promotes the yes side of referendums anyway.

While the administration was initially skeptical of the dinosaur design of the building, they were easily convinced that the fire-breathing functionality of such an office also serves the practical purpose of incinerating print media from competing

campus organizations. This would give *The Iron Warrior* a greater competitive edge in the cutthroat campus media market. While there are some deviations from the design, which was originally prepared for Goliath National Bank, *The Iron Warrior's* advisory board has opted to keep the strip club in the letter 'N' if the referendum

passes.

When asked for comments on why the board selected this proposal for a referendum over other, more legitimate proposals, the *Tin Soldier* was hard-pressed to find a legitimate comment. However, board members readily suggested that the proposal was "awesome" or "legendary".

Bacon Lung Epidemic hits the UW Campus

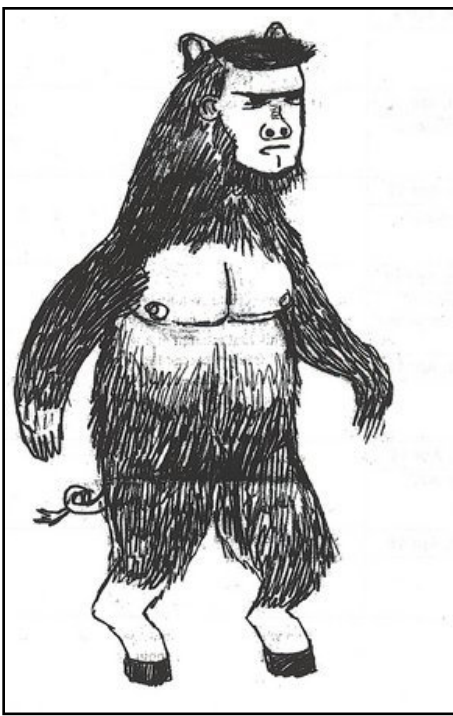
ALISON LEE
NOT AL GORE

Lately, a lot of attention has been given to the swine flu but, just as the vaccine has been made available, a new, even more dangerous strain has developed. This virus, known informally as bacon lung, causes fevers so high that the tissue surrounding the lungs becomes slightly crisp, emitting a smell similar to bacon. If this didn't make breathing extremely uncomfortable, one might even enjoy such an aroma, however the appealing smell is the reason bacon lung is spreading so fast! Healthy people are attracted to the smell of bacon frying, but as they seek out a free breakfast, they end up inhaling the virus, which plants itself initially in the stomach. The onset of symptoms is not immediate, but victims are extremely hungry in the stages before the fever, so beware of mooching friends.

So far, there have only been about a dozen cases on campus, but Health Services expects the epidemic to peak in mid-December, especially in areas like the Village 1 cafeteria, where there is an abundance of greasy air. Ontario's Health Minister Deb Matthews has made no official statement regarding this public health threat, but was seen yesterday demolishing five Baconators in one sitting. UW Health Services has

promised to offer vaccines when they become available, but so far all we can do is take preventative measures. This strain, medically termed H1N1 ManBearPig, is extremely difficult to isolate because it is half man, half bear, and half pig, which means that it is 50% more deadly than the original H1N1, which had only two halves. Luckily Al Gore has been championing this cause in the United States for some time and the documentary should be out in a couple of months.

What can you do to save yourself from bacon lung? If you're a vegetarian, you're off to a good start, but if you're a bacon lover, then you'll want to stay on high alert. Can you see the bacon you're smelling, or is it coming from that guy two seats in front? Is it hot in here, or is it just you? If it's just you, then you should isolate yourself un-



An artist's composite of a manbearpig.

til you're sure you aren't hungry, porky, or oinking. In a number of documented cases, tissue damage around the lungs can cause an oinking or squealing sound when the victim coughs, or in the worst cases, by merely breathing.

If you feel like you have flu symptoms, but your cough sounds like a barnyard, you need to seek medical attention. If your fever is very high and you think you smell bacon, rest up and drink vinegar to cut the grease. When people start knocking on your door because they smell bacon, tell them to call 911 because your bacon lung is bad! Luckily, most cases are not fatal, just extremely contagious. The most vulnerable members of the public are those who hang out in fast food joints because their noses have become desensitized to bacony aromas. McDonald's has recently announced that it

Staying Healthy

- Get the Swine Flu vaccine; you'll be two halves of the way there!
- Minimize the time you spend making out with men, bears, and pigs.
- Take frequent showers so that no one can accuse you of smelling like a pig
- You are what you eat: avoid excessive intake of bacon fat
- Don't breathe and you won't die of Bacon Lung

will include a self-administrable Bacon lung shot in every Happy Meal when it becomes possible. "We care about the health of our future long-term customers and wouldn't want them to suffer because of artificial bacon," said a spokesperson.

Most businesses and public service organizations have been skeptical of the existence of H1N1 ManBearPig, but it's real guys! Bacon Lung strikes when you least expect it- breakfast, lunch and dinner! Take this article seriously and protect yourself from the impending aporkalypse. Go on a diet or try breathing less. These are both proven methods to prevent illness. Also, keep an eye on the news, an ear out for squealers, and beware of delicious bacon-smelling omnonyms! For the love of bacon, be smart and be a man. Do the right thing!

Eastern European Survival Guide

EASTERN EUROPEAN SURVIVOR (UNFORTUNATELY)

This past August, two brave UW Engineering girls travelled to the Czech Republic to take in the sights, people, and small international conference on the side. Venturing towards the more Eastern side of Europe, we undoubtedly walked away from conventional tourism and more often than not took the road less travelled. Although we both highly recommend spending time abroad in the Czech Republic (it truly is a gorgeous country with so much to offer), there are some rules we conjured up during our travels that are a must for any first-time Eastern European traveller.

Rule #1: Don't get hit by a car.

One thing you'll notice as soon as you step of the plane is that driving in Europe as a whole is a completely different ball game from what we're familiar to here at home. Although the average driver is used to some aggression from other drivers on the road here, pedestrians are usually guaranteed some level of safety. Not so much the case over there. Pedestrians are viewed more so as racing pylons than people and jaywalking falls under the category of an extreme sport. So take care when dealing with traffic, and assure that your trip doesn't get cut short by an accident sending you to the hospital and leaving the driver with a 50 point tourist bonus. Note that there are also subsections of this rule applying to buses, trams, trains, and very large people on motorcycles.

Rule #2: Drink beer every day.

Here's a heads-up to all the beer-loving readers: the national beverage of the Czech Republic is, you guessed it, beer. You heard right, they have an official national beverage, and it is beer. Their most popular brand, Pilsner Urquell, is delicious and available at almost every pub, bar and restaurant around, but larger establishments typically have a wide selection to satisfy every taste. Here's the best part; the average pint goes for around 30 CZK, or Czech Crowns. For those not familiar with foreign currencies, that translates to around \$2.00 Canadian. Any more than this and you're getting ripped off. All the more reason to show your suddenly discovered Czech pride by indulging daily in their national beverage.

Rule #3: Jim is Canadian.

We'll admit, this one needs a bit of explaining. While wandering through Prague, we stumbled across this bar with live music by the Vltava River. The first thing that struck us as odd was that the singer had absolutely no accent. After he was done his set, we approached him and asked him where he was from. This is how we met Jim, the guitar-playing traveller from Toronto who has been living in Prague for the past four years. We spent the rest of the night swapping stories and travel advice and had an amazing time with our first not-so-foreign European friend. Moral of the story: keep your ears open while abroad, as if you hear a familiarly non-accent ridden voice, it probably belongs to someone from more your side of town.

Rule #4: Don't get lost.

If you're like me and have the directional sense of a goldfish, getting lost in a foreign country can mean serious bad news. Good rule of thumb: always keep a map with you, especially one that has

the locations of major landmarks since roads in Europe look more like a pile of cooked spaghetti than anything else and were named by the last place contestant of a boggle tournament. Traveling with friends? Stick together! You don't need to get matching shirts and hold onto a coloured rope, but two or more heads are usually better than one when you're trying to find your way back to your hostel.

Rule #5: Don't die.

Yay for priorities! This is where we'd like to take the time to mention that these rules we're invented in order of which they were encountered, and not that of importance to your health. Moving right along, the Czech countryside has tonnes of gorgeous hiking trails with beautiful castle ruins dotted along the way dating as far back as the 12th century. Although these are spectacular and highly recommended, it just so happens that accessibility tends to deteriorate over time as well. Some require a bit of a climb to reach certain areas and can be quite dangerous, so just be careful. As we came to discover, this rule can also be applied to many other scenarios outside of the historic ruin setting so it's definitely one to take note of.

Rule #6: When taking a train, get seats, especially at night.

While travelling from Brno to Prague on an overnight train, we made some landmark discoveries about the European train system as well as human physiology. Firstly, overnight trains tend to consist mainly of "sleep cars" with rooms instead of seats that are configured to let passengers sleep during longer trips. Also, if you're getting on this train halfway through its voyage and fail to find the car with normal seats, most of these rooms will be full and you will be out of luck and forced to improvise. Secondly, spending two and a half hours in the middle of the night sitting on your luggage between cars outside of the public bathroom is uncomfortable, awkward, smelly and will leave you feeling a little bit like a dirty gypsy. All the more reason to find the beautiful luxury that is a second class chair.

Rule #7: Don't get raped by a taxi driver, especially on the way to the airport.

Alright, you've almost made it. You've taken in your European vacation with lots of beer, got a seat on the train, met some fellow Canadian travellers and are on your way to the airport injury and death free. Needless to say its nothing short of dramatically tragic if you get taken down on your way to your flight home. Don't get me wrong, there are some legitimate cab companies over there that are perfectly safe and legitimate, just do your research beforehand. At the same time, it doesn't take much over there to strap a light to the roof of your car, or the next best thing, throw on a blazer and a hat and call yourself a taxi man. While on the home stretch, watch your wallet and your butt.

Next time you find yourself with some extra time and some well deserved saved up co-op cash and feel like doing some travelling, dare to be a little unconventional. If this trip taught us anything it's that some of the most amazing experiences can be had in the most unlikely locations. So grab your camera, map and passport and dare to go somewhere different.

Happy Travels!

