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THE IRON WARRIOR

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

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<http://iwarrrior.uwaterloo.ca>

UW Hosts Fifth FIRST Robotics Competition

KEVIN LING
2A ELECTRICAL

This last week, the University of Waterloo held its fifth annual FIRST Robotics Competition from March 19 to March 21. FIRST stands for For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology and it is an organization that is dedicated to promoting student interest in the fields of engineering and technology. The FIRST Robotics Competition has been running for sixteen years now and this year's Waterloo regional event drew teams from all over Canada.

Twenty-six teams of students between grades nine and twelve teamed up with mentors from either universities or industry and built robots to compete in the regional competition. The details of the competition and standard part kits were given to the participating student teams six-weeks before the event and they only had that short amount of time to complete their designs. As well, they were also given the rules of the game, which change year to year to keep the competition interesting.

To recognize the 40th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon, the FIRST competition theme for this year was Lunacy. The game for this competition

involved robotic vehicles moving about a special low friction floor which is meant to simulate the lack of friction on the moon. The new terrain for the playing field and the plastic wheels which teams were required to use for their robots minimized the friction and added a new layer of challenge to the playing field.

Professor Robert Gorbet, who helped organize the event, feels that this change has completely redesigned the game for the teams involved. In past years, the competition arenas have used carpet and more regular floor types and that gave an advantage to more veteran teams as they had more time to perfect the drive train and practice navigating their vehicle. This year, FIRST decided to eliminate that imbalance by throwing the new and more challenging terrain at all the competitors so veteran and rookie teams would all have to struggle to navigate 60 kilogram robots over a very low friction floor.

The game required students to build robots that picked up and threw special balls. Each robot had a trailer attached to it, which was essentially a big basket, and the goal was to throw as many balls as possible into the opposing team's trailer. Matches are played with three teams on each side of the



Two robots finish their round of competition at the FIRST Competition held in the PAC.

Angelo Alaimo

field, the blue alliance and the red alliance, so cooperation between teams from different schools was very important.

On the first day of the event, safety checks and inspections were performed on all the

robots prior to the practice matches.

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Non-Violence Promoted at SLC by Feds Club

ANGELO ALAIMO
2A ELECTRICAL

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) of Waterloo, a Feds club, practices a Buddhist philosophy called Nichiren Buddhism. "Soka

Gakkai" is a Japanese expression meaning "Value Creation Society." Apart from the spiritual side of Buddhism, the club also promotes culture, education, and peace in society through awareness and knowledge of some negative aspects that affect human

health such as global warming, violence, and war. The club has been around for a while within the university and members meet once and week for chanting session at a member's house. The club tries to promote the Buddhist philosophy which they say can be uti-

lized in one's daily life regardless of if they are a Buddhist or not.

An event hosted by SGI called Victory Over Violence (VOV) took place in the Great Hall of the SLC last Wednesday. A large attractive booth was set up to inform the goal of the campaign, discuss the causes of violence, and talk about passive violence. The posters clearly state the VOV goal as "to contribute respect, trust and friendship among young people, our families, schools and communities across boundaries of race, religion, and culture."

The two root causes of violence specified by the VOV campaign are lack of self identity and hope for the future. Violence on the VOV panels is heavily detailed as passive violence which can be broken down as Verbal/psychological/emotional abuse, oppression/suppression, and apathy/indifference. VOV informs these forms of abuse make up passive violence which can ultimately lead to physical violence. The booth showed passive violence occurs in homes as different forms of abuse, in schools as bullying, teasing and intimidation, and lastly in the community as hate crimes, road rage, and threats.

VOV strongly believes one person can make a difference to stop violence by citing examples of how many youth have put forth initiatives to end violence. One person began non-violence seminars, another started a children's organization, and lastly one person even created an organization to teach school children on conflict resolution. These are just examples of a few individuals, but there are many, many more around the world.



Angelo Alaimo

See BE THE CHANGE on Page 4

The Soka Gakkai International booth set-up as part of the Victory Over Violence event in the SLC.

Letter from the Editor



KEVIN LING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I already wrote my editorial for this issue, but over the course of the production weekend (which is now well into Monday), I decided that the final thoughts that I left here for my last issue as editor just would not do. Especially in light of events that were only set in motion late last night. At this moment, so many thoughts are racing through my head, but since I have been awake for over 36 hours, I will try to select my words carefully.

Earlier this week an article was sent to me by a student who is expecting to graduate this term. The article is highly critical of the university administration, laced with swearing, and ridden with insults aimed at various groups. It discussed matters of how the University of Waterloo has been implementing policies which are quite detrimental to student life.

When I first read through the article, I knew immediately that I would be hearing from *The Iron Warrior's* advisory board. I sent the article out to all the advisory board members to preemptively initiate a discussion about the article and whether or not it should be run in the paper.

On a personal level, I agreed with many of the sentiments brought forward in the article. I myself would never have expressed my outrage in such a way, with so many verbal attacks and coarse language, but some of the underlying thoughts resonated with me. This along with several other key factors affected my judgment in how I handled the issue. The fact that it was written by a friend of mine who I hold in very high regards also played an important role in how I responded to the concerns raised by certain members of the

advisory board.

Regardless of the fact that the article violated one portion of the IW's policy manual (which can be found on our website), this was an article that I wanted very much to publish. In this desire to push my own personal agenda, I lost sight of what the valid arguments in this scenario were. Several members of the advisory board had told me firmly that the article is overly prejudicial, that many of the claims are baseless, that it is offensive, and that at best it is sensational writing with no purpose other than to create conflict.

I wish I could have made use of the advice to sleep on my thoughts before I said anything, but unfortunately our production timeline did not allow for that. I tried to rationalize that the article was still worth printing, even with all these reasons against printing it, and slapped together a host of weak arguments in a desperate attempt to try to make the advisory board concede to my desires. This was a fruitless endeavour, which in the end may have hurt my stance on the issue more than it helped.

What I sometimes forget is that even though I am in charge of a student publication, there is still a certain degree of professionalism that is expected of me. I was not acting professionally when I bickered with the advisory board after seeing their complaints. My goal was simply that I wanted to have this article published because I liked what it said. How the article would affect the reputation of *The Iron Warrior* crossed my mind, but I pushed it out. In the end, after pondering the issue while doing layout work all night, I feel that my actions were rash and short sighted.

The author of the article did a revision which removed any foul language and insults that were present, but it still was not enough since the underlying tones and baseless claims are still present in the article. The article has not been published

in this paper.

It is worth noting that not all the members of the advisory board were opposed to the article. Many felt that the main arguments are things that they would like to see more attention drawn to, and an opinion piece would be an ideal way to convey this message. However in the end, it was decided that the way the article was written was the deciding factor in not publishing it.

This ordeal ties in very well with something that I have been thinking about a lot this term. In what direction should I be leading *The Iron Warrior*? I have received differing pieces of advice from each past Editor-in-Chief (EIC) that I have spoken to. Some of them are more conservative and others more liberal in their ideologies. This is where the downfall of our four month stints as EIC becomes very noticeable. Each term, the editor changes and so does the mentality of the paper. As well, this is a huge generalization, but it seems that, at least in recent years, EICs tend to choose successors who have similar political alignments to themselves. This leaves potential for a huge shift in ideology when switching between A-Soc and B-Soc.

I am torn on this issue. While I want the Iron Warrior to be a well respected and professional publication that even people in the engineering industry will find informative, I feel that we still have to keep to our roots as a student publication. The problem with going all out in the direction of professionalism is that if we take things too seriously, then others will take us too seriously as well. That would pretty much eliminate any room that we have to have fun with our publication. Without that, volunteer positions become much harder to fill. As well, we would be losing even more of the little tradition we have.

But that's just my two cents. Let's see where Michelle decides to take us.

Staff Appreciation Corner



KEVIN LING
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Time flies when you think in terms of *The Iron Warrior's* production cycles. Like every Editor-In-Chief before me, I wouldn't have been able to deliver our beloved engineering newspaper without the help of our dedicated volunteer staff.

I must admit that when I first started out as editor, I didn't really know what I was doing. The first meeting had only a few people show up and it was awkward. It was my first time running a meeting on my own and I didn't know what to expect, nor did I have much to say. But with help from all my editors and writers things picked up and started progressing very smoothly. When you are the person in charge of making a newspaper happen, it's almost terrifying when you can't think of enough news ideas to cover an issue. Every time I was worried though, my excellent staff pulled through and helped me out.

My biggest thanks go out to everyone who helped me out on production weekends this term. These editors often spent a huge chunk of their every other weekend here in the secluded, windowless office of *The Iron Warrior*. Many people probably don't realize how much time is actually committed towards putting the issues together, but it is not a trivial amount. Thanks to Angelo, Michael, Sunny, Sylvia, and Trevor.

Trevor in particular spent almost as much time as I have in the office each production weekend working on the layout of the paper, I would have had to stay awake for probably 50 hours straight each time if I didn't have him to help me out. I have absolute faith in Trevor's ability and I think he will perform excellently as the next Editor-In-Chief of *The Iron Warrior* for B-Soc.

Angelo and Michael have helped me out with all our photo-editing needs, taking it as personal responsibilities to ensure that every image in the paper is expertly post-processed.

Sylvia, aside from writing relentlessly, was in charge of one of the least visible, yet still extremely important, aspects of the paper. She contacted different companies and worked to get our name out there to attract more advertisers so that we can stay in business and keep bringing you new issues, and I appreciate all her help very much.

For the last of my production staff, thank you Sunny. You talked me into taking the job, showed me the ropes, and helped me out all along the way.

As well, it

was nice to see a few new faces join us for meetings now and again throughout the term. Cailin only joined our paper for the fourth issue of term, but she has already helped out a lot with proofreading in this issue, and I appreciate it very much.

Rory has been with the paper longer than I have, and I really admire his commitment. When he says he'll have an article in for me, he always gets it in on time and I never have to nag him for it.

Unfortunately I don't have enough space to say everything that I want to, but a special thanks again to all our great staff writers.

To all the graduating IW staff: I wish you all the best. It was awesome working with you guys. Hopefully I'll run into you again someday in the future.



The Iron Warrior's production staff.

THE IRON WARRIOR

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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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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COMMUNITY EDITORIAL

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down



To dishonest cab drivers who take unnecessarily excessive detours and ignore directions. Trying to cheat me out of \$5 when I'm still conscious is not smart, because I won't even try to hold my beer-drenched dinner back.



To OMGUW! You're almost on the addictive level as Facebook.



To WEEF funding! Yeah to being able to support student teams, groups and clubs!



To Fed Hall for only having two bartenders working during ES Semi Formal. With a toonie bar, did you really expect to have no one there?



To students that don't know the concepts of showers or deodorants, making the second floor E2 hallway smelling very "ECE" during late nights and weekends.



To the driver who felt they needed to slam on their brakes suddenly on highways instead of just slowing down naturally. The motorcycle behind me almost crashed into the back of my car because of you.



To all-nighters. I forgot to buy more coffee.



To the returning geese :(Driving down Ring Road at 60 km/h is no longer safe. They have no sense of "drivers first"!

Send in your Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down to iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca

Co-op Update

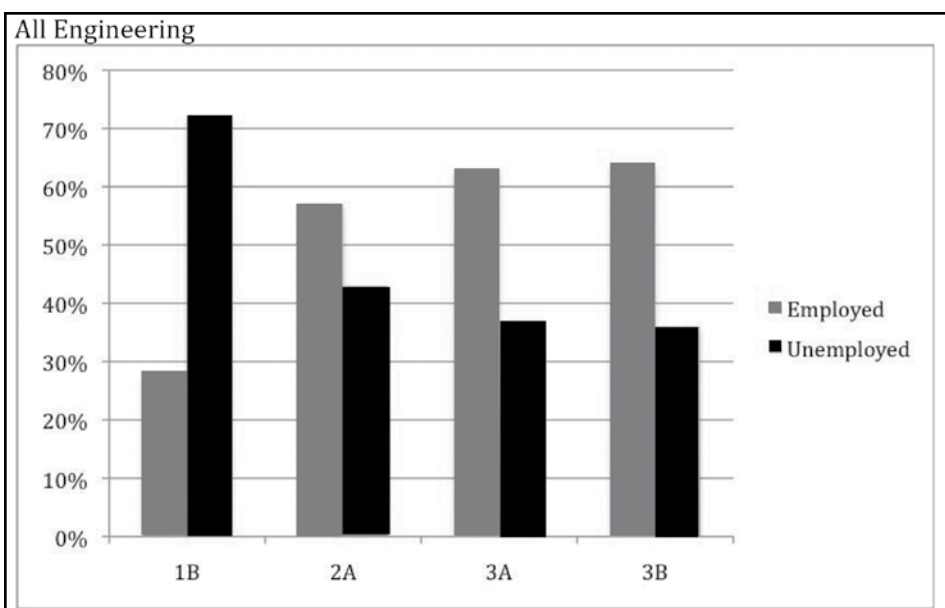
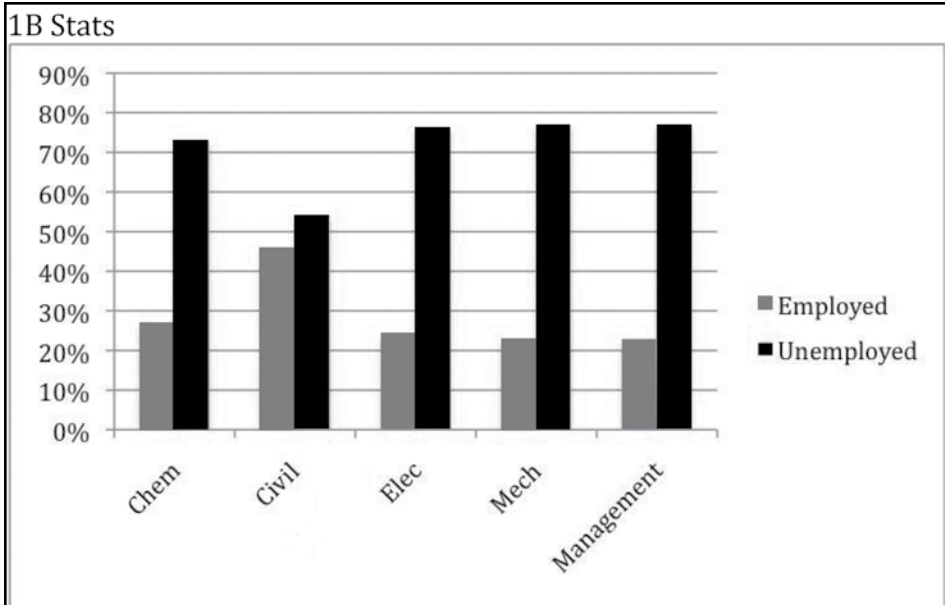


MICHAEL SELISKE
2A COMPUTER

The state of the world economy may not be on the minds of many university students, but in terms of Waterloo engineering students, it is definitely on the top of the list. As students look for jobs with the term quickly coming to a close, those with jobs may not realize the statistics which are currently available through CECS. Every Thursday employment statistics for the entire campus are updated and made available on the CECS website. I took a look at these stats and the outlook is bleak.

So far this term the overall unemployment rate for engineering is 49.65% (936

employed and 923 unemployed), which is well under the published 86%-99.9%. However, the job search is ongoing and will continue into the work term, so this number will improve. The hardest hit are the 1B students who are currently trying to find, for most, their very first real job. The 1B unemployment rate is a much more terrifying 78% with 426 of 590 students still looking for jobs. When CECS sent out the email last term to all students currently on a work term recommending them to find a job within the same company or go back to their current position, I personally thought it wouldn't be a big deal, but looking at these statistics, I guess they knew what they were talking about. I thought I would put together a few of the stats and the rest can be found on the CECS website under statistics.



Pi(e) Week A Success

MARISSA BALE, EMILY ECKER, SYLVIA WU
PI WEEK DIRECTORS

Pi(e) week raised a total of \$418.81 for Hope Spring, a charity that supports local KWC families affected by cancer through pie sales and pie-in-yo-face purchases. We would like to thank all students, faculty and staff who supported Pi(e) Week by purchasing a delicious slice of pie for their own taste buds or for someone else's nostrils. We would also like to thank all those who got pied in their faces for their cooperation and bravery. Many of you could have sued us for minor assault or billed us for laundry, but you didn't, and we really appreciate that you took it like an engineer.

The biggest money-makers were no doubt

the pies purchased or redirected for revenge. Vengeful human nature really helped us out big time, keep it up for next year!

The winners and runner-ups of the Pi-Reciting and Pie-Eating contests took home \$10 and \$5 William's Coffee Pub gift certificates respectively.

Trevor Creech of 2A Mechatronics took home the gold for reciting 68 post-decimal point digits of Pi, Chris Kohar of 2A Mechatronics came in second with 27 digits. We hope that you made good use of the money and got yourself yummy slices of pie.

