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# THE IRON WARRIOR



Friday, March 3, 2000

The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society

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## UN Conference

**TUNAZZINA ABEDIN**  
Head delegate

I bet you didn't know that a group of 22 Waterloo engineers went to Harvard from February 17th to 20th to attend a model united nations simulation called Harvard national Model UN. This is the second year delegates were representing not only University of Waterloo but also the faculty of Engineering.

### What's Involved:

A group of 8 people were chosen as part of the organizing committee. This committee took care of every little detail of the planning of the trip. Once the committee was assigned the Republic of Mozambique, the others got involved in research and writing position papers. Everyone had been practicing their public speaking techniques, parliamentary procedure and how to write a resolution on a topic.

Under the umbrella of Mozambique, we're part of 7 committees in General Assembly and 6 Economic Social Council committees as well as World Bank and Organization of Islamic Countries. You can check out our webpage and have a look at some of our work.

<http://www.rehein.com/waterloo/>  
**At the Conference**

The conference attracted over 2000 students from more than 100 universities and colleges all over the world representing the UN member countries as well as Non-Governmental Organizations.

On Thursday February 17th, the opening ceremony started at 6:00 pm with guest speaker Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary His excellency



Members of the University of Waterloo delegation pose with the flag of Mozambique  
Photo courtesy Sandra Le

Muhamed Sacirbey, permanent representative to the United Nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as special envoy for the implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

After the opening ceremonies, every-

one went to their committee sessions starting at 7:00 pm. The first order of business was deciding on the topic to discuss first. After the topics were decided, everyone got down to business of solving the problem at hand. Some of the topics discussed were:

Unicef: The Hand that Robs the Cradle: Ending Child Abduction Around the World,

Special Political and Decolonization Committee: Conflict in Eritrea: Addressing the Instability in Africa,

Commission on the Status of Women: Improving Treatment of Victims: Rape as a War Crime,

World Bank: Interactive Simulation with other ECOSOC Committees,

Organization of the Islamic Conference: Reconstructing Afghanistan.

The next few days consisted of intense work in each of the committees to produce working papers and draft resolutions. Some committees had as many as 5 or 6 resolutions over the 4 day conference.

The resolution passed regarding the Unicef topic is available at: [www.fas.harvard.edu/~atraham/unicef.html](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~atraham/unicef.html)

The conference was a lot of hard work for all the delegates, but it wasn't all work and no play. There was some sort of social event planned every night for those

who wanted to go out after the sessions ended. We even had a few hours to see the sights of Boston on Friday February 18th.

### A Little Thanks To ...

I would like to use this opportunity to thank the following people for their help:

- Federation of Students for their generous donation as well as letting us use the Bomber for a fundraising event.

- Harvard National Model United Nations also for their generous contribution.

- The people on the organizing committee, without your hard work it wouldn't have been possible.

- Jason Foster for being our faculty advisor and for all the help.

- Liz Parry for replacing someone who had to withdraw at the very last minute.

- Everyone who went to the conference for making it so great and making my work easy.

### How To Get Involved in the Future

You can join our mailing list. When the time comes to register for the next conference, people on the mailing list will be notified and those who are interested get to go. It's as simple as that.

Here is where you go:

<http://www.onelist.com/community/uwunthnmun>

If you wish to know more about our trip, contact me at [tabedin@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tabedin@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)

## How Many Days...

**ANDREW JOHNSON**  
IRS Co-Chair

Well, it's been five long years and the countdown's finally over. On the afternoon of Wednesday, February 23rd, the members of the UW Engineering class of 2000 were finally granted their iron rings.

The Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer and the granting of the iron ring are Canadian tradition, conceived in the early 1920's and first performed in 1925. This makes the year 2000 a very special year (aside from all the millennium hype); it's the 75th anniversary of the iron ring.

I think I speak for all my fellow graduating students when I say that we are both honoured and humbled. We are honoured to be granted a place in this fine tradition, especially in a landmark year such as this. At the same time, we are humbled by the longevity and excellence of this venerable custom, and we hope that our future efforts will justify the honour we have been given.

After the Ritual, I saw varied expressions on the faces of my classmates. Some were quiet and pensive. Some were overjoyed. Some were shedding a quiet tear. All, however, seemed to contain some

measure of disbelief, not fully realizing that it had finally arrived.

And then the experimentation began. Playing with the ring, slipping it on and off the finger, getting used to its presence. Running around, tapping it on various materials and testing their resonant qualities. Gradually, the disbelief was replaced with the pride of accomplishment...and a readiness to celebrate.

And so, with our new friends on our pinkies and our Value Village purchases on our bodies, we trekked to Fed Hall to begin the other venerable tradition, the Iron Ring Stag.

It's difficult to convey in words the intensity and fun of IRS; you really have to experience it. With a little hard work, future graduates, you will, and then you'll know what we're talking about. In the meantime, you'll just have to put up with us being annoying as we tap our rings on everything in sight (including foreheads). But time flows quickly, and before you know it, you'll be doing the same thing.

This year's IRS had some changes from the past; the most obvious was certainly the different venue. However, as far as we (the IRS chairs) could tell, the event

went off without a hitch and everyone had a blast. We definitely have some people to thank for that.

First and foremost, our volunteer student security did a fantastic job; they could have left early for their reading week, but they decided to stick around and keep an eye on us. If each of them has as good a security crew for their IRS as we had for ours, they've got nothing to worry about.

Secondly, the mascot and its keepers deserve strong kudos for braving the mob of 4Bs who, being ringed, are finally allowed to touch it and were determined to do so.

Merv the DJ, as always, did an excellent job of spinning the tunes; the dance-floor wasn't empty until they kicked us out at closing time. Johnny Megalos and the Fed Hall security crew did an excellent job with a rather (ahem) 'unusual' event to which they were not accustomed.

Finally, thank you to the over five hundred newly-ringed engineers who bought tickets and came out. We hope that your faith in us and the event was rewarded with a great time you can remember for a long time to come.



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## Mmm... Stream of Consciousness

It's been three weeks since the last issue, so you'd think I'd have a lot to write about. Bzzzzt! Well at least I have no one topic to write lots about, so have fun reading a little about lots of topics. Yes, it's another totally random rant.

First of all, I'm disappointed at the voter turnout for the recent FedS elections. Eight percent of eligible Engineering students turned to vote during the recent elections. Now obviously voter turnout drops when there aren't any Engineering students running for office, but still, we had a senate representative to vote for, and it was still a huge drop.

The snow has melted. That's nice, because it means I can actually wear my shoes instead of boots, and it's also a lot warmer out now. Of course, since I'm writing this two days before this issue is distributed, there will probably be another fifteen centimeters on the ground, and I'll look like I'm on crack.

I hope everyone enjoyed their reading break. You might complain about only getting two days, but hey, we finish class earlier than the rest of the faculties. I went home to Toronto for a couple of days. It's still Toronto. No major changes unlike during my co-op term in North Carolina, where part way through the term, I realized that I had no idea of what the Eaton Centre looked like.

Lulu's is closing soon. Many students probably haven't even been there, considering it's at the far end of Kitchener, but I've been there twice recently for live shows. The sound was better for the Barenaked Ladies than it was for Sloan, but it is still an enjoyable place to catch a concert, and it will mean one less place to catch a live show.