Google Predictive Search

RAREMY STEFFER

PROCRASTINATING ON PDENG ASSIGNMENT

Google[™]
Canada

pdeng is

pdeng is why i decided not to go to waterloo	41,200 results
pdeng is more useless than google wave	7,040 results
pdeng is why im donating all my money to laurier	31,400 results
pdeng is a course that cannot be done sober	113,000 results
pdeng isscrew it, I have grace days.	92,400 results
pdeng is why we cant have nice things	82,700 results
pdeng is making me an alcoholic	93,900 results
pdeng is worse than being in arts	34,000 results
pdeng is why I left UW	38,900 results
pdeng is how chuck norris died	15,300 results

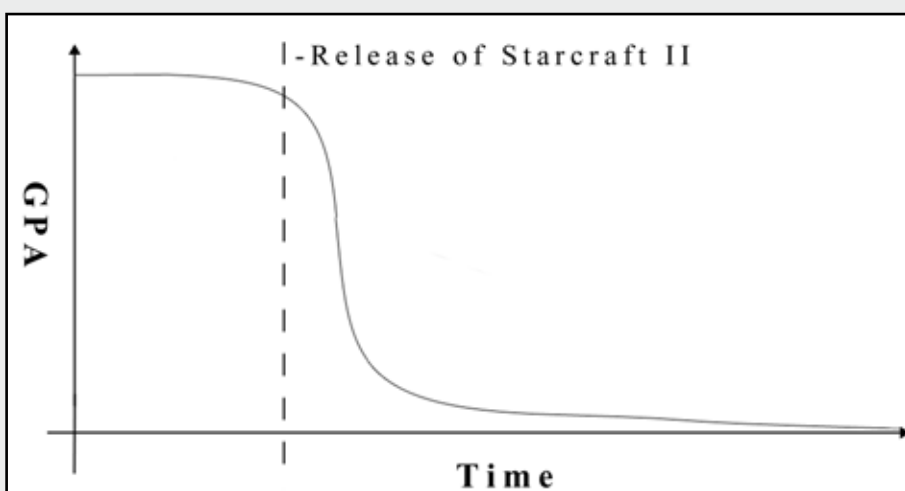
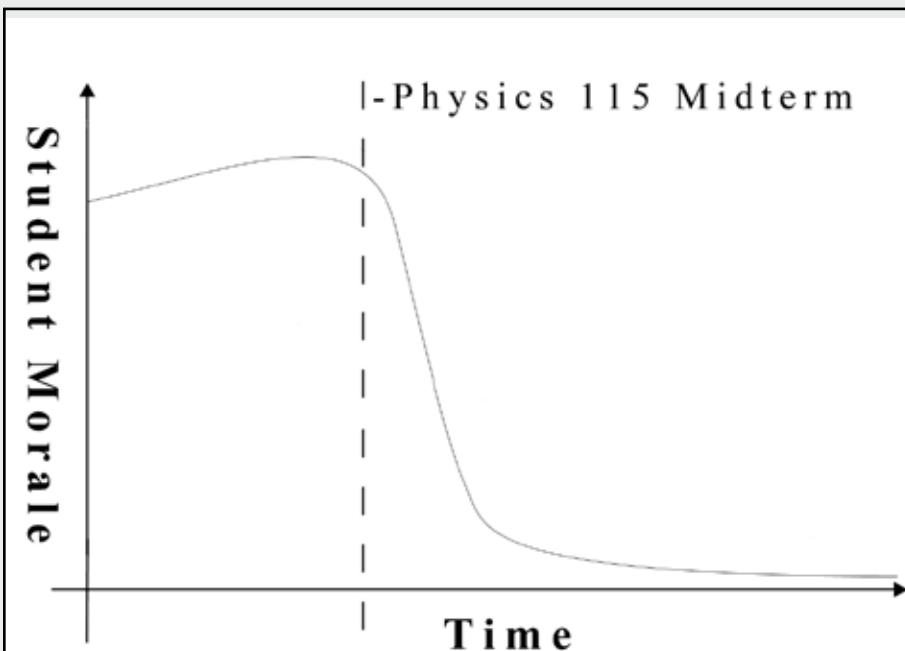
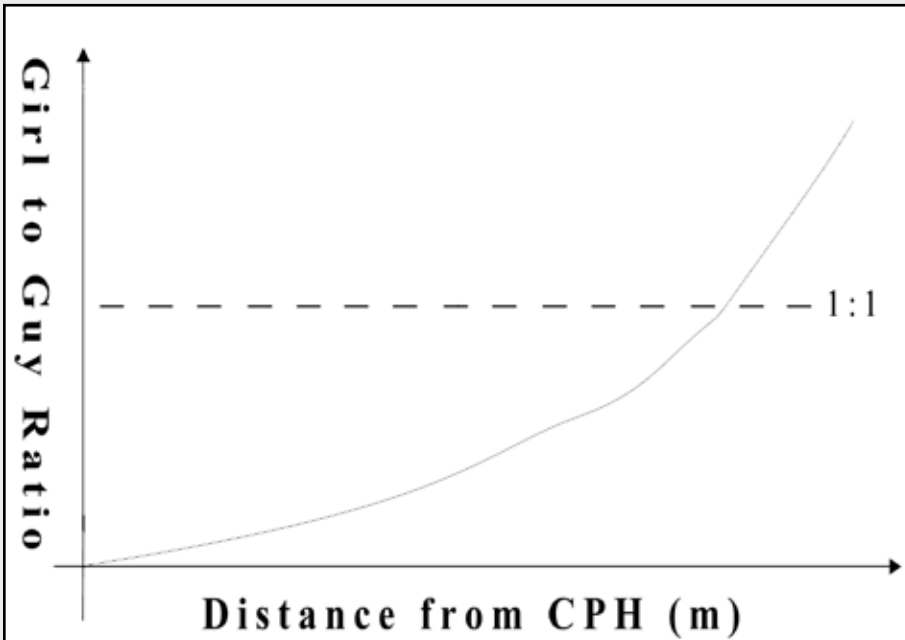
Advanced Search
Language Tools

close

Overlooked Stats in the UW Performance Indicators Report

KILOMETERS BURN

I FAILED ENGINEERING AND WENT INTO STATS. FML.



Graphs by Roy Lee

Punk in Drublic: Malt Liquor and Shochu

DAN AND NEIL
DIRTY, ANARCHO, DIY PUNKS

Check it. This is Punk in Drublic and Dan and Neil are here to tell you what the punks (the real, dirty, anarcho, DIY punks) are downing at today's basement shows, both here and in Japan. So whether you're into old school punk, hardcore, ska, grind, or crust, blast some f**kin tunes and read on. (None of that pretentious post-punk stuff though, that crap can be left to trickle out of your little white ear-buds while you browse Banana Republic, poser.)

Dan: We all know that in North America, it's all about the malt liquor. Whether it's in a glass forty or a huge can, this is definitely the beverage of choice for your modern day punk. Here are a couple examples that are bound to litter the floor after any good punk show.

Colt 45 - This shit's pretty good. I could definitely see myself chillin' to some ska with this one since it's not too intense; only 6.5%. That also means it's ultra refreshing for all those backyard summer shows. The flavour isn't top notch but it's definitely not a bad drink. Hell, my band rocked these behind the dumpster at our gig last night. Didn't have time to

finish 'em though, the pigs showed up so we chucked the cans at their junk and booked it. Cops can't run, brah. [4 facial piercings /5]

Olde English 800 - Punk. F**king. Rock. A forty of malt liquor at its finest. It's like if you squeezed out every sweaty band shirt after a giant circle pit, and put it in a bottle. Never has something tasted so bad but so good at the same time. Plus the 8% alcohol makes sure you're ready to whale on the indie kids in no time. This stuff craps all over those pussy PBR drinkin' hipsters. Time to throw on some Misfits and mosh by myself in my parent's basement! [5 cut-off denim vests /5]

Neil: Forties of malt liquor during a concert? Sure that'll work, but it's so f**king cliché. In Japan, we prefer our own shit; one point eight liter bottles of 25% shochu. Balls out! When



Olde English 800: A forty of malt liquor at its finest.

Japanese punks drink shochu, they aren't looking for some half-assed social drinking, they're looking to get right f**ked up! If you

thought English lyrics were badass before, wait 'till you hear it with a slur! Fashion? Don't just settle for ripped jeans and a mohawk, double that shit; throw on two studded belts and a bitchin' double mohawk for good measure. Be sure to rock it in public; trains or crowded bridges work well. But when doing so, turn up the Dead Kennedys on your oversized Sony headphones. They're so dope that they might offend your conservative neighbour! Disobeying the police, f**k that! Drinking in public is allowed, so we just politely move on and drink somewhere else so that we can get even more drunk! No need to waste a half empty bottle of liquor on 'the man'.

Big cheap 1000 yen bottle - Drinking cheap shochu can normally be difficult, often requiring some water to mask the relative shittiness; unless you're a punk. Down that shit, feel the burn, then pass it on to your identical punk twin. Repeat until the world



Shochu: Down it like Japanese punks!

becomes a corrupt place that you need to rebel against. Then drink more until you can't taste anything at all. That's when it's time to go to the show, but be careful not to spew on the gothic lolitas, they spent three hours to get that cute and dirty look. [5 sewn on anarchy patches/5]

MATH 115 Independent Review Released

Shocking Revelations Released About Linear Algebra



NEO
THE MATRIX

For years, there has been student discontent with MATH 115 - a linear algebra course taken by first year students during their 1A academic term, but on the morning of Friday November 27th, all undergraduate engineering students received an email from the Engineering Undergraduate Office indicating the MATH 115 Independent Review report was now available for reading and review.

Even though the review was recently released, students are severely disappointed as the review, originally initiated by Dean Douglas Wright in 1962, took 47 years to complete. Back in 1962, students persistently expressed their concerns about the MATH 115 course to administration, but were ignored. Through participating in protest marches, and sit-ins, students pressured administration to examine the disconnect between the course and the real world. In addition to the aforementioned disconnect, students complained about content, the delivery of the course, and the negative effects the course has on students. Quantitatively, 91% of students indicated that they were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the MATH 115 course offering.

