The Iron Times

WRITTEN BY C-ENG, FOR C-ENG

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MACKENZIE WATER SAFE TO DRINK

Now Stop Asking Questions



This is the official November Bulletin of the Carleton Student Engineering Society Bureau of Information. This month, the Bureau is pleased to announce that the water available at water fountains, sinks, coffee machines, eye-wash stations, and chemical showers in Carleton University's Mackenzie Engineering Building is "Safe to Drink." Not that anyone would ever think otherwise.

This conclusion was reached following an extensive investigation by Carleton Student Engineering Society scientists. The investigation of the water was ordered by Carleton Student Engineering Society President and Glorious Leader Mircea Preotesoiu after concerns were raised by several low-ranking Party officials. After thorough testing it was determined that these concerns are unfounded, and the water is indeed Safe to Drink. Officials involved with the initial concerns have chosen to retire from the Party and have withdrawn from public life.

Rigorous testing by Carleton Student Engineering Society scientists found the ammonia content of Mackenzie Building water to be 0.75 milligrams per litre. This is a safe, normal, and completely unconcerning concentration of ammonia in drinking water. Asbestos content was also found to be within the newly-defined safe range for human consumption.

There is no evidence that Mackenzie water contains microchips, trackers, or listening devices of any kind. Rumours of dihydrogen monoxide contamination are also completely fabricated.

President and Glorious Leader Mircea Preotesoiu will be celebrating the findings of Carleton Student Engineering Society scientists by holding a public water-drinking event at Leonardo's Canteen and Lounge on Tuesday, November 31st. The Carleton Student Engineering Society Bureau of Information encourages all members to show their Loyalty to the Corporation by going out and drinking Mackenzie water, for the good of all.

The consumption of Mackenzie water has numerous health benefits, including prevention of dehydration, increased alertness, and heightened self-esteem. Mackenzie water also does not cause addiction or any other negative health effects.

In addition to health benefits, Mackenzie water also has a wide range of societal benefits. Drinking Mackenzie water supports buisinesses and increases community cohesion. It is also recommended as an easy way of demonstrating Loyalty to the Corporation.

Leonardo's Canteen and Lounge, a subsidiary of the Carleton Student Engineering Society, would like to remind the public that Leonardo's Canteen and Lounge serves coffee, tea, and other hot beverages made with 100% unfiltered Mackenzie water. This month, coffee at Leonardo's Canteen and Lounge will be available for only $2.00.



This publication has been approved for distribution by the Carleton Student Engineering Society Bureau of Information

Loyalty to the Corporation

Disclaimer: This publication may contain offensive, silly and perhaps even goofy material and should not be read by future employers or anyone else who doesn't fw the vibe. As well, the content in this publication does not reflect the views of the Carleton Student Engineering Society or any of its affiliates. If you've got any problems with this publication first address why you're being a hater. But anyways if y'all got any concerns, questions, comments, compliments, or deep dark secrets you wanna share with us or with chat, you can email us at editors@cses.carleton.ca or reach out to us on social media @TheIronTimes.

Read on,
I dare you

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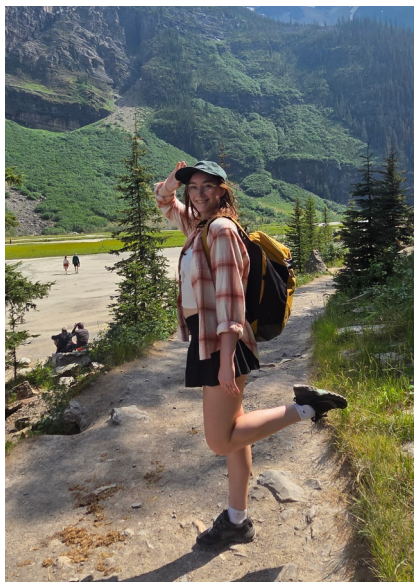
NOVEMBER RAIN EDITION

Well, we made it. Half way through the first semester. Congratulations to everyone who survived their midterms and godspeed to everyone still in the trenches.

A CUSA SCANDAL STRIKES AGAIN

An Interview With CUSA's Vice-President Internal



Kailey "Rogue Thief" Dewar
SREE B IV

It seems that every year there is yet another big scandal within CUSA, but why? On paper, CUSA does a lot for the student body, and yet there are always headlines about what a terrible job they do. I myself am very critical of CUSA. As a president and executive of different engineering societies, I have seen first hand how difficult it can be to work with and get in touch with them. Curious about what the executives within CUSA have to say about some of these issues, I reached out to their Vice-President Internal, Amy Kopytskiy, for an interview.

The short form of what I discovered? While there has been some corruption/incompetence within CUSA, the majority of the issues the clubs face with CUSA is due to a severe lack of funding.

For the last three years I was under the impression that many of the people within CUSA are doing the positions for the money, and couldn't care less about the job they are doing. I raised this concern to Amy. Based on the salary CUSA executives get, and the hours they are mandated to work, the pay works out to $25 an hour, which is significantly more than minimum wage, however, Amy says most executives work significantly more than the 35 hours per week they are supposed to, going up to 65 hours per week. This would work out to under minimum wage. After giving me these numbers, Amy made it clear that she acknowledges that it is a privilege to be paid for what many people do for free.

I myself am conflicted with how I feel about the CUSA executives getting paid, but I think a lot of that feeling is jealousy, because I would love to be paid for the positions I do. I have sacrificed my grades and mental health for my executive roles, and I haven't even taken on the larger roles. Now, don't get me wrong, I love what I do, and I am very thankful to be involved in this community and hope I'm making a difference; but sometimes when I think about CUSA executives getting paid, it just rubs me the wrong way. It almost doesn't feel fair, because I know there are roles in C-eng that take up an incredible amount of time. But I suppose paid positions encourage people to do a better job than when they are unpaid. It's harder to ignore a paid position.



Hi Amy!

After thinking for a while, she responded once again, "If the positions were entirely volunteer 35-65 hours of work/week, I would still want to do it. But that would only attract a certain type of people, only doing it for the position. Not everyone can afford to do this position if they need to work."

This is a perspective I haven't often considered, and it saddens me that this is likely a reality for many students in engineering. All of our positions in C-eng are volunteer, which means that it is very possible some people haven't gotten involved because they need to work and make money after school. Another thing worth mentioning, within C-eng, it is very common to see people taking more than 4 years because of the volunteer roles they do; but not everyone can afford those extra years without compensation.

So I suppose, paid student positions can attract the wrong kind of person, but unpaid positions mean not everyone has the ability to participate, even if they would do great in the role.

In my time volunteering within the community, I've noticed a common theme among those who volunteer. People initially join because it seems interesting or they want the social aspect. But you see it happen, once they join, it's hard not to get invested. They start to really care about the society or design team you are volunteering with. They see how it could be improved and want to make that change. Amy was no different. When asked about why she became a CUSA executive she said originally she actually didn't want to be an executive. She started her journey as speaker for CUSA – the equivalent of what a chair does for c-eng – and at the end of her speaker year, she felt satisfied with her contributions, and was ready to leave CUSA. But "like the child born to save a marriage, I became CUSA VPI." She said that several other execs this year had similar reasons.