Continuing on the whole live music thing, I also happened to catch the Northern Pikes while I was in Toronto. Depending on whether you're frosh, or if you've just got your Iron Ring, your memories of this Canadian band might vary. As a quick refresher, *She Ain't Pretty* was their most memorable single, but they

recorded a bunch of other radio hits, including *Teenland*. Anyways, considering it was sort of a nostalgia show for me, as they reunited after six years, it rocked. I'm not sure of the relevance to this, especially since

they're unlikely to play a show in Kitchener-Waterloo, but it was weird to see what you remember as a young band becoming older. You go see the Rolling Stones or Pink Floyd, you expect to see some older people on stage, but this was a bit surprising. Oh well, good show.

As I mentioned, there are a bunch of fourth-years who have a shiny new ring on their pinky fingers. I must admit, while I'll probably be loud and obnoxious come my IRS date, I really wish I hadn't had to write a midterm during the day. Nothing like people asking you if you want some wieners and tossing them into the exam room to make calculus that much more fun and exciting.

Co-op matches should also be available when you read this, or shortly thereafter. Fortunately, (not to brag) I found a job without having to go through the co-op process, saving me the stress of interviews and matching this term. Surprisingly, even though this is my fourth different job, in four workterms, I've only been through the interview process twice. I'm fortunate this term though, since I left my suit in Toronto by mistake.

Here's the point in my rant where I

should make some sort of witty comment about *Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire*.

Quickly back to the whole live music thing, there's a Moist concert at Fed Hall tomorrow, March 4th. Look around for posters for details, but I'll admit to giving a free plug here.

Oh, just because I gave a free plug there, don't come to me asking for me to mention your summer sublet, or your extra toaster, or anything like that. Although, if there is demand for a classified section, I might be talked into something. (Now I'll find out who actually reads the paper.)

So summer movie season is starting to approach. Apparently, there's some movies with some explosions, some with some humour, some with random bloody killings, and probably a couple of romantic comedies and dramas thrown in there to keep things spicy.

The above paragraph proves why I should never be considered for the position of "Film Reviewer". On the other hand, we may have a film review from one of the Arts directors next issue. No promises, but I figure if I mention it here, I may guilt them into writing something.

Of course, if that strategy worked, I should mention every Engineering student at this point, in order to guilt everybody into writing an article for the Iron Warrior. Now, if this plan works, I'll probably have to publish a bound book, thereby driving costs through the roof, but that's no excuse for you to not write something. Yeah, I mean you, the guy with the face. Write something.

Ok, I stole the line about the guy with the face from an old pinball table. Apparently pinball is now dead as a form of amusement. Oh there will still be arcades with pinball tables, but the major manufacturer has given up, since it was a money losing business. This upsets me, as I've grown up on pinball, but it's not like health care or anything vital where people should throw money away for the greater good.

Shadow Day also occurred this week. While I write this, I think about whatever shadow I will get tomorrow morning, who will have to follow around a bleary-eyed computer engineering student, and I can only hope I won't scare them away. This is my third time participating in Shadow Day, and I'm sure the first time I scarred the potential Waterloo students, so I'll report back on this next issue. Hopefully they'll be won over by my persuasive "there's a lot of work" and "you've got to attend these lecture things" pitch.

I'm pretty close to shutting up now, although you may have very well given up half way through this rant. If so, you've missed the secret prize. Ok, there is no secret prize. On the other hand, in an embarrassing moment, I apparently managed to eat the fortune in a fortune cookie this week. You may be asking "hey, isn't it called a fortune cookie, so you should expect to receive a fortune?" Well, I did receive a fortune, but there were also additional strips of paper tucked into the cookie advertising an upcoming event. Well, I didn't realize this, although I did notice that the cookie had an odd, paper-like texture to it. Ok, so maybe I can be accused of lacking common sense.

So, we're winding down the term. One more month of lectures, and then finals. After that, some of us are free for the real world, and the rest of us get to repeat all this fun come the fall. Anyways, I'll be ranting again in two weeks. Have fun in the meantime.



### Editor's Rant

by Ryan Bayne

## Work Report Failures

*Record number of computer engineering students fail workterm report evaluation*

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This term, it is estimated that over 80 third year computer engineering students were issued resubmit notices on their Fall 1999 workterm reports. The high rate of notices stems from increasingly strict workterm report guidelines issued by the department of electrical and computer engineering.

For example, one student received a resubmit notice for writing "Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering" on his cover sheet, when he should have written "Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering".

Other reasons for resubmit notices included placing the caption of a figure above the figure, when it was supposed to appear below, using upper case Roman numerals where lower case Roman numerals were supposed to appear, and failing to place a row of periods in the table of contents between page topics and page numbers.

Is this really necessary? Does the

evaluation of workterm reports really need to be this stringent? How does this system contribute to the education of computer and electrical engineering students? Wouldn't it have been sufficient to circle the offending mistake and take off a mark, rather than failing a student and forcing them to resubmit?

Many students are afraid to speak out on this matter, fearing repercussions on their future workterm report submissions. That is why I have written this letter anonymously. When we prepare our workterm reports, we go over the ECE checklist to make sure we cover all the bases. When the reports are sent back to us with resubmit notices, they're largely due to vague guidelines published by the ECE department.

They never said a thing about putting rows of periods on your table of contents page, or numbering things in lowercase Roman numerals. This isn't fair. We should not be punished for omitting details that were not explicitly outlined.

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*The Newspaper of the University of Waterloo Engineering Society*

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Margaret Parkhill  
Daniel Clarke

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Andrew Johnson  
Mark Morley  
Jenn Motuz  
Ian Pollock  
Micah Potechin  
Sunny Sodhi  
Craig Turner

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Mail should be addressed to The Iron Warrior, Engineering Society, CPH 1323B, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1. Our phone number is (519) 888-4567 x2693. Our fax number is (519) 725-4872. E-mail can be sent to [iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:iwarrior@engmail.uwaterloo.ca)

# Elegant Eateries: The Urban Kitchen

**WILLIAM PATTERSON**  
3A Environmental Chemical

Looking for a decent sit-down restaurant with a good atmosphere and not too far from engineering, try "The Urban Kitchen". We arrived at 5:00 to celebrate the last midterm we wrote. We were promptly greeted and asked to have a seat.

There are tables for two and four, booths for four, some booths have both seats padded, while others have wooden chairs too. There was even a round booth to seat large groups of people. The decor includes lights with large metal strainers as shades, metal cheese graters hanging from minilights, plates, mixing spoons and mixing bowls on wooden shelves. It is bright with natural wood interior and purple ceilings.

Within five minutes, our server, Rebeca, arrived asking us if we wanted anything to drink, and handed us our menus. Two of my friends had hot chocolate (\$1.00), with whipped cream (upon request). One had Dad's root beer (\$1.25) and upon the suggestion of our waitress, I had Snapple raspberry ice-tea (\$2.95). It was quite delicious; nice and chocolatey, not too sweet but could have been a little bit warmer.

When Rebeca brought our drinks, she asked us if we were ready to order. Michelle, ordered English Fish and Chips (\$8.95+), Yuki, ordered Papa's beef stew (\$8.65+), Kelly ordered Grilled Salmon with Honey Sauce (\$13.95+), and I ordered a 10oz Striploin steak (\$13.95+).

Rebeca returned after about fifteen minutes with our meals. Michelle thought her English fish and chips were well presented. The fish was very tasty and flaky, and had a light, crispy and succulent beer batter. There were good size portions of fish, fries and vegetables. The fries were cooked just right, not too greasy with an excellent flavour. In Michelle's opinion, a must try.