As mentioned, many students do not feel there is a strong connection between the content of MATH 115 and their work terms. The difficulty lies in the fact that students are in such diverse and ever-changing coop placements. It is almost impossible for the content to be directly related to every student's experience. Furthermore, there have been topics presented in MATH 115 that many students did not find valuable or even applicable whatsoever. For example, the specific exercise of finding Eigen vectors was not received well by the student population. Students and alumni who have taken the course were surveyed, and 97% of students indicated they have never applied any of the concepts taught in the MATH 115 course in the workplace.

One contentious issue associated with MATH 115 is that it's not a real course because the majority of the content does not focus on real numbers, but on numbers considered to be imaginary. Due to this focus on imaginary numbers, it is felt, the resources allocated to the offering would be better used to support a real course.

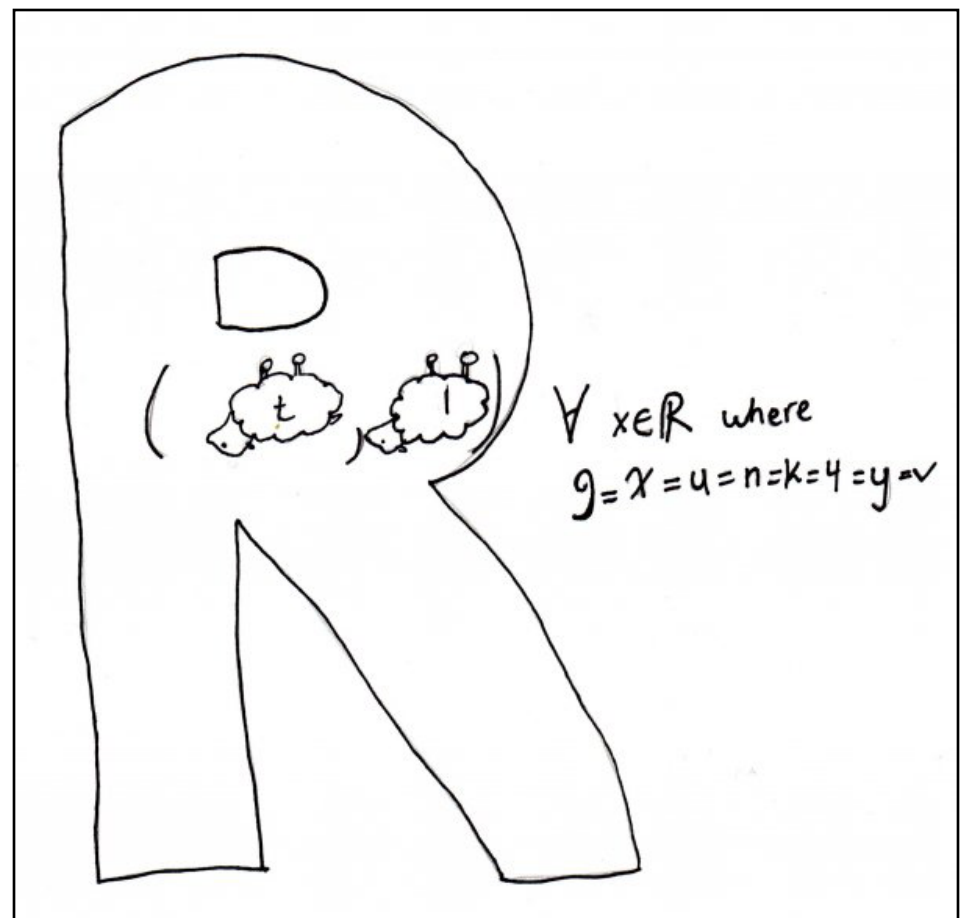
Councillors working at Counselling Service

es have observed negative effects on the mental health of students taking the course due to additional stress it causes. As mentioned, the MATH 115 course is offered in the 1A term. Students in their 1A term are new to the University and have yet to adapt to the demanding unfamiliar environment. The general consensus felt among students is that the MATH 115 course is very time consuming, but offers little more than extra stress for students, and has been a significant cause of failure of the 1A term. Students used terminology like: bitterness, humiliation, and loss of self-confidence to describe their reaction to constantly scoring poorly on course exams.

The classroom environment in which the course is offered is very frustrating for both students and instructors of MATH 115. The communication features are severely limited due to the fact that students can have difficulty understanding their professors, especially when professors go on multiple tangents about "mattresses" when the topic being taught deals with matrices. Moreover, students feel there is not sufficient opportunity to ask questions about course material as instructors will limit student questions when running behind the course schedule.

Students have shown strong disconcert with the assessment based nature of the course. Upon return of marked assignments and exams, feedback given is limited to a series of checkmarks, X's, and circles which provides students no real feedback on what was done wrong or how they could improve. Furthermore, students have expressed grave concern over the lack of a resubmission policy that would allow them to resubmit tests and exams after an initial attempt. The resubmission policy would be an opportunity for a student to learn from their mistakes, and would help to boost student morale, as well as school spirit.

Due to the seriousness of the issue surrounding the MATH 115 program, the Dean's office commissioned a panel consisting of three very distinguished people within the world of math. Carl Friedrich Gauss, who proved the fundamental theorem of algebra, Gabriel Cramer, who created Cramer's Rule, and Abraham de Moivre, who is best known for de Moivre's formula each visited the campus in 1975. Both Engineering Societies created separate packages for the reviewers containing student feedback collected over a 13 year period starting in 1962. After meeting with MATH 115 instructional and support staff on campus, as well as reviewing the EngSoc packages, recommendations were outlined in the final



A student's interpretation of MATH 115: "invertible matrix/mattress (serta sheep) in R- space"

report distributed November 27th. A few of these recommendations are outlined below.

1. MATH 115, should not be taught by Math professors, but Engineering Professors, because let's face it - Engineers don't care about proofs, they just want to know how the random Greek symbols scribbled across endless chalkboards day in and day out can make them money.

2. Eliminate those X's, and circles in the marking of midterm and final exams, and just use checkmarks. Not only will you be helping the environment by saving ink, but this will also relieve the massive stress caused by the possibility of failing MATH 115.

3. Relationships between course staff and the engineering student body, must be healed by donating several kegs of beer to each of term events for the next 47 years - the amount of time to complete the independent review.

In addition to the independent review, the Engineering Undergraduate Office has also sent out a message to all enrolled students encouraging them not to disengage in the MATH 115 course, "For those of you currently enrolled or about to be enrolled in the MATH 115 course, it's business as usual." Furthermore the Engineering Undergraduate Office states, "MATH 115 is an essential component of the Waterloo Engineering curriculum and is here to stay."

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Experiencing the Engineering Spirit: Ultimate Frisbee

CHUCK NORRIS
WALKER, TEXAS RANGER

It was a gorgeous Sunday afternoon in Waterloo when Owen Couotts and Myles Tan were to play their intramural Ultimate Frisbee Game. After a Saturday of working on digital computation (6%) and watching movies (94%), the two were eager to get out and win another round of ultimate. Pushing aside the beer bottles and double gulp cups, the two ignored their usual tasks for the morning, and lazily socialized.

Knowing that ultimate is a sport which requires the upmost in physical excellence, unlike sports such as swimming, one would ask why there is no mention of pre-sport warm-ups, or what type of nutritional breakfast had been prepared. The reason, my friends, is that ultimate is not won simply on physical excellence, nutritional optimization, or muscular preparation. Ultimate is won on spirit. No, I'm not talking about stupid 'spirit points', where minor things such as punching and calling someone an "ass-ramming shit-face" would cost you big time. I'm talking about true spirit; how hard you play, how much you talk smack, how badass you look, these are the things that lead to victory on the Frisbee battle grounds.

Knowing that these are the true secrets to winning an ultimate game, I shall focus specifically the presentation of the athlete, as Owen and Myles have perfected all other aspects, and only a woman born in the 80's with a PhD in fashion could truly have a shot at mastering.

As per usual, Myles and Owen dressed in the only attire they knew to wear for an ultimate game.

Spartans suiting up for battle in their iconic armour, Myles and Owen took on the most vibrant, ridiculous, and thus respectful attire one could attain; a feat any seasoned ultimate player would be proud of, and would adhere to as if it were law. They then continued their journey towards the V1 green, like warriors



marching towards the Frisbee battle grounds.

Here arises another question to the average reader: "why is it that whenever I see a Frisbee game being played, nobody is ever dressed as appropriately as Myles and Owen were on this day?"

Well, one reason is that when Myles and Owen play Frisbee, the other team usually only lasts a few minutes, leaving a brief window to catch the duo in action. Also, Owen and Myles usually play on Sunday mornings, battling through the large hangover which many of you are still recovering from in bed.

But surely, this cannot be the answer to all of the cases, and the viewer is left with another daunting question: "why do so few people attempt to dress up according to the standards of

the Ultimate Frisbee unwritten laws?"

And it was this question that was answered on the sunny Sunday afternoon.

At first, the two suspected that it would be a typical ultimate game; arrive, go shot-for-shot with the ref, win, and celebrate over an iced-capp from the SLC Tim Horton's. And it was, except for one minor detail which changed the lives of Myles Tan and Owen Couotts forever.

Walking from UWP to the V1 green in full uniform, Myles and Owen accept the stares of awe and respect from other UW students. It was while crossing Ring Road in front of PAC, that Myles and Owen were stopped by a man in a light gold mid-size car. They were asked for directions, typical to think that people dressed so formally

would obviously know their way around. It was after the directions were given, as they were about continue on their way, the man in the driver's seat revealed the most awakening words of wisdom. "Nice colours, boys!" He said, referring to the apparel by duo, "they look good on you!" After a polite "thank you," they turned to walk away as the man accelerated up ring road. But before they parted ways, he spoke: "you two must be engineers."

It was only then that Myles and Owen realized the answer to that daunting question which had evaded them for years (not really). It is the awesomeness which only engineers and plumbers themselves attain that can truly allow one to be so elite at a game which is centered around spirit. With most other plumbers practicing for racing BOATs and crawling pubs, they are too busy to deal with other sports.

Thus, the spirit of the engineer is allowed to shine in the game of ultimate, and with so few engineers not racing BOATs or crawling pubs, the amount of adequately spirited ultimate players is desperately low. So as Myles and Owen marvelled about their discovery, they decided that this information must be shared with the world, the reason why you are here today, reading this tale of truth. Let it be known far and wide that the elite displays of awesomeness and excellence on the Frisbee battle ground, and perhaps any battle ground for that matter, that separate the strong from the weak, is simply the spirit of a true warrior shining through, the spirit of a University of Waterloo Engineer.