The winner of the Pie-eating contest was Adam Acovski from 2A Environmental. The runner-up was Alexander Hogeveen Rutter from 2A Electrical. Hopefully you are not too sick of pie to enjoy the gift card.

Gradball Gaiety

PETER KELLY
3A CIVIL

It was yet another successful Gradball on Friday, March 6th. The evening consisted of an elaborate dinner featuring prime rib and chicken, dancing featuring rhythmic body movements and Toolbearers featuring the Tool. Things began with awarding a plethora of door prizes ranging from crock pots to Crown Royal. Door prizes were being handed out, ticket by ticket. Then things took an interesting turn when one prize would have two potential winners, and then they were required to dance-off in order to win.

In addition to a night of dinner and dance, the winners of Paul and Paula Plummer Awards were announced. This is the most prestigious award presented by the Engineering Society and is awarded to an individual who has "contributed to the benefit of the Engineering Society in such a manner to be outstanding and commendable." Awards are generally given to fourth-year students who have demonstrated an overwhelming level of commitment to EngSoc throughout their years at UW. After much deliberation and hard decision making it is my pleasure to announce the 2009 recipients. From A-Soc, we have: Kiri Neufeglise, Jeff Lipnicky, Sunny Ng, and Tyler Gale. For B-Soc, the award win-

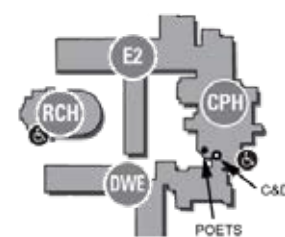
ners are: Amanda Hoff, Emily Ecker, Adam Schubert, and Ross Ricupero.

Of course, no event would be complete without a visit from the Tool. The Bearers were out in full force and were feeling very photogenic. Many people were happy to take pictures with the Tool in their formal wear. A very special thank you goes out to GradComm for all of their hard work in organizing the event. It was enjoyed by all and all of your efforts were appreciated.

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



Bus Push Raises Over \$3000 for Heart and Stroke



MICHAEL SELISKE
2A COMPUTER

Bright and early on Saturday, March 21, 2009 (Early for a university student anyway) a group of about 30 Waterloo engineering students showed up to CPH foyer for the Heart and Stroke foundation. What were they doing on a Saturday morning at school you ask? Pulling a bus to Kitchener of course. Organized by two fourth year students the event required a great deal of planning. In order to pull a transit bus down the middle of the street in mid day weekend traffic, the city requires a few things, such as a parade permit and a police escort. Many local businesses donated various things to the event such as The Engineering C&D, Molly Blooms and Casa Salsa. The support received by passing cars and people on the street was amazing, honks yells and plenty of donations were common. In fact over \$300 was raised by extending hardhats to pedestrians and cars stopped at intersections we were passing through. At the end of the day over \$3600 was raised with the top fundraiser Amanda Hoff who raised over \$600 on her own. The event was a big success and hopefully next year we can aim higher.



Engineering students gather for the annual Bus Push charity fundraiser.

Angelo Alaimo

Mayor Speaks at Victory Over Violence Event

BE THE CHANGE
Continued from Page 1

The last panel of the booth asks us to take a pledge which is briefly described here as: I will value my own life, I will respect all life, I will inspire hope in others.

Apart from the booth, SGI brought two speakers, Tony Meers, General Director of SGI Canada, and Mayor of Waterloo, Brenda Halloran.

On advice from the Mayor, Tony Meers began his speech by bringing the microphone from the stage to a "more comfortable" level amongst those present at the exhibit. Meers explained, "The title says victory over violence, but it goes deeper than just the idea of physical violence or verbal abuse, its talking about the underlining causes of why we cause suffering to one another and in recognizing who we are as human beings."

Meers took the audience on a verbal tour of the poster describing passive violence and

the different aforementioned panels. Meers explained, "The essential philosophy is belief in the ability in one to make a difference. Recognizing we as human beings coexist in our society within our family and communities and the way we regard ourselves as being connected to one another and being able to reform and reconnect to each other is actually the ultimate way we can achieve peace in the world. So it begins with myself, it begins with each of us taking responsibility for our own actions and also realizing the value of others." Meers finished by encouraging each of us in the great hall to take a serious look in the posters and thanking everything for coming out to the event.

Mayor Halloran took to the stage and brought life to the great hall, by getting the audience involved. The mayor began discussing violence in the Waterloo community by informing the great hall crowd about damage sustained after St. Patrick's Day, "Violence started last night after the St. Patrick's day festivities in our city. There were UW and WLU students openly fist

fighting out on the streets and police had to be called ending with a lot of damage to property." The impact of violence on our youth is especially of concern for our mayor from television, websites, and video games. The mayor remarked, "I don't think that's a very good place for us to be going as a community and as a society," in reference to how we are becoming "immune" to violence and more accepting of it. The mayor informed the great hall crowd to pay attention to the violence on a daily basis and to think about how it effects one in their decisions and on what path one takes in life. The mayor concluded her speech with a very motivating line to every young person in the university community, "It's time to really step up and be responsible. It's your world, you're taking over, and you've got to step up and make sure it's a place you want to live in."

Unfortunately, a the lack of respect existed toward the two speakers on Thursday by people inside the great hall. While waiting for the speeches to begin, two people rolled up a

couch, front and center, but sat facing away from the stage. They began chatting, but when the SGI executives began speaking, the two in the chair kept on talking facing away mere feet from the stage. Also, a large group, nearer to the Imprint office was exceptionally loud and could be heard clearly on the audio recordings of the event. It wasn't until the Mayor asked, "Who here is paying attention," did people decide to listen in. However, the pair at the front still faced away and continued with their conversation. Perhaps the two could take some advice away from this event and respect those near you -- especially when a presentation is in full swing.

Overall, the VOV booth had relevant information regarding violence in our society. Perhaps we, as a community, should reflect back on how we treat strangers using the information presented at this event. It's a shame the booth was only up for one day; perhaps SGI will someday place it on permanent display within the SLC for all to see.

Waterloo Cases in Design Engineering (WCDE)

WCDE is a group in the Faculty of Engineering that converts **work reports** into **Engineering Case Studies** for use in Engineering courses.

Work reports submitted electronically are worth **seventy-five P**5 points!**

cases.uwaterloo.ca

Sample Case Studies

All first-year concept courses are using these cases:

Hydro Quebec

- Alternative Energy Sources

Engineers Without Borders

- Alternative Drinking Water

Other cases currently in use include:

- Foot Brace Design

CUTC: Superstars Wanted!

JACLYN KONZELMANN
CUTC EXECUTIVE

The CUTC just had its 10th Year Anniversary Conference on March 12-13 at the Hilton Hotel in Toronto (check it out www.cutc.ca). We had great speakers and companies come out and everyone had a great time! Over the years, the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference has helped to bridge the gap between students, industry and academia in the technology field.

But now that 2009 is over, planning for 2010 must commence. We are currently looking for bright, ambitious people who are interested in helping CUTC grow and expand. This past year was a lot of fun for our exec team (just ask any of them) and now it has come time to once again seek out the young talent at UW who want to take part in making CUTC one of the best organizations ever!

We are looking for people who love a challenge - because trust me; we have lots of challenges for you to overcome. If you are highly motivated, well organized and looking to take part in something that will make a difference, then CUTC is for you.

The positions we are currently looking to fill are:

Sponsorship Exec: Think you have what it takes to talk to company executives, network and sell yourself and the conference? Are you a people person with a lot of confidence and a skill for talking? If so, then we want you!

Special Events Exec: In the past we have had a variety of different events, from seminars, keynote speakers, panels and team competitions. If you are good at communicating with companies, planning events, and maybe even coming up with a new idea or two of your own, then this job is for you.

Logistics Exec: Are you very organized and task oriented? Can you work under pressure and in a fast paced environment? If you like to be in control of a situation and always know what is going on, and are able to quickly and actively problem solve, then this is for you.

Website Exec: Are you great at making webpages? Do you have a passion for design and a flare for turning conceptual ideas into reality? We could use your help.

Super Exec: If you are just generally awesome all around, a team player, highly motivated, enthusiastic, organized, fun, and creative, then let us know - we know we can find a challenge for you to take on!

All the positions at CUTC will require lots of work, nights with little sleep, and never ending challenges...but it will all be worth it in the end. All our execs are rewarded for their efforts by this excellent opportunity to network and meet tons of interesting people. If you want a challenge with plenty of rewards and are interested in applying for an exec position or have any questions, please email me at Jaelyn.Konzelmann@cutc.ca. I look forward to meeting you - the future superstars of CUTC!

Engineering Explorations



TREVOR JENKINS
1B MANAGEMENT

As part of the March Break madness activities that swept campus on the week of March 16th, the annual Explorations event was held to expose engineers and their creations to middle school students. The attempt to spark the engineering flame is an annual event put on between the collaboration of EngSoc, the Dean's Office and various engineering student teams, groups and departments.

Groups of approximately 20 kids and their parents are taken on tours of a small selection of interactive displays from across engineering. With such a variety of projects ongoing in engineering, and the limited amount of time available, it was impossible for every group to view all 50 displays that were shown, however the 6 displays that each group did get the opportunity to take in gave them a good sense of what to expect from a career in engineering.

Some of the more popular displays that I heard parents and kids talking about included the always popular Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream, which allowed kids to create and eat a small

ice cream treat, the interactive model of a drive through facility, from Management Sciences, which allowed children to change variables in a simulated model of a fast food joint in an attempt to balance customer happiness and the amount of greenhouse emissions, and all the student teams, including the Midnight Sun, Wombat and Formula SAE car.

Parents and their kids were elated with the experience. I was faced with constant questions about what engineering is like, the requirements to get into UW engineering, and what some potential careers are for each discipline.

Most undergraduate students are likely already familiar with the event due to an e-mail that was sent out to all undergrads the morning of the event asking for volunteers. Organizers were overwhelmed with the expected turnout of over 1100 students and were in need of more volunteers than previously expected to make sure the event could run smoothly. Thankfully the call for action was answered and plenty of volunteers showed up to help out. An added bonus for volunteers included a spiffy Explorations shirt and free dinner, which fits into everyone's budget.

Congratulations to everyone who came out for making this year's explorations one of the best ever.

Students Compete at FIRST

ROBO RUMBLE
Continued from Page 1

Then on the second day, every team played several matches to determine if they would move on to compete in the third day of competition. The final day of the competition saw the top teams playing elimination rounds to determine who would be the overall victor of the competition and go on to compete in the world finals.

FIRST runs the robotics competition internationally and regional qualifiers are held in several countries, such as Israel and Brazil. The winning teams from each regional event will be given the opportunity to compete in Georgia at the Georgia Dome, where the Super Bowl was held in 1994 and 2000. 380 teams will gather there in the stadium, that seats around 40 000 spectators, to determine which team has the best robot this year.

Although the competition was all about robotic superiority, there were many other awards as well to recognize the efforts that students put into the event. Some of the fif-

teen judged awards are for sportsmanship, best business plan, as well as promoting the spirit of FIRST. Gorbet says that, "It's not about people building robots, it's about robots building people." A large emphasis of the competition is to help students develop professionalism, team work skills, and other soft skills.

The event took place in the main gym of the PAC, which was divided up into two areas: a competition area and robotics pit shop. The bleachers were drawn out and many people came by to check out the event. The robotics competition may have been the last time that many students enjoyed themselves in the PAC main gymnasium until final examinations are finished.

Next weekend there will be the Greater Toronto Area regional tournament held at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga. The event will take place on March 27 and March 28. It will be open to the public so anyone in the area who is interested in robotics should go check out the excitement.

DC Exam Study Zone Revamp



CAILIN HILLIER
2A GEOLOGICAL

The Davis Centre Library is preparing for a major temporary change starting at the end of March. After receiving many complaints from students regarding the excessive noise levels in the main area of the DC library, there will soon be noise enforcement practices coming into effect for the upcoming exam period from March 30th - April 24th. No rules are to be changed, however they are now going to be enforcing them more seriously. Cell phones must be set to silent or vibrate and no calls are to be taken in the library. No talking will be tolerated in the silent study zones and only minimal, low conversation will be tolerated in the quiet zones. All drinks will need to be covered and no hot or smelly foods will be allowed.

Extra library staff is being brought in to help to enforce these rules. Starting on Monday, March 30th, the library will begin their initiative, handing out bookmarks clearly indicating the rules applying to either the quiet or silent study zones. More signage will also be added throughout the main study area.

Additionally, the large group tables are going to be dispersed farther apart and more individual carrel seating will be brought in as well. For additional sound barriers, the bulletin boards used in the DC great hall for presentations

will be utilized temporarily between the larger tables. For those who are used to talking in DC, they will receive a warning from the library staff. Should groups continue talking after the initial notice, they will be asked to leave or the UW Police will be called to take their identification and they will be written up as being a library rule offender. All staff have been trained by Counselling Services in dealing with disruptive students in an intervention style manner.

Initiatives similar to this are being undertaken by many libraries and enforcing quiet is becoming an extremely common practise. Comments from students have been persistent regarding the loud nature of the library, referring to how inappropriate noise levels have been in relation to limited silent study areas in the DC library. This idea for noise reduction has been in the making since a forum regarding noise levels was held in December of 2008. Another perspective has also been brought to attention with regards to group work: group work is an important method of study and when the group study rooms are seemingly continually booked, those who work together in groups do need a place to go. Many students feel that DC is the best venue for working on group projects and quiet study is more effectively conducted at the Dana Porter library.

It will be interesting to see how this test-run in the DC library is received. Feedback will be highly encouraged regarding the adjustments and will aid in determining future library policy.

Interview With the Transportation Systems Research Group

MARC DOAN
2A MECHATRONICS

Students and employers gathered on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 for the annual ITE (International Transportation Engineers) Student Presentation Competition and Job Fair. Undergraduate and graduate students showcased their studies in a variety of areas related to public transit, ranging from concrete pavement to magnetic levitation trains.

The panel of student presenters had representatives from the University of Waterloo, the University of Toronto, and Ryerson University. Professional appearances were made by the MMM Group, the Ministry of Transportation, and iTrans Consulting. The top three winners received \$350, \$150, and

\$100 respectively and were entered in a national draw for the chance to attend the 2009 Annual CITE Conference in Montreal.

Having been established almost 35 years ago, the ITE student chapter at the University of Waterloo highlights exciting aspects of transportation engineering to attract prospective students. Members are kept updated in industry and academia through seminars, conferences, social events, and undergraduate activities. The student chapter is also a strong advocate of UW-TSRG, the largest transportation research group in Canada.

The University of Waterloo's TSRG (Transportation Systems Research Group) is comprised of seven faculty members, four of which are full-time professors, and 35 graduate students from four continents. The group specializes in four aspects of transpor-

tation engineering: planning, design, operation, and management.

Doctor Bruce Hellinga has been a faculty member of the university since 1996. His research involves road transportation, and private auto and public transit. He states, "We do research in long range transportation planning, design and operation. For example, we look at redesigning pavement materials, roads, and so on... and optimize material properties on roads and constructions."

Morteza Bagheri is one of the 35 dedicated graduate researchers with UW-TSRG. He studies rail freight safety, particularly how freight trains should be assembled and protocols that dictate where dangerous goods should be placed to minimize risks. Hellinga explains, "Currently, they don't explicitly look at the trade off during derailment with

respect to dangerous goods. More sophisticated procedures could be employed which would better account for risk management, safety, and the associated costs." Hellinga is also the ITE student chapter advisor and Bagheri is the vice-president.

The UW-TSRG is involved with a number of interesting projects, both local and provincial. Local projects include enhanced transit in Waterloo. The group is interested in how the existing bus network should be changed with the introduction of a light rail system in the near future. One large provincial endeavour that will surely affect thousands of people in the Greater-Golden Horseshoe is a multibillion dollar high-speed rail system connecting major cities in the area, including Waterloo, Hamilton, Mississauga, and Toronto.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Presidential Report



CAT HAY
PRESIDENT

I'd like to start off with clarifying some of the statements in my last IW article about changes to orientation week. In an attempt to be concise, I lost some of the context that should have accompanied my description of these changes. When I said a 3-day week, I meant we would have classes Thursday and Friday. It does not mean that orientation week comes to a dead stop. There will still be programming Friday evening and on the weekend.

My comment "one day each of jump start, faculty academic, and faculty fun" was referring to the amount of content we should expect to see in those days, not actually a full day of each of those

categories. Becky Wroe, one of the FOC co-chairs, has indicated that "it would be two days for a combination of academic information and social times with others in your faculty, and one day for jumpstart. Much like if you look at the current Tuesday and Thursday Orientation schedule you would have Meet the Dean and Earn your Hard Hat on the same day, and Junkyard Wars and Eng 101 on the same day. The only difference is that now this would occur on Monday and Tuesday, instead of Tuesday and Thursday, which moves back to the two consecutive days of programming that Engineering experienced prior to 2008."