Yuki's beef stew was tasty with cubes of beef. It had yummy meat sauce on top of soft beef stew and mashed potatoes. (She chose mashed potatoes over rice when asked what to have her stew on). The beef and carrots were full of flavour, tender and moist. The carrots had excel-

lent colour and parsley was spread over the plate, adding some green. In Yuki's opinion, it was a medium sized meal that can keep you full and warm and an excellent recommendation.

Kelly's grilled salmon had a very good presentation with a bed of rice underneath the salmon, assorted cooked veggies on the side. There was a reasonably sized piece of fish and plenty of rice. The fish was tasty and flaky, cooked to perfection and had a tasty coating of honey sauce. The rice had a small amount of parsley that added flavour and there was a variety of vegetables including onions and peppers. I had a sample of the salmon, and even though I don't like fish, I thought it was pretty good.

My 10oz striploin steak was well arranged with the steak covered with grilled mushrooms, peppers and onions, and lightly seasoned to perfection. There were also two scoops of garlic & cheese flavoured mashed potatoes sprinkled with parsley that added a cream colour to the dish. The mashed potatoes were smooth with a slight hint of garlic and just the right amount of cheddar cheese. The side of grilled mixed vegetables complemented the steak with good hues of green and purple from the onions, and bright reds and yellows of the peppers adding to the overall appeal of the meal. The only down side I had was that the steak was slightly overcooked on one side (I ordered a medium-well), but it still had excellent flavour.

We had an enjoyable main meal, and the restaurant had a quiet and fun atmosphere. The staff was friendly and courteous. They were casually but well dressed. When we were finished the main meal, we decided to have dessert. All desserts were \$3.95 and really well presented, similar in style to Williams Coffee Pub.

Michelle decided to have a piece of Truffle Royal, which had a light and creamy mousse set atop chocolate cake. It was moist and very chocolatey with a touch of whipped cream. In her opinion it was yummy, and an absolute must try for all chocoholics.

A piece of Dutch Chocolate cake was Yuki's choice, and she thought it was sweet and delicious. The cake was very moist and tender with an elegant rose

shaped mousse on top. There was strawberry syrup with four beautiful red hearts on chocolate syrup on the plate that you didn't want to ruin by dipping the cake in them.

Kelly had a craving for Peanut Butter Truffle, which was a very appetizing combination of chocolate and peanut butter. It likewise was excellently presented a good combination of scrumptious strawberry and chocolate sauce on the side. The cake was chocolatey and sweet with the peanut butter adding to the overall flavour. Overall, in Kelly's opinion, an excellent dessert worthy of enjoying.

Meanwhile, I had a chocolate cheesecake that was served on a white plate with chocolate and raspberry syrup spread around in a fun fashion. The chocolate did not overwhelm the palette and was a good

complement to the light cheese. The cookie crumb crust was an excellent accent to the creaminess of the cake, adding a good texture and taste. The cake was thick but smooth with a dark chocolate frosting, an excellent choice.

The place was very clean, including the bathrooms. Overall it had excellent food, friendly and courteous staff and a warm, inviting atmosphere. It is a bit pricey for the average student, but for a sit down restaurant, generally a good deal. We ended up paying \$77.63 + tip, which works out to just over \$20.00 per person. Michelle gave 3 1/2 stars, Kelly gave 3 3/4 stars and Yuki & I gave 4 stars out of 5 stars. The average was 3.8 out of 5 stars. Definitely check out the Urban Kitchen if you want to go somewhere different.

## Covering your Costs

**MARGARET PARKHILL**  
3A Civil Engineering

After some searching on the Internet, a few sites have proven to be helpful in my quest to find scholarships for engineers. And now, without further ado, the results.

A great site for the Chems among us is the Chemical Institute of Canada webpage. There are two parts to this page that are worth a visit. The first, <http://www.chem-inst-can.org/cetffund.html>, is intended for ChemEng student societies and projects. Grants are available for students attending conferences, student publications, and other worthy causes. The second, <http://www.chem-inst-can.org/scholar.html>, contains a list of several scholarships available to Chemical Engineering undergraduate and graduate students. There is a wide range of qualifications for the awards, from leadership qualities and activities in a student chapter of the CIC, to the area of study you wish to specialise in. If you're in Chem Eng, I suggest you take a look - award amounts are all in the thousands!

Electrical (and Computer?) Engineers may want to take a peek at this McMaster University webpage. It contains a lot of links to information on IEEE scholarships. <http://power.mcmaster.ca/icf/>

There are a couple of web-based scholarship databases that you may also want to check out. The ones listed here are free, but be careful - some databases are fee-based.

<http://www.studentawards.com>  
<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>  
<http://youth.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/ythlink/sec1ind.shtml>

These sites may require that you register, including your email address. I've registered with studentawards.com, and have not (yet) received any spam, but I can't make promises that you won't.

Share the wealth! If you have encountered any scholarship sites, or information that you would like to share with your fellow engineers, email [mlparkhi@engmail.com](mailto:mlparkhi@engmail.com) or [iwarrior@engmail.com](mailto:iwarrior@engmail.com).



The Sandford Fleming Foundation  
4306 Carl Pollock Hall

(519) 888-4008

Waterloo Campus Activities  
[sff@engmail.com](mailto:sff@engmail.com)

### WINTER 2000 TECHNICAL SPEAKER COMPETITION

- First Prize* Karen Wong, Systems Design Engineering  
"Probe the Way to Proactive Management"
- Runners-Up* Robert McArthur, Chemical Engineering  
"Mineral-oil Interaction in the Copper River and Tazliha River"
- Jennifer Motuz, Mechanical Engineering  
"Repair Strategy of the BE395b Shovel Bucket"

*Congratulations to all competitors.*

### SFF DEBATES

The Sandford Fleming Foundation Debates will be held March 13 and 14 in E2 3324. Finals will be held at the POETS on March 17 at noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

*Funding for these awards comes from your student contributions and depends on it for continuation.*

*An organization devoted to the advancement of engineering education.*

# A Model of Success

In my last column I argued that Canada shouldn't be too concerned about competing corporately in the global economy. As a country of Mitch Co's, we have many small companies that can stay small and at the same time acquire a larger market. These days a business doesn't have to be a multinational to sell globally. Let me tell you about my own experience.

In 1997 Joseph Cosentino and I founded Model Science Software. It had been a decade since we were engineering students at the University of Toronto. We both gained experience in a number of different fields in the years following our graduation. My background in education and Joe's programming skills brought us together to develop Model ChemLab, a program that simulates chemistry lab experiments. As a high school chemistry teacher I would show students how to perform a lab and then find myself walking from station to station explaining the details over and over again. Demonstrating in front of the class didn't adequately prepare students to perform the lab themselves. As a graduate student at McMaster University Joe developed a shareware version of a lab simulation. When I saw this I thought, "Wow! This would be a great way for students to do



## Technology Review

by Mark Morley

their lab prep." Interactive simulations would familiarize students with experiment procedures and equipment before they walked into the lab.

Joe and I worked together for several months in our spare time, communicating through e-mails, talking on the phone and meeting once a week. When we had a viable product and a friendly Web site we placed a link to an on-line distributor and waited. Within a couple of weeks we made our first sale. It was from Indonesia!

We started selling a downloadable version on the Net, but it wasn't long before our CD-ROM was featured in the catalogues of distributors in Canada, the United States, Australia, Brazil and Hong Kong. We now sell on-line as well as fill orders by mail and fax. Yet we began without any venture capital. Rather than forming a company with a staff that tried to do it all, the two of us started a partnership that tries to do as little as possible. We outsource everything except development and fulfillment. Our Web site is in Vancouver, our CDs are made in Toronto, and our on-line distributor is in Minneapolis. Our use of the Internet and international couriers makes us truly world wide.