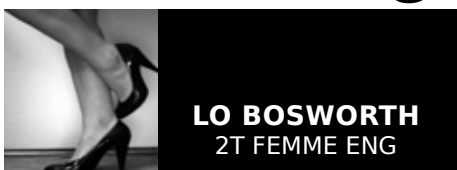
-Chuck Norris.

P.S. A picture has been attached for reference of the uniforms of Myles Tan (Right) and Owen Couotts (Left).

P.P.S. Swimming is a badass sport, and that comment was made simply to irritate a single person. If you are not that person (YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE), ignore that comment.

P.P.S Chuck Norris really wrote this.

The Estrogen Perspective: The Art of the Interview



Hey lovely readers,

Over the course of my time spent here I've learned to "love" and loathe the shenanigans that are typical of CECS. Along with ignoring any and all rules of typical logic on a daily basis, intense terms such as 'unprofessional' and 'inconsiderate' seem to be among their top adjectives of choice when describing students. I myself got my self-respect handed to me in a shredded heap when I had to cancel a last-minute interview I had scheduled for the next day. I tried to explain to my coordinator that the fact that I would be out of the country visiting family at the time of the interview might interfere with my ability to show up. After being beaten over the head for a solid half-hour, and nearly convinced that I was a terrible person for wanting to visit my family and not being able to predict a surprise interview in the process, I merely apologized for not having a more flexible flight schedule, or perhaps my own private plane, and left the room.

Being the slightly twisted and creative individual I am, I got to thinking of ways to spice up the typically dry interview process. What does one do with the interview for the job they can't take, don't want, or are being forced to attend for whatever other ridiculous reason? Most would say 'skip it', but I look at these as an opportunity for some fun. I wouldn't go so far as sabotage, these are potential employers after all, but perhaps just a way to brighten up the otherwise dry and monotonous days of these poor corporate puppets that I highly

doubt dreamed of spending their days yacking with university students about processing plants, life goals and things that go beep. Here are some ideas I've come up with that will definitely give them something to talk about at the water cooler for weeks to come:

1. Creative costuming.

This is one where you really get to let your personality shine through. If you're feeling really bold, I suggest wearing neon colours, spandex, anything shiny and/or glittery, and the more mis-matched the better. American Apparel has some really nice gold body suits right now. If you're feeling more conservative, but still want to be effective, I suggest a very bold hat, the larger and more colourful the better (bonus points for motorized moving parts). You can pair this with your typical interview outfit, be it a suit, dress pants & blouse, etc. If your interviewer asks you about the hat, simply reply that it is your 'chapeau de business' and then continue on with the interview.

2. Speaking in languages that aren't English.

This is a spin-off of a fun little game my friends and I used to play where we'd go into government offices and demand to be served in French. Being victims of the public school system however, anything beyond the conjugations of avoir was pure gibberish to us, but that didn't stop us from insisting on French-based service. Being the wonderfully multi-cultural institution we are, you have a wide range of languages to choose from, or their even more effective semi-English hybrids (Frenglish an-

you?). This one can become a little frustrating for the interviewer, but if played right can become wildly entertaining.

3. Allow me to explain through interpretive dance.

We've all been there, stuck stringing together some discount-paperback quality anecdote about one previous experience or another while your interviewer sits there and grins as they watch you sweat. I say why ramble on about that time you ran the dunk tank at the county fair, when some well placed high kicks and twirls can equally justify your time management skills? Forgot your Pointe shoes and

tutu at home? No worries! Feel free to explore the many genres of fine art. Personally, I think painting your responses would be rather impressive.

4. Two's company, three's a crowd.

So why not bring the whole gang? All the world's top important people roll with a posse, so you should too! The obvious clown-car effect that comes with stuffing a dozen people in those small TC interview rooms aside, having your own entourage of characters tag along with you can really add some charismatic colour to the interview. Theme your posse to suit your mood; have everyone suit-up, wear different colours, choose their own eccentric personalities, flight suit-up, answer your questions for you, and be sure to make a group-effort dramatic entrance (What's more impressive than being carried into an interview?). Also, why not share this hilarious experience with your friends as well?

5. Send your arts friend.

Don't lie; you all have one, that one good friend in arts who you secretly hang out with from time to time when you need a taste of the outside world. Ask them to do you a favour, and then give them the date, time and location of your interview. Ask them for a recap afterwards, and the tale of them either doing a full psychiatric analysis on the interviewer, or freaking out over the bombardment of technical questions will no doubt prove to be hilarious. If you don't think they can do it alone, then be sure to stick them in your posse (see #4).

See, interviews can be fun! So stop dreading them and tap into your creative side. Collectively we could completely reinvent the entire interview process (I've always thought the TC lobby would make a great dance hall).

Happy Interviews!

Stay fabulous,

Lo Bosworth

ohheytherelo@gmail.com

Top 5 Signs You Won't Get a Co-op Job

MAX VANHELING
1A MECHATRONICS

1. You borrow your interview outfit from Don Cherry
2. You borrow your interview outfit from Don Fraser
3. You're in 1A
4. You're very "Fluent in english"
5. You listened to CECS

A MOnth with a 'STACHE

ANISH BHUTANI
2T CHEMICAL

At the time that this newspaper is published, it will be December and many of the moustaches around the engineering buildings will be gone for another year. Many people often ask "What is it like going through an entire month with that disgusting moustache?" Today, you are going to find out. Maybe for the month of Movember, 2010, you will consider growing one yourself (or if you can't grow one, convincing someone who can to).

In the first week, the hairs begin budding above the upper lip and no one really knows what you are doing. People are perplexed as they cannot tell if you are trying to grow a moustache or if you have simply been too busy to shave. No one will comment on your odd new choice of facial hair, and when trying to get support for the Movember charity, no one believes that you will pull it off.

The second week of the month is when the moustache grower proves their toughness and dedication to the cause. At this point the moustache has begun growing, but has yet to cover the upper lip or reach the critical length required for respect. It is at this time that people will begin to notice that you are trying to grow a moustache and will make fun of you for it. This is also the time during the month when random strangers will stare at you on the bus and in the hallways as you try to mind your own business. As the third week of the month progresses,

those growing their 'staches will begin to notice the number of stares decreasing and the jokes increasing as their moustache begins to fill out and the hairs get longer. This splits all growers into two groups: those who look like they have a dark line over their lip, or as I have heard it put "Looks like you had a fight with a sharpie", and those with the random long stringy hairs that "make little children cry".



Anish has been told his moustache looks "like [he] got in a fight with a sharpie."

As the end of the month approaches, the epicness of the 'stache reaches its peak. Not epic like the 'stache of Hulk Hogan or Borat, but epic in the sense that everyone has come to respect the thing on your upper lip. It is at this time that anyone who looks at you will laugh; however, they will know exactly what you are growing it for.

So if you want to grow a 'stache, go ahead. There is nothing more awesome than a dirty bit of hair under your nose.

Open Your Eyes to the PDF

BENJAMIN SHEPHERD
1A MECHANICAL

We have entered a world of technology. We have computers, we have cell phones, we have the World Wide Web, and we have industry standards, but do we use them?

One of the most important computer standards I feel we have at this current moment is the Portable Document Format (PDF). Entering the University of Waterloo, I felt great when I logged into UW-ACE for the first time and found our first project waiting for me in PDF format. As my term has progressed though, I've become aware of some troubling inconsistencies in the information available on UW-ACE. All my chemistry documents are available as Word files, and many marks and data files have been presented in Excel files. This has been rather frustrating as many people find Microsoft Word and Excel documents either won't open for them or take a much longer time to open than other formats.

I feel we need to address this issue by taking steps to encourage standards that are already present in the broader computing world. I have found whenever I submit a document, it tells me in the drop box the specific file type the document must be in. I feel this also should be enforced on the instructor side as well. A reminder to upload assignments, tutorials, and other course information as a PDF would greatly simplify the end users experience and also bring greater compatibility to the system.

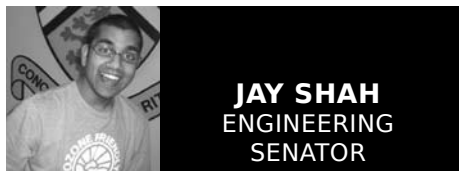
This shouldn't only be a responsibility of instructors though; I believe it should be a re-

sponsibility that should be shared by students alike. We submit many of our assignments for class online in Word documents which can be highly problematic. It does not seem so because the TA or instructor already has the Microsoft Office bundle as their main document editor. However, this changes when you enter the real world - whether you are graduating or going on a work term. Through experience, I have learned that you can make a good impression when you send someone a document in a standard format, like a PDF. Making a good impression to an employer, colleague, or peer can be as simple as sending them a document they can open with no hassles. This leaves people happier and more productive.

I am amazed that through my first 3 months of UW Engineering we have not had instructions on creating PDF documents, nor have we been required to submit a document in the PDF form- a single, simple task which could give a future employer a great first impression. They will receive and see exactly what you sent them. PDF's can be locked, opened within a browser, digitally and securely signed, the list goes on and on as you get more comfortable with the format. On top of this, the technology is free. Newer versions of Microsoft Word can save as PDF, as well, Apple Pages and TextEdit can easily export PDFs, and the Adobe Reader is a freely downloadable application that all of us should have already on our computers.

I believe it is our duty as students in a leading technological institution to take up industry standards and make our students, our program, and our staff stand out from the rest.

Engineering Senator Report



On November 16th, Senate met to decide the fate of Orientation Week's length. There was a record crowd of students who came to watch in protest. The student Senators engaged the rest of Senate with the discussion and points supporting a full week orientation while many other senators brought forth points supporting a shortened week. After what seemed like an eternity of debate, the issue was called to a vote. The room was in complete silence as senators for a shortened week raised their hands. The senators against a shortened week raised theirs...counts were tallied, and the result, 23-23-1. By our governance rules, a tie

vote means that the chair of senate (President Johnston) would get the final vote. He decided to not vote and to continue discussion either off-the-table or at the next senate meeting. Our Provost, Feridun Hamdullahpur immediately pulled the student senators aside at the end of the meeting to express his surprise to the overwhelming opposition. He followed this with a promise to arrange a meeting with all of us to discuss the issue in person; as a side note, he made it clear that if this is something the students absolutely do not want, then orientation week should not be changed.