From what I've heard, there is a large perception from the public that CUSA is simply corrupt. I asked why this is, her response, "Because they don't know what's happening…If you think it is corrupt investigate it yourself, be critical of it…I thought CUSA was corrupt that's why I ran."

I agree with that sentiment, however I think if CUSA was more transparent and publicised more about what they do behind the scenes, there'd be a lot less unknown. Amy mentioned that, "[CUSA] is a happy little house made of glass." In regards to their transparency, but I'd argue that it's The Charlatan that keeps CUSA accountable. This was seen this year, as CUSA waited for The Charlatan to write the article about the president's impeachment, rather than making the statement themselves.

But let's get to the juicy questions, the hard questions. The questions about the annual CUSA scandals. I wanted to see what Amy's thoughts were on why CUSA has some sort of scandal every year. Her first response was to apologise for the ones she caused. Does this mean she had something to do with the impeachment of the president? I suppose we'll never know. Her second reaction was to bring up last year's scandal. For those who don't know, some execs wanted to partner with an external organization. This organization had an app that was supposed to be used for clubs to sell merch, tickets, and make posts. But you had to give them a lot of personal information to access the app, and there was concern that in the future clubs would be forced to only use that app, as that seemed to be where the conversation was going. Additionally, this organization had previously been barred from other university campuses due to bad business practices and selling student data. It appeared to be vapourware, and was going to cost an exorbitant amount of money for CUSA. Luckily, there was an uproar at last year's presidents meeting, where the clubs voiced their concerns; and at the next CUSA meeting, the councillors forced CUSA executives to never mention this external company again, with grounds to impeach if tried to implement. Amy was heavy on the point that it was not last year's executives who were corrupt, instead they were naive and didn't see the scam until it was in front of the student body. I have my doubts about this, as I was at said meetings, where it seemed like one particular executive was loath to give up on the partnership, but I digress.

This year's scandal is particularly juicy, the CUSA president has been impeached. Apparently, this is

A CUSA SCANDAL STRIKES AGAIN

An Interview With CUSA's Vice-President Internal

the first time a CUSA president has been impeached since CUSA reincorporated in 2021. But that bar seems like it's all the way down in Hell. When asked about the recent impeachment, however, Amy pulled out her phone, laid back, and read off what the CUSA website says regarding the impeachment. Totally not transparent at all. Now, I can understand, whatever proceedings took place in that meeting are confidential, but at some point I think the student body deserves some sort of explanation on why the person they voted for was kicked out of office. But it would seem that, at least for the moment, CUSA has no plans to do so. The only thing Amy would expand on, was when I asked about the structure of the meeting that led to the impeachment. That it was up to the members – meaning the council, which is composed of student reps from each faculty – to vote to impeach. She also cited Bylaw 3.4 "executive can be removed for any reason." So, unfortunately, it would seem the only info we are going to get out of this, is that whatever evidence was given at the confidential meeting, was strong enough for council to vote to impeach.

Now, how will this impeachment affect the services that CUSA provides? Amy says that they have a "roster of full and part time staff" and that there won't be any delays. This begs the question, what exactly does the president do that his absence won't affect students?

My time within VP roles has shown me just how much CUSA does for our clubs, things that don't get enough appreciation. I think a lot of things are just inherently expected that CUSA does fast and well, and we forget that these are just our fellow students, and a small group of them at that. There are over 170 CUSA clubs, all of which need to be recertified and have bank accounts. Another thing this year that has been affecting clubs is the change of how the UC galleria is booked. TLDR, it's more complicated and it's giving people headaches. This change was made by the Student Experience Office, and CUSA is fighting to change it and make it once again easier to book. Amy said that sometimes the work they do is not even about creating new things, but fighting to keep what they already have.

Amy is on the Club Oversight Commission (COC), which consists of the VP Internal, VP Finance, Student Groups Administrator, and newly elected members such as student groups, a councillor, and a student-at-large. This commission is responsible for overseeing all CUSA clubs, that means managing recertification, bank letters, and CUSA funding applications. Now I have on several occasions sent angry emails to cusaclubs, because there have been a lot of issues I've faced. But I think my expectations for the efficiency and timely answers may be more geared toward how I'd expect an organization with full time staff to run. CUSA plays a big role in how our societies run, and their timely and accurate responses can have massive impacts on small clubs; but I can also understand that they must send out so many emails a day, it is human nature that they won't all be perfect. All to say, we should be holding CUSA accountable when there are inconsistencies, when they are not answering timely, and when there are issues affecting our clubs; but I'll be using a bit nicer of a tone from now on.



For those of you involved in student clubs, you may have noticed this year that club recertification was really rough, and took well into September for some clubs to be recertified, even conditionally. This meant that many clubs were unable to book rooms for events or meetings, hindering their ability to function. The reason for this? CUSA was combing through each club's constitution and mandating changes, and they did not have enough staff to do so quickly. According to Amy, there were only two of them working on the re-certification during the summer. In past years, if you had been previously certified with CUSA, they just waved you through, no checks. So it does make sense that this year, constitutions had to be thoroughly reviewed, but there should have been a better way to do it. Perhaps a blanket conditional recertification for clubs whose constitution was not reviewed in time for the beginning of the school year. Or some other way that did not hinder clubs who were not lucky enough to have their constitutions reviewed in time/didn't

Another point I wanted to bring up was the miscommunication I had experienced while conversing with different members of the Clubs Oversight Commission. Amy said, "If the communication hasn't been clear, if you have any issues and haven't gotten in contact, get in contact with the clubs office now, we want to be as egalitarian as possible."

The issue with this statement is that it hinges on getting timely responses. I myself have been waiting on a response for over two weeks about a room booking, something that has a ticking clock. I don't know what the solution to this is, but something regarding better communication within the Clubs Oversight Commission is needed.

If you notice issues regarding conflicting information, Amy says to raise the issue in a respectful way and they will try to fix it.

While for most of this article I've been talking about the negatives of CUSA, I wanted to give Amy the opportunity to speak on the things CUSA does well, the things they do in the background, and some of their goals for the year.

She almost immediately brought up is our CUSA health insurance. It's monitored and was renegotiated by CUSA. Even though the name literally has CUSA in it, I hadn't even thought about it that CUSA would be the ones advocating it. Advocating for student benefits is the hallmark of a student government, and I'm glad to know that even if it is not in the press, that CUSA is fighting for us. Another goal of Amy's this year is to reformat all the policies to make them screen-reader accessible.

Amy has also been seen heading to CSES meetings, from the FSGM, to the presidents meeting. She said she's learning from the way CSES is doing things, and wants to implement certain things, such as accountability. She thinks it's important to engage with the community and people who have negative opinions of CUSA. saying, "There are lessons to be learned from each other, engaging with people who detest us."

Finally, I wanted to confirm how people who have concerns can raise it to CUSA. Council meetings are held monthly, and anyone can sit in. There is a question period for students at large. There is also a CUSA office where you can write concerns on a sticky note. You can also send an email to CUSA, while the email may not get a response, someone will read it and bring the concern forward. While currently, CUSA does not have an accountability officer, if you bring concerns to the CUSA speaker, they are obligated to keep confidentiality.