In less than two years Model Science Software has become a leading provider of educational chemistry lab simulations.

Model ChemLab is currently being used in universities, colleges and high schools in countries as diverse as Argentina, Australia, Britain, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, Spain, South Korea, Turkey, the United States and Venezuela. Like James Cameron and Alanis Morissette, we've gone global without becoming multinational.

Model Science Software wouldn't exist if it wasn't for the Internet, and Model ChemLab wouldn't exist if it wasn't for creative vision. The Internet gave us a start as a business. It enabled us to begin sales without the expenses associated with a retail outlet. However, the Internet didn't provide the idea to pursue a niche market like educational chemistry lab simulation software. Creativity depends upon individual initiative. The Internet gave us the means to take a simple idea and sell it to the world. But don't come to us looking for a co-op position. We are not large enough to start hiring, and maybe we never will be. We may not be on our way to becoming a mega corporation, but we are successful in our own right. There's no shame in staying a small business with a global market. In fact, I think more people should set their sights on small ventures. Why dream about the Bill Gates model of success when you can have your own Model Science? Like I said, we aren't a nation of IBM's; we are a country of Mitch Co's.

I wish Canadian corporations every

success in the global economy. Yet I also wish more Canadian individuals, including engineering graduates from the University of Waterloo, would take advantage of our infrastructures and form small companies that compete globally. I believe that Canada can be a major player with the United States in the global economy without sacrificing our culture to American style economics. In fact, our culture is our economic advantage. Although we may not invest as aggressively as Americans, we do invest heavily. We invest with our taxes in massive enterprises like health care and education. We not only have the communications infrastructure companies need to engage in e-commerce; we also have the social and cultural infrastructures individuals need to start their own businesses. As long as we look out for the common good, individuals can risk small business ventures with the peace of mind that their health care and the education of their children will be maintained. Our concern for community can foster a cultural milieu that in turn cultivates creativity. We may have to compete with the rest of the world to survive Darwinian globalization, but we don't have to cast aside our social safety nets or clear-cut our cultural rainforests.

*Mark Morley, is an engineer, co-founder of Model Science Software, and a lecturer at the Centre for Society, Technology and Values*

<http://modelscience.com>

<http://cstv.uwaterloo.ca>

[mmorley@engmail](mailto:mmorley@engmail)

## Waterloo Engineer's Invention Makes Professional Hockey Safer

SUSANNE FRAME

Gary Johnston, P.Eng., is the inventor of both Check-Flex boards and "seamless" glass, two of the latest innovations to hit the hockey world in the past few years.

"Injuries resulting from slamming into the hockey boards were a problem," says Johnston, owner of Johnston Engineering & Machine Design in Waterloo. "Only about 12 per cent of injuries result from hitting the board, but if you can reduce that 12 per cent, you're doing something positive."

For big arenas, the aluminum Check-Flex boards are made in 2.4-metre sections. Springs located at the base of the board cushion players upon impact, by compressing when the boards are hit, acting as a shock absorber. Glass, 2.4-m high, sits on top of the boards, and moves with them.

The invention of the Check-Flex boards emerged from the creation of "seamless" glass. First installed for the Vancouver Canucks in 1995, fans loved the glass because it was aesthetically

pleasing and offered better sightlines for watching the game. Unfortunately, the combination of the new boards and glass did not provide the "springy" quality expected by today's hockey player.

Johnston and Bruce Irving of Crystaplex responded by inventing the Check-Flex hockey board solution. Crystaplex is the Mississauga-based manufacturer of the Check-Flex system, which 10 National Hockey League (NHL) facilities currently use.

The next challenge for Johnston is to

provide a Check-Flex solution affordable for community rinks. The system costs at least \$170,000 to install in a NHL-calibre arena.

After all of this dedication to improving the sport of hockey, can Johnston be counted as a fan? "I do watch hockey," says Johnston, "but mostly for the boards."

Reproduced from *Engineering Dimensions*, 2000, Volume 21, No. 1, page 17.

## Explorations 2000

PATRICK BROWN  
2A Mechanical Engineering

For the past few years, there has been a conference put on by the University of Waterloo for the benefit of local elementary school students during Engineering Week. The Explorations Conference is a display of all the engineering and engineering related activities that go on throughout the university. This year, it will take place on March 13. For as long as it has gone on, the conference has been very popular with the children and families of the area. Every engineering team, department, or professor with anything to show will be there to teach the kids what engineers really do.

As well, there are anywhere from eighty to over one hundred engineering students each year who help out at the conference. They are all helping out the university and the community by helping make those kids eager to learn. This con-

ference is primarily fun for the kids, where they get to see how much fun we, as engineers and engineering students, can have out here in the real world.

Anyone attending will be able to see displays from all of the teams of the university, from the concrete toboggan, to Midnight Sun, and everyone in between. As well, each department within the faculty will have displays on to show what they're doing right now.

In previous years, there have been as many as 2000 children and parents at this event, but this year will be a little different. There won't be quite as many, but then there won't be quite as much chaos come time to show everyone around. With all the students who have signed up to help so far, and whoever else who wants to help, this year's event should be a great success.

If you would like to help out, sign up in the EngSoc Office (CPH 1327).

## Stone Cold Places 4th

TORI DE BOKX  
4B Civil Engineering

This year's Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Races (GNCTR) went off smoothly yet again. With 19 competing teams, and 3 alumni teams participating in the 26th annual, the imagination and technical ingenuity of approximately 300 student engineers from across North America was avidly displayed. Competition was tough, but the fun and sense of adventure that an event of this type incurs was thick in the air.

Through making new friends and spirited chanting, to the judged technical exposition and races themselves, the University of Waterloo's Stone Cold team acted in a manner fitting to the school and

city they're from. Proving themselves adept at adapting to changing circumstances and slightly altered assumptions, the team finished a solid 4th overall, with an honourable mention for "Most Spectacular Run". Our boggan, only slightly damaged, was brought back home, where it will reside in the Structure Lab of E3. Our knowledge and experience to be passed on to the next group of civil engineering students who next year, will start again.

Stone Cold would like to thank WEEF, Mark's Work Wearhouse, PCL Constructors Limited, Bell Canada and all of the other corporate sponsors, the GNCTR and this publication for all of their help and support.

Good luck boggan 2001!



myWaterloo

Date: Tue, 18 Jan 2000 09:07:42 -0500 (EST)  
 From: Ted <ted@admin.getrichquick.com >  
 To: student1@peon.getrichquick.com  
 Subject: Initial Public Offering

Dear Student 1,

As you may know, our company has recently completed its initial public offering. Almost everyone in the building is now extremely wealthy.

We recognize that the quality of your work has been outstanding and that you have played an integral part in the success of our business.

However, since you are a co-op student, you have not received nor will you be receiving any stock options.

Instead, we have decided to give you a free T-shirt bearing our company logo (see enclosed) as a token of our appreciation.