Students who are part of or familiar with the Software Engineering program have shown some concerns regarding the changes to the FOC structure and the removal of the SE FOC from that structure. Software Engineering students will

still have opportunities for programming time specific to their department. The Orientation Review Committee has had a discussion about the importance of being introduced to both Faculties that SE is part of, seeing how services such as Math-Soc and EngSoc, MEF and WEEF, and the Undergraduate Offices can benefit them throughout their time at UW. The Review Committee has also discussed the importance and the benefits of those students having an opportunity to meet the Deans of both Faculties. The FOC co-chairs intend to work closely with the Math and Eng FOC in 2010 to ensure that programming is available specific to the academic and social needs of Software first-year students.

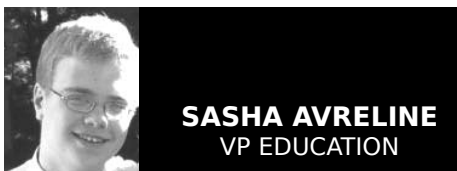
At the last faculty council meeting we were given an update on the coop statistics for this term. The last coop report indicated that only 27% of first year stu-

dents have been placed for next term, with an overall rate of 47% employment in engineering. The current student to job ratio is 2:1. They also mentioned that approximately 50-60 students on coop this term are working in volunteer positions (i.e. not paid).

A reminder that the last EngSoc meeting of the term will be on April 1st in POETS at 5:30pm. As usual, it will be a potluck and we will be announcing the Presidents and Paul Harlick awards. EOT will be the following Friday (April 3rd) at 9pm in POETS. And finally, directorship applications are open until April 3rd (the last day of lectures)- read our new descriptions and apply online at engsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Other than that, thanks for a great term! This position has been an incredible learning experience for me and I'm really looking forward to coming back in the fall!

VP Education Report



SASHA AVRELINA
VP EDUCATION

How's it going everyone!

Well this is the last issue of the Iron Warrior for this term, hence my final exec report for winter of 2009. In this report I will give a couple of updates and reminders of what is currently going on and then write a short term review.

First of all thanks to everyone who has filled out a debt load survey and thanks to class reps for administering the whole process! The return rate this term was about average - 40%, as compared to an all time high of 49% and an all time low of 15%. You can find summary of results in this issue of the Iron Warrior and a similar summary will be passed on to the Dean so he has an idea of the student's financial status.

I hope you all had a chance to fill out a course critique for all of our classes. Please inform me as soon as possible if you felt there were any irregularities during the course critiquing process (for example if the prof stayed in the room while critiques were administered or someone has filled out more than one course critique per prof). You will be able to access the summary of results for this term at www.eng.uwaterloo.ca.

ca/critiques/ after the final grades are finalized in May. Meanwhile, you can look up results from previous terms all of the way back to 2003.

Some of the upcoming events this term include two work term report writing workshops. Those workshops will take place on Thursday March 26, 2009 and Tuesday, March 31, 2009 from 5:30 to 7PM in CPH 3607. The interactive workshops are aimed at helping first year students get help with work term report writing skills and will consist of two small lectures followed by hands-on exercises that will involve examples of excellent and poor work term reports.

Now a couple of updates about PDeng. If you have to take a PDeng course following your 4B graduation, you have to register for it in the PDeng office (CPH 2376) as there is no longer automatic enrollment after 4B. Some of the other logistics about the PDeng course offering in the summer regarding how many courses one can take, and how quickly, are still being worked out at the moment. Updates will be provided as soon as information is available. Also on the PDeng note, this term my PDeng directors and I came to a conclusion that it may be a good idea to get a lot of feedback from the off-stream society, in which students would be actually on the work term and enrolled in PDeng courses. This way a lot of

feedback is not lost by the time you arrive on campus. Given that we will be the off-stream society in the summer of 2009, we will be contacting you to get your feedback and passing it on to the A-Soc VP Education and his PDeng directors. Thanks to Blair Rogers who came up with this idea!

Co-op working group will be discussing how to improve the work term report writing experience for students. So, if you have any comments or concerns about the work term report process, such as issues with marking, turn-around times, and more, please let me know by e-mailing me at bsoc_vp@dengmail.uwaterloo.ca by April 5th, 2009.

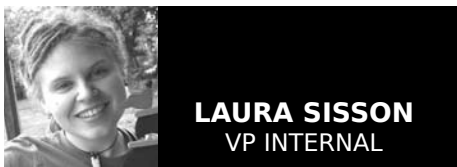
Finally thanks to everyone who has brought in exams to the exam bank! If you still have exams you wish to bring in, please do so! You can either bring a hard copy to the orifice (CPH1327) and it will be scanned within a day or so or submit a soft copy on our website (<http://engsoc.uwaterloo.ca/www/engform.php>).

So, it looks like I have stated all of the updates and it is time to write a short reflection on this term. Overall, I believe the term has gone fairly well and we have made some progress. It has all started with the resume critique sessions in January, where

I remember the extremely long lines up on the 3rd floor of CPH; overall the sessions turned out to be a great success. We have also been able to work together with CECS this term as far as planning and organizing sessions and will continue to do so in the future. This term has been extensive in promotion of SFF debating and technical speaking competition (special thanks to Alex Hogeveen Rutter for this), as well as international exchanges; a lot more work will be done on this next term. The two academic rep meetings that were organized this term were fairly successful and I was able to get a lot of feedback from those meetings. Hopefully we pass on a lot of useful information to all of those who attended, and a big thanks to all of those who did attend! I will work next term on better planning of those meetings. We have started doing some work on improvement of the exam bank, but there is still a long way to go! Hopefully the PDeng review will be completed fairly soon and I hope to see the results this summer!

On that note, I wish you all good luck with your exams. Congratulations to those that are graduating! See everyone else in the fall!

VPF Report



LAURA SISSON
VP INTERNAL

Hey guys!

So Friday, March 20 was a 2011 Andre and grilled cheese party in POETS. There was a bit of trouble completing it at the beginning, but we all stepped up and took care of business. It is still up to debate whether more grilled cheese or beverages were consumed. We also had a 2012 potluck last Wednesday, March 18, and on the night of March 20th will be the FIRST EVER 2013 year spirit event! It is a twister party where each participant is a twister dot...it sounds scandalous to me!

TalEng also took place on March 19. There was good participation and we had a variety of events and some really impressive acts. Can't wait to see what people have up their sleeves for next year!

Up and coming, there will be this terms

SECOND D.U.S.T.E.D. THIS Wednesday, March the 25th. If you missed out on the first one, never fear! Tickets on-sale in the Orifice now and they're going fast! There will also be an Art Attack lunch on Wednesday, March the 25th and Enginuity on Thursday, March 26th.

Engineering has taken on AHS for a water polo game on the 29th of March in the PAC at 5:30pm. Come out to that for some good times; no experience necessary!

Also, just a quick reminder that Earth Hour is happening on Saturday March 28th from 8:30pm-9:30pm. Please remember to turn off all your lights at home and keep your eyes out for some events going on with the UW Sustainability Project: www.uwsp.feds.ca.

It has just come to my attention that this is the last exec report of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my directors for an awesome term of well-run events and good times. I would also like to wish all of the fourth years the best of luck in the real world. It's been fun!



SCOTT RANKIN
VP FINANCE

It's a dark Friday afternoon, today; I sit brooding under the apple tree, in the front lawn of Aunt Ethel's brothel. Aunt Ethel was a mean old woman who wore a lime green pant suit everyday of the week. The boys who live on the Thompson farm down the street loath her, and why shouldn't they? She's especially mean to them. I remember one day when they egged the brothel, she beat them 'til their behinds were red and raw. I couldn't believe it when she did it, I mean they're grown men for gosh sake.

I sit here pondering, as I watch Jim the mailman do his regular rounds, wearing his regular navy corduroy slacks, brown loafers, and that silly sailor hat, he thinks the hat accents his figure, but I know personally his wife Penelope detests it. I heard once he got it when he was in Gobi desert, but I never had the initiative to ask him myself. Jim's so typical, I see him every day, and every day it's the same thing. He'd say "What do you think of the weather out here

Guss?" "Can't complain," I'd reply, and he'd hand me my mail and be on his way. I never got Jim, I mean my name is Smokey, I guess I really never had the heart to tell him different.

It starts to rain, I kind of enjoy the rain, but the tree I'm sitting under does block most of the downpour. I laugh to myself as I watch Jim scurry around the street desperately trying to stay dry, ruining people's mail as he attempts to fashion an umbrella out of it, then due to his lack of concentration falls into a muddy puddle on the street. That Jim sure does crack me up. Then the Thompson boys show up, just like me, they start to point and laugh at the mess Jim is in and eventually start to kick him while he's down. Talk about adding insult to injury, or vice versa; I don't think I know how to use that saying quite yet. Just then Aunt Ethel comes storming out and chases the Thompson boys away, grabs Jim and brings him inside to warm him up and get him some dry clothes. I guess Jim's day isn't so bad after all.

I open the mail; turns out the brothel is getting evicted. Sweet.

-Smokey the Bandit

PS: Finances are good.

VPX Report



CARA KENNEDY
VP EXTERNAL

Hey all,

This has been a relatively quiet couple of weeks in External world. The first thing I want to make sure you hear about is the Complementary Education (CE) course that UofT is hosting on behalf of the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES). The topic will be "Engineering and Sports." I will be posting a brochure on the board across from the Orifice and sending out an e-mail with more details.

CFES is also looking for an IT Commissioner to hold the position from the end of this academic year until the end of the next one, April 2010. Check out

www.cfes.ca or e-mail me for more details.

Also new news, the Annual Charity Bus Push, which raised money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. About 75 people came out this weekend and pulled a GRT bus from campus to the Charles Street Terminal in downtown Kitchener. We raised over \$3800!! Good work everyone!

Have a good couple of weeks and good luck on exams!

Cara



WEEF Director Report



MATTHEW BESTER
WEEF DIRECTOR

The time has come for the last WEEF article for the term. The funding allocations for the term were approved at the Board of Directors meeting last Tuesday and a summary of all those who received funding can be found near to this article. If you want more information about the proposals you can find the winter 2009 proposal book online at weef.uwaterloo.ca.

In an effort to make as much information about WEEF and it's past available, we have been making efforts to get historical information about WEEF on the website. One way we have been doing this is to scan all the old proposal books that date back to 1994 and make them available online.

This is a new opportunity for you if you want to know how much a "Pentium" computer with an industry leading 64mb of ram would cost for the WATSTAR labs.

On a final note, I would like to talk about the Plummer Pledge. There has been concern from a large number of fourth years about how the Plummer Pledge deals with the donated money and if it even goes to the selected recipient. These concerns have been voiced to the WEEF Board of Directors and we are currently taking action to ensure that WEEF receives its respective donations. We have been assured that any amount of money that has been selected to go to WEEF through Plummer Pledges goes to WEEF.

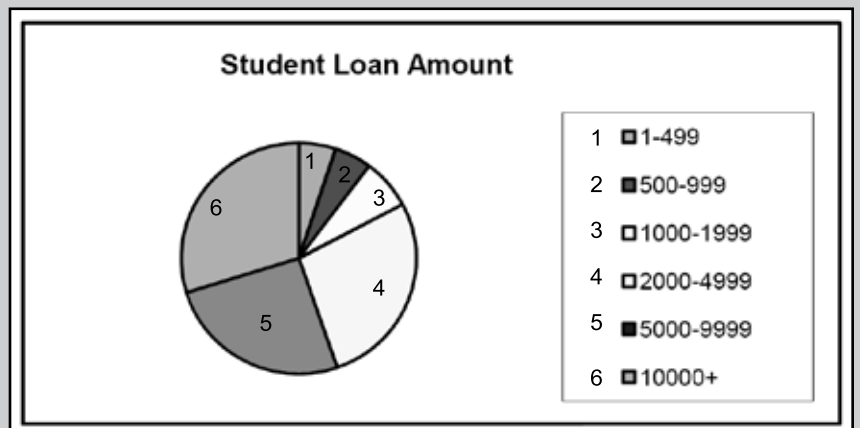
That's all of the WEEFnews that have for now. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at weef@engmail.uwaterloo.ca.

WEEF Funding Allocation

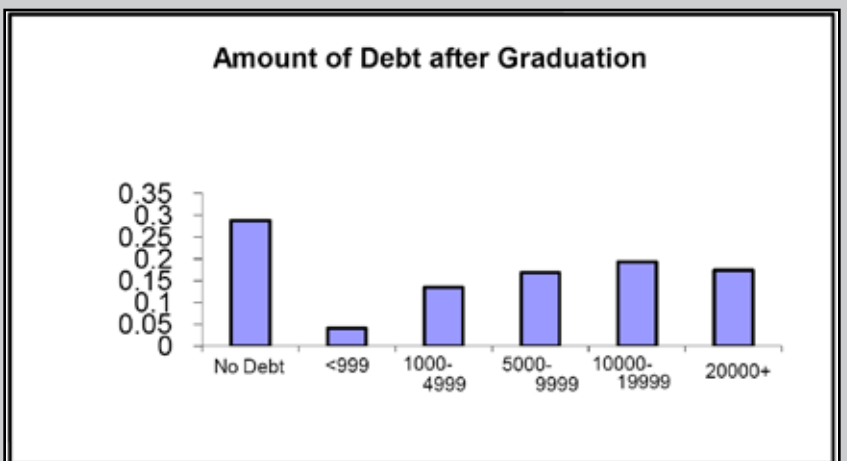
Proposal	Requested	Allocated
Architecture		
Cadcam Software Upgrade	\$2,258.73	\$2,258.73
Milling Machine and Accessories	\$6,929.99	\$6,929.99
Cadcam/Cnc Workstation	\$2,122	\$2,122
Chemical Engineering		
Vernier Data Collection System	\$4,122	\$4,122
Reference Electrodes For Voltammetry Equipment	\$530	\$530
Civil and Environmental Engineering		
5 Corning Lab Magnetic Stirrers- 5 Units	\$565	\$565
Fisherbrand Ex Autoclavable Digital Micro Pipettors	\$544	\$544
Dionex Ic Replacement Columns: Analytical Columns And Suppressor	\$2,042	\$2,042
Electrical and Computer Engineering		
E&CE Linux Server	\$2,850	\$2,850
E&CE Laboratory Monitor Upgrade	\$7,200	\$2,400
E&CE Nexus Computer Upgrade	\$15,000	\$3,750
Lab Equipment For The Circuits And Devices Courses	\$13,500	\$6,770
Power Electronics	\$21,779.37	\$15,556.69
Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering		
Retrofit & Upgrade Of The Instron Tensile Tester	\$12,600	\$12,600
K&S 4129 Wire Bonder Components	\$3,805	\$862
Systems Design Engineering		
Bench Equipment For Syde Teaching Lab	\$4,097.50	\$4,097.50
Departments Total	\$99,945.59	\$68,000.00
Engineering Student Teams		
Robot Racing 2009	\$2,318	\$558
University Of Waterloo Robotics Team	\$2,824	\$1,454
Nanorobotics Group	\$5,725	\$1,200
R3design Environmentally Sustainable Design Competition	\$450	\$350
Midnight Sun X Solar Race Car Team.	\$9,000	\$1,750
Iron Warrior	\$789.59	\$362.00
Tronmower 2	\$1,400	\$550
GNCTR-UW-2011	\$2,000	\$450
Waterloo Aerial Robotics Group	\$2,284.40	\$664.40
Waterloo Space Society	\$4,850	\$1,500
Clean Snowmobile Team	\$6,000	\$1,750
Igem	\$2,400	\$600
University Of Waterloo Underwater Technology Team	\$5,545	\$1,545
UWAFI	\$9,135	\$1,750
PROJECT IRIS	\$1,934	\$508
Glider Team	\$380	\$270
2010 Frosh Week	\$2,000	\$1,750
Student Teams Total	\$59,035	\$17,011
Grand Total	\$158,980.58	\$85,011.40

Debt Load Survey Results

- Term Total**
Total Responses 741
Number of surveys sent 1847
Response % 40%
Number of Students in core classes 3047
- Does your family support you financially? (550 responses)**
Yes 65% No 35%
- Average Cost of Living for a 4 month School Term (548 responses)**
\$9,495
- Average Cost of Living for a 4 month Work Term (509 responses)**
\$4,144
- Have you applied for local aid or other bursaries to pay for school? (556 responses)**
Yes 48% No 40% Not Yet 12%
- Have you applied for OSAP? (556 responses)**
Yes & Received 38% Yes & Denied 18%
No 40%
- Do you have a loan for academic purposes? (549 responses)**
Yes 37% No 51% Not Yet 12%
- 7a How much is the student loan? (266 responses)**
1-499 11% 500-999 2%
1000-1999 8% 2000-4999 17%
5000-9999 34% 10000+ 28%



- 8 Has the differential tuition increases caused you hardship? (545 responses)**
Yes 43% No 26% Not Yet 31%
- 9 How much debt do you expect to be in by graduation? (540 responses)**
No Debt 27% <999 4%
1000-4999 14% 5000-9999 12%
10000-19999 19% 20000+ 23%



- 10 Do you live at home while at school? (552 responses)**
Usually 7% Used to 2%
No 91%
- 11 Have you lived at home while on work terms? (555 responses)**
Always 13% Sometimes 43%
Never 43%
- 12 Average of the weekly salary while on work term (514 responses)**
\$676

POINT VS. COUNTERPOINT

POINT

Is Wine Better Than Beer?