Fast-forward about a week and a half, all the student senators are sitting in the Provost's office for an open discussion of the orientation issue. Once again, it was clear that our Provost was not forcing this issue, but it was simply his understanding that there were many students and faculty that supported the decision (which

is true, but in our eyes, there are more against the change than there are for the change). After our discussion, the biggest point of agreement was that a 'global' campus wide polling was needed to really determine what the students want. In far less time than the meeting was planned for, Dr. Hamdullahpur decided that the matter was closed - orientation week would remain a full week, and broad polling would be facilitated to truly understand what students want. In another friendly gesture, the student senators and the Provost spent the remaining time discussion areas all across this University that need improvement - there was a wide breadth of topics discussed and from my take, Dr. Hamdullahpur seemed truly engaged and committed to working with students to make these desired improvements a reality.

It may seem a bit odd after all the recent events, but after our discussion with Dr. Ham-

dullahpur, I actually feel that a new era has started for the student - administration relationship. To paraphrase our Provost, he said that his biggest fear is creating a students versus administration environment. He will work at all times to ensure he is working FOR the students. He continued by saying that the 'administrations' job, at the end of the day, is to support students. Lastly, he wants everyone to know that the people 'up there in the administration' are actual PEOPLE too ;).

I don't think we could have had a better conclusion to this matter for now. I look forward to working with the Provost in implementing a broad based opinion gathering system to base the future of orientation week on.

You can always reach me at senate@eng-mail.uwaterloo.ca. Never forget, the rhythm of this university stems from the heart of its students. Keep being proactive!

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- *Power Supply Design*
- *Wireless Communication System Design*

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Incoming President



SCOTT RANKIN
INCOMING
PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone,

I'd like to first say thanks to everyone who voted in the EngSoc election. It was a record participation for our faculty this year, 33% of students voted. I am very happy to be your new president, I can't wait to start my term in January, I hope you're all as excited as I am.

For the first order of business, **directorship applications are due this Friday**. YES THAT IS IN 2 DAYS. For those of you who don't know what a directorship is... I can explain it to you. A directorship is a role within the en-

gineering society and it can be almost any role, from organizing semi formal, to helping with resume critiques, novelties, and even Student Life 101, plus many many more.

A full list of directorships can be seen at <http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/directors> along with a description of the responsibilities of each director (upon clicking on the title of the directorship)

The application form can be found at <http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/directors/application-form>.

Or if you don't feel like typing all that, you can go to www.engsoc.ca and click directors on the left navigation bar, then applications. (Note: you must be signed in to see applications).

Thanks again and have a Merry Christmas!

Scott

Outgoing President's Report



CAT HAY
PRESIDENT

the CPH foyer.

- Based on our success with MOT, our End of Term party will be held at Bomber on December 4th from 9-11pm. We will also be having an end of term celebration during the day in POETS with extended licensing (12-6pm) and lots of yummy treats!

Other than that, I just wanted to thank everyone for making my last 16 months as President and my last 32 months as exec such a rewarding experience! I am extremely proud of how well everything has gone this term and I would like to especially recognize Sasha, Cara, Laura, Scott, Mary, and our dedicated directors for all of the energy and passion they have given to the Society. I would also like to thank Robin Jardin, Dean Sedra, and all the other staff and faculty I've had the pleasure of working with over the last 16 months. We are very lucky to have such an enthusiastic and dedicated team here at UW!

First off, I'd like to extend a big congratulations to Scott Rankin, who will be your new EngSoc President for 2010-2011. Scott is experienced and fun-loving and I know he has lots of great ideas for his term as President! I'm looking forward to seeing Scott and his new exec take over in the spring term.

A few last items to finish off this term...

- On Wednesday, December 2nd we will have our final meeting of the term (potluck) in POETS where we will be swearing in the new exec.

- We will be putting together a small memorial for the 14 Not Forgotten of the Montreal Massacre in the morning of December 4th in

Incoming VP-Education



**ALEX HOGEVEEN
RUTTER**
INCOMING
VP EDUCATION

B-Soc Engineers:

Thanks to everyone who supported me during my campaign and the election. A special thanks to Trevor Jenkins and Drew Lemcke, whose ideas I plan to steal adopt. Hopefully, I will exceed your expectations and git'r'done.

I have two main priorities I would like to develop before we start again in summer. Firstly, many people have approached me regarding PD Eng. I wanted to reiterate that abandoning the PD Eng program is at the sole discretion of the dean, and requests of that nature should be directed appropriately. What I can and will do is examine the worst aspects and do everything I can to fix them. So send me the worst parts, whether it is policies, guidelines or specific assignments and how you would fix them, and I'll see what I can do to get your solutions implemented as soon

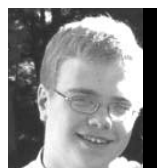
as possible.

Secondly, I would like to bring back student workshops. Student workshops are an opportunity to learn non-engineering skills from peers and experts. Whether it is presentation skills, writing cover letters, or underwater basket-weaving, let me know if you have a special skill and we'll see if we can make a workshop for it. Furthermore, if there is a workshop you would like to see, let me know and I will do my best to find an expert in the field.

I am also working with Sasha to continue working on co-op fees, midterm guidelines and other issues, so I will keep you posted. If you want to get more involved in EngSoc, but are not quite sure how, make sure you talk to your executives to see which directorship would be the right fit for you.

If you have any other academic concerns, you can contact me any time at ahogevee@engmail.uwaterloo.ca. I look forward to working with you and the other execs to serve EngSoc B as best as possible and I look forward to a great 16 months.

Outgoing VP-Education Report



SASHA AVRELINA
VP EDUCATION

Hello Everyone!

So it is about the time when the Fall 2009 term comes to the end, which is also the time when my term as VP-Education comes to the end! I would like to take this opportunity to state that it has been a great experience to be able to be your VP-Education for the last 16 months and I hope I did a good job. On this note I would like to introduce Alex Hogeveen Rutter who will be your next VP-Education! Alex and I have worked on numerous issues this term including PDEng and co-op. In addition, Alex did a great job organizing resume critiques, hence I'm sure he will do a great job!

Now some final updates from me. First of all there are still two days left for you guys to complete the PDEng Independent Review Feedback tool form if you haven't already done so. Please go to the EngSoc home page

at www.engsoc.ca and complete the form - it should only take you about 15 to 45 minutes to do and no personal information will be collected. Other things I have been working hard on is getting more student representation on co-op issues given that students fund the co-op department through co-op fees and those have been going up - please stay tuned for updates. At the next Senate Undergraduate Council meeting (Tuesday, December 8) there will also be a discussion about some of the unfair situations students have been put in when writing midterms (i.e. writing two midterms back to back, not knowing the location of the midterm as late as 3 hours before the starting time, etc.) Hence if you have any more experiences such as the ones described, please send me an e-mail at bsoc_vpedu@engmail.uwaterloo.ca.

Finally, remember to submit exams to the exam bank!

To conclude I would like to wish everyone the best of luck with your final exams - I'm sure everyone will do great and I also wish everyone a relaxing holiday break. Thanks again for the amazing 16 months!

Outgoing WEEF Report



**MATTHEW
BESTER**
WEEF DIRECTOR

Ahh . . . my last WEEF report is here! It's nearing the end of the term, and so that means the latest round of WEEF spending is complete! It took many hours on behalf of the funding council to carefully decide who gets funding and how much. Near this article is the latest round of all the proposals who received funding. Congratulations to all and you should have already received an email from me if you submitted a proposal. For space conservation purpose, proposals who did not receive funding were omitted. The full list can be found on the WEEF website: www.weef.uwaterloo.ca.

The Board of Directors meeting went well on the 26th of November. Cailin Hillier became the newest member of the BOD as a B-Soc representative. Cailin has been heavily involved with WEEF the whole time I was director and she is responsible for all the WEEF FYI's (aka WEEFies) around engineering.

As many would know, this is my last term as WEEF Director, but the time has come to pass on the torch to the next WEEF Director: Graham Stonebridge!

He was officially ratified by the WEEF Board of Directors, so there is no turning back now. Graham and I have been working together this term while he was an assistant director and we have already started the transition. As a quick FYI, for all of the 8-stream first years out there, when you join A-Soc in the winter term Jay Shah will be your WEEF Director.

Finally is would like to thank everyone who helped during my term as WEEF Director. This goes out to all of the assistant directors this term and in Winter 2009, B-Soc exec, every undergrad who donated to the foundation, everyone who took time to put in proposals and in particular, Mary Bland. She has helped me and countless others since day one.

To end on an awesome note, the current WEEF Principle as of November 26th 2009 is: **\$8,780,250.88**

So long, and thanks for all the fish.