Regards,

Your Manager

P.S. To increase the chances of your return for future work terms, you will be receiving a performance evaluation of "poor" on your transcript.



im Feb 2000

Above Left: One Last Kiss, Jessica Gross, 3B Chemical Engineering  
 Bottom Right: Untitled, Talayeh Noshiravani, 1B Civil Engineering

# Let's See What You're Made Of

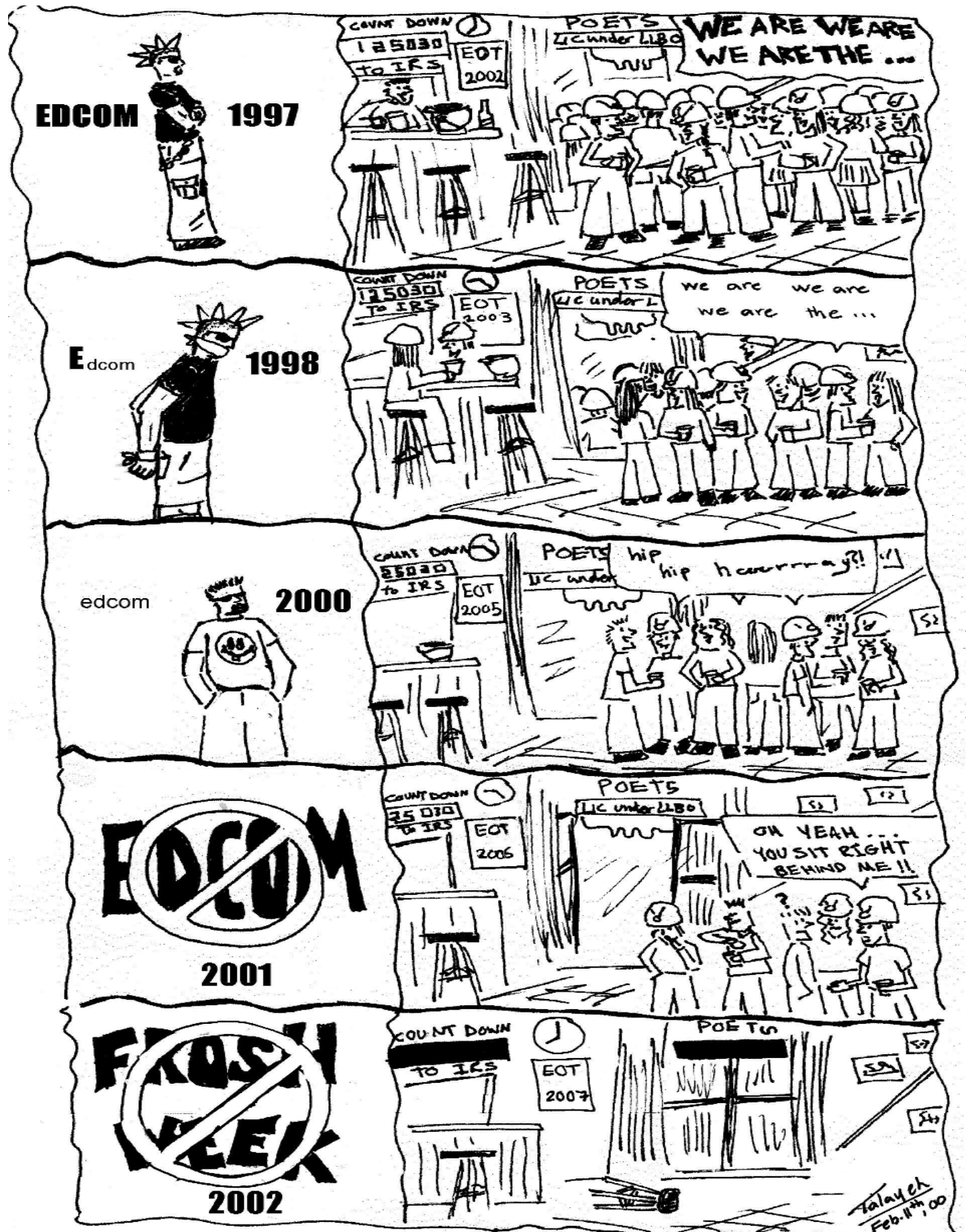
**PATRICK BROWN**  
 2A Mechanical Engineering

For all you aspiring artists, actors and musicians out there, have we got something for you!! This term, not only do we have TalEng, for anyone who wants to come out and show what they've got, we now have an art and fashion show going on. TalEng, which will be taking place March 9th, is open to any and all of those in engineering who wish to show off any skill other than that of report writing and note taking.

If you think that your acting, singing or instrumental skills are any good, you are welcome to sign up to perform in TalEng. You don't need any prior experience to do so. All are welcome, and invited, to sign up. As always, it will be taking place in the Bomber for any of you who are too afraid to sign up (myself included-I'm being honest) but not too afraid to go watch others up on stage. Just remember to practice if you want to perform. And please people, no heckling. I know how much fun it can be, but try to restrain yourselves.

For those of you who think your artistic skills, be they painting or sculpture, are good, then you shall have your day as well. On March 20th, there will be an art and fashion show. If you want to submit any form of art, just drop a note off in the Arts Directors' box in the EngSoc Office. This art also includes your bodies. We will need some models for the fashion part of the show as well. If you want to show off your bod, you are welcome to do so. We have some of our very own engineering students with some design creations, as well as some submissions from local clothing stores for all of you to have a gander.

If you want to submit any clothing designs or any pieces of art, you are welcome to. Just drop us a line in our box in the Orifice. There will also be sign-up sheets going around for those interested in helping out in any way.



## More WEEF or More Tuition?

The faculty of engineering needs money to preserve the quality of our education. The money needed each term is fixed. It's something we can't control.

When tuition fees went up 19% last term, the faculty of engineering got only half the money. The rest of it went to the university at large.

In contrast, when we put money into the Waterloo Engineering Endowment Fund, the funds go directly towards improving our programs. Every dollar of WEEF is as effective as two dollars of tuition fee increases.

Plus, WEEF counts as a charitable donation and you'll get 17% of it back from the government as a tax credit. (A tax credit is different from a tax deduction. Tax deductions shelter your earnings by reducing your total taxable income, whereas a tax credit is like a rebate—money straight from the government regardless of your level of income. Tax credits are a way for governments to encourage Canadians to participate in various activities, such as charity, cultural

activism, research and development, etc.)

When you account for the government subsidy, we're effectively contributing only \$62.25. To get the same \$75 into engineering through tuition fee increases, the university charges \$150 and takes half for itself.

For example, let's say that in a class of 100 students, 30 people decide to take money from WEEF. That works out to 2,250 fewer dollars for engineering that term.

To make up for the money through tuition fee increases, you'd have to increase tuition by \$55 per person (since the university pockets half the money from the increases). So the people who took WEEF money end up saving \$7.25 (\$62.25-\$55), and everyone else in the class ends up paying \$55 to subsidize the WEEF refunds of 30 people.

In this scenario, every student in the class has a decision to make. Do we take back our WEEF money and save \$7.25 or do we leave our WEEF money in and pay the extra tuition as well, for a defenestrating kick in the nuts of \$117.25 (\$62.25 + \$55)?

Before we decide what to do, let's take a look at a second scenario, where everyone in the class takes back their WEEF money.

That's 100 kids at \$75 each. So we'll need \$15,000 from tuition fees, or about \$150 more per person. In this case, we could have left our WEEF money in and paid \$62.25, but instead we all tried to save \$7.25 and ended up paying an extra \$87.75 (\$150-\$62.25).

Everyone loses.

Some people need to take their WEEF money back and that's totally, totally cool. Other people take WEEF money because

it's available and they figure that if they don't take it back it'll just go to waste.

WEEF is like big tower of Jenga—you can take out a couple pieces and everything's fine, but when everyone starts doing it, the game is lost.