So, my overall thoughts? It seems that the people within CUSA, at least this year, are trying to help the Carleton community the best they can. They're human, and not perfect, but they are putting in a hell of a lot of work to improve CUSA as a whole and help all the student clubs associated with them. Most of the issues we face with CUSA seem to be due to, once again, lack of funding. Annoying how seemingly everything boils down to underfunding and not enough people.

I would also like to thank Amy for taking the time to answer my questions.

THE QUEST FOR WHIMSY

Why it Matters and Where it Comes From



Chloe "The Food" Ouellette
CIVE III

I have recently reached a conclusion on the importance of a certain aspect of our lives that many of us may not realize is essential to who we are as a species. While many of you may think that I am referring to things such as food, shelter, or water (those of you who clearly do not take basic care of yourselves), those of you who are more attentive (and who read the title of this article) know that I am referencing one simple concept: that of whimsy.

I was sitting in CSCE (as one does), stressed out of my mind about my upcoming midterms, when it hit me that I had not yet done something whimsical that day. I determined at that moment that not only would I do something whimsical; I would make it my duty to outline the true importance of whimsy in one's life.

While I could undertake this journey all by my lonesome, I decided that it would be against the concept of whimsy to even consider doing so. True whimsy is only attained when it is shared with others. This was my first of many discoveries about whimsy on my quest for what it truly means to be whimsical.

Part 1: CSES

The first step on my adventure was to leave the room in which I was currently situated and venture into the great unknown (approximately 10 metres away from my chair). This led me to the CSES office, where I interacted with a couple of individuals who provided me with some insight on the topic of whimsy.

"I'm a big fan of whimsy." Quentin Alexander shared this with me when I asked him what his thoughts on whimsy were. This is quite understandable and I relate very strongly with this statement, being a big fan of whimsy myself.

Kailey Dewar was of a similar mind. When prompted, she told me that whimsy is "the best thing ever." This reinforced my motivation for my quest. I needed to see whether others could provide further information on what exactly it was that made whimsy so important in our lives.

Part 2: Leo's Lounge

The next location to which I brought my inquiries was Leonardo's Lounge. Here, Alma Mitchele was able to provide a very meaningful take.

"I love whimsy," she told me. "I'm always telling my father to be more whimsical. It's very important. We need to keep a core of whimsy in our hearts." Jessica Potter was also able to give me a very concise definition of the importance of whimsy. After receiving a brief definition of what consists of whimsy, she informed me that whimsy is "whimsical." This was followed by Chloe Jornitz telling me that she loved whimsy, which I was soon to discover was a common theme among the denizens of the 3300 block.

Part 3: CMAS

However, I received somewhat of a curveball in CMAS. While some were quick to enforce the importance of whimsy, others demonstrated that it isn't the only concept that nourishes our human nature.

"It's necessary for survival." AJ Kieser was immediately ready with an answer to my question. After some contemplation, she also informed me that whimsy has "a good combination of consonants and vowels." I find myself agreeing with this statement very strongly. The blend of letters in "whimsy" is quite pleasing.

Coll Roscoe was of a different mind. He informed me that he had "no whimsy left in his soul." This was unfortunate to hear, and if I'm being honest, I disagree. Coll, if you're reading this, you have a lot of whimsy. Believe in yourself. This message applies to all of my readers as well, if you're somehow still here. Have hope.
Coll did offer me some alternatives if any of you are uninterested in whimsy. Surfer slang, it turns out, is quite popular among "the youth," and words like "radical" or "tubular" can be inspiring if you do have a lack of whimsy in your life.

Others in CMAS also had varying opinions on whimsy. Liz Antifave shared that they were a "very very big fan of whimsy." They even hope to "embody pure whimsy," which I find a very admirable goal.

"I'll get there once I'm through my midterms," said Bella Churchill when asked. I get that too. Midterms, unfortunately, are a well-known whimsy killer. During times like these, where midterms are rampant, it is important to remember that whimsy is like a phoenix, and will rise from the ashes with renewed firepower.

Part 4: The Centroid

I received several good answers in the Centroid as well. Some were more adamant on the topic than others.

"It can be good," said Santi Hernandez Velasco. "That's it."

"I love it," said Sidney Mills. "It's wonderful. I want more of it in my life, always. You can never have too much of it. Unless you're on drugs."

This is a very important clarification on Sidney's part. Some things really do impact the way whimsy is perceived and received by others. One could even say that there are different flavours of whimsy. On that note, I would like to inform you that my favourite flavour of whimsy is chocolate.

"Pink Lego Batman." While this response from Della Larose may be slightly confusing at first, her further clarification makes me think that this is yet another flavour of whimsy. "That's the level of whimsy I want to achieve."
"Way too much of it everywhere," said Declan Ho. This is certainly an opinion one could form, and I understand where this sentiment could stem from. Many things seemed saturated with a manufactured whimsy, which often misses the actual sentiment of the concept. However, it is worth noting that I wrote an angry face (>:() next to Declan's statement, which I believe summarizes my thoughts on the matter.

Interlude: IEEE

While I only made a brief pitstop in IEEE, this office may have had some of the highest concentration of whimsy. Natalia Adolphson CARRIED (shouts out). After showing off her fit (fire fit btw) she explained what whimsy is and how it impacts her life.

"I love being whimsy," she told me. "It's my GOAT. I strive to be whimsy everyday. If you're not whimsy, then why are you living?"

This statement may counter some of the other statements I received, but not including it would not allow for me to receive a full picture of what whimsy truly is.

Part 5: CUE

The CUE office contained many whimsical people with many whimsical thoughts. As I entered, I overheard part of a conversation concerning sacrificial lambs, which is certainly entertaining, if not whimsical. However, when I asked my question, I was faced with a very peculiar dilemma. Alice Hesse, who was the first to answer me, had very strong thoughts on the topic.

"It pisses me off," they said. "Everyone keeps saying something is whimsy. It's WHIMSICAL. They're two very different words."

As a grammar enthusiast myself, I understand the concern. This wasn't all Alice shared with me, though. "I like thinking I'm whimsical," she went on, "but [the concept is] overused for overconsumption reasons."

Sophie Audet added, "Real whimsy is skipping down the halls and getting shouted 'You're so jolly!' at."

This reinforced in my mind that whimsy is something inherent to individuals, not something that can be reduced into a trend or a marketing scheme. If someone tries to sell you whimsy, that's not whimsy. That's probably a pyramid scheme.

Elizabeth Miller had a different take to whimsy than what's previously been mentioned. She sees it more as a resilience technique, and honestly, mad respect for that one.

"I love saying joy and whimsy to everything that is not joyful and whimsical," she told me. "If I gaslight myself that it's whimsical and fun, then surely it's whimsical and fun."

Throughout my entire interaction with those in the CUE office, I believe Alice was having a crisis over the incorrect usage of "whimsy." It was entertaining to witness and made me feel very whimsical.

I also received a request from Sophie to include an image, shown on the next page.

Part 6: CSCE

With that, I returned to the place that inspired my quest. Here, everyone was undergoing a large amount of stress due to the looming threat of the Structural Design midterm, which was making us all wonder: "what even is a tributary area?" Don't ask us. We still don't know.