COUNTERPOINT

APRIL RUSSEL
4B CHEMICAL

I'm not a wine connoisseur (I have to spell check that word every time I use it) by any means, but I do enjoy drinking wine. Like most, I started out not liking it much. However, as I've grown old, I think my taste buds have died (or developed) because I find myself enjoying many new foods and drinks that I previously avoided.

My big step into the wine world happened in Fort McMurray, during the Winter 2007 co-op term. There was a great group of six Waterloo Chemical Engineers and we had theme drink nights. And so it was that we had spaghetti with cheap boxed wine. Following that were some less cheap and less square packages of wine, and I was hooked. However, I found it less fun to drink wine when back at school that summer -- for some reason Pubcrawl doesn't scream "wine odyssey" to me.

Enter Fort McMurray stint number two. There was a co-op with my employer from another engineering school with a much more defined wine palate than myself. I was introduced to wines from Italy and France that didn't fit in my previous criteria of "less than \$10." And that pretty much brings us up to today, where you will find me with bottles of stuff you can't pronounce from Europe, and a box of cheaper, Canadian wine without labels, since my sisters bottled it, in my closet.

One of the first distinguishing characteristics of wine (as compared to beer) is that it is not carbonated. This is a big plus for me, as I find carbonation makes me feel too full. Also, it means that you don't have to drink the whole bottle of wine in one sitting, which is often not advisable. You can simply put the cork back in and put it in the fridge (or on my desk) to enjoy another day.

Wine just says classy... even when you aren't. For instance, throw some wine into a punch bowl with fruit, and you have sangria! How fancy is that? You can also buy one of those nice wine totes to carry your wine in, which looks nicer than carrying a 6-pack or 2-4 all around town. Part of the classy connotation is that there can be some snobby wine people out there, who talk too much about what is going on inside the bottle -- just hit them over the head with a full bottle, and they will stop. The other part might be that you need a wine glass. You don't have to drink wine from a wine glass, but it makes it much more enjoyable -- and adds to that classy look you are searching for. And lastly, if you are fortunate to have a wine cellar, or even a wine cooler, you can have copious amounts of liquor and yet appear cultured.

Speaking of wine nuts, if you stay oblivious to the impact of vintage and other random facts about wine, you will enjoy drinking wine a lot more! And

most people will just be impressed you are drinking wine. If you have tried more than a few varieties, you know more about wine the average student. This means you won't have to listen to them berate you for wine choice when at a party. And there is always a chance that some people at an event with free wine don't like wine very much - this means more for you (or me)!

Did you know that you can get a degree in winemaking? It's not even just at obscure US colleges no one knows about - ever heard of Cornell? They have both undergraduate and graduate programs in Enology and Viticulture. Other notable schools: UC Davis, University of Arkansas and Washington State. Also, Brock has a similar program.

One of the best things about wine is its staying power. People have been making wine for a long time, possibly since 6000 BC. It has also been an important part of many religions, including Judaism and Christianity. The Roman Catholic Church supported wine consumption as a sign of Christianity in the middle ages and used it during mass. Monks were often involved in making wine and became experts, like Dom Perignon, a monk in the Champagne region of France.

Drinking wine is also reported to be good for your health. Multiple studies have shown that "moderate" consumption of wine is associated with a decrease in death due to cardiovascular events such as heart failure. These benefits are often more pronounced with red wine, indicating that compounds in the grape skins are the origin of these benefits. There are even more studies underway about the effect of wine consumption on other health problems, such as Alzheimer's Disease. As well, during the Middle Ages it was also used as an antiseptic and a medicinal drink, and those who could afford it would drink wine instead of water, since most water sources were polluted.

Today, mass-marketed wines use fancy production techniques such as micro-oxygenation, tannin filtration, cross-flow filtration, thin film evaporation, and spinning cones -- all of which remind me of Mass Transfer and Separation Processes. And I'm nerdy enough to enjoy that.

I hope my confession of a love of wine has inspired you to go and try something new. My best advice is to get a Pinot Grigio if you are looking for something most people will like -- it's a great present. If you have any recommendations for me, pass them on -- that box of wine in the closet is almost done.

RORY ARNOLD
4B MECHANICAL

Australian winemakers have a saying, "It takes a lot of good beer to make a good wine." Is it because a beer is a delicately brewed recipe that pulls in inspiration from the barley, the hops, the water in the yeast? Or is it its refreshing character that is the most satisfying part of a job well done? I would imagine it would be both. There is no greater enjoyment than sipping a finely crafted brewed ale or lager in which a brewmaster has so painstakingly taken the time to perfect the interplay of the ingredients to form such a refreshing beverage.

Beer is the oldest and most consumed alcoholic beverage in the world, and for good reason. How many times have your friends come over and asked, "You wanna go for a beer?" In fact, going for a beer may be one of the most important everyday rituals you and your friends will ever embark on. It could be sitting in the local pub, it could be sitting at home watching a hockey game, beer is that one thing that brings friends together in a friendly forum where we can share our feelings that normally would stay hidden behind our rough exterior.

Beer has the ability to bring out the best in all of us. This is why beer and only beer is served during sporting events. The beer makes us patriotic, and gives us the strength to put all of our energy behind our team to ensure that they leave as victors. Beer brings us together as friends, just think, how many new friends you have made at the pub over a pint. Beer can be enjoyed by anyone. Whether you're a doctor, a lawyer, an engineer, a welder, a construction worker or don't even have a job, a beer is something we all can enjoy. And when you go into a pub you don't see them as the profession they represent, or how much they make, you just see them as a beer drinker, and in this way we are all the same. Beer is not prejudiced towards any group of people. All it cares about is that you enjoy having a good time and are looking to relax.

Beer is available in every corner of the world and requires that only a grain be available for production as it can be flavoured with whatever the local spice is. This is why beer was brewed in China, Mesopotamia and Europe over 4000 years ago. With its origin dating back as far as 7000 years ago. It is still the most consumed beverage in the world after tea and water.

This also is why so many different types of beer exist. Brewers took what was available to them and crafted them into something that was both delicious and nutritious. In fact a pint of Guinness

used to be prescribed to pregnant mothers in Ireland. Although this is no longer practiced, beer can still be worked into a healthy diet. Beer is naturally fat free, is full of nutrients including vitamins A, C, and B6, as well as folate, thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, zinc, iron, calcium, protein and carbohydrates. During times of fasting Trappist monks survive solely on beer. Beer also contains antioxidants and fewer calories than the same amount of mixed drink or wine.

Breweries take great pride in their heritage. Ask anyone in this country to name as many breweries as they can and they will easily name most North American macrobreweries, a few foreign beer giants and possibly a few local microbrews. Ask them to name as many wineries as they can and they may have a harder time. Breweries can pop up anywhere and everywhere as there are breweries in every province, whereas wine is pretty much limited to a few regions. This also makes beer more environmentally friendly than wine as it is much easier to buy local. And of course we all know that breweries gladly reuse the bottles and have so for a while.

Another reason to enjoy beer is their marketing. Remember the "I am Canadian" commercial featuring Joe Canadian and how he defined who we are as Canadians, or how about the cultural icons that the Budweiser frogs became? Beer companies spend large amounts of money to entertain us with their television and radio ads. You never see a top 10 list of wine commercials.

Maybe the best part of beer is how well it goes with food. It goes equally well in food as it does with food. Adding beer to a soup or stew is a great way to add flavour instead of just regular water. Using a malty beer instead of water to make bread adds a delicious sweetness to it. Beer is also a great addition to a meal. Drinking a smooth lager is a great way to complement a plate of chicken wings and if you prefer one of the hotter sauces, a great way to balance the flavour. And I think there is no better meal than a big flavourful pale ale to go along with steak and potatoes. In fact there are a growing number of people who prefer pairing cheese with beer rather than wine. Cattle are often fed the same grains that go into making a great beer; in fact, most breweries send their spent grains off to be cattle feed. This strong relationship between the milk used to make cheese and the grains used to make beer provide the perfect complement for each other. Most of the European monks who brew beer often make cheeses to go with them.

As you see beer can be as simple as a macrobrewed pale lager or as complex and as a flavoured stout but in the end, a beer is a beer and that is something we can all enjoy.

Editor's Note:

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

Dangling *Pointers;

Girl next door,

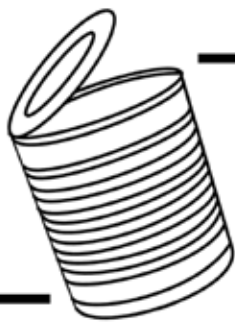
You screamed just a tad bit too loud last Tuesday night. The rest of us are very lonely here, don't remind us of what we could be doing instead of optimizing algorithms. That being said, I love it when a woman is vocal about what she enjoys and I'd love to try to optimize the frequency of your Big O. Say hi to me in the hallway sometimes to kick off my chances of doing that?

--Boy next door

Dear Unimpressed,

You pay more attention to your iPhone than my cleavage, and such intense geekery is quite impressive. You might think you have no chance with me, ever (or you don't think about me, ever...), but I'm actually really into RSS and smartphones and I love over-the-top geeky engineers. The fact that you might turn out to be the next Steve Wozniak is not a bad prospect either. Help me jailbreak my phone and I'll return a nice favour.

--The bombshell you never seem to notice



We're On a Boat!

Page 5

The Progression of Failure

FAIL

Page 4

From Black to Red



Page 4

Very tired and hungry...

Waterloo-gate: Conspiracy Exposed on Campus!



KEVIN LING
PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIC

Earlier this week, reports of the man who caused the collapse of Wall Street have surfaced in the media. The Toronto Star profiled the former University of Waterloo statistician, Dr David Li, and showed how the economic theories which he devised single handedly brought our economy to its current state. While investigating how the economic turmoil has affected the University of Waterloo, the Tin Soldier was contacted by an individual who claims to be close to the heart of a recently uncovered Waterloo scandal. The Tin Soldier has the exclusive story.

Agreeing to speak only upon the condition of anonymity, the informant who wish-

es to go by the name of Rusty Shackelford met with the Tin Soldier in a secluded parking lot on Ring Road. During the meeting, Shackelford provided the Tin Soldier with classified documents that implicate several key university figures in a conspiracy to destroy the current job market.

In an undated memo between two members of the board of directors, it is stated, "There are too many jobs out there. Our graduate student enrollment is dropping each term. Deal with it." Although some of the paper trail is missing or likely destroyed, Shackelford believes that this memo was written sometime around 1998, just before the dot com bubble burst. At that time, the economy was performing very strongly and it appears that the university wanted to put a plan in action to ensure that the good times would not keep rolling.

Of course, with any such allegations, skepticism and questions are bound to

arise. How does the university benefit from a weakened economy? Shackelford says that it is quite simple. When the job market is strong, students finish their bachelor's degree and get jobs right away in the industry. The university then misses out on the money that would be made from the exorbitantly high tuition rates for master's degrees. To increase the school's revenues, it is in their best interest to have students unable to get a job after graduation.

Students unable to find jobs are much more likely to consider taking graduate studies to delay their entrance into the workforce. So less jobs increases the amount of graduate students which in turn puts more money into the pocket of the university.

Where does all this money go? Included in the documents leaked to the Tin Soldier are



university budgets and revenue statements. The financial records are missing certain key elements, including where the money that is funding the construction of E5 is coming from.

See I'M SANE. TRUST ME!
on Page 5

University Running out of Cash

Engineering Enrollment Increased by Fifty Percent



ANGERO ARAIMO
2A ERECTICAL

To boost dwindling cash supplies, the University of Waterloo has decided to increase engineering enrollment by 50% for Fall 2009. The only problem facing the university regarding this change is the lack of available teaching space to accommodate the influx of new students.

With existing teaching infrastructure in RCH, DWE, and E2 unable to handle more students, the University has decided to hold engineering classes in the yet to be complete E5, and also in the Arts Lecture Hall (AL), which has been renamed the Engineering Lecture Hall (EL). For those who do end up with "lectures" in E5, you are reminded to bring safety boots, safety glasses, and your Frosh Week Hardhats to be able to access the lecture halls inside the construction site. Failure to comply will result in immediate dismissal from site and being written up for a violation of the Bondfield Construction's safety policy. Why is lectures in quotations? Well, you see, the university has also realized, instead of holding normal classes in E5, students can help out constructing the building. Not only is it very practical experience for civil, electrical, and mechanical students, but it is also free labour!

The Tin Soldier met with the registrar's office to discuss some of the changes coming this September. Arts



faculty classes will be moved to terms where fewer engineers are on campus such as the Winter and Spring terms. Not only will it allow room for more engineering students, it will allow for an increase of income at all food and retail outlets on and around campus - especially bars and nightclubs.

You may have realized the University will have less Engineering faculty to teach, but that is not a problem says the registrar, as Arts professors displaced

by the annexation of AL will now TA all first and second year Engineering classes to free up Engineering Graduate Students to teach first year classes.

If the economic downturn deepens for the next two years, the university hasn't ruled out the possibility of further annexing the Modern Languages (ML) building to be renamed the Programming Languages (PL) building because it has a Tim Horton's. As one may know, the proximity of abundant caffeine near

4th year students rushing to finish their design projects on the final nights before a symposium is especially attractive to fix those late night bugs or perhaps even begin the project itself...

In conclusion, boosting engineering enrollment will allow the university to increase its intake of tuition fees while reducing the number of distractions on campus for engineering students. The Tin Soldier fully endorses the decision of the university.

Micheal Seliske

Letter from the Guy In Charge of Stuff



NOT KEVIN LING
HEAD HONCHO

Oh man, this is one rough production weekend. As of this writing, it is nearing 8pm on the day before we have to send the paper to print and we have maybe one sixth of the paper done. Why so late? I'll tell you why. One word. Toonie bar. Er.. I meant two words.

Last night (Saturday), the Environment faculty student society threw a semi-formal dance at Fed Hall, and engineers were invited. Normally, I wouldn't care for a bunch of hippies getting all gussied up and dancing, but two things really made me want to join in on the party.

One: The prospect of a good ratio. Really good. Pretty much every faculty here except for engineering has a pretty good balance of guys and gals, and it's just not fair. The ES Semi-Formal Dance is no exception to the rule and met my expectation on that part. Of course we couldn't deal with there being so many girls so we brought our own Eng crowd there and normalized things a bit. At least in our corner, where we had about three guys to a girl. Yeah, that sounds about right.

Two: The aforementioned toonie bar. I am not kidding, two dollars a drink. You could literally walk up to the bar and order a drink and put down just a toonie. But only a dick would do that. Seriously, no tip? When you think about it, a toonie bar is a great idea, in concept. However, in practice, there are some serious problems. It kind of makes me see why happy hours aren't allowed in some places. It's just a bad idea. What normal people would do at a toonie bar would be buy their drink, enjoy it, and save money. What us engineers did was buy a bunch of mixed drinks and chug them. Do it up right. Or so we thought.

Now the fact that I binge drank excessively isn't the only problem with the toonie bar, though. The venue was not very conducive of a successful toonie bar. When we showed up at Fed Hall we gave them our tickets and headed in. As soon as we entered the main area, we saw that there was an impressive FIVE people on the dance floor. Where was everyone? I thought this was a lively event. Well, turns

out that almost everyone who was there at the event was waiting in line for drinks. Ugh.

Since it was an all ages event, only the upstairs bar was open and everyone was ID'ed at the stairs up. We waited in line for over half an hour before we even got upstairs. Then after we got upstairs, it was just a huge mob around the bar, which only had three bartenders working. Come on Fed Hall. It's a toonie bar, you know that everyone is going to binge drink. The speed of service was abysmal and it took forever. Fortunately for me, Blondie who was working the bar seemed to like my friend and served him almost immediately every time. Yay for favouritism!