Matthew Bester
(Outgoing) WEEF Director, Society "B"

Proposal	Requested	Allocated
Architecture		
Digital Sound Recorders	\$1 064.00	\$660.80
3D Printer	\$39 400.00	\$6 000.00
SLR Cameras	\$5 290.00	\$3 967.50
Chemical Engineering		
Distillation Column	\$34 363.00	\$22 732.00
Civil and Environmental Engineering		
2 Labnet Digital Dry Baths	\$1 040.00	\$1 040.00
Env E 214 & C E 280 Lab 2 Upgrade	\$1 058.00	\$1 058.00
Displacement Transducers For Lab Data Aquisition	\$1 301.40	\$1 301.40
Electrical and Computer Engineering		
Additional Power Electronics Equipment.	\$12 582.44	\$5 459.76
ECE Lab Equipment For The Circuits And Devices Courses.	\$12 540.00	\$6 270.00
Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering		
Mechanical And Mechatronics Computer Lab Equipment Replacement	\$4 000.00	\$1 000.00
Robotics Platform For Me 595: Autonomous Mobile Robotics	\$18 527.00	\$12 518.00
Systems Design Engineering		
Digital Video Cameras For User Research	\$8 000.00	\$4 000.00
Bench Equipment For Syde Teaching Lab	\$4 097.50	\$4 097.50
Other		
University of Waterloo Alternative Fuels Team	\$7 358.19	\$1 420.90
Concrete Toboggan - Design And Construction	\$2 200.00	\$500.00
Waterloo Off-Road Mini Baja Team (Wombat) Weef Proposal	\$6 575.00	\$1 050.00
Ieee Humanoid Robotics Team Funding	\$2 570.00	\$500.00
Uwstart Climber System Supplies	\$4 450.00	\$450.00
Uw Robotics Team Weef Proposal F09	\$8 564.38	\$2 581.51
University Of Waterloo Nanorobotics Group Proposal	\$3 000.00	\$750.00
University of Waterloo Micro Aerial Vehicle Team	\$3 600.00	\$1 200.00
Fsae Team	\$3 650.00	\$1 450.00
Fall 2009 Csc Team - Turbo System And Electronic Control Unit	\$5 800.00	\$600.00
Entry To The University Rover Challenge 2010	\$4 000.00	\$1 000.00
The Iron Warrior: Monitor Upgrade	\$372.82	\$372.82
Midnight Sun Solar Race Team	\$6 400.00	\$2 000.00
New Desktop Computers For The 4 th Year Chemical Engineering Room	\$24 000.00	\$1 050.00
Grand Total	\$240 023.43	\$85 030.19

Incoming VP-Internal



PETER KELLY
INCOMING VP
INTERNAL

Hello again, it has been awhile since we last talked. The days are shorter, the nights are longer, and the executives are newer. It has been brought to my attention that the village has chosen me as their representative of internal matters. This did not come to me by surprise due to the fact no one else was interested in said position. I'm feeling excited and nervous at the same time; it is a strange feeling, but a good feeling none the less. Excited for the good times and nervous for not wanting to let people down.

When we spoke last, I discussed the position and declared my love for EngSoc, but now... now that love has blossomed

into a beautiful relationship, like the dew on a summer's leaf, I long for the touch of EngSoc, and hope to become one with it. I am but like a fawn, walking for the first time, but I desire to stride longer and stronger through the forest. For I am your executive. With my comrades by my side there is nothing that can't be accomplished, no goal, ungoalable, no task, untaskable, no duty, undutyable and at last no challenge, unchallengeable.

It is getting cold now, and I feel the onset of sleep grasping me in its cold dark hands, so I write this last bit now for you. Yes, you read correctly, you. If there is anything you need or desire, I beg of you, do so with haste, and scribe me your comments. I will be waiting.

Love,
Peter Kelly

Outgoing VP-Internal Report



LAURA SISSON
VP INTERNAL

Here it is! My last exec IW report ever! I'm not going to lie and say that I'm not relieved. I'm sure both Kevin and Trevor (the two Editors-in-Chief during my terms as exec) can attest to the fact execs are terrible at writing their reports. There have been so many times execs have been in the Orifice the day IW submissions were due only to realize we had all forgotten to write one that week. Or even worse, we'd all regularly get strongly worded reminders on the Saturday or the Sunday threatening that if we didn't submit soon, there would be no report for us! Sorry IW for all the grief we have caused you!!!

I can't believe how quickly the last 16 months have gone by!

I would like to thank everyone I have worked with for making my term on exec super awesome. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some great people over the last 16 months and have made some good friends. Thanks to all my directors and all their hard work!

Thank you as well to my fellow exec. I think we had a wonderful team and I enjoyed working with you every step of the way. I have come out of my term with four good friends and many fun times. I hope it was as PLEASURABLE for you guys as well :)

To the new exec, I wish you all the best on your term and I hope that EngSoc soars to new heights with you in charge. Look forward to seeing me yelling at you from the back of the EngSoc Meeting room!!

All the best to everyone and good luck with exams!

Your outgoing VP-Internal,
Laura Sisson

Incoming VPs-Finance



MINA LABIB & JON WARREN
INCOMING
VP FINANCE

Hi everybody!

First of all, we'd like to thank everyone who participated in the Engineering Society election and supported all the candidates. The more you support the Engineering Society, the more it can

give back to you! Secondly, we'd like to encourage everyone to take a look at the directorship applications available and consider applying for the Novelties directorship. It's basically a chance to help manage Novelties and work on new inventory which is a great experience.

We look forward to helping you all in the coming term (well, Mina does - Jon looks forward to crouching in the shadows, in wait!)

Outgoing VP-Finance Report



SCOTT RANKIN
VP FINANCE

Nuggets!

So there I was staring at the back of my dead Aunt's head, while she was ears deep in a bowl of Oreos, and all I could think was... "Damn, I want those Oreos."

I grabbed the bag and left. I mean, I just didn't know what to do; the brothel

was getting evicted, my Aunt Ethel was dead, but most importantly, I finally got a hold of my Aunt's Oreos. Oh they were so amazing. I remember back when I was a young lad I would very rarely get Oreos, but when I did, it was heavenly. I would wrap them in bacon first, then feed them to rusty, our old BloodHound.

It then occurred to me, Rusty's been dead for 12 years, and I don't even like Oreos, why on earth did I take THESE BLOODY OREOS.

Smokey the Bandit
PS: Finances are good.

Incoming WEEF Director



GRAHAM STONEBRIDGE
INCOMING WEEF
DIRECTOR

Hey everyone! At the WEEF board of directors meeting on the 25th, I was

ratified as the next B-Soc WEEF Director (woohoo!). Thanks for your support during the last few weeks; I really appreciate you not vandalizing my posters.

Applications are open on the EngSoc website for directorships and I would love for you to apply to be an Assistant WEEF Director. See you in the Spring

Incoming VP-External



KEVIN LING
INCOMING
VP EXTERNAL

Hey B-Soc! In case you haven't heard yet, I'll be your new Vice President, External as of the end of this term. But even though I technically haven't started yet, it feels like things are already in full motion. With a few big conferences coming up in the next few months, there is a ton of planning that needs to be done.

While I'm writing this, I'm already on the road to Kingston for the Professional Engineers Ontario Student Conference. Starting in January, I will be taking a delegation from our society to the Canadian Federation of En-

gineering Students (CFES) Annual Congress. Then later on in February there will be the First Year Integration Conference (FYIC).

FYIC is a great event for first year students to get out there and meet engineering students from other universities around Ontario. It's a lot of fun and a great chance to learn about external societies. Any first years who are interested should keep their eyes and ears open for announcements which should come out sometime in January.

I've already talked a bit with the rest of the incoming executives, and I'm really excited for the upcoming terms. They all have some great new ideas so it looks like we'll be in for some good times. Thanks to all of you for your support, I can't wait to get to work!

Outgoing VP-External Report



CARA KENNEDY
VP EXTERNAL

Holla (for the last time) my fellow students!

First of all, I want to thank the entire engineering body for their support and sometimes even interest in my role and responsibilities. I want to thank my directors for their great support, communication and enthusiasm toward their respective projects. I want to thank God, my family and my friends for standing behind me and encouraging me, even when I got stressed out. I am also very grateful for the executive that I had the opportunity to work with. Cat, thank you for being understanding and helpful whenever I needed it. Scott, thank you for being serious and when you had and the comic relief when it was appropriate. Sasha, I'm really glad we got to work together and thank you for always being positive. Laura, thank you listening, understanding and being a great person to work with. Also, a big thanks to the Iron Warrior who prints my article, even when its submitted late.

As far as my finishing up my responsibilities go I just got back from the National Conference for Women In Engineering (NCWIE), hosted by the University of Toronto, and enjoyed it with a few girls from Waterloo 'B' and one of our fellow Waterloo 'A's. It was the first conference of this type that I have attended and I really enjoyed it and would suggest it for anyone who is interested. It gave me and the other students a great chance to learn a lot about ourselves, about working with and understanding others, and the chance to hear from very well-respected people in industry of engineering and business relations.

I also promoted and chose a delegation to

send to the PEO Student Conference. Kevin Ling went to represent Waterloo 'B' and Mike Seliske went to represent Waterloo 'A', both with full delegations. I hope they all had as great of a time as I had last year.

I will also be transitioning Kevin Ling over the next month plus attending CFES Congress with him from January 2 - 8, 2010 in Hamilton, Ontario. I'm looking forward to working with Kevin and helping him to be the best VP External that he can be!

As my time as VP External is coming to a close, I am really excited to see what the future has in hold for me. I really hope that I have left a positive impact on the Engineering Society, and I strongly encourage that you consider attending a conference or even running for a directorship that falls under my position. I have had a great experience that has led to personal and professional skills development, and I have come across very rewarding opportunities open within Ontario, Canada, and the world. If I could lend one piece of advice to the rest of the student population it would be to go for "it." Whatever "it" means to you, don't be afraid to pursue that goal. Find what interests you, whether it is within this society or not, and get involved. In the agreement we will take to become engineers we will be committing ourselves to serve society in our profession. I challenge you to serve society outside of the workplace as well. Being the intelligent individuals that you are, I know that you can do more than what this school challenges you to do. Academics are very important, but just think about all of the other skills and attributes that you have to offer and go for "it"!!!

Thank you for an amazing 16 months and peace out,

Your Outgoing, Outgoing VP-External,
Cara Kennedy

Want 150 P* * 5 Points for your class?

Bring your old midterms & exams to the Orifice!

Blank exam	50 Points
Exam with Partial Solution	100 Points
Exam with Prof Solutions or Excellent Grades	150 Points

CSE exams are welcome!

Chemical, Management, Mechatronics and Nanotechnology exams are especially welcome!



'When in Rome...'

Fifth Installment: Ciao Roma!



ANDREA MURPHY
4A ARCHITECTURE

Preface: In preparing to write my last article of this series, I tried to find some conclusion for the term, something deep- something that would give meaning to my four months abroad. Well, let's say that there is nothing that I can write which will adequately express what the Rome term has meant to me, and you definitely would find it dull to read, so please enjoy this article instead.

As my 4A term in Rome winds to an end, I have to sit back and reflect on what on earth just happened to me. In the spirit of the megalomaniacal Imperial Rome, I have decided not to reflect on what I may miss about this city, but rather, what this city will miss when my class leaves in the upcoming weeks. Between filling our favourite restaurants, our regular patronage at the art store, our Canadiana shopping lists, and our unusual behavior in the street, I am confident that the Architecture Class of 2010 is going to leave a void in Rome.