All it takes is a few bitter upper year students telling the frosh to "save themselves" by cashing in on WEEF every term. One kid starts doing it, then he convinces all his friends to follow suit so he doesn't feel guilty; soon things snowball and we all lose.

In the final analysis, WEEF is a game of trust. You can take back your money and save yourself, or you can leave it in and risk getting screwed over by the people in your class.

What do we do? That's the \$62.25 question.

What's the cost of a good education? More importantly, what's the price of a good night's sleep?



### President

Ian Tien  
3A Computer

## Tuition Forum, March 8th

Hey everyone! Sorry about my loss for words last issue (although maybe it was a nice change ;)). Midterms are now long over for me and I've emerged from my cocoon to be VP-Education again. I've actually been pretty busy... here's a list of what I'm up to.

Before I begin, I want to put out the invitation for you guys to email me and let me know if you'd like me to focus on anything

or look into something, or just tell me what I'm doing wrong/right. My email is [jmotuz@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:jmotuz@uwaterloo.ca) and my office hour is Thursday from 11:30-12:30 (other times I'm just in POETS).

**Tuition Forum - March 8th @ 5:30, EL 211**

We've been living with the differential fees for a year now. How has it affected us? What concerns do we have? Here's a biggie: If you had Dean Chaudhuri's attention for a couple hours and could tell him what you really thought about the tuition increase, what would you say? Actually, that's exactly what the forum is for. Dean Chaudhuri will be there to let us know what is going on with tuition, and wants to hear our feedback on what we think of everything. After a food break

<shameless bribe>, the second half of the forum will involve small group discussions, and hopefully some creative solutions will come out of this. I invite everyone, especially those people who don't usually come out to Engineering Society events or get involved, to come out and put in your \$0.02. It might be your best chance to have a

say.

### Debt-load surveys

I hope to have these out before the tuition forum. Dean Chaudhuri would like some honest numbers about how students are doing financially, so that if we're really suffering from the increased tuition he can support us. Keep an eye out for a pile of these in your class mailbox, and fill them out.

### Taxes

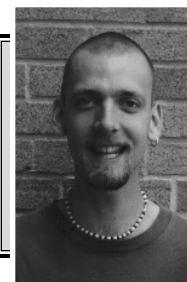
Not my favorite topic, but we've got to pay them, eh? There was a tax seminar a couple weeks ago at Needles Hall and I picked up some extra copies of the "Tax Tips" they handed out. They're posted on one of the sideboards in the EngSoc office (CPH 1327).

That's all she wrote!



### VP Education

Jenn Motuz  
3B Mechanical



### VP Internal

Ian Pollock  
3B Mechanical

## Bus Push Tomorrow!

Hey guys. It's been a busy couple of weeks. I hope everyone's recovered from exams, and MudBowl, by now. Frosh leader interviews done, and another rowdy IRS has come and gone with only a few bruised foreheads to speak of.

Tomorrow (March 4th) is the Bus Push, and I look forward to seeing everyone there. It promises to be a great day with lots of fun things going on. If you think you're done harassing people for money, though, you're sorely mistaken. The second wheelchair basketball tournament is a go for Saturday, March 26th. Sign-up and pledge sheets

will be in the Orifice.

This coming week will also have TalEng on March 9th at the Bombshelter, and sign-up sheets are in the Orifice. The Hype is running Capture the Flag on Friday, March 10th, and GradBall is on Saturday, March 11th.

Other things to watch for include a rugby tournament in late March, FOC leader training sessions, a fantasy baseball pool with proceeds to a local charity, and another Brunny trip.

See you tomorrow!

## Hanging Out with Frosh

Welcome back from Reading Days, all. I hope everyone had a very restful time. The Engineering Society is making up for the 4-day weekend with a large number of events in the weeks to come.

Well, this weekend, four 1B students will be joining me at the First Year Integration Conference in Hamilton. You will hear all about the conference when we get back. The weekend after that is CUTC, the Waterloo technology conference you are hearing so much about. As I'm writing this article, there is still room for you to sign up, and the departments of ECE and Systems have generously offered to sponsor students, so it won't cost you a lot of money. It's sure to be a great time. Visit <http://www.cutc.uwaterloo.ca> for more details.

This past Tuesday, the Bridging the Gap lecture series hosted Adam Mizera of the Canadian Space Agency, who talked about Canada's contribution to the International Space Station.

On February 29 and March 1, Waterloo hosted Shadow Day for high-school aged students considering engineering as a possible continuation of their schooling. Thanks go out to Laura Edwards and James Sinton for organizing the day, and to all the volunteers who made Shadow Day a success.

This coming weekend is Bus Push for Big Sisters, Waterloo Engineering's largest fundraiser of the year. The event is also occurring on the first day of National Engineering Week. It's a great kickoff to this national event in the Waterloo Region. And on Monday, March 13 is Explorations, our chance to show grade 7-8 children what engineering is all about. You can volunteer for either of these events in the Engineering Society office.

If you have any questions, or would like further information about what is going on, don't hesitate to write me at [<mipotech@gmail.com>](mailto:mipotech@gmail.com).



### SPRING 2000 HOUSING

St. Paul's United College offers LARGE single rooms with a meal plan (15 meals weekly) to UW students attending classes or on a work term. For information or an application please call: (519) 8851460 OR e-mail: [stpaul@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:stpaul@uwaterloo.ca).

# Coping With Distractions

Here I go again, staring listlessly at my computer screen in my latest attempt at churning out yet another article for the Iron Warrior. I've had a lot on my plate and a lot of distractions recently, that have made it difficult for me to get the creative juices necessary for producing a quality written composition.

Yet the existence and publication of this very article shows that I managed to get it done nonetheless; I pulled through in the end. As we sail through the tides of life, we will undoubtedly run into many situations similar to the one I've just described.

There will always be times when your task at hand is clear and its path to completion plain and unmistakable, but other distracting factors can change this task into a great burden. A simple example of this can be found in a dizzying migraine headache that touches down the night before a final exam. Diligent studying is the cure for all examination woes, but a constant ringing between the ears makes the task almost tortuous. At times like these, one's motivation and desire to achieve important objectives is lessened appreciably.

Distractions thus act as an obstacle. As a factor affecting personal performance and success, distractions can be placed in the same category as work ethic, intelligence, natural ability, and dumb luck. These



**The Big Picture**  
Raymond ho  
3A Mechanical

is try to keep yourself focused. Focus on what needs to be done and try not to let your other troubles interfere. Focus on what your goal is and what you are trying to accomplish. If this outweighs the discomfort you will experience along the way, then this should give you enough motivation to overcome the distraction.

Do not, however, try to push your troubles away. You should acknowledge them and let them co-exist with your activities. Just try to keep the bothersome effects to a minimum until you have time to fully deal with them.

You might also try to develop some routines in your life. Routines and habits can be hard to break. When the unexpected arises, a routine that you are accustomed to will help you to pull through and keep going. Trust your instincts to carry you through and know that things will be all right.

There are certain situations that require a great deal of determination and strength to get through. This can be difficult at times. On the other hand, there are some difficult situations that require your full and undivided attention. Such a distraction might cause all other aspects of your life to be put on hold.

I'm not shrink, and I can't really prove that any of my views in this article are correct; I'm speaking mainly from personal

experience. The only solid piece of advice that I can give is that you should do everything you can to work through your distractions. This can be accomplished by either eliminating them or learning to cope with them.