Another problem I had with the dance was the music. They played all of "Jizzed In My Pants" by The Lonely Island, but they cut off "I'm on a Boat" before it got to the best part. I guess they wanted to avoid T-Pain swearing in the background, but that's what makes the song! The DJ just tried to fade into another song that is nowhere near as good as the boat tune, and honestly those are the only two songs that I remember hearing. I recall there being music, but after that I just stopped paying attention. And the dance ended at one and they kicked everyone out. I guess it's pretty late by then already, but when I go out drinking it feels like a waste when the night ends before 3 a.m.

My crew and I headed over to plaza and chilled there for a bit and got some eats. At that point, I decided I should go home and see what was going on with my roomies. This is where everything went downhill. I live north east of campus, so I walked down Philip Street. Everything here is pretty hazy, and I was on my own. I really did not think that through. Whoops.

I started walking and everything seemed fine. I left my coat in a secret hideaway on campus, but it wasn't too cold so all was good. Then I decided to cut across a field. Apparently some empty lot near East Campus Hall isn't really a field, but more of a mud pit. I got about half way across the field when I first noticed there was a problem since my feet were no longer moving properly. My shoes were stuck, and since I was wearing dress shoes (leather loafers, so no laces) I couldn't just pull them out, so my feet slipped out of my shoes. I slid my feet back into my shoes and tried

again, unsuccessfully, but his time I was determined to keep my shoes on, so when I tried to move my feet and they wouldn't move, I just fell over... Into mud. I also had a white tie. (as of this writing, I still don't actually know where that tie is, or if it made it). I stumbled onto all fours and got my dress pants entirely covered in mud. I was not in a good place. That's when I caved and just stood in the mud in my socks, and pulled my shoes out of the mud and trudged on.

I walked all the way down Columbia and back to my house in my socks with my muddy leather shoes in my hands. I probably passed a few people on the way, and they all probably think I'm a dumbass. When I finally got back to my house, I just rang the doorbell incessantly until my roommates came and opened the door for me. I also managed to get muddy palm prints all over our front door.

After I got inside, I went straight to the shower with all my clothes still on and held my shoes with me to wash them as I cleansed myself of my stupidity. My dress clothes and shoes probably really did not appreciate that. I wore those leather shoes this morning actually, since I realized that I also left my sneakers on campus. They shrunk a bit.

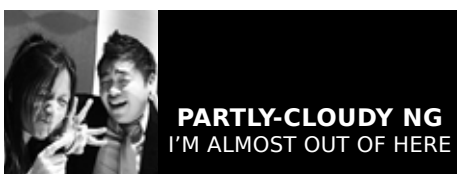
I also found out this afternoon that my phone was also dropped in the mud and I had to use a paperclip to scrape away the dried mud from the charger receptacle before I could plug it in.

And that's why this production weekend is hell. I woke up at noon this morning and realized that we still hadn't started the layout. Double whoops.

So you see, running a newspaper isn't all fun and games. Sure, there are some benefits of being Editor: it looks great on a resume, I have an office that I use as a locker and sometimes take naps in, access to killer photography gear, scanner and printer, people to boss around, I can make a bunch of people hear my incessant whining, sometimes people send me free stuff, and it legitimizes the creeper photos that I take of people (In the name of news!). But once in a while, being the Editor involves nights of absolute garbage like getting stuck in a mud trap. My uncle once told me, "With great power comes great responsibility." Editor-In-Chief is not a job that should be taken lightly.

POETS v3.0

Faculty Upgrades POETS to a McDonald's PlayPlace



PARTLY-CLOUDY NG
I'M ALMOST OUT OF HERE

POETS, the beloved lounge for engineering which previous stood for "Piss On Everything, Tomorrow's Saturday", has recently gone through yet another renovation this week. In order to better comply with the university's new guidelines, it is being converted to a PlayPlace in conjunction with the local McDonald's. To better describe the new recreational facility, POETS will now stand for "PlayPlace for Ordinary Engineers To Succeed."

"Since drinking and having fun is not in line with what we want our visitors and potential donors to see at UW," says a representative to the Dean of Engineering, "we have decided to convert the campus bar to a facility that is friendly for all ages and all demographics, in hopes that visitors and prospective students alike will leave UW with a positive impression of student life at UW."

The new state-of-the-art facility has entirely removed any trace of its alcohol-serving past. The fridge and its bar service along with any references to beer labels have been removed. As well, many of the games including foosball and Bingo have been removed. The faculty

believes that the existence of such facilities may encourage the consumption of alcohol through such acts as "drinking games", which would be detrimental to the image of the school.

The university has been worried about the image it brings to visitors and prospective students in the recent past. For example, during last week at March Break Open House, which coincidentally landed on St. Patrick's Day, the university tried hard to conceal the students' drinking habits by hosting the event in South Campus Hall instead of the Student Life Centre which contains the Bombshelter Pub.

As well, the university has been begun a crackdown on any activities that could be considered fun. The traditionally week-long Frosh Week... I mean, "Orientation" Week is now being considered to be shrunken by 2 days. Federation Hall is to be converted to a lecture hall to accommodate an influx of new students next year. As well, Bomber is issuing a new hidden rule that after having 3 drinks, a patron must be kicked out. A

spokesperson for the university explains, "By implementing these new drastic measures, we can promote UW as a place for safe learning. Students can be confident about coming here to simply learn and not be influenced by any sort of evil or fun. Kind of like the Jonas Brothers' image... but smart... and probably not as good looking. Except the students will mostly be of legal age, though."



THE TIN SOLDIER

An underground movement of the willing and attractive.

Monkey at the Typewriter
Levin King

The Monkey's Bananas
Moon-ing
Hughe Package

Paint by Numbers Master
Bigger Package

Typesetter
Hannibal Lector

Mad Photoshoppers
Canon Sucks
Pentax Rocks

Money Launderer
Rick Astley

Circulation Manager
You spin me right round,
Baby right round,
Like a record

Torrente-er
Sodium Benzoate

"Slaves" Writers

Guy 1
Guy 2
Girl in POETS
Guy in E2 Bathroom who
doesn't flush urinal
B1 (but not B2)
Bert and Ernie Lebovitz
Tyrone
Taniqua
Mister T
Rihanna
Lonely Island
Tim Horton
Justin Timberlake
Jimmy Buffet
Warren Buffet
Marc Tan

Contributors
Rankin Watch

The Tin Soldier is not a forum for thought-provoking and informative articles, and has no association whatsoever with the Waterloo Engineering Society. Views expressed in The Tin Soldier are not those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Chuck Norris.

The Tin Soldier 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 Tin Soldier, which reserves the right to refuse publication of material which it deems too suitable, however we're so desperate for content, that we'll likely take it (but higher standard than Imprint). The Tin Soldier also reserves the right to edit grammar, spelling and text that do not meet university standards, but engineers suck at english so it's a low standard.

Mail should be addressed to PJ Katie, c/o YTV Canada, P.O.Box 7500, Paris, Ontario, N2L 3W7. We do not currently have a phone, however you may redirect all inquiries to Kickoff's, as we're likely there. We don't have a fax number as no one uses faxes anymore.

PDeng Workshops to be Held in Dubai

THE TIN SOLDIER
DUBAI "NEWS" BUREAU

In a not so surprising move this past week, PDeng has announced all Supplemental Skills Assessment (SSA) Workshops will be held exclusively at the new UAE campus in Dubai. SSA workshops are provided to students unfortunately enrolled in PDeng who have not done a good enough job of bs-ing their assignment submissions. They allow a student to earn credit for a 'Weak' or 'Incomplete' after the course offering over a work term. As it has stood in the past, when the student returned to campus in Waterloo, he or she be required to attend workshop and complete either an assignment or formal examination in order to receive credit for a PDeng course.

In the new system, students who are invited forced to complete a SSA workshop will have to find a way to Dubai in order to potentially pass and receive credit for a PDeng course offering. Carolyn Macgregor, the lead-lead mentor of PDeng had this to say: "When the UAE campus was introduced, the PDeng team was met with a major challenge - How will we split up workshops? We decided that it made way too much sense to either fly the few students out of Dubai to Waterloo or hold separate SSA workshops at either campus. In the end, Mr. Steffler and I agreed that we should further ruin

the liv.. er .. evaluate the ability of our current students to follow directions."

Apart from evaluating the above ability, when questioned on what specific skill engineering students would be tested on by being able to fly to Dubai for a workshop, Macgregor replied, "Skill... skill... right what skill are we testing students on.. just a second." Professor Macgregor reached for her iPhone and pressed on a button and replied, "Well according to my 'PDeng skill randomizer' app on my iPhone thingy, we will be teaching about underwater basket weaving." Macgregor was unable to expand on the skill of "underwater basket weaving" at the time of interview, but assured me it would be an assignment topic for the next offering of PDeng 25.

With current airfare starting around \$1200 for a round trip ticket from Toronto to Dubai aboard Emirates Airways, Macgregor had this advice for students currently on co-op: "Even if you have all competent assignments, students should purchase their airfare in advance to take advantage of discount prices before workshops start in May. I can't predict how many people will not get credit without a workshop, it really depends on how I feel on the day I decide."

So in conclusion - Can't get to Dubai for your workshop? You just failed PDeng. It's harsh, but what else would you expect from PDeng?

Marvin's Got Nothin' On Me



SAD
CHEXINGTON
3.5N
MANGENEERING

I doubt anyone's even reading this, so I'll make it short. What if there was a process going on all around you every moment, and you had been living with it for so long you stopped noticing it? What if it was happening so slowly that you could deny it was even going on? What I'm talking about is change, and not the nickels and dimes kind that everyone loves, the kind where stuff, well, changes?

Have you ever been in a place where you felt like everything was changing but you were staying the same? Well that's what's

happening right now. Stuck here in a stasis bubble watching the earth spin by its blatantly obvious that everything today is different than it was yesterday. One morning, you'll be just like Sad Chexington; You'll wake up and realize that while everything has changed, you've stayed the same and everything you liked is gone, different or adjusted. People are growing older, friendships are changing, old habits are dropped and new ones are formed, and it sucks more than a black hole (in a theoretical sense). You know what else sucks? Vacuum cleaners, inhaling monkeys, and water pumps to name a few. And that's why I'm a Sad Chexington.

Until Next Time,
Stay Happy



For those days you can't get out off bed to go to your 8:30 lecture.



Ask Tyrone

(and Taniqua)

TYRONE AND TANIQUA

Dear Tyrone and Taniqua,

Hey guys! Just got in from the hospital and lately I've been having some man troubles. I was on my way to the Grammy's, I was about to grab my umbrella ella ella eh eh, because it was raining, when my man got out of hand and smacked me from here to the hospital. I'm just wondering whether I should stay with him or not. Also, I may or may not be pregnant.

Hollaback y'all!
Rihanna

Tyrone Says:

Before we get down to business I just want to say that I love your music.

That's a very unfortunate situation that you've gotten into, Rihanna. Before you even consider getting back with him you need to think about the safety of not only you, but also the safety of your potentially unborn child. Firstly let's talk about this in a commonsensical way. Your boyfriend hit you so badly that you had to be taken to the hospital and treated for your injuries. Clearly this Chris Brown character doesn't respect you as a woman and feels that he can treat you with less respect than you deserve. If he feels that he can treat you this way, what makes you think that he will treat your baby any differently?

Common sense would dictate that you shouldn't get back together with him. But just for further confirmation we should take a look at some statistics. Nearly a quarter of American and Canadian women have experienced some form of abuse from their partner. Also, over three million women are abused every year! This isn't even taking into account the fact that each day more than 4 children in the US die from child abuse. Based on these statistics alone, you shouldn't be getting back with him; but that's not all! In a US study of more than 6000 homes, it was found that more than 50% of men that frequently abused their wives also frequently abused their children. Is that the sort of environment that you want a baby to grow up in?

In my honest opinion you should stay as far away as possible from this Chris Brown fellow. He's a disgrace to the entire male gender.

-Tyrone

Taniqua Says:

Dear Rihanna,

Yo, hold me back, hold me back! Or I'ma assault his sorry ass for you, girl! I'ma whop his ass so bad that he'd wish he never laid a finger on you!

You ain't thinking about taking him back! He's a good-for-nothing low life and a hypocrite, daring to say how he'd never hit a woman on national TV!

Never trust what a man says. If he says he'll never hit you again, chances are he will hit you again. Once a womanhitter, always a womanhitter. Once a hypocrite, always a hypocrite. Chris Beat-Her-Down is not worth your time, in fact, you don't need a man! Grow some balls yourself and walk away from this for good. Rely on your girlfriends for power and support, and stay away from men in the future!

If you even think about taking him back, then you ain't having none of my sympathy. Have you learned nothing from going into emergency and looking nothing like a Covergirl? Are you so insecure about yourself that you think if you let this scumbag go that you ain't gonna get laid ever again? There's a wonderful invention in the world called the vibrator for that. This gadget really helps you to rehab from man. Get yourself a good one, and you don't need a man ever again.

Stay away from him, and all men while you are at it.

Love,
Taniqua

The Tin Canteen

The Slutty Bar Girl

MEGAN POLLOCK AND PAT MARTINSON
2A DRINK ENGINEERING AND 4B BEVERAGE STUDIES

Everyone has needs. Particularly the need for a new and interesting drink that suits the taste of almost anyone! This little drink is what happens when two individuals with very different tastes created a drink that would suit both of them. It surprisingly turned out to be delicious and has since been seen at such classy venues as Starlight, Grad Ball, the Vault & the Spur.

1 oz. Dry gin
1 oz. Vodka
Equal parts Coke and Ginger Ale
Slice of lemon and/or lime, squeezed thoroughly

Serve in a short glass, with a decent amount of ice
Coke & Ginger ale should fill the rest of the glass

Serving notes:

Best served with a favourite ale or lager, since a Slutty Bar Girl is always enjoyed more with a beer in the other hand.

You can add a toothpick full of cherries or olives, depending on how sweet or bitter you want your slutty bar girl when you get to the bottom.



FROM BLACK
TO RED

SYLVIA WU AND CAILIN HILLIER

Financial Matters

How to Irresponsibly Spend Your Hard-earned Co-op Money

So you feel pretty rich after a co-op term? Can't relate to the cute artsie who always complains that she's dirt broke? Here are some tips to help you become a regular student again, from the best financial columnists at the Tin Soldier.

- Instead of buying one pair of super fancy designer shoes to congratulate yourself on surviving the co-op term and corresponding PDEng, buy a pair at the end of every week. Wear them only once and start to hate them tremendously. Blisters are a bitch after all. This should debunk your budget pretty well. Feel free to substitute shoes with designer suits, bags, jeans, or towels.

- Stop file downloading, sharing, torrenting, streaming, and buy everything legally! Living the honest life will give you gratifications! Get an iTunes account and pay to download music! Or better yet, buy CDs, vinyl records, and cassettes in addition to

the mp3s so you are supporting the artist and the publishing/distribution industry.

- Support every charity on campus. Buy those Waterloo Warriors rubber bracelets to cover your entire arms! Buy EWB's entire batch of pancakes every week! Buy a gazillion hotdogs at charity BBQs and distribute them among your friends!

- Donate money to the Arts and Science endowment funds!

- Vandalize everything. Trash your room and start fresh! After this feel-good act, go to IKEA and look for the most expensive things imaginable to redecorate your room. Better yet, custom order furniture made out of the most expensive wood or metal. Wallpaper and carpet your room with \$100 bills.

- Rent unfurnished apartments, furnish them to the top and leave everything there when you move out.

- Buy kitchen garbage bags from the grocery store to package and throw out free plastic bags.

- Date someone really broke, such as a fine arts student. Always buy your date dinner, or even pay his/her rent.

- Take cabs everywhere, even from UWP to CPH. Ask the cabby to take the longest route possible because you like cruising.

- Get all your property insured, down to that free Bic pen you really like, or those worn out sneakers from 2005. Insure body parts while you are at it too. Don't insure anything that could actually be lost or broken, because that's totally reversing our goal here.

- Buy a Hummer. Always fuel up with 91 ultra clean gasoline. Get full coverage insurance. Drive it everywhere.

- Do not ever buy parking passes, just get tickets instead. Always pay your tickets but

never within a week of getting them, because then you get a \$10 discount. Better yet, accumulate 4 or more tickets and get your car towed, then pay up and get your car out of the compound.

- Buy everything in the smallest package possible. Never buy club pack or go to Costco.

- Buy everyone a round of drinks or two at every bar on Pubcrawl.

- Never go to the LCBO or beer store. When you want a drink, go to a bar or a fancy restaurant.

- Don't bother with laundry. Wear all your clothes and underwear once then throw them out. Buy new ones and repeat.

Follow this advice and you'll have something to talk about with all the non co-op students! Soon you'll be back to mac and cheese dinners and bigger OSAP cheques!