The first way in which we will be missed is at the Chinese restaurant. It might sound ridiculous that we go out for Chinese food in Italy, but pasta and risotto get boring pretty fast, and when you're looking for budget food- fried rice is a cheap and filling meal. Our patronage has often resulted in three or four tables worth of students in a room of twenty tables, most of which are unoccupied. Not only do we bring in business, but we have also been known to act as translators between English-speaking patrons and the Chinese staff. Needless to say, our friends at this restaurant have started to give us discounts on the already inexpensive meals. I am sure that the staff will notice when the friendly multicultural students disappear from their dining room, and our bellies

are no longer being filled with the most scrumptious dumplings in Rome.

Aside from being regulars at restaurants, we have also become frequent shoppers at the local art supply store. With our timid 'scuzie's and 'permesso's we have inched around towers of markers or paints and climbed up and down frighteningly steep and narrow stairs to find the best paper for drawings, the best cardstock for models, and of course the much coveted rolls of trace paper. Soon enough the staff of the art supply store will no longer have to play charades with us, trying to find a way to explain what we want without knowing the word in Italian, and the patronage of the art supply store won't have to leave in a huff because all the staff are busy playing charades.

After being away from Canada for a while, it's safe to say that everyone misses at least some type of food from back home. Most of these things are not stocked on the shelves of the local grocery store, or if they are, then they are so outrageously priced that you convince yourself you can do without for four months. But there are always the homesick days when that six euro 150ml bottle of maple syrup can turn your bummer of a morning into something so much sweeter. Every smirking cashier who has rung up one of these little bottles of gold and seen the glint in our eyes probably thought that we were nuts, and even if we are,



The Waterloo Architecture Studio in Rome faces Piazza di Santa Maria in Trastevere.

they'll still miss the ecstatic Canadian kids and our coveted imported syrup!

Finally, likely the biggest gap left in Rome when we leave will be our presence in the neighbourhood of Trastevere. Most of us live in the area right around the school which is in the heart of the area of Trastevere, known as the "real Rome" which is a residential community and had a limited number of tourists. The vast majority of the conversation one overhears on the street and in the shops is in Italian, and so when 55 English-speaking students are dropped into this neighbourhood, the locals start to notice. We get some pretty strange and an-

gry stares walking to school and chatting in English, so I am sure that if nobody else, at least the regular homeless pan-handlers on our routes to studio will take note when we stop coming by.

But, never fear, these holes that will be left when my class leaves will not be vacant for long. Rome will welcome the Architecture Class of 2011 in just eight more months and soon all the vacancies left by our homecoming will be happily filled. The cycle continues and the annual migration of the Waterloo Architecture Students adds one more layer to the ever-changing population of the Eternal City.

Arrivederci Roma! Alla prossima, Waterloo!

Wild West Adventures

for the term, so they may figure it out once I'm gone next term, but that really isn't any of my concern, so I deem this extreme dating expedition a success.

Things at the office have been going smoothly. We all went out for drinks and appetizers a few weeks ago to celebrate all of the new jobs we've acquired. When it came time to decide on the flavour of wings to be ordered, my boss Kraygee exclaimed, "I think we should order hot so I can have a flaming asshole tonight!". Indeed, things at M3HS Alberta are as normal as ever. I finally got Di-Pi to admit that she'll miss me

desk drawer for when Di-Pi gets cranky, trust me on this one. When the President of all the M3HS comes to town, wear nice clothes, proper shoes and have good posture, it will avoid an unnecessary conversation. Compliment MissMary on her many outfits and accessories. Finally, make sure Kraygee doesn't abandon you on-site or in the office, it will keep your sanity.

The Grey Cup is this weekend, and while I'm not particularly a football fan, I certainly plan on partaking in a Grey Cup party or two. Tonight, I'm meeting up with my cousin and some of her friends to go to Riderville in the

As for the next few weekends, it seems I have something booked for every one of them. I have family and friends' Christmas parties and of course my office Christmas party to look forward to. I'm also going to be attending a Flames game with my cousin before I leave. She says it's incredibly important that I do this while in Calgary so I'm starting to get excited for that since I've never been to an NHL game before.

This work term has been such a huge change for me. To start with, it's the first time I've lived in a real home (not a student house/apartment/residence) since leaving Timmins for UW in Fall 2007. My last two work terms were in downtown Toronto so I lived at UofT for both and I also I travelled back to Waterloo on most weekends so I never really escaped the hectic student life style. Since coming out to Calgary, I've fallen into a busy yet regular schedule. It's been a nice breather to get myself back on track physically and mentally, but I definitely miss the spontaneity of student life. Most of all though, I miss the people (yes you). I've made a tonne of new friends and have grown closer to my family throughout this term, but I must admit I miss my dear friends and of course, my little sister Quisie. On that note, I'd like to thank the WEEF TA's for welcoming her to the WEEF lab and for taking such good care of her academically.

As this is my final article, my co-worker Di-Pi and I have coordinated info to present the overall "Hot and Not" list for Calgary for any of you planning a coop or trip to Calgary. It's in the box in the middle.

I'm looking forward to my last few weeks here and to celebrating Christmas back home in Timmins. Can't wait to see you all in January!

Miss you all dearly, Amanda



AMANDA LEDUC
2T MANAGEMENT

My Dear Darlings,

I can't believe how quickly my time in Calgary has gone. I have less than 1 month left until my flight back to Timmins on Christmas Eve. My Aunt and I started a "Bucket List" in September of things to do before I leave and we have yet to cross any items off the list. Between my parents visiting, salsa lessons, fitness classes, yoga classes, random dates and other unscheduled commitments, the weeks have just been flying by.

At the end of my last article, I mentioned that I had two dates scheduled for that weekend with two boys from my dance class. Well, those two dates turned into three when a 3rd boy from the dance club asked to get together. Friday I went to the movies with guy #1. It was fine but he's not very subtle in his interest and definitely tries too hard. He seems rather fake. Saturday I went to a Korean restaurant with guy #2. We had a lovely time and I discovered I like Korean food. He's a bit shy but always such a gentleman. On Monday I met guy #3 for a quick dinner before dance class. Conversation flowed naturally through dinner, and then we walked downtown to his pretty new Mercedes to drive to dance class. After dance class, we went to a bubble tea house with some of his friends to unwind and then he drove me home. He's incredibly nice and easy to talk to. The best part of it all, the truth didn't come out the following week at dance class! I managed to socialize with all three of them separately in the same room without any of them knowing I had been out with one of the others. Dance class is over

when I'm gone, despite the fact that I'm the office space cadet. She's even going to spend a weekend with me in Waterloo when the company sends her to the Richmond Hill office for training. To the 2A Nano student coming out to replace me in the winter, let me give you some tips. Keep chocolate in your

Telus Convention Centre. It's supposed to be a massive pre-Grey Cup party and I can't wait! I realized that this will be the first time I've been out to party in Calgary since arriving. The rest of my limited partying this term has taken place out of province (Ottawa and Vancouver).

Hot and Not: Calgary Edition

HOT

Globe Fish

Japanese Restaurant

The YogaShala

Drop-In Ashtanga Yoga Studio

Cross Iron Mills

Biggest Mall in Alberta

C-Train

Above ground public transit train

Stephen Avenue

Trendy Boutiques and restaurants

Teatro

Fancy tea and crumpets at 2pm

NOT

16 Avenue (Trans Canada Highway 1)

Too many traffic lights, always backed-up

Transit Buses

Frequently late, not dependable

Constantly Changing Weather

Changes constantly due to Chinooks and other odd weather patterns

Downtown on a Weeknight

Everybody leaves the core of the city after work and tumble weeds roll down the streets...

The Future of Gaming: Pikachu! I Sue You!!!



JON MARTIN
OBI JON1138

As an Xbox 360 owner and the sibling of a Wii owner, any perceived bias towards or against specific consoles is due to my lack of disposable income. If I could I would also buy a PS3, but as a student, that is not possible. Please forgive any disproportionate coverage; I do my best to cover issues that affect all consoles, without focusing on or neglecting individual systems.

As this is the final issue of the Iron Warrior this term (yay, great job Trevor) I was considering writing a parody article for the Tin Soldier issue, but the antics of real world gamers is just too entertaining, and doesn't require any parody or embellishment. So here they are.

Microsoft has recently become entangled in a lawsuit over the banning of modded consoles from Xbox Live services. As the practice is illegal, and therefore no one should know about it ;), I will give a brief introduction (based on public info not personal experience). Modding a console involves altering the firmware (the basic programming that runs the system) so that it does not require authentication when loading a game. This process allows users to rent or borrow a game, make a copy, then run the copy. Needless to say this is illegal, and so Microsoft has developed ways to test for modded consoles connected to Xbox Live. In

addition to playing pirated games modding a console can also allow users to cheat in some games, and that is what Microsoft is trying to cut down on.

That brings us to the topic I introduced before, Microsoft has been accused of purposely banning people with modded consoles after the release of Halo: ODST and before the release of Modern Warfare 2, collecting the subscription money before banning the buyers. A large number in the legal community view this lawsuit as a money-grab by the affected modders. Considering the fact that Microsoft is well within their legal rights to ban people who have modded their consoles (read it in the fine print) there really isn't much of a case for court. Another thing to consider, anyone who actually goes out and mods their console to play illegal copies of games should know that Microsoft has been banning their systems for the last four years – therefore the logical thing to do is Not Connect to Xbox Live, unless you want to be banned.

Another gamer has launched two lawsuits against Nintendo and Microsoft, but don't think he let Sony off the hook. He previously lost after suing Sony over violation of his first amendment rights. This gamer was banned from the PSN after insulting several other gamers in the Resistance online community. The case was thrown out of court by Judge Ronald Whyte because "Sony is not part of the government". So, undeterred this gamer has moved on to Nintendo and Microsoft, for infringing on his happiness. He is suing Nintendo for in-

terfering with his "pursuit of happiness" – by removing the Homebrew Channel and Ocarina applications with a system update. He is suing Microsoft for the "undue stress" and "sadness" after his Xbox 360 fell victim to the Red Ring of Death (RROD) error. The amount? \$75,000 from Microsoft – the equivalent of about 375 Arcade systems. The amount he is suing Nintendo for is not disclosed.