Distractions can come in many shapes and sizes, ranging from annoying barking dogs to an unfortunate incident such as the death of a family member. No matter how large or small, try not to let life's distractions completely consume you. Keep your chin up, keep your feet moving, and eventually you'll make it through.

# Budget Passed

First things first, the budget was passed at the EngSoc meeting on February 9th. The budget is printed on the right, so if you're a director, now you know how much you can spend. Expense report forms are in the Orifice. I'm a bit backlogged, at the moment, but your cheques should be available soon.



**VP Finance**  
Sunny Sodhi  
3A Systems Design

do leave you all with a few words of advice. Beware the Toyota Previa. It is a dangerous car, prone to running amok in Scarborough and similar suburban cities.

Please stay clear of any Toyota Previa that you see, as it is restless and dangerous. If you have any further questions about the threat the Toyota Previa poses to our society, don't hesitate to stop me in the halls and ask about the danger. Or about the budget, feel free to ask about that too.

Donations were decided at the EngSoc meeting this past Wednesday. At press time, the meeting hasn't happened. I would have more here, but it's been cropped for space. But I

# Early Impressions

SASHA GUTFRAIND  
1B Computer Engineering

It is common knowledge that in order to be accepted to UW engineering we all had to get good high-school marks. How was it in your last year of high school? Probably lots of homework, lots of high, yet not "high-enough" marks. When I came over here, just about six months ago, I was scared about what would happen to me. I imagined assignments, non-stop work, assignments, all-nighters and more assignments. Between midterms and finals I expected to realize that my marks cannot be the way they were. This prediction was not far from the truth. It just took time to get used to.

So why are our marks so high in high-school and so low at UW? Perhaps it is much more difficult. Perhaps we are challenged to score high in a class of high scoring students. Or perhaps there is another, no less significant reason. Imagine your school. Your choice is simple: hang out with friends, do poorly and never get where you wanted (UW Eng.). Conversely, you can work, work and work just to get accepted (to UW). The fact that we are here testifies to your choice. Yet upon arrival, after somehow adapting to the higher standards, we are again as a crossing point. Again, we can do the extra work and get the higher marks. But what for? Would graduation with a sixty prevent us from getting the iron ring, the title, the money, the fun and the experience? The answer is nearly no. We could, in theory, get further with better marks, but the co-op experience we get is far more important. That is, how well we do on interviews and how hard we work for our co-op employers counts much more than plus or minus some percentage points.

In this perspective, there is little use for higher marks. Their only significant application is getting us into grad school, something most of us (statistically) would

choose not to do. Undoubtedly, more time spent studying means more knowledge with its advantages. However, it could be argued that most of the extra work will in fact be memorization and not real knowledge. Keeping in mind the fact that we have to go through hellish terms anyway, just to get the sixty, the paradoxical conclusion is that sixty is approximately equal to ninety.

What can we do with the little extra time you gain? You don't need suggestions from a 1B student. I personally like knowing that my free time is valuable. With that time I can have fun anyway I like, the best being the most intense. I can also waste it, taking pleasure from the satire of the situation. Please note, though, how different our case is, when compared to high-school. We are free, tortured and exhausted, yet free. We can show up to classes, or we can choose not to. We can go watch TV, or we can go about getting sixty-five. We can take an extra course, go listen to somebody's speech, sign up for some club, or go out for a drink.

I titled the article "Early Impressions", since I expect my view on those things to change. I cannot know to what extent, and more crucially, in what direction would they differ in a year, two years or by the time I graduate. I suppose I should have written in the preamble to this article: "I am lazy", because I know that there are many good and hardworking people who would not accept this idea out of principle. To them I say that we now have the freedom to choose, and to choose anywhere in between.

And by the way: Well done, class of 2000.

Thoughts that qualify as "some thoughts" are welcomed in person and in writing.

Sasha (gutfraind@uwaterloo.ca)

Engineering Society, Proposed Budget (revised), Winter 2000

	Income	Expences	Net
<b>Student Fees</b>	28,750.61	1,050.00	27,700.61
<b>EngSoc Office</b>			
Bank Charges	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Payroll and Maintenance	0.00	11,500.00	-11,500.00
Photocopiers and Faxes	3,000.00	5,000.00	-2,000.00
<b>Executive</b>			
Contingency	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
President	0.00	740.00	-740.00
VP Finance	0.00	170.00	-170.00
VP External	0.00	170.00	-170.00
VP Internal	0.00	170.00	-170.00
VP Education	0.00	170.00	-170.00
TOOL	0.00	650.00	-650.00
<b>Directorships:</b>			
Academic Reps Advisor	0.00	180.00	-180.00
Arts/TailEng	1,000.00	1,280.00	-280.00
Athletics	0.00	380.00	-380.00
Bridging the Gap	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Bus Push	0.00	600.00	-600.00
Charities	0.00	75.00	-75.00
Class Rep Advisors	0.00	180.00	-180.00
Competitions & Student Groups	0.00	180.00	-180.00
Course Critiques	0.00	20.00	-20.00
CSE Critiques	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Darkroom	80.00	150.00	-70.00
Diversity	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Electronic Services	0.00	20.00	-20.00
Engnewsletter	0.00	160.00	-160.00
Enginity	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Exchange	0.00	280.00	-280.00
Explorations	0.00	50.00	-50.00
External Special Events	0.00	300.00	-300.00
Faculty Liason	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Frontrunners	0.00	75.00	-75.00
Frosh Mentoring Advisors	0.00	230.00	-230.00
Interfaculty Relations	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Internal Conferences	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Internal Special Events	0.00	250.00	-250.00
IW Editor	2,875.00	4,375.00	-1,500.00
Media	0.00	20.00	-20.00
National Engineering Week	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Novelties	2,000.00	2,150.00	-150.00
P**5	0.00	285.00	-285.00
POETS Manager	0.00	800.00	-800.00
POETS Programmer	0.00	350.00	-350.00
Resume Critiques	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Scholarships	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Secretary	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Shadow	630.00	930.00	-300.00
Small Signs	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Speaker	0.00	1,230.00	-1,230.00
Student Business Services	0.00	90.00	-90.00
Student Workshops	0.00	80.00	-80.00
TSN	0.00	150.00	-150.00
Webmaster	0.00	10.00	-10.00
Women In Engineering	0.00	90.00	-90.00
Year Spirit	0.00	75.00	-75.00
<b>Other:</b>			
Donations	0.00	1,800.00	-1,800.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>38,335.61</b>	<b>38,335.00</b>	<b>0.61</b>



# Absinthe, Night and Nudity

Five days in the Czech Republic and I had pretty much learned everything I needed to know about the language. Walking into a bar and saying "Pivo" and saying "Diki" upon receiving it will get you a beer and a "you're welcome". Now, an uncultured observer would think that that would suffice. Well, there's one other phrase that should be etched into the mind of every Prague traveler,



## No Fixed Address

by Jasen Higgins  
RINGed

and that is, if you'll pardon my Czech, "Nadrazi Branik, Shisheesa straska, cerny cun". You see, the Boathouse Hostel, situated right on the banks of the Vltava River is THE place to stay while in the city of a hundred spires.

### THE BOATHOUSE

The Boathouse is one tram stop after the Branik Brewery at a stop called Black Horse. And, if you've been paying close attention, you might have figured out that the above Czech phrase more or less means, "Branik Brewery, next stop, Black Horse". And when you hear those lovely words, you know

you're close to home. The hostel is run by a fantastic bunch of men and women, who treat you like family. Dinner is very reasonable (less than \$4) and served always on a first name basis. Laundry is provided at a price, but love is free. Vera and the rest of her crew treated us all like sons and daughters and I can't say enough about the fantastic time I had.

For those of you who have been here or are thinking of coming, this place is great! Everything is very cheap... a good meal and a few pints of beer can run you the extraordinary sum of 6 Cdn dollars. Wow. And if that's not reason enough, the weather has been fantastic and the girls... wow. I'm moving to Prague, if only they didn't all speak Czech.

Assuming you arrive by train, you will be assaulted from every angle by people offering a place to stay. And they will tell you that the Boathouse is far from the city and well, they're right. But, stick to your guns and you won't be disappointed. Not only is the staff incredible, but the night-life and the people



The Pfalz in the Rhine near Kaub  
Photo courtesy Jasen Higgins

you'll meet are beyond compare. Since the Boathouse is a little out of the way, everyone at the hostel tends to go out together and an awesome time is always had by all. And it is with these people that some fantastic friendships may form. I still keep in touch with a bunch of Aussies that I met over a game of asshole the dining room of the Boathouse.

### ABSINTHE, NIGHT AND NUDITY

The city of Prague is also amazing. The Charles bridge, Prague Castle, St. Vitus' Cathedral, the Golden Lane, Franz Kafka's house are all must-sees on your tour of Prague. Make sure you have a look at the beautiful Czech crystal, the really neat swords and armaments and the local favourite, absinthe. Illegal in just about every other country, absinthe is distilled from worm wood, a known hallucinogen. A few shots of this are required before viewing the Charles Bridge as it was meant to be seen... at night, at a running pace and naked.

### THE BONE CHURCH

The five days we stayed in Prague were not nearly enough but we had a lot of Europe still ahead and only four more weeks to go. Before you leave Prague, however, make sure you check out the Ossuary and 'Bone Church' at Kutna Hora. Thousands of people gave up their bones to give you this and you'd indeed be negligent not to check it out. Very creepy, but very VERY cool.

### SMALL SPACE, BIG DOG

Unfortunately for the three of us, our leaving Prague was not nearly as enjoyable as our stay. Upon arrival in our reserved train compartment, we were greeted by a very large dog and it's pleasant but non-english speaking owner. Too nervous about inadvertently kicking the dog in the head, the first hour of this night train to Koblenz, Germany was sleepless. Dog and owner vacated the compartment at the Czech border leaving us to contend with six frantic passport and ticket checks, evenly spaced over the next six hours of sleepy time. Entertained by an elderly German threesome before our arrival in Koblenz we debarked and made a beeline to the nearest McDonald's. Choking down an egg McMuffin, we impatiently waited for Eric's big breakfast (idiot) before hurrying down to the riverside to catch our ferry.

### WATER, CASTLES, AND MORE WATER

When taking an overnight train, not only do you not have to book a hostel but it counts on the next day of your Eurail travels. That way, you can travel all you like the following day free of charge. Arriving in the lovely Rhine town of Koblenz, we hopped on the Eurail Ferry and navigated the swollen Rhine to the Town of Bacharach. Tired and cranky, we still enjoyed the Rhine scenery of vineyards and castles as well as the company

of three Canadian girls who had a keen eye for happenin' Canadian men. (That's us, eh?) Upon reaching Bacharach, we were sick to death of castles, vineyards and scenery and realizing that we were losing our company, we decided to take a train the rest of the way to Frankfurt.

### ICH BIN EIN FRANKFURTER

Frankfurt is known for its financial district as well as its international airport and wieners but it proved to be one of the most enjoyable stops on our trip. This was precipitated by the fact that a friend of ours was on his co-op work term in the city. Christian

greeted us at the train station and provided German translation, entertainment, accommodation and a kickass good time for our five days in the city.

So we made it to Frankfurt and despite our tiredness... made it out that night with Christian for some Sangria, Beer and Handkäse mit Musik... in that order. Don't ask about the Handkäse... don't eat it either.

### FRIENDS, FRANKFURT and FOOTBALL

The good times were also precipitated by the arrival of two more Waterloo friends, Mark and Nina who were on a similar German excursion. The doubling of our threesome provided endless amusement and a much-needed break from the monotonies of Jasen, Eric and Mike. The city was great, but never underestimate the fun had when meeting up with friends. I will forever remember watching Manchester United defeat FC Bayern, surrounded by friends on the roof on a German apartment with the Frankfurt sunset in the background.

### THE BRUNSWICK HOUSE

Our next stop after Frankfurt was Braunschweig (translated: Brunswick), in the north of Germany near Bremen. Braunschweig is home to the Technische Universität Braunschweig as well as our friends Matt and Nadia. The university is known as one of the top technical universities in the world and for producing some very cool grads such as Max Planck and Carl Friedrich Gauss. Matt and Nadia opened their hearts and their home for these three lost Canadians, providing true insight to the lives of regular Germans. Highlights of our stay included hiking the Hartz Mountains and almost swimming in the reservoir used to contain Bremen's drink-

ing water.

### BEER NOT JUST FOR TOURISTS

Munich, Germany is, of course, the original, and best place to celebrate Oktoberfest, the only problem was that we arrived 4 months too early. Nonetheless, a quick litre of beer can and indeed should be enjoyed in the English Garden. One must be careful, however, to avoid the 'clothing optional' parts of the park, usually frequented by eccentric old men.

My German 101 is coming in pretty handy here in Deutschland.

Actually all of us can pretty much fool people into thinking we're German with our beer ordering skills. The problem arises when we're asked those tough questions like "Would you like some Sauerkraut with that?" (Happens ALL the time) that we revert to our blank stare (perfected in the Czech Republic) and our never fail line... "Sprechen Sie English?"

### PROUDLY CANADIAN

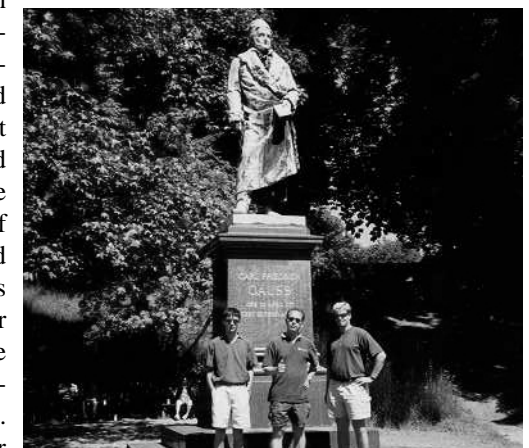
It was in the English Garden that one of those incidents took place that make you glad you're Canadian. Eric was being his finicky self and attempting his best to order a dark beer in the Biergarten. With his best German accent, he twice asked "Haben Sie dunkel Bier?" before realizing that a better proposition would be "Ich mochte ein dunkel bier haben". That, of course, is "I would like to have a dark beer" rather than "Do you have dark beer?". Now, the

barkeep, noticing the poor German, filled the stein to half way and slammed it down on the counter making the head bubble up and the glass look full. With this action, he offered the question "Du bist Amerikaner?". "Nein" Eric responded, "Ich bin Canadier!". Immediately the barkeep took the stein back, poured off the head, filled the stein to the top and returned it with a smile and a wave.

Be proud, be Canadian.



Jasen marking territory at the Boathouse Hostel  
Photo courtesy Jasen Higgins



Eric, Jasen, Mike and Carl Friedrich Gauss  
Photo courtesy Jasen Higgins



Nina, Mike, Eric and Mark with the Frankfurt Sun  
Photo courtesy Jasen Higgins