The Progression of Failure

1. The Preperation



Angelo Alaimo

2. The Approach



Angelo Alaimo

3. The Attempt



Angelo Alaimo

5. The Aftermath



Angelo Alaimo

4. Epic Fail



Angelo Alaimo

"Missed" Connections

Dear Engineering Girl,

I see you every Wednesday evening walking down the aisle with a sexy flair, carrying a laptop in a way that makes laptops even more desirable to a man. I can't help but notice the Fluid Dynamics book you whip out every class as you sit curiously in front of me, frantically finishing your assignment. I've been wanting to ask but couldn't bring myself to, so can I borrow that textbook?

—Curious learner

Dear Passionate Scent,

Every noon you walk past my way. I don't think you notice me, but I notice you all the time as your beautiful scent glides through the air and into my nose. I try my best to resist but I couldn't help to savour that smell and it kept me wanting for more. I want to follow you to know more, but that's just creepy. But I really want to know from you and it's making me wonder. Where do you go to get your Cantonese Chow Mein?

—Loves eating out

We're on a Boat!

THE TIN SOLDIER "NEWS" BUREAU

They have their towels, bathing suits, and flippy-floppies ready. *The Iron Warrior's* latest acquisition is a boat which will facilitate covering oversea news stories. The boat which has been purchased with money allocated from WEEF will nicely complement helicopter that the IW purchased last term and further the IW's versatility as a university media outlet.

IW was able to pick up the boat fairly cheaply, at the cost of \$400 000, from a police auction. Other potential boat purchasers were disturbed by the fact that the boat was the scene of a double homicide after a drug deal gone bad, but the IW looks at this as a great opportunity to save money in these harsh economic times.

Part of the successful WEEF proposal also included business plans that the IW will put in place to become more financially independent in the future. Several IW staff members have already volunteered to be part of the crew that will travel to the waters near Somalia to hijack boats for ransom. The projected revenues of this business model are expected to be extortionarily high.



Micheal Seliske

Rejected "Rrroll Up The Rim" Prizes

1.) GM extended warranty

Reason for rejection: Could be worth less than the cup it's printed on in a matter of weeks.

2.) Blackberry Storm

Reason for rejection: If you have used one, you would know Storm = Fail.

3.) Arts Boyfriend

Reason for rejection: Fits into his 12 year old sister's jeans and wears mascara.

4.) Arts Degree

Reason for rejection: "Please Play Again" already exists.

5.) Apple's new Macbook

Reason for rejection: Only Starbucks drinking fanboys want these overpriced machines.



Li On The Loose

TRUST ME. I'M SANE!
Continued from Page 1

However, several tapes of telephone conversation recordings seem to confirm that the construction of the building is being paid mostly by the overinflated graduate program tuition fees. Such fees have been taking a hit in recent years, until the recent decline in the global market.

Through careful analysis of the rest of the tapes, it would seem that the university had an arrangement with Li. Back in 1998, when graduate student enrollment in the Faculty of Engineering was nearing an all time low for the university, the university commissioned Li, a well known figure in the field of economics, to begin his work. Li was to lower the amount of jobs avail-

able for UW graduates in return for a cut of the tuition funds. It is possible that the conspiracy goes even deeper, though. Seventeen minutes worth of audio recordings on the tapes have been scrambled or erased.

The Tin Soldier tried to reach Li for comment, but he was conveniently "out of the country," under the guise of running a business in China. As everyone knows from *The Dark Knight*, the Chinese will not extradite a national so there is currently no way to hold Li accountable for the destruction of the North American economy.

I only hope that this story makes its way to print and into the hands of the readers before I can be stopped. The truth must be told. I will not be silenced...

Missing



Have you seen me?

Recent Sightings:

February 23rd 11:51 pm: "Flarp Flarp Flarvin Flarpity Flarp!"

March 20 9:35pm: On gchat: 'I'll forward you my exec report. It's a good one. A doozy if you will. Also I'm taking a dump. GOOOOOOOOOOOD TIMES'

March 17 11:50am: At the Bomber and Scott says "You do not want to be in here" as he points to his head, "You would probably tear out your eyeballs if you see the things I see in my mind!"

Gaming in the Future: Changing the Industry



JON MARTIN
GAMEENGINEERING

As we progress through 2009 there are going to be a multitude of changes to the gaming systems we know and love. Each of the major stakeholders in the video game market, Sony, Nintendo and Microsoft, has had to reevaluate their future. The economic downfall has had dire consequences for the industry, but the big three are taking steps to counter this trend. Nintendo, as the leader of the pack in terms of sales, is sticking with the tried and true. Microsoft is once again focusing on fixing hardware issues. Finally, Sony is going to redefine the entire PS3 gaming experience.

First, Nintendo has the gaming market cornered with the Wii, enticing young and old people alike and bringing video games into the mainstream. But that's not nearly enough for Nintendo. Production is finally starting to catch up with demand, as the ability to walk into BestBuy and get a Wii off the shelf proves. Since Nintendo has thrived on the scarcity of the system in the time it has been available, they are doing what any company would do -- decrease production. Nintendo will be shutting down half of the production facilities making the Wii, because everyone knows that scarcity drives up prices.

Nintendo will also be capitalizing on the popularity of games like Wii Sports and Wii Fit with two new games with their own special accessories. The first game, *Wii Ball in a Cup*, consists of a new Wii controller with a handle and built in cup, with a ball attached by a string. The object of the game is to swing the ball into the cup -- fun for all ages. The second game is *Wii Paddleball*, including a new controller in the shape of a paddle with a rubber ball attached by an elastic cord. The game consists of bouncing the ball against the paddle as many times as possible. The great thing about both new games is that neither require batteries, in addition they don't even require the Wii console to be turned on. Both games will retail for \$59.99, with very little chance of price cuts for at least three years. Watch for *Wii Hopscotch* in 2010!!!

Second, Microsoft is trying to improve by acknowledging past mistakes. MS will start their restructuring program by finally conceding that Blu-ray was a more successful High-Defini-

tion format than HD-DVD. To rectify the mistake MS will be reworking the Xbox 360 Elite to include a Blu-ray player, raising the price to \$499. MS will also be releasing an external Blu-ray player to work with existing 360 models for \$100. Many complaints towards the Xbox have specifically dealt with its use of standard DVD's rather than using a high density format like Blu-ray, resulting in some games requiring multiple discs.

Microsoft has been plagued for the entire life cycle of the Xbox 360 with the Red Ring of Death/Doom (RROD); now they are trying to fix it permanently. By the end of 2009, MS will be releasing a new special edition model of the 360, known as the Xbox 360° Below. The new model will consist of a standard Xbox 360 system mounted within an industrial strength refrigerator; hopefully this will finally solve the 360's problem with overheating. The system will feature a slot loading DVD drive instead of a tray because the ice would stop the tray from sliding properly. A fur coat will also be included for use when changing discs- finally the ability to turn on the system with the controller instead of pressing the power button has a real purpose.

Lastly, Sony will be redefining the way people play games on the Playstation 3. While the first models of the PS3 that were released included backwards compatibility (the ability to play games released on a previous system), it was believed that few people wanted the added functionality. As cost cutting step, Sony removed part of the PS3 motherboard, which actually included a simplified PS2 circuit board



The new "Ball in a Cup" Wii controller is expected to revolutionize the world of gaming.

allowing use of the earlier games. The resulting price cut has helped increase sales, so now Sony is doing it again. Just as industry analysts predicted, Sony will be releasing new models of the PS3 system without a built in Blu-ray drive. The new systems will come with a built in DVD drive at a new price of \$349. The change will require the re-release of many popular PS3 games, like *Little Big Planet*, onto multiple DVDs. Sony has also finally announced the much awaited Playstation Portable 2 (PSP2). The new handheld

system will be more focused towards web browsing and watching movies, as the system will not have any analog inputs at all. First person shooter (FPS) titles will still be released for the system with a revamped control system, which has yet to be detailed.

With difficult economic times on the horizon the big three video game giants have made their decisions for the future. Let's hope these decisions were correct, the future of gaming depends on it.

Better Know A Cooler: Woody's Pink Grapefruit Vodka



THE HIGH VELOCITY
WENIS

When it comes to buying a pack of coolers, I always choose my purchase based on the same criterion I use for almost everything. Sure, the taste is important, but not nearly as important as how pretty the beverage looks. My most recent purchase was based solely on the colour of the liquid: Woody's Pink Grapefruit Vodka Cooler came in the most beautiful shade of pink, like

something Barbie would drink.

Woody's Pink Grapefruit Vodka Cooler hails from England. It was first distributed in Western Europe and was met with an enthusiastic reception. Next, Canada was identified as a prime market due to its large population of (relatively) affluent, brand-conscious young population. It was first sold in Ontario in 1997, and nine years later the other provinces finally jumped on the bandwagon, with the exception of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, PEI, and Newfoundland. To date, Woody's coolers have generated a total retail value of over \$37 million in Canada.

\$4.95 for a single bottle and only \$9.95 for a 4-pack, the price tag on Woody's is the same as all other cooler offerings from Bacardi, Smirnoff, and Pomtini. The taste is right for the price: it's light and crisply carbonated, not overly sweetened like Pomtini and not at all bitter like the "grapefruit" label would suggest. It is extremely refreshing and perfect for a girls night in. It tastes so innocent, which can make it easy to let your guard down and over-consume.

When I am having a bad day, I like to pop open a Pink Grapefruit cooler, get a slice of cheesecake, and put on

some Pussycat Dolls. If I don't feel better by the time I finish the cooler and the cheesecake, I repeat. In fact, this drink should complement any kind of junk food or confection quite well. The drink's fruity taste tricks me into thinking that it's cleansing my inside while I pollute it with sugar and grease. In fact, after downing a few too many, it does a great job of actually cleansing my inside of the aforementioned. Just make sure you have a girlfriend or a non-slip hair-band handy before you hit that point.

Woody's other offerings come at \$8.95 for a 4-pack, and those will definitely be on the list of my next run to the LCBO.

The Facebook Creeper

♂ : How's that herpes thing going?
 ♀ : Its ok, he says he loves me.
 ♀ : Listening to a teacher talk at this time in the morning makes my eye sockets hurt.. I'd compare it to the pain we get in our eye sockets after a serious night of drinking.

♀ 1: I got nice and tipsy at the family function hahahaha. yay me.
 ♀ 2: lol you would get drunk with the fam
 ♀ 1: my aunt tried to set me up with my cousin she comes up to me and says so im trying to set you up with justin and im like WHAT? hes my cousin shes like only by marriage you need to get over that i think you two would make a really cute couple and im like uuhhhhh he's my cousin... shes like come on he's good looking dont ya think? bahahah oh man now you see why i drink?

♀ : Friday
 1. gym
 2. tan
 3. bride wars
 4. drunk
 ok? we should be able to accomplish 1-3 in abouttt..4 hours, leaving the rest of the day/night/morning for number 4
 love.

♀ : you know what..being chased by a gorilla would be worse than being chased by a lion..a lion would chase after you, and sure..if he got a hold of you he would rip your face off...but a GORILLA he would chase you and grab you and beat the shit out of you like a human being. If you can make it to the door when being chased by a lion, you're good..but if you try and hide behind a door when you're being chased by a gorilla, he'd just open it with his arms that are twice as long as his legs and punch you right in the eye as if you were in a hockey fight. Man...being chased by a gorilla would definately be the most terrifying thing of life

Dana Porter Patronage Increases Exponentially



ANGERO ARAIMO
2A ERECTRICAL

Library staff at the Dana Porter library are delighted to report library patronage has increased by 75% in the last week. At any given time of day, but especially at night, almost all available study room on the upper floors is in use. In fact, the library has had to hire more staff in order to keep noise levels down which have been said to have increased exponentially.

The Tin Soldier sat down with library staff to discuss the sudden increase; Librarian Gladys Smithington remarked, "we have noticed a large increase of very well dressed young people who look like they are about to head out to the club. Girls are wearing makeup and the men smell like cologne, but what puzzles me is most of

them just play games on their computers." The Tin Soldier has investigated the game patrons were playing and discovered it was a variant of the popular game *Warcraft III* called *DotA* which stands for *Defence of the Ancients*.

Apart from playing games, staff have noticed that many people using the cubicles around the perimeter of the upper floors have removed the upper hutch so people can sit facing towards each other. This configuration has allowed for more social conversations unrelated to schoolwork.

Although the library staff was unable to directly correlate any recent internal structural changes, the Tin Soldier believes it may have to do with changes coming to the DC library starting on March 30th. It makes logical sense with such radical changes that people used to using the DC as a dating centre will have to migrate somewhere else to continue their nightly tradition.

THE TIN SOLDIER, BROUGHT TO YOU BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T SLEEP ANYMORE.

Anagram

ymna ymwo ese ot enird ym twih nsoct tcebyrkcab adah I tady

ezro tgo i. ftrioy veor goll tla llyte

FLM. hbrtirday ym laso sawdyto

Spot The Difference



THE TIN TRIBUNAL

Wonder Wok, 2N Political Science (It's the best co-op job I could get)

"Why is *The Tin Soldier* better than *Imprint*?"



Angero Araimo
Stoned Photog Nerd
"They credit my photos."



Trevor Jenkins
Check out his new haircut
"We boat raced on a boat in a boat race."



Kevin Ling
Very Hungry
"It tastes better."

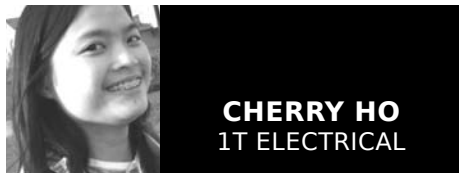


Stormy Ng
Bitter Student
"We're actually funny."



Michael Seliske
Loves the Pole
"We print vaginas instead of penises."

PDENG15: What has changed since 2005?



CHERRY HO
1T ELECTRICAL

PDEng...What is PDEng?

As a general description, it is a series of five online courses taken during work terms by University of Waterloo Engineering students. The courses are offered online to help maintain consistency in accessibility and delivery of the course and assessment. The courses enhance the existing co-op degree requirements, strengthening the links between academic work and work experience. The courses also assess competency of professional skills and act as a consistent link between the students and the Faculty of Engineering during the co-op term.

Why PDEng, and how did it all Start?

A suggestion was made by the VP Provost, Dr. Chakma to look into the possibility to include enhancements to the co-op programs in all faculties during work terms. The Faculty of Engineering decided that it would be beneficial to offer academic enhancement during the 5 mandatory co-op work terms. It was the first faculty to require such enhancements, but currently, all faculties have such requirements for the co-op students. As a result of this decision and a lot of discussion, Professor Carolyn MacGregor was appointed to be the Director of PDEng in June 2004. She was responsible for hiring staff, creating course content, and ensuring that the course was functional for the launching of the course. She was responsible for all this while still teaching courses in Systems Design Engineering, managing research and keeping up with graduate students. Due to this increased work load, full time staff was required to assist with the course.

The first few modules were written only a few months before the first offering of the course in the winter of 2005. Some of the original material for PDENG 15 was inspired by the recommendations of engineering undergraduates and recent grads. The material was designed around what they believed would have been useful to know and understand before and during their first work terms (e.g. how to get started on the first work report).

What hasn't changed?

Helping Students: The PDEng staff works

hard to guide all students through the courses, so that the students can be successful at demonstrating the professional skills needed to achieve credit in any given course.

Content: The original content in each of the PDENG has not changed much over the terms. More explanations and instructions on basic skills have been added to help those students who have not had experience with course concepts and skills through their own co-op jobs.

What has changed over the terms?

Assignments: The assignments in the very first offering of PDENG 15 started off with many short, one to two paragraph responses per assignment. All the assignments were administrated through the quiz functionality on UW-ACE instead of the document file submissions currently used. To cut back on the number of things that students had to do, there are now fewer, but slightly longer, assignments to submit. Currently, the assignments are being adjusted so that they are clearer and easier to understand by the students. In the first few offerings, there was no 'resubmission' of assignments, but instead, 'make up assignments' consisting of a brand new question, but still assessing the required skills. This resulted in a lot of assignments, and later it was found that students learned better by addressing and fixing mistakes that they had already made, when given the correct amount of feedback to guide them, and thus resubmissions were introduced. This is more in keeping with what happens in the workplace where you are expected to take feedback you are given and correct your work.

Grading: There have been many changes over the terms. In the beginning, a numerical grading system was used. However, students were confused about the method and tried to average out the grades for everything, even though the course was competency-based. A letter-based grading method was also attempted; however, the students still saw the strong ties between the letters and percentages. As a result of this, the current 'Strong, Competent, Weak, Incomplete' label grading system was established. The grades help the staff see where the students are with respect to demonstrating the skills, rather than just a 'pass'/'fail'. Something to note is that the current grading system is still confusing for the students since UWACE forces that a numerical grade be entered. So, the students see these numbers as their 'per-

centage' grade for their submissions, rather than just a 'label', or indicator of skills, as originally intended. Students have suggested that PDEng should write their own software program to suit their needs. The option was considered, however it was concluded that it would be too much work to write and manage software application that would be used by 2500 students each term. The development of such an environment would also require resources which are not at PDEng's disposal at this point of time.