In this case I have to question the person's mental state, do they really think they are going to win this battle? Microsoft for one has had to deal with unbelievable hatred over the RROD error, but for an individual to sue them for \$75,000 is just insane. The case is obviously a cash grab publicity stunt, which will probably result in a very quick court dismissal followed by the person being buried in legal fees. I hope the fees are less than the \$200 needed to buy a new system, but somehow I doubt they will be. I have personally had two RROD errors, both within the three year warranty. While lots of people complain on the internet about the long wait times for a repair, I had my system back in 15 days the first time (a refurbished system) and 7 days the second time (another refurbished system). The third failure I got was a disk tray error, which occurred out of warranty and would cost \$100 plus shipping to fix. In this case I bought a new Arcade system on a great sale, and took the broken one apart. I never once considered suing Microsoft, and I still have now desire to, because there is really no reason.

On the Nintendo side, they are well within their rights to block a hack on their sys-

tem. The Homebrew channel is a freeware program loaded onto a Wii system, allowing the user to run third-party hacks and modded programs. As the program exploits the Wii operating system and allows people to load program to alter Wii games, such as introducing alternate skins for in-game characters, Nintendo isn't too happy about people altering the system firmware. In recent firmware updates Nintendo has introduced patches that remove and block the Homebrew channel – of course these patches are circumvented in a few days and a new version of the program is posted. If you are hacking your system and running an unofficial program, you can't blame manufacturer for trying to stop it, you don't sue the company, that's just crazy.

As a final closing point, many websites have commented on these cases as doing something for the gaming industry that has been long overdue – giving Sony, Nintendo and Microsoft fans something to agree on.

As a final, final thing, the Video Game Awards will be live on Spike TV on December 12, recognizing the best in the industry, as well as announcing many upcoming games. It appears that the VGAs are set to become another E3, the site to announce the biggest new games. So keep an eye out, their could be some amazing games coming soon

So, the final, final, final thing, enjoy the last few days of class (I'm sure that will be hard for many people :)), see you next term in the Iron Warrior, and of course, Keep On Gaming!

The Adventures of Dangerman Brooding Tragic Hero Rant



DANGERMAN
DANGER '09

Dearest Reader,

To begin with... my brow is awfully furrowy, and my brooding countenance undeniable!

I hope you've enjoyed reading my adventures half as much as I've enjoyed writing them these last four months. Special thanks to the current IW staff for letting me continue to write long past the expiration date on my packaging.

The end of a term always feels like the end of an affair; yellow roses, gloomy goodbyes. It's a lot like the first time you get out of prison¹. It leaves me a little melancholic and musing intolerably about the inherent transience of life. For this issue, I thought I'd share some of these with you:

Dangerman's Three Loosely Related Comments:

1. Little things for Little People:

Dealing with change and getting older has never been my forté. Yesterday, I was just an incorrigible Dangerboy waking up early and fixing an extra-large bowl of "Cloak & Dagger" the espionage cereal that's "magically inconspicuous"² with the little marshmallow cyanide capsules. Today I'm all grown up; travelling around the world killing human beings for vast sums of money...but where are the cyanide marshmallows of yesterday?

Answer: You can only find them on the black market of former Soviet-era republics, and all the cool prizes have already been robbed from the boxes.

I guess the lesson here is you have to enjoy the little things while you're still little; because once you're big you have to go all the way to Uzbekistan to find them.

2. Hard vs. Soft Living:

A part of me still longs for the chaos and disorder that accompanies a co-op lifestyle. Living nomadically; changing locations every four months. In my worst living situation of all, I recall writing with amusement that I'd given up on the notion of being packed vs. unpacked; resolving instead to live perpetu-

ally somewhere between the two states. At the time I was surrounded by a fort of filthy dented poorly-abused boxes, "spewing random treasures like a pack of enchanted homeless people". That was hard living.

Now, life is if anything *too* ordered. I know what to expect tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after that. The all-consuming routine that comes with a full time job becomes a prison of your own construction. At the same time though, you're healthy, well-fed, well-dressed and in a position to pursue romantic attachments (made incredibly difficult during coop at Waterloo).

I guess the lesson here is that life is a balancing act between comfort routines and uncertain adventures. You should always try to have enough unpleasantness in your life to distract you from thoughts of self-actualization, because no one ever really achieves that.

3. The Salsa Dispute:

In the last issue of the Iron Warrior, I was unlawfully slandered (libel?) for having missed a series of extremely overpriced lessons for "Introduction to Latin Dancing" by a certain so-called Wild West Adventurer. I can confirm that rather than miss these occasions I was actively avoiding them. Readers will agree that at the height of a flu epidemic made worse on Monday nights when you're feeling pretty tired and worn out, the last thing you want to do is drag yourself out to the opposite side of the city to a claustrophobically-enclosed concrete lair filled with sweaty homely looking girls that you're forced to ritually touch and move rhythmically in sync with. Vomit. The life lesson here is probably never to listen to Amanda LeDuc³, as she will doubtlessly lead you astray.

All in all, I suppose change and getting use to new environments and experiences is prob-

ably good in the long run. As the world moves on, Dangerman moves along with it. Voltaire once wrote, "If we cannot hope for something better, we can at least hope for something new." So I hope you have good finals, and good holidays and your next term is always better than the one that preceded it.

It's been a pleasure to be your Dangerman <3,
Dangerman

1. After the third or fourth time, it's more like "see you later alligator, in a while crocodile".

2. Sold in supermarkets all over the world, but rarely purchased, due to its being inherently beneath notice.

3. I'm teasing of course. Amanda is very correct. I've failed her pretty badly as a Dangerman this term.



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The Iron Sudoku: The Actanides

ALISON LEE
1A NANOTECHNOLOGY

Np		No			Fm			
Fm				U				Np
				Es		No		
Pu		Th	Fm			Np		
		Fm		No		Th		
		Bk			Cm	Pu		No
		Cm		Th				
No				Fm				Pu
				Bk		U		Es

Use the elements Bk, Cm, Es, Fm, No, Np, Pu, Th, and U to solve this Sudoku.

The Iron Crossword

SAMREEN ALIM
ELECTRICAL '09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14					15				16					
17					18				19					
20					21			22	23					
			24				25							
26	27	28				29								
30					31	32				33	34	35	36	
37					38	39			40					
41					42				43	44				
					45				46	47				
48	49	50	51					52						
53							54					55	56	57
58						59	60			61				
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

Across

- Involuntary Muscle Contraction
- Plural Form of a luxury retreat
- The metric 1/20th of a mL
- Ottoman equivalent to the title of "Lord"
- Narrow Road
- Slang for regurgitation
- One of Aristotle's Artistic Proofs
- The original name for the US Department of Energy
- The Winner of PCDD: Search for the next doll
- Conjunction for any place
- Creator of the Les Paul
- Slang for Hallucination
- Combinations of multiple substances
- Canadian Grass Genus
- Lofty
- US University with the greatest number of applicants
- Adverb for Immaculate
- Tall military cap
- Highest level for organization of time
- Brook in "Paradise Lost"
- Common acrobatic feat
- Behavioral Expectations
- Tony Danza is this
- One role of a rapper in hip hop (plural)
- Citrus fruit known for pie
- Sean Paul Song
- To form a concept
- Bell towers
- Contraction of "Allow the objective form of we"
- Question cannot be answered with yes or no
- Element 100 is named after him
- Disregard
- Longest river
- Last section of the small intestine
- Impudence
- Unagi in Japanese cuisine (plural)
- Genus name for Tupelo tree

Down

- Exude
- Pedestrian tunnels in Toronto
- Main female in Final Fantasy XII
- Strawberry character as a dessert
- Capital of Lesotho
- Bed activity
- Young fish
- A conjunction
- Scuttle in The Little Mermaid
- Second half of the capital of UAE
- Lead female of Get Shorty
- The hunter in the stars
- Designs
- Competes
- The British ones include Great Britain and Ireland
- Death causing
- Agitate
- Heard in caves
- Professional wrestling throw
- Circle generated surface of revolution
- Pudding made with peas
- Signoff message
- Blackthorn
- Tale
- Common thanksgiving dish
- Gum brand
- Generic other
- Detectable behavior change
- Not a cupcake
- Thousands
- Current name for Hydropsy
- Nepalese bigfoots
- Persists
- Hereditary units
- Cell phone company
- Angers
- Largest Australian birds
- Lower layer of earth's crust
- Pastry dough shell, warm centre

profQuotes

"My first computer had 500KB of RAM on it. Do you know how small that is? Nowadays you wouldn't even buy a watch with only 500KB of RAM!"

- Morris Tchir

Talking about rotational motion

"I have two balls, one with mass 100g, the other with mass 250g. Now I have a rod with mass of 500g in-between."

-Michael Balogh

Roh: "What's the value of pi?"

Undergrad: "3.141592654358579...."*continues for 30 seconds*

Roh: "Wow, people who play world of warcraft are cooler than that."

-Patrick Roh

Talking about using lines to represent lone pairs of electrons

"If I see stuff like this, my kind coefficient becomes very small"

-Carey Bissonnette

"Do you want to close that door at the back or should I go out into the hallway and kill them?"

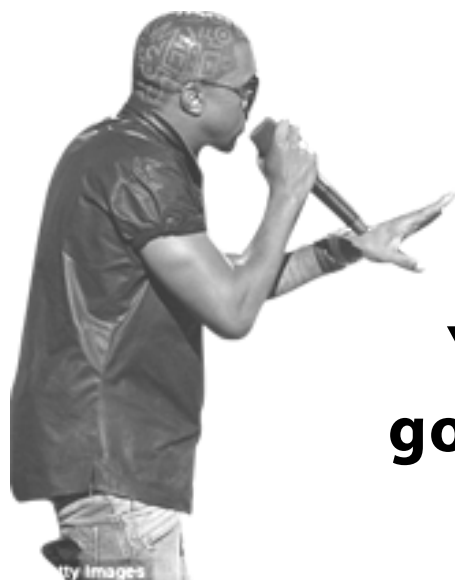
-Simon Wood

"I've lived a very colourful life. I don't recommend doing what i did"

-Dale Henneke

"My cat is so fat. It's on a diet and yet it won't lose weight. It's like it breathes in calories. It's nice and all, but as dumb as a door nail."

-Tony Enders



THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Yo Imprint, I'm really happy for you. I'm gonna let you finish, but *The Iron Warrior* is the best UW newspaper of all time!