THE QUEST FOR WHIMSY

Why it Matters and Where it Comes From



You're Welcome

Here, Zach Wilson provided me with exactly what I expected him to. When asked what his thoughts were on whimsy, he told me: “I have none of it currently.” This was unsurprising, but still quite unfortunate to hear.

Emma Patenaude, Elizabeth Cox, and Mya Moreau-Hernandez all gave the exact same answer. “I love whimsy,” they each said. I really understand that one. Whimsy is a very loveable concept.

I received one final statement in CSCE. Christiaan Meiling informed me that he was “full of whimsy.” For the sanity of the readers at home, I have chosen to redact the rest of his statement. I hope you will forgive me (it was for your own good).

Conclusion:

Over the course of my quest, I discovered many different definitions of what it truly means to be whimsical. Whimsy clearly holds an important part in the hearts of many, and it seemingly is the spark of joy that keeps most of us going through the cold, dark days (I’m talking about you, November).

To finish this article off, I’ll leave you with one final quote, from Addie McGuire. I find this one quite inspirational, and honestly, a lot of you bitter people could learn from this one.

“Everyone needs some whimsy in life,” Addie said to me. “If you resist the whimsy, what are you doing? I love whimsy, and you can quote me on that.”

SPOTTED!

Quentin “Market Value” Alexander SPOTTED at Ollie's pouring worst beer of all time, asked to leave.



Quentin “Market Value” Alexander was recently SPOTTED at Oliver's Pub and Patio pouring the worst beer of all time. He was subsequently asked to leave.

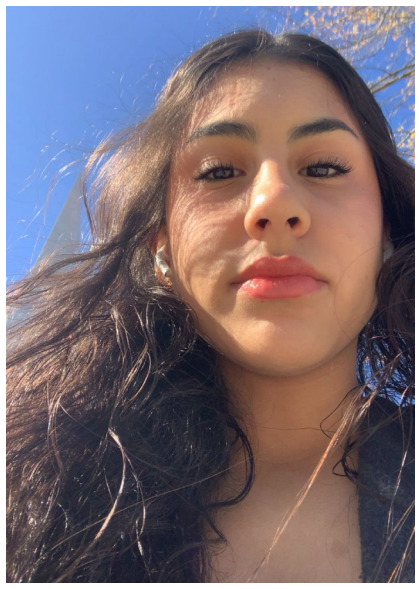
"It's embarrassing," said a staff member. "We can't have someone coming in and pouring a beer like that. It makes us look bad!"

When asked for comment, Mr. Alexander frantically said “It’s fake, it’s all fake! I’ve never poured a beer in my life!” He then promptly punched our reporter in the nose and ran away.

Following the incident, staff at Ollie’s stated that the interaction was “not uncommon” when it came to Mr. Alexander’s frequent visits. "I'm not even sure why we still let him in."

4 BOOKS 4 THE CALENDAR

What to Read for Orange Shirt Day, Mental Health Day and Latin Heritage Month



Ulda Vilchez
MECH II

Hello everyone! I’m new to the Iron Ring, and for my first column I wanted to share some books that are fitting for the past few observance days or months. These are Orange Shirt Day, World Mental Health Day, and Latin Heritage Month.

Orange Shirt Day, also observed as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, takes place every September 30th and was started by Phyllis Webstad, an activist, author, and a survivor of Residential Schools. It is a day of remembrance and awareness about the atrocities committed against Indigenous Peoples and their lasting effects. The symbolism of the orange shirt comes from the new orange shirt 6-year-old Phyllis Webstad was wearing the day she arrived at St. Joseph Mission Residential School on September 30th, 1973.

Phyllis Webstad has many works, including a memoir that was just released this September. I unfortunately haven’t read it, but it is named We Are Still Here: My Life of Truth and Reconciling Two Worlds. Webstad explores the effects of colonization through many different events, including intergenerational trauma, as both her grandmother and mother were sent to the same residential school, each for ten years, and her personal trauma with residential schools.

October 10th is World Mental Health Day, and I wanted to recommend a book I read this summer. It’s very short, funny and, if you love cats, perfect as your next read. It’s called Frankie by German authors Maxim Leo and J.M. Gutsch, and it was released on Orange Shirt Day last year (I thought that was a neat fact). It’s from the point of view of Frankie, a stray cat with a witty personality. He befriends Richard Gold (against his will), who’s struggling with depression. I really enjoyed the way this book is written: it’s essentially Frankie’s constant and unfiltered stream of thoughts. The book explores grief and depression in a light manner, as it isn’t something Frankie is familiar with, while still being vulnerable.

My second pick is a book I haven’t read yet, but I watched the movie and recently found out it was based on Fredrik Backman’s debut novel, A Man Called Ove. The adaptation is called A Man Called Otto. Ove is a Swedish name like the author, and I guess it was too foreign for Sony? The themes between Frankie and this movie are very similar, just substitute friendly neighbours for a stray cat. I’m not too sure how similar the movie is to the novel, but like always, the consensus is that the movie doesn’t compare to the novel. This movie hits close to home for me because of the “found family” themes. My parents befriended their apartment’s superintendent when they first moved to Canada, and he became, as he titled himself, my “Canadian grandpa.” This movie was a real tearjerker, and I’m excited to read the book, as I’ve heard great things about Fredrik Backman.

I have one final book recommendation, and this is for Latin Heritage Month, which takes place from September 15th to October 15th. This period was chosen because many Latin American countries celebrate their independence during this time. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Nicaragua all celebrate their independence from Spain on September 15th. Mexico and Chile mark the start of their independence movements from Spain on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Belize, which gained independence from the United Kingdom, celebrates on September 21st.

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros, published in 1984, is a modern classic and is widely taught in schools in the United States, but it is also a book that has been criticized in some states and school districts because of its mature content. However, the stories reflect real experiences as they are inspired by Cisneros’s community in Chicago, her students, and her own personal experiences. Although the themes are heavy, addressing them is important. The book is from the perspective of Esperanza Cordero, a young Mexican American girl, who tells short stories about the people in her predominantly Latin neighbourhood in Chicago. It explores many themes like gender roles, belonging, language and racism. The chapters are very short, and each anecdote helps you understand the neighbourhood’s environment and dynamic. It’s easy to identify with the main character as she grapples with the difficulties of growing up, and reading the struggles the characters are facing leaves you wanting a book on each individual character.

I hope some of these books piqued your interest. Thank you for reading!

THE LOST TOUR

THE TOUR THAT NEVER HAPPENED



Mia "Wrong Parts Included" Cornell
ELEC IV



SPOILER WARNING:
The Lost Tour - Phoebe Bridgers (Toronto, Night 2)

"If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?"

In the world of social media and the internet, it feels as if every moment of our lives is showcased and recorded. We are constantly being perceived. Our digital footprint creates an online profile that allows companies to steal our data to provide personalized advertising. One part of the internet that always fascinated me is the concept of lost media. According to Wikipedia, "lost media is any type of media thought to no longer exist in any format, or for which no copies can be located, partial or otherwise". Lost media can be songs that were mentioned but cannot be found, movies that have screenshots but cannot be found in full online, and other forms of media that have seemingly disappeared out of thin air. This begs the question: do things exist only if they are perceived?

The Controversy:

In early 2026, there were rumours that Phoebe Bridgers would be coming back to making music. It had been six years since her critically acclaimed sophomore album, and fans (me) were eagerly waiting to hear more. Finally, in May 2026, there were posters around Roswell, Mexico, that Phoebe Bridgers was playing a concert. But there was a catch: no recording devices would be allowed inside during the concert. This theme would be carried out during many other pop-up shows that Phoebe Bridgers played during this time. Finally, it was announced that Phoebe Bridgers would be going on The Lost Tour in North America and Europe, with the catch that the audience was not allowed to have recording devices. The controversy began. Many critics were commenting on the safety concerns that a concert like this brings. Many people were annoyed because they were spending lots of money and still couldn't film. I agree with those criticisms. However, I do think that The Lost Tour provides us with a small peek into life before the age of digital surveillance.

The Human Memory:

Similar to an occurrence of strange and unusual events, concert attendees were unable to showcase what happened at the concert through video or photos. Instead, some people would bring notebooks to remember the concert. Some people wrote down what happened. Others used their art to animate the concert. I've seen a few 3D renditions of the concert as well. And many, like myself, who don't have artistic capabilities have to live with the fact that it is just a memory.

Human Memory is a strange thing. Sometimes we make up things that didn't actually happen. And our lived experience is built upon patterns and details we choose to focus on. We cannot perceive everything. It would be overwhelming. Due to our vivid imagination, we have the opportunity to relive events through our minds, but sometimes it is faulty. The details I remember, won't be the same as another person. Perhaps together, we can all remember it collectively.

I noticed that after I attended the concert I have been trying to relive it. I've been listening to Phoebe Bridgers' music more lately to recall what happened. I've been trying to grasp onto a memory that is slowly fading when I don't want it too.

What I've Learnt:

This concert has taught me that I should pay more attention to the people around me. I have realized that there are so many times I've taken for granted the fact that I can take photos, and have an additional personal 'memory'. There are certain things that photos and videos cannot remember and it is the feeling that I had at that concert. This concert has been a rude awakening that things end. I've been taking such good care of this memory that I feel like I should be more aware of the daily memories I accumulate.

Additionally, it has made me think about the vulnerability that we subject ourselves to on the internet. Phoebe Bridgers mentioned that the main reason for her asking for a no phones concert was due to the nature of her newest album- Lost Weekend. It is an album about grief, love, spirituality and death. As she is a famous person in this digital age, we often expect vulnerability as the audience. We expect our celebrities to be relatable, and to reflect ourselves to fuel our need to feel seen. This concert forced us to be present. It forced us to see each other. I can only imagine what it's like to be performing in front of an audience, searching for a face in the crowd only to see a phone.

On Video:

Disclaimer: I haven't watched Primetime yet.

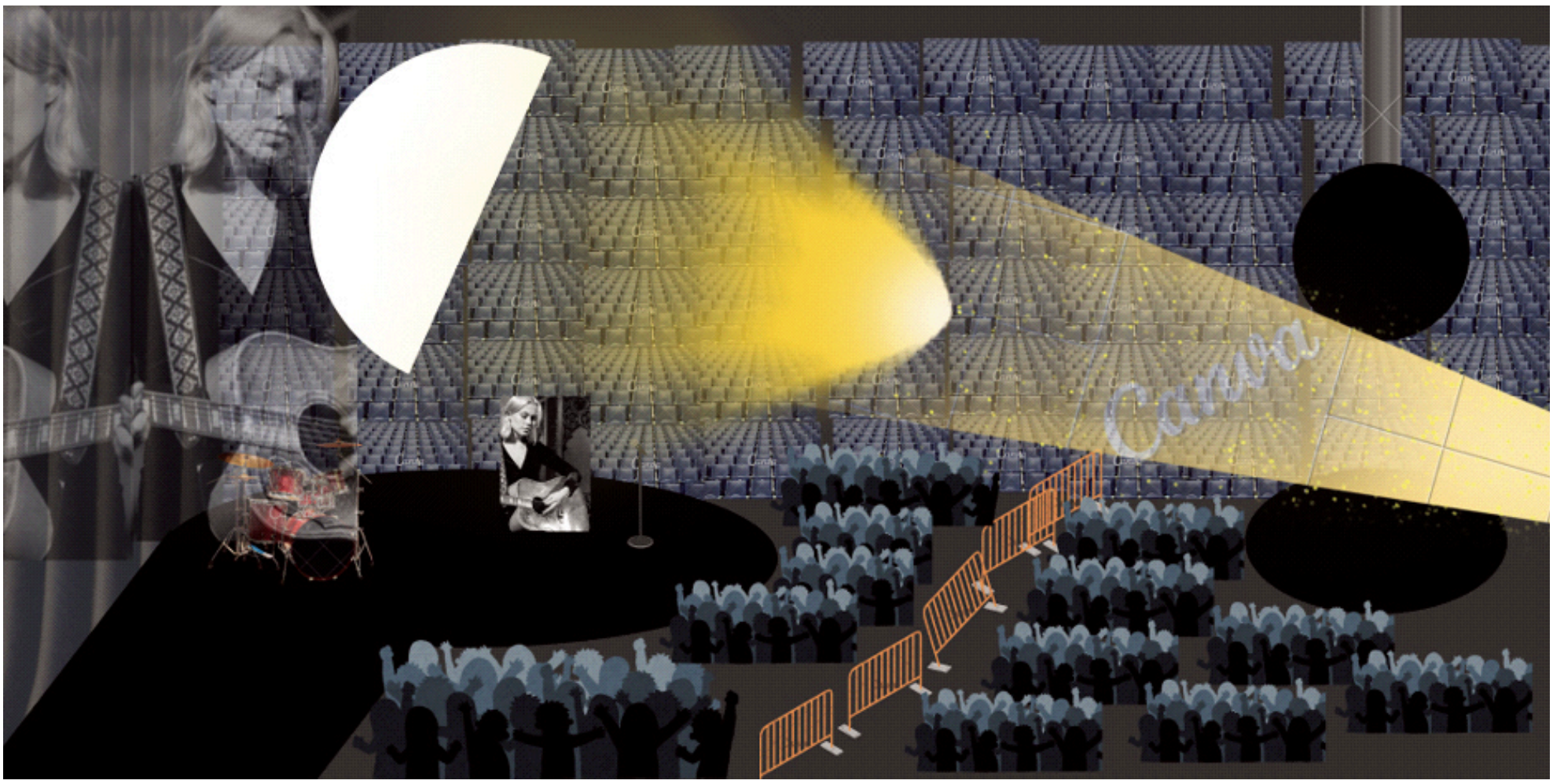
Phoebe Bridgers' has most recently released the song On Video for the new drama Primetime about Chris Hansen (which she also stars in). If you don't know Chris Hansen, he was the journalist and host for To Catch A Predator. The whole concept was that Hansen's team would pretend to be underaged people to find predators and pedofiles online. After luring them to a secret location, Chris Hansen would expose the operation and "catch a predator".

Yes, pedos are horrible and should be arrested. However, many of the unethical things Chris Hansen did restricted actual law enforcement to put these predators on trial due to the illegal practices of the police hired for the episodes. One of the most famous examples of this was the case of Bill Conradt. Bill Conradt was lured to a bait house during the show's running, and during the inaccurate arrest and search warrant, he shot himself. Ultimately, Conradt's sister won a lawsuit due to the unethical nature of the operation. The premise of this movie is an example of the harrowing effects of the media. Although dramatised, it is said that Chris Hansen was known to be hungry for fame.

Phoebe Bridgers' connection to this movie is important. On Video puts

THE LOST TOUR

THE TOUR THAT NEVER HAPPENED



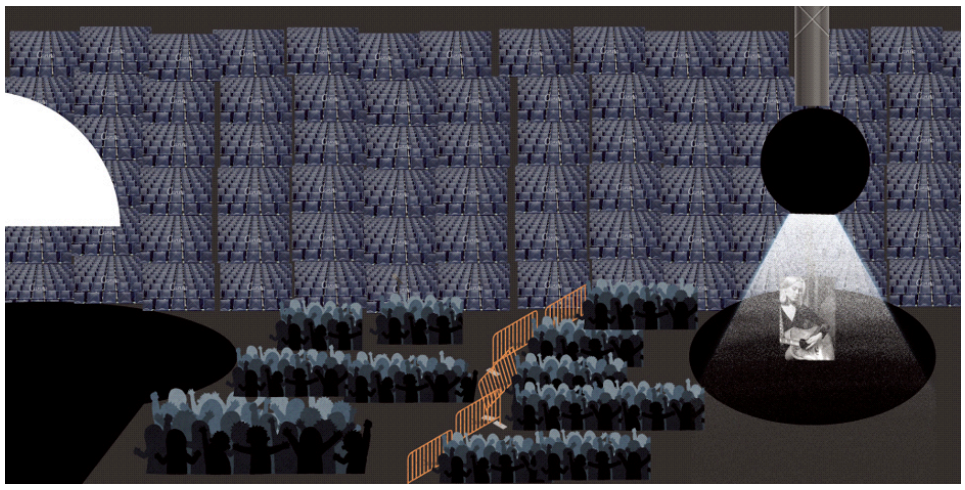
us in the spotlight. Through her soft melancholic voice, juxtaposed with a sluggish and distorted beat, she displays the feeling of being caught in the act of something horrifying all recorded on video. Although the reasons are not the same, I think about the parallels of this song and The Lost Tour. I wonder if in some ways, Phoebe Bridgers wrote these lyrics also thinking about herself. For example:

They sing so loud, you can't hear yourself.
Fragile like a child at the fair.
...
I saw it all
On Video
On Video, oh
I saw you making angels in the snow, oh
Watching you like a common criminal

- On Video, Phoebe Bridgers (2026)

In my opinion, a parallel can be drawn to Phoebe Bridgers reflecting on her own position being famous. Although Phoebe Bridgers has not been convicted of any crime (not that I know of lol), she has many songs referencing feeling like a killer. For example:

Sometimes I think I'm a killer
I scared you in your house
I even scared myself by talking
About Dahmer on your couch



- Killer, Phoebe Bridgers (2017)

Looking at it in this lens, it can also be interpreted in the perspective of someone who feels sick, and like a criminal despite having done nothing wrong. Overall On Video, plays into the fear of being perceived and in that way showcases another reason that Phoebe Bridgers decided to restrict recording devices.

Spoilers Section:

To finish off my article, I thought I would put a spoiler section at the end. I thought I'd put it all together in case you are going and don't want to be spoiled. But after all, I could be lying.

Before the concert started, unlike other concerts that play popular music, Phoebe Bridgers chose to play ambient music. Additionally, someone started the wave, which I thought was really funny.

On the main stage, there is a massive screen behind it, displaying light blue curtains with a similar hue to the blue on the album cover. In front of the screen there is a white dome. It has bars on it. It kind of reminded me of an igloo, but instead of the outlines of bricks it was metal bars. Above the secondary stage, there is a big ball that has lights sticking out of it. It kinda looked like a corona virus but with less spikes, and the spikes were larger in circumference.

When The Outside starts, it feels like a search party. If you've ever seen a helicopter flashing beams of light, it was like that. I would also describe it as similar to a UFO landing. During The Outside, the dome is closed and you cannot see Phoebe Bridgers. After the song ends, Motion Sickness starts and the dome lifts to reveal Phoebe Bridgers on the main stage.

The encore was on the secondary stage. Phoebe Bridgers comes out in a new outfit. In contrast to her black dress she wore throughout the entirety of the concert, she comes out in a white dress, with sparkly makeup in the shape of tears flowing down her face. The last song was Scott Street. All of us, waving our arms, looked around the stadium as white light filled the room. We were truly present. When the song ended, and she took her final bow, it was over. The overhead lights flashed on and it was over. It was now just a memory. We were never going back.

As I went home, this feeling followed me. I don't know when it will stop. But for now, I will just write an article about it.

THE ELEGANT SIMPLICITY OF THE COFFE MACHINE

Ode to a Water Pump



Ellie Lin
GG SOFT II

We all know what coffee is. Even if you don't partake, chances are you can envision an espresso machine in your head, that you know what a French press is, maybe a moka pot; you might even know who James Hoffmann is. But for those of us who just want a simple cup of coffee in the morning, the tried-and-true drip coffeemaker reigns supreme. These workhorses of *Severance*-esque office canteens, dorm rooms and single-family homes alike are ubiquitous and underappreciated staples of modern society. So let's appreciate them a bit more. To adequately do this, however, we need to learn from whence they came and what they replaced. Time for a bit of history and some technicals!

Let's go back to Canada in 50s. Well. Mentally. Just in terms of coffee consumption. The average cup of java at this point, served in diners, mixers and offices across North America, is almost assuredly from a percolator. These machines are driven by steam; inside of them is a sort of inverted funnel that covers the bottom of a pot on a stove or heating element, with a thin tube going upwards towards a distributor or spreader plate. I'll get to that. As the water boils, the bubbles of water vapour are collected by the funnel and go up that tube — affectionately called the *perc tube* (a malapropism, but a cute malapropism at least) — pushing up little bits of water with them. At the top of the tube, they hit the distributor, which is just a fancy word for a bit of flat metal or plastic against which the water vapour and water are slammed. It appropriately distributes the water over a waiting basket of coffee grounds sitting over the pot, *percolating* through them before dripping back into the big reservoir to be boiled again, hence the delightfully plosive-filled name *percolator*. This type of water pump-not-pump will come back and is the only worthwhile detail about them.



Wikimedia: cutaway of a percolator

For those of you who've experienced the blood-curdling taste of burnt coffee, you might very quickly see the flaw with percolators. They make terrible coffee. And this is the mainstream method for extracting flavour from coffee beans in the 50s! People were drinking this every day? The 1950s were truly a horrible time, for no other reason than percolator coffee. That water in the reservoir being boiled is also the coffee that is to be consumed, and it is being boiled over and over and over again. This constant near-boiling heat degrades the flavenoids and aromatics in coffee. Perhaps worse than the flavour, however, was their speed. A percolator with about a 750mL capacity takes nearly 20 minutes on a stove to make coffee, and an equivalent electric percolator only shaves a few minutes off of that. This was the case up until the miraculous 70s.

Enter the humble coffeemaker. Created by a couple of Westinghouse engineers and branded as Mr. Coffee, it refined the percolator into a truly magical, elegant machine that made excellent coffee. They use the same principle to move water, a sort of ingenious part-less water pump that they turned into a one-way system, instead of recycling the same water over and over. A reservoir feeds a thin pipe by gravity that has a heating element around a very small part of it; when you switch the machine on, the heating element heats that tiny ~1cm section of the pipe up rapidly to boiling temperature. The water evaporates quickly, and by virtue of the water pressure in the main reservoir, it instead decides to find its escape the other way, pushing in front of it a small bit of water towards a distributor. It's a perc tube all over again, but it's not going to be boiled again. Thank God.

Up it goes, slaps against the distributor, and sprinkles down unto the waiting grounds to percolate through. Astute readers will note that the English verb percolate, from Latin percōlatus, the perfective passive participle of percōlō, "I filter," debatably derived from the Proto-Indo-European *kʷeslo or* kʷe(H)t (cf. Proto-Slavic *košelъ), all meaning "basket," does in fact refer to the act of filtering water through grounds. Your V60, your coffemaker, the percolator in the antique store, and most sorts of coffee making are all, in their own way, percolators.

Ignoring this most confusing linguistic tangent, we return to the drip coffeemaker. The water-cum-coffee drips through into the pot that sits on a hot plate to keep it warm, but not to reboil the coffee. Heat supplied from where, you might ask? Well of course, the heating element, who pulls double duty in boiling and warming the coffee! With just a few notable modifications, the infernal percolator has been transposed into an all new, simpler, more tasteful coffee machine — and it doesn't even take twenty minutes! The great part of that small heating element is how efficiently it warms the water; put cold water in a drip coffeemaker, flip the switch, and the water starts moving within the minute. A vast improvement from the percolator which requires the water, and later the coffee, to be kept at nearly 100° the entire time it's brewing, which also means the *entire percolator* needs to be heated to boiling.



The original Mr. Coffee

This new Mr. Coffee coffeemaker took the North American market by storm. Percolators dropped like flies as people realised their coffee could be made quicker, using less energy, and most importantly, while tasting *better*. Aside from a few refinements, that old Westinghouse design has remained mostly the same, operating on the same elegant principle. A part-less water pump pushes hot water up a tube, over coffee, into a pot warmed by the same heater. Devilishly simple, endlessly elegant, all-around beautiful engineering.

We now return to 2026. Nowadays, the gamut runs from two-cup personal machines to 16-cup behemoths for the 10X software engineers at Deloitte, but the machines are still fundamentally the same. There are exactly zero moving parts in a drip coffeemaker — to be fair, the same can be said about a percolator, but one of these machines makes much better coffee and it sure as hell ain't the percolator — which means they live Forever. My beloved Faris Grueller, a coffeemaker I got for a fiver at a sale, was made in 1992, according to a label on the paper insulation, and still makes my daily gruel without fail. Perfectly brewed every time, kept perfectly warm every time, and in under ten minutes every time.

So the next time you see a humble coffeemaker churning away, making that signature raspy whoosh as the water boils and pumps up over the grounds, I invite you to revel a bit in its simple elegance. One of the brightest parts of living when we do are these simply engineered parts of our lives that we can take for granted. Just seventy years ago, that coffee would've been burnt and bitter, and you would've contented yourself on the flavour of bricks and heavy metals for your daily caffeine fix. To Mr. Coffee, I fill to you my parting cup of gruel.



Faris Grueller, my trusty coffeemaking steed

LITERALLY WHY DOES THIS EXIST

Subtle Kraft Dinner Cheesiness...

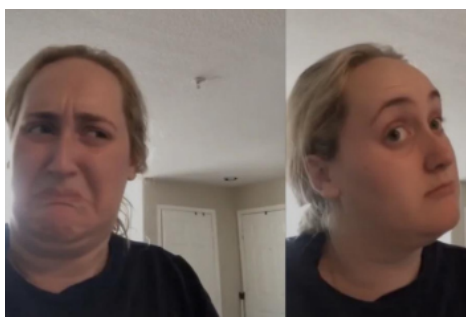


Axel "Assembly" Hacker
WGST/INDG IV

Recently the popular Canadian soda company Solly's dropped a collaboration with Kraft Dinner (yes the mac and cheese). As a certified KD fanTM I felt the need to find and review this cursed creation for all of you. So first of all, I had to find this drink. Because why would literally any store sell this, I had to track it down. Advertising materials say that Walmart is the place to buy, so off to billings bridge I went. Unfortunately, no dice there, however I persist! I looked online to see if anyone had posted about it, and luckily someone on Reddit (my goat) did! The Walmart on baseline was selling 4 packs of these bad boys for 9$.



Victoria and I hauled ass, and obtained it!! Once we got it we rushed to my house to try it (well to put it in the fridge for a bit first). Cracked one of these puppies while watching discrete math lectures on the big screen (30" TV). Passed er' around to gauge the general vibe of what the roommates (Mia, Kailey, Tress, and Miecz!) and guests thought. Pretty much everyone's reaction could be summed up with the classic meme.



Unfortunately, SOME roomates refused to try it, "I would rather chug straight Jameson". But I digress.

So what does this thing taste like? Well Extreme Snacks describes the drink like so: "this one-of-a-kind beverage takes the nostalgic sweetness of cream soda and adds a savoury hint inspired by the iconic cheesy flavour of KD". One would assume that there is no way that description is accurate, but shockingly, it was kind of accurate. It has a strong cream soda taste with a hint of KD cheese powder. Basically what I assume dumping a cream soda drink into one of those tubs of KD powder would taste like. I drank about half the can before it started tasting horrible, it's definitely a sipper!



Lowkey do not know what to do with 3 other cans of this stuff, but I'm sure I'll come up with something funny at some point.

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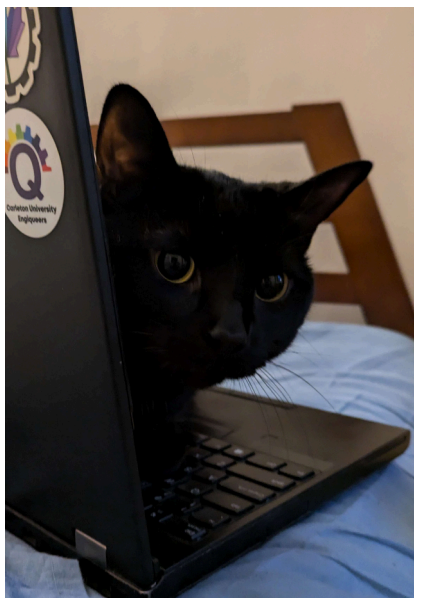
FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR



Onyx "The Meep-Meep Beast" Alexander-Allen
CAT VII

juhhh

WOOMERA

Throwing the spear



Trent Razor
B.Eng 2026

I'm in the desert. More specifically, I'm in the Australian desert. More specifically I'm in Woomera, a military town built by the Australian Defence Force in the 1940s to test rocket capabilities. Let me explain.

I graduated last April. I didn't really expect to because I fucked up my transatmo midterm but somehow I passed the final and got to walk the stage. I had applied to a bunch of jobs early in the year in case I did actually graduate and ended up landing a gig with an "aerospace" company contingent on my graduation.

So I walked out of Shawshank and started the job. My official title is Applications Engineer. I'm essentially a Field Engineer that does technical demos for salespeople. I get to travel all over the world and eat steak dinners but I'm technically not a salesperson so I don't have to put out at the end of the night. Quick tip for anyone applying for jobs or internships: nobody cares about your transcript, all that matters is projects and networking. I used to get my head stuck in stair banisters as a kid, now I have a security clearance.

On Woomera. I'm here for work. I can't talk about the work but I can talk about the town. If you want a history of the town read the wiki page, it's kinda fascinating. Essentially Woomera is a town built in the 40s to house defence personnel and scientists that work at the nearby Woomera Range Complex, a large tract of desert the size of England where NATO tests "rockets". von Braun space age shit. It was also the ESAs first launch site where they developed the Europa rocket which is pretty cool.

I flew from Toronto to Vancouver to Auckland to Adelaide. Adelaide is at the bottom of Australia. I remember I left Vancouver on a Monday and somehow I ended up in Adelaide on a Wednesday. I don't know where Tuesday went. I know it has to do with timezones but I don't care enough to try to understand it. I just lost a Tuesday.

Speaking of: the flight from Vancouver to Auckland was 14 hours and I absolutely bodied it. I slept through most of it and watched Napoleon with Joaquin Phoenix through the rest. Nobody told me half of Napoleon was straight up French pornography. I don't know if my airplane rowmates thought I was weird but I thought it would be weirder if I shut my eyes and frantically fast-forwarded through the sex scenes while saying "ew ew ew" under my breath. I had to let my rowmates know I'm cool and I watch porn so I sat there and watched Napoleon Bonaparte dog his wife while a flight attendant handed me my plastic cup of diet coke.

I got to Adelaide sometime in the morning or afternoon. I don't know when, all the international times have blended together. I know there was sun out the window. I was pretty tired but my hotel was 6 hours away so I immediately got behind the wheel of a right hand drive Mazda CX-3 and drove it on the left side of the road into the Australian outback.

A note on driving through the Australian outback: There are kangaroos in Australia. Kangaroos are like if a rabbit and a horse had a child. Look them up, they're pretty cool looking. One thing I didn't know is that they're attracted to headlights. So if you're driving through the Australian outback near dusk they have a tendency to jump out in front of your vehicle and get merced. I cannot overstate the number of kangaroo carcasses I saw on the road and on the side of the road. Legitimately innumerable. I'm talking hundreds of thousands. Ok maybe not hundreds of thousands but there were a lot and I had to swerve to avoid them. One time a kangaroo hopped across the road as I was driving and I nearly hit him but I missed. Kangaroos are like if squirrels were human sized. There were also emus but I didn't see them as often.

Now on the town. The town of Woomera is fairly small but it doesn't feel like a small town. There's no poverty or homelessness, no run down buildings, no litter even. It feels liminal but not fake. I heard it described as a modern day ghost town. My nephew watches this show called Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood about this Tiger named Daniel who lives in a Neighborhood. Woomera feels like Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood. There is one restaurant, a pool, a movie theatre, a bowling alley, a gym, a hotel, and a small museum touting the history of the place. All the houses look the same. All the streets look the same. When I first got here I went out for breakfast at the restaurant one morning and when I came back my keys didn't work in the house and I found out very quickly that I was trying to enter someone else's house. Note that most of the houses are occupied by temporary military staff.

Despite its development as military and scientist housing, the red dusty town feels more real than most modern shopping malls. There are no flashing lights or billboards or granite countertops. In Woomera you could point a camera any which way and capture a story. There are old wooden doors with grain so dense the tree must've been cut down a long time ago. The Eldo hotel has an old space age sign straight from the 60s, the theatre houses a long seized reel to reel projector as a testament to its age. This town smells like mahogany countertops and hitting on your secretary. It smells like jello dinners and lax automobile safety regulations. It smells like smoking at work and hating your wife. Back when men were men baby...

The other day I went for a run around the entire edge of the town and all I saw was a vast expanse of desert. Besides that there are only kangaroos and emus and a missile test range.

I've been enjoying my time here but the food is getting old. The nearest grocery store is an hour away so I've been eating at the restaurant everyday and getting basics from the convenience store. I really want a banana or an apple or any fruit.

I'm just finishing week two of my month-long stay here. I should be out by November. I thought coming here I would be doing a lot more writing but I haven't been doing that. There are no tables. I want to sit outside or at a cafe or even just at a library desk and write but the only tables are in the restaurant and I feel weird writing in restaurants so I'm laying on my bed kicking my feet in the air as I write this.

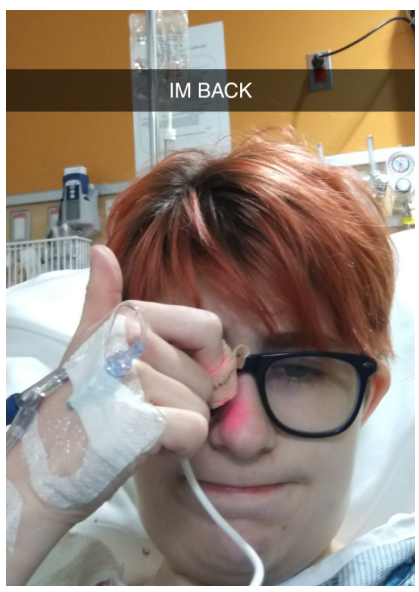
I think I could live here long term. If I could get actual furniture and maybe a barbecue and a mattress softer than concrete I'd be solid. It's a good recluse.

If you find yourself in southern Australia anytime soon give a visit to Woomera. Head to the Woomera Heritage Cafe and get the breakfast wrap and an iced long black and if they have it get the apple strudel. See if the movie theatre is open and if you happened to stop by on the one day of the month (not a joke) that it's open, go watch Spiderman 3 (also not a joke) or whatever's showing. After that stop by the remnants of the Europa rocket and if it's late stay in the Eldo hotel and as you drift off to sleep look out at the stars over the desert and think about all the famous NASA and ESA scientists that probably jacked off in your room. Goodnight.



JUST MONIKA

Doki Doki Literature Club



Axel "Shepard" Hacker
WGST/INDG IV

Gaming Profile
- Puzzle
- RPG
- Adventure
- Open World
- Nintendo on top
- Gaming for 14 years 😎

Mia "Wrong Parts Included" Cornell
ELEC IV

Gaming Profile
- Adventure
- RPG
- E-sports
- Cozy/Relaxing
- PC/mobile games
- Beginner



Gameplay

If you have somehow never heard of Doki Doki Literature Club (DDLC), you should know that it's a psychological horror game wrapped up in a cute pink bow. Essentially you play an unnamed guy who joined your high school's literature club because your childhood friend and neighbour Sayori convinces you