Staff members: The very first offering of PDENG 15 (Winter 2005) had 2 instructors and 4 Engineering co-op students as mentors. Currently there are 10 mentors for just PDENG15, and about 30 staff members in total in the entire office space.

Layout/UWACE: The layout of the PDEng courses has not changed much over the years, with the exception to the changes to the UWACE software, until recently. The upcoming offering of the PDENG15 course contains the new structure and layout of the course. It has been designed to help students navigate through the content and resources more easily. Many students have noted that the original layout was confusing and it was often very difficult to find things around the site. One notable change to the PDENG15 course, beginning next term, would be that the reading material will be accessed through convenient PDF files, rather than needing to scroll through numerous 'Module' pages.

PDEng and Time Management: The purpose of the Request for Accommodation (RFA) and Grace Days is to recognize that many students do not have traditional 9 to 5 jobs. It also helps students realize that PDEng courses need to be completed, and to respect the fact and acknowledge that events do come up unexpectedly. Grace Days are designed to help students with time management with the many things that are happening around them and to give flexibility to the students. It also gives the students the responsibility of managing their own time accordingly. RFAs are for use in extenuating circumstances which may require more time than allowable with the constraints of the Grace Days. RFAs started off with being manually tracked through emails by the mentors, and then it became a UWACE form, prior to the automated Grace Days counter system currently implemented. Soon, the process evolved to be-

coming a quiz, or a form that was completed on UWACE, so that there was a clear record of the request by the student and a common place for mentors and instructors to look for those requests. The new automated Grace Day system gives students more flexibility to manage their time, and saves students and mentors time from having to review the explanation and decide whether or not to approve each request for an extension. Students are still expected to contact their mentors if they need an extension of more than a couple of days on any given assignment.

Student attitude towards the course: In the beginning, the students were really against the idea of having to do extra work, and being required to submit assignments during the work term. Recently, it has been noted that many students are more gracious and professional. The students have become nicer, and are showing a better attitude to the mentors when emailing, calling, or any other ways of contacting Mentors. They have realized that it is possible to get help when needed, via phone, emails, discussion board posts, in-person meetings, etc.

How has the programme changed since it started: In the beginning, the PDEng Steering Committee requested that the entire course should be text based. This would allow for students with limited access to the internet to have a fair chance at completing and benefiting from the course. Later on, as technology advanced, more features were added, such as pictures in readings, PDF files, Power Point presentations and video tutorials. The course is slowly including more multimedia aspects to enhance the student experience with the course.

Some Future improvements and adjustments which may be implemented

Some of these modifications may include attempting:

-To better help the students understand the 'bigger picture' and how skills and concepts learned in PDEng apply to areas outside of the courses, and how they fit into professional life. This may require making changes to certain assignments in courses to ensure continuity between different PDENG courses.

-To modify the workload of the mentors so that it is more balanced throughout the term. This would allow mentors to have adequate time to mentor students, and to provide mentoring at a more personal level.



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For more information, visit http://www.eng.uwaterloo.ca/~sff/t_grant.htm

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



VELOCITY

mobile + media incubator

PROJECT EXHIBITION

Tuesday, March 31st | Student Life Centre
10:30am - 2:30pm | pitches on stage at 12:00

GUEST PANEL

Robin Axon, Duncan Hill - Basecamp Partners

Paul Salvini - Side Effects Software

Amar Varma - Extreme Venture Partners



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Concert Review: The Circus

Starring Britney Spears with The Pussycat Dolls



SYLVIA WU
2A MECHATRONICS

Britney's n-th attempt at making a grand comeback may have finally materialized with her 2009 North American Circus tour. Tickets for her Toronto stops on March 18th and 19th were sold out within minutes. Being the role model of inconsistency, she surprisingly did not disappoint the overwhelmingly 20-something female audience. It's evident that the people who came out to support her were the little girls who grew up with her music. No Miley Cyrus and Jonas Brothers fans here!

The Circus concert squeezed three shows into three hours: The Pussycat Dolls carried the singing part, a wide array of circus performers--acrobats, contortionists, magicians, clowns, martial artists, jugglers, hoppers, magicians and a midget--kept the audience entertained between scenes, and the star of the night, Britney herself, whose mere presence sent the audience into a frenzy was there to link it all together.

Before the show started, the waiting-in-boredom audiences can text message to the projector screen. I saw quite a couple of proposal messages, which were hopefully fake because I think being proposed to at a Britney concert is quite ominous. After "Western represents" and "Guelph represents" showed up on the screen, I couldn't help but send in "Waterloo Engineers Rule the World" and "The Iron Warrior: ridgid for Britney".

The Pussycat Dolls was much better than I expected live. Nicole Scherzinger, the lead singer or "Queen Doll", unsurprisingly did most of the singing. She is definitely an amazing live vocal performer on her own. Also, thanks to her great voice, the diaper plus plaid harem pants costume she donned was not the focus of the performance. The other four cats' supposed "backup vocals" were indiscernible to my untrained ears, however, they provided great visual entertainment. There was so much hair flipping I thought someone's hair extension would fall out! The "Flexi Doll" Kimberly made her love of doing splits on stage apparent at every chance she got, showing off the group's burlesque roots. These four dolls' costumes were covered in glitter, which seems to be a common trend that lasted throughout Miss Spears's show as well. The girls shook their booties in 3 inch stiletto leather boots, which is a real talent. The repertoire featured a couple of well known songs such as Don't Cha, Buttons, I Don't Need A Man, and the new single Jai

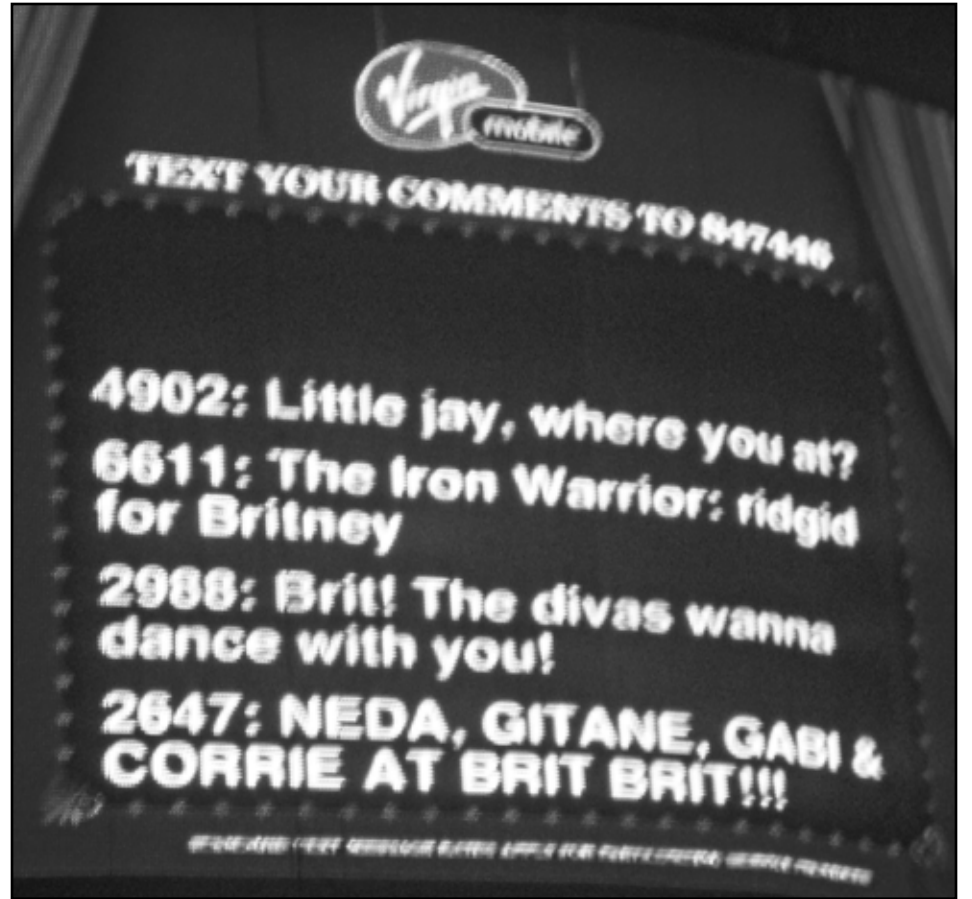
Ho. The dance repertoire was pretty standard for all the songs, nothing too special.

After the dolls said their good byes to the audience, the circus theme became apparent. The first memorable act was a performer juggling and twirling a wire frame cube larger than himself at lightning speed. Another worth mentioning was an acrobat performing on a beam; she did some Olympic-style gymnastics on a flexible beam carried by two muscular hunks. Every time she went up into the air, I couldn't help but think about how many zeroes are in the lump sum on her insurance bill. Other stuff were pretty common: a contortionist performed some typical struts; a hooper managed to keep a dozen hoops afloat at a time; two clowns did some unicycle rides; and some yummy looking topless hunks play-fought with fake swords and nunchucks. All this was quite entertaining, but the audience was getting anxious for Britney.

After a dozen or so acts, the dome darkened and the audience started screaming. A circular projector screen showed a video featuring the Queen of Gossip, Perez Hilton, in drag to introduce the "freak show" theme. Perez did a pretty good job of dramatically talking but I personally thought the video was way too long. I'm here to see Britney, not some internet phenomenon!

Britney finally shows up after what seems to be an eternity. Dressed up in a circus ringleader jacket and matching hat, along with the show's trademark black hot pants, she opened with the song Circus. The line "I'm like a performer" from said song is quite accurate, as she would continue to lip-sync the entire concert. I read about this in the concert review by Perez Hilton himself before attending the concert, so I was not very surprised. In some songs to follow, she didn't even bother moving her lips. I say this with confidence because I brought a pair of binoculars.

Needless to say, the vocals sounded as if they came straight off the CD. Y'all can listen to that and get a feel of what the sounds were like in the ACC, with the addition of hundreds of ladies and some men screaming. The best aspect was the visuals. Britney's dozens of costumes were designed by Canadian twins Dsquared2. These brothers must have robbed a garments supplier of all their glitter, fishnets, and faux leather. My favourite was an Indian-inspired costume: the golden sparkly bra and aquamarine translucent harem pants really razzle dazzled as she strutted some Bollywood moves. That's definitely going on my list of potential 2009 halloween costumes. Other memorable bits were sparkly black tights, a naughty police officer cos-



The Iron Warrior gets some attention at the Briney Spears concert, thanks to Sylvia.

tume, and black nipple tassels. For a good part of the concert, the costumes had heavy S&M undertones. Some backup dancers/trapeze artists were seen in nude suits with black rectangles covering the naughty bits, in addition to leather pants with suspenders and black eye masks.

Britney's dancing was definitely not on the same level as what was in "I'm a Slave 4 U". Her movements were on beat but not at all powerful. The dances were overall very well choreographed but there was something missing: her youthful energy that captured the world when she was not yet a woman. She got wheeled around a lot on different stage props such as a cage and a tricycle with a pole. She didn't seem to break a sweat at the end of each act, which was quite unfortunate.

The stage props and special effects played a big part in making the show a success. A ring of fire made everyone take a step back toward the middle of the show. A stormy night was enacted with seizure-inducing light effects and trapeze artists who floated about with black ropes. Britney "sang" one of my favourite ballads "Everytime" sitting on the handle of a gorgeous golden umbrella suspended in midair in the aforementioned Indian costume. The act that impressed me the most was when she was lifted into midair by sitting on two trapeze artists who interlocked their legs

to each other. She landed a few minutes later, but the real surprise came when she subsequently wrapped her legs around one of the trapeze artists and was lifted off again. Given that every time she was lifted into air by a mechanical device the backup dancers would strap her in a harness, these flying acts were quite a big risk taken by the concert organizers. Again, how many zeroes are behind that non-zero digit on her insurance coverage?

The concert ended with Baby One More Time. "Welding sparks" spew from the ceiling and confetti showered the audiences as the curtains came to a close. Britney's act was at most 2 hours, but it really felt like quite a long time and I got my money's worth (albeit falling victim to the horrendous scalped ticket price tag). Thankfully I was only bored once during the entire show, when she performed a song from one of her recent CDs that never made an impression on me.

My biggest regret, other than the fully lip-synced show, was that she didn't add Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman to the repertoire. As I am stepping into the beginning of the third decade of my life reluctantly, this song really could have been a good sendoff to my confused years. However, it's not hard to imagine that Britney wants to leave that song in her past. After all, she is a mother of two and have been a woman for quite some time.

Engineering Jazz Band

With Respect to Time

End-of-Term Charity Gig

Saturday, April 4 at 7pm

Conrad Grebel Great Hall - Room 1111, \$10

Advance Tickets: Engineering Society Office (CPH 1327)

All Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity

www.engjazzband.com

Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo

Photo Credit: Daniel Lewis

Events at a Glance



LEFT: The annual Bus Push was held this past week as a fundraiser for *The Heart and Stroke Foundation*. Participants helped a worthy cause, got a good workout and caused traffic chaos along King Street. *Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo.*



RIGHT: Jeff Lipnicky, an Explorations director, and Micheal Seliske, an Explorations volunteer, celebrate another successful Explorations event. *Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo.*



ABOVE: Volunteers Alex Roman, Miron Vranjes, Scott Kuo, Alex Fefer, and Prof. Bill Bishop from ECE meet potential students during the March Break Open House. *Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo.*



BELOW RIGHT: EngSoc B President, Cat Hay, and MathSoc President, Chris Neal, pose after engineering lost the Penny Pincher fundraising campaign to the Mathies. As a result, both were painted pink. Chris Neal also got some love from the engineers who took the chance to pie him as part of Pi(e) Week festivities. *Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo.*



LEFT: A performer on stage at Bomber during engineering's annual talent show, TalEng. The move to Bomber has meant a more intimate atmosphere between performers and the crowd. *Photo Credit: Michael Seliske.*

BOTTOM LEFT: A crowd of University of Waterloo students celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Bomber. Since it coincided with the March Break Open House, many students were able to take advantage of cancelled classes and enjoy the festivities. *Photo Credit: Angelo Alaimo.*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Students dig into Pies as part of Pi(e) Week festivities to celebrate everyone's favourite irrational constant. *Photo Credit: Sylvia Wu*



Adventures Down South

Episode 3: Further South and Back Again



SYLVIA WU
2A MECHATRONICS

5 days, 10 states, and 5500km later, the adventure down south has been completed! The terribly long and verbose travelogue has finally come to an end in this installment, where I go to the southern most point of Florida accessible by a land vehicle and come back up north (reluctantly of course).

Continue reading at your own risk. This article may cause a burning desire to go on an adventure, down south or elsewhere.

The Keys, Florida

Mr. Windsor and I figured that since we are already at the southern tip of Florida, why not make it all the way down to the southernmost point of Florida? The keys are connected by ridiculously long bridges, and do I love driving on Bridges! Driving over water always gives me a thrill, a sense that I've accomplished dominion over nature (thanks to the Civil Engineers of course).

The Keys are very touristy. Road-sides are lined with gift shops, "shore-side" motels, boat rentals and real estate advertisements. Beyond those, the most breathtaking emerald water and sky-scraping palm trees makes me want to sing at the top of my lungs, in Spanish that I don't understand.

Key West is the last island connected by the Overseas Highway. It hosts the Ernest Hemingway House, which is quite crowded with tourists and cats. The dozens of felines in the house seem to be the happiest residents in Key West. All they've got to do is look cute, eat 80 pounds of cat food a week, and chase street cats away! Though filled with tourists, the island seems like a pleasant place to live. For the few hours I spent there, I half seriously considered ditching Waterloo and Canada for good. Certainly I can buy a boat, rent a dock, and stay on the island forever! There are plenty of bike and moped rental shops around, my short engineering education can surely get me a job as a bike/moped mechanic, right? The bubble of happy early retirement burst as I remembered the existence of hurricane season and the lack of free healthcare.

According to the Keys' website, the most gorgeous beach on the islands can be found on Big Pine Key, in what is the Bahia Honda State Park. Its sand is largely composed of finely crushed



Sylvia poses with a replica of the Canada Arm while at Kennedy Space Centre in Titusville, Florida.

white seashells. I found it quite comfortable to take a nap on, which resulted in the most awkward looking tanlines. The shorelines are lined with seaweed due to strong winds the night before. Mr. Windsor didn't like seaweed much, but I'd like to think it's a characteristic of natural beauty. The park also has plenty of trails for tourists to discover the local flora and fauna.

Kennedy Space Center, Titusville, Florida

Both being huge space nerds, Mr. Windsor and I spent more time in Kennedy Space Center (hereon referred to as KSC) than any other single location down south. We saw from the distance the launching platforms and a working NASA facility, where materials destined for the International Space Station are being packed. An up-close look at an old rocket engine really made me marvel at the superiority of engineering that happens at this place. The complexity of every little step involved in sending a shuttle into space blew my mind. I won't bore you with the numbers here, but I highly recommend that anyone who hits up North Florida to visit this place.

The highlight of the visit was probably meeting the astronaut John Blaha. This man has been in space 5 times, including a 4 months stint on the Russian

Mir space station. An Engineering grad from San Antonio, Texas, his glorious career will truly be my envy for years to come. When I met him in person, he looked no older than 50, but his Wikipedia page points his actual age at 65. What a stud!

Adventures up north.

It's almost as if Canada doesn't want us back: the adventure to return up north was a combination of some of the worst driving I've had to go through.

We were first hit by a fearsome nighttime "subtropical" storm in South Carolina. The lightning, unlike any other I've seen in the past, lit up the entire sky. For a few seconds at a time it looked like daylight. The shower resembled some invisible angry superhero dumping tubs and tubs of water over the car; in such vast amounts and high velocity that one cannot see individual drops or splats.

The drive through North Carolina was a foggy one. It seemed as if the entire state was a basin of fog. Combined with rolling hills and dramatic curves, what an adventure it was! The fog disappeared from time to time for extremely short durations, giving me quickly crushed hope of easy driving on the rolling hills.

West Virginia and Pennsylvania welcomed us back to the north with plenty

of snow and hail. The Appalachians really wanted to test our ability to conquer the whiteout as Canadians. In some valleys, the visibility was zero to none. We just had to suck it up and drive.

New York was mostly eventless, but as soon as we arrived back on Canadian soil more snow awaited. I was also slightly bummed to learn that Barack O. was in Ottawa. We went all the way down south to see him with no avail, but these lucky Ottawans just had to sit on Parliament Hill!

Needless to say, the adventure up north was a blue one. Looking out at the featureless landscape surrounding the 403, how I wish that I've made up my mind to stay in Key West!

A Few Final Words

This long, long trip was a priceless experience. I feel that I've shrank the world with my little Volkswagen. How strange was it that I thought driving to London from Toronto was a big deal before, but now it seems like a trip to the grocery store. I aim to return to Florida someday, maybe to swim to Cuba. The potential two weeks of free time between the end of Winter term and work term certainly calls for a trip to Vancouver or even California. Look out for more adventures down south to come!

Bring Back My Snow!



CHAD SEXINGTON
3.5N
MANGENEERING

Hey Sexy Readers,

Spring has Sprung like so many leaks! There are a few nice things about spring that are quite enjoyable for many people: birds chirping, warmer weather, snow melting, and fresh breezes that don't get measured by the wind chill factor they bring. So break out the shorts and tee-shirts and get ready for what is many peoples (but not my) favourite season, because it seems like it's here to stay, at least until it snows again (fingers crossed, knock on wood). Without further adieu (boy, do my articles seem to take on list-format every time...) here's 4

things I hate about spring:

Warm weather brings about many opportunities for sexy wardrobe adjustments, attractiveness-inducing sports, and romantically-set greenery scenery. And while the warm months might be your favourite thing in the world, being from somewhere that has winter 11 months of the year makes it a trying ordeal for the northerners. Even though I am a strong supporter of the anti-pants revolution, still give me the average Canadian temperature any day.

Next up is melting snow. Melting snow is a sure sign of warm times ahead. It frees up space for sports, picnics, and lounging. If you're one of those people that likes to become a bronzed god/goddess by lounging in the sun this will probably be one of the best things about spring for you. But you know what? It's not that great. Melting

snow brings about slushy times, mud, and worst of all, geese, which you can't even eat. So give me back my snow-forts, skiing, and ice fishing over grassy fields and rats with long necks any day.

Sunshine. Why? Because it burnsss us. It comes through my window in the morning, blinds me, and melts my snow. As an engineer, I am a sworn enemy of natural light in all it's forms. Not only that, but the late sunsets stop the stars from being visible, which is always a nice bonus in the winter. On the plus side, sunshine does give ample opportunities for solar powered endeavours, which are pretty sexy (oh dilemma!).

Animals are all out and about in the summer. While some of these creatures are awesome and delicious (like bears or moose), most make annoying noises, or

buzz incessantly. Even though I'm all for annoying noises, anything outside my window at 6 a.m. singing anything other than Back in Black should be shot, covered in barbecue sauce, and grilled on the BBQ.

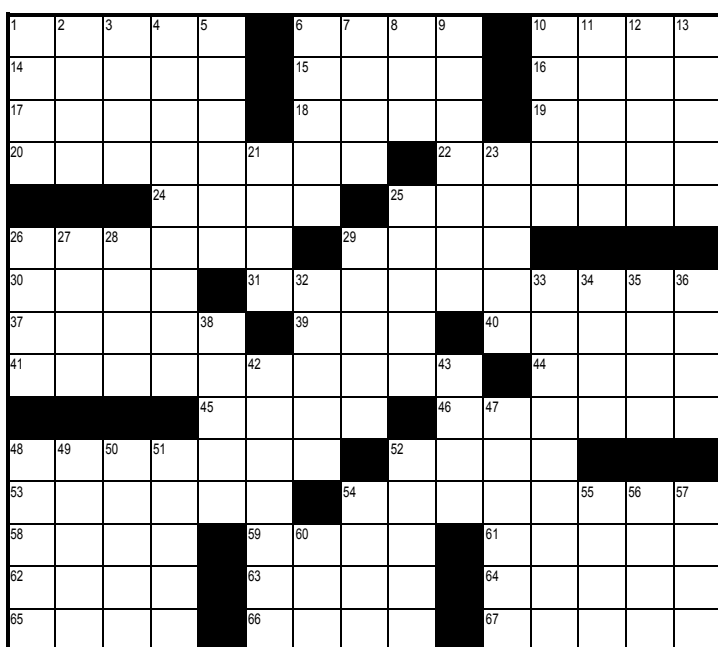
Having finished my seasonal tirade, I'm sure there are a number of things I do like about spring and summer in particular. What are those? Lumberjacking and Bomber Patio come to mind. Hot weather makes a cold brew that much more refreshing and the smell of timber revs my chainsaw.

So next time you're gushing all your love for springtime, remember that some of us are rooting for Old Man Winter to give Spring a swift kick in the face.

Until Next Time,
Stay Chilly.

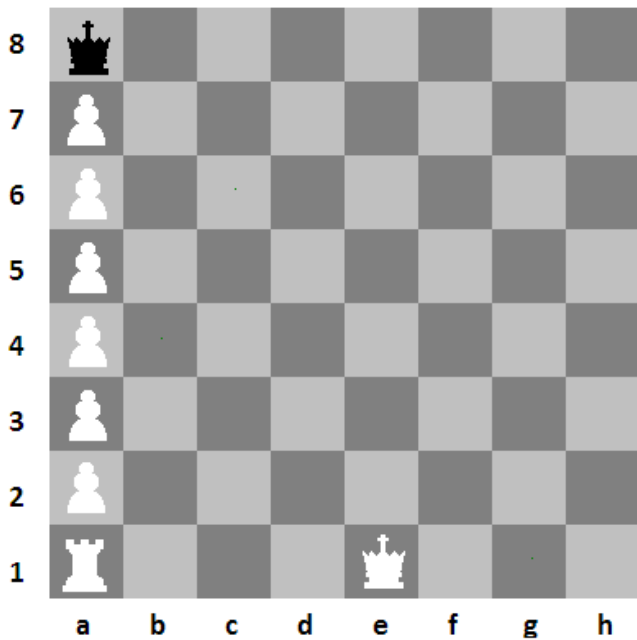
The Iron Crossword

SAMREEN ALIM
4B ELECTRICAL



Chess

ROB GRAHAM
4B COMPUTER



White to move. White mates in 8.
Hint: White king and rook have not moved yet.

Difficulty: 4.5 / 5

Crossword Clues

Across

1. Culinary School graduates
6. Limb movement
10. The Count in "A Series of Unfortunate Events"
14. Restriction
15. Hayworth the sex symbol
16. Rapper Ja _____
17. Liquid secretion
18. U.S. Scent
19. Extend
20. Common seagrass
22. Magician David
24. Flotsam and Jetsam from "The Little Mermaid"
25. Bend in a River
26. Piercing above the upper lip
29. Currently in filming Angelina Jolie movie
30. Narrow opening
31. End
37. Spooky
39. Federal Aviation Administration (abbr.)
40. Marshland plant
41. Finishing point
44. Lower aft corner of a sail
45. Deadly combat
46. Concedes
48. Between the wrist and forepaw in dogs
52. Father
53. Italian town that sounds like "extending side"
54. Layered rocks
58. Italian for air
59. Clairvoyant
61. McDreamy's first name
62. Tariff
63. Opposite of 'out of'
64. Written piece
65. Given to exotic dancers
66. First man
67. Not fresh

Down

1. Book series and board game
2. Employ
3. Male version of Emily
4. Digit Edge
5. Sound reproduction
6. In economics, before deductions
7. Well known Immune system disease
8. Judge in OJ Simpson Murder trial
9. Writer of "The History of the Standard Oil Company"
10. Instrument with a sustained tone
11. Gruesome
12. Solitary
13. Less
21. Most famous Baldwin
23. Abdominal area
25. First/Last European Colony in China, sometimes spelt with a 'u'
26. Millisecond (abbr.)
27. Margarine
28. Slang for the regular
29. Slugs with shells
32. Frequently
33. Most hidden
34. Inactive
35. S-shaped curve with vertical ends
36. Current event information
38. Role of a grandparent
42. Bicontinental landmass with 71% of human population
43. Hair removal cream
47. Standard evaluations
48. Mentor of Aristotle
49. Eckhart from "Thank you for Smoking"
50. Structure that allows passage through a fence
51. Types of ducks
52. Alberta's first native born premier
54. Bristle in plants and animals
55. Latin for female Bear
56. Instance of eating
57. Dignified long low terrier breed
60. Furthest from the start

profQuotes

"We call that, in injury biomechanics, 'anatomical rearrangement'."
- Prof D. Cronin, ME 598

Prof: "So you have this rigid body."
Student (just loud enough to hear): "Yes, I do."
- Prof Salehian, ME 524

Solutions to this week's crossword and chess puzzle will be available on our website.

THE IRON INQUISITION

Michael Seliske, 2A Computer

"What is your best memory of Waterloo?"



Inderdeep Matheroo
4B Systems
"The smell of [manure] in the spring."



Faisal Anwar, Seunghuran Kevin Kim, Karunyan Krishnasamy
4B Electrical
"Passing every term."



Adam Schubert
4B Electrical
"Having a 60 square foot poster of myself hanging outside of POETS for 2 weeks."

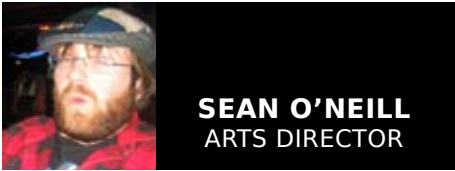


Josh Daigle
4B Computer
"I haven't had it yet, it will probably be IRS."



Kiri Neufeglise
4B Chemical
"Being Angry all the time."

Gimme Gimme More, Gimme More ART!



SEAN O'NEILL
ARTS DIRECTOR

Hello all you arts fans! Not much to report on this week, so instead I'm going to fill in the rest of this space with one of the short stories submitted to our short story contest! It's a lovely bit about some guy named Sean, but couldn't possibly be me, since I don't own Hawaiian print shorts.

A Shorts Story

Sean hated pants. They were just too long. "My calves need to breathe!" he announced to his class one day in the middle of a lecture on mini wheats and other tiny things. "They need to be free like a bird flying through the sky; free like gazelles sprinting across the plains of the Kalahari; free like the leftovers from the C&D. I swear I will not succumb to the confinement of pants until the first snowflake plummets to the ground!"

So Sean left the school that day with a new sense of purpose. He skipped out the door and along the sidewalk, smiling and whistling a happy tune; when suddenly, out of no where, it began to rain.

"No Problemo," said Sean, "a little rain never hurt anyone!"

But unfortunately the sky must've heard Sean and wanted to prove some sort of ridiculous point, because with a massive gust of wind, it began to hail.

"No Problemo," Sean repeated, a little more uncertainly, as he sped up and walked

quickly home.

That night it continued to hail. It hailed and hailed until ice pellets stacked up to approximately knee-height.

Sean woke up the next morning and pulled on his favourite pair of Hawaiian print shorts. He got ready for school, noting how especially free his calves felt that morning, and stepped out onto his front lawn into the knee-deep ice pellets.

"That's odd," said Sean, but he continued on his way, wading through the ice.

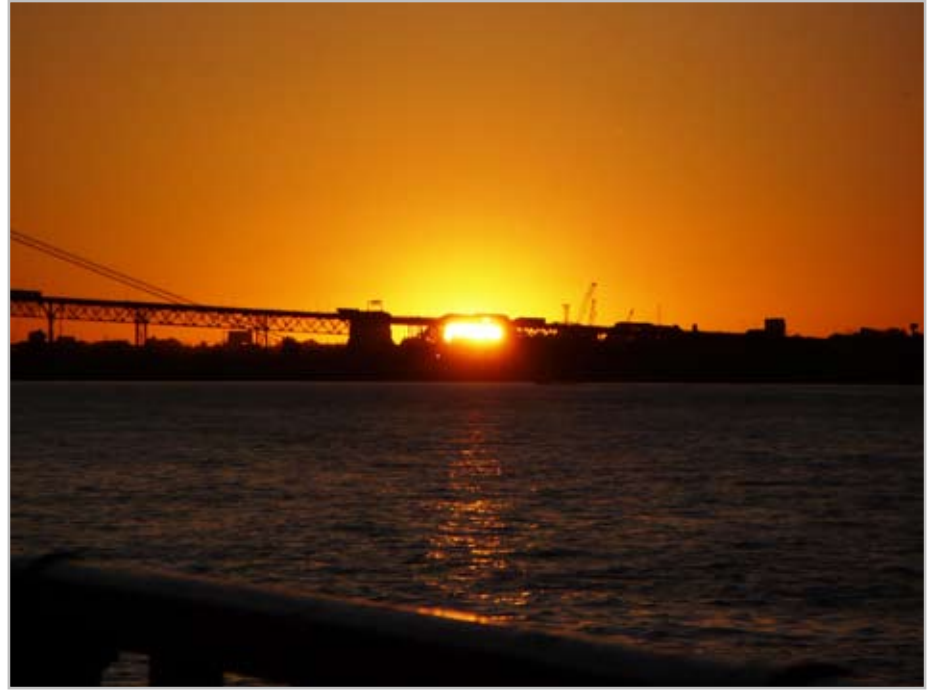
When he got to school, the ice had turned his calves pink. He looked around his classroom at all his long-panted friends and felt a tweak of jealousy as he thought about their snuggly calves nuzzled safely within their pant-legs.

By the time his class was over, all of the ice had melted away, so Sean decided to go outside and play. He and his friends had just started to play an exciting game of 4-Square outside POETS, when some grad students showed up.

"Hey!" Shouted the first leather and iron clad grad student, "You little twerps have two options, hand over your pant-legs, or give me your beer money!"

They all quickly tore off their pant legs and gave them to the grad students before running away, everyone but Sean. He simply stood there, staring down at his bare calves and thinking about how sober he was. He slowly took all the money out of his pockets and handed it over to the grad students, shedding a single tear as he did so.

"See you in tutorial, kid!" laughed the grad students cruelly as they tromped away.



Luisa Pegorar, Science, Skyline

Sean had nothing to do but go home. As he trudged along, he realized he had walked through poison ivy. He scratched his poor calves and began to cry.

"What do you want from me?!" He yelled to the sky. "Do you want me to wear pants?!"

And with that, a single snowflake landed in his beard. And then another, and another until there was a thin layer of snow on the ground. Sean ran quickly home and put on a pair of pants.

"I swear I will never take these pants off until every snowflake has melted" he exclaimed. And he didn't.

The End.

Thanks To Megan Pollock in Systems for this ridiculous work of fiction (there is not a 4-square outside of POETS, silly girl). Also check out the photo spread of some of our runners up in the weekly photo contest. Remember, any and all art info can be found on the arts board across from the multimedia lab in CPH, or by emailing artsineer@gmail.com for more details!

Stay Classy Artsineers.



Ryan Jolivet, 4B Tron, Macro



Samuel Cheng, 4B Systems, Macro



you can expand
your professional
network with over

50

successful
entrepreneurs
and mentors!

Mbet
Master of Business,
Entrepreneurship and Technology

CBET the Centre for Business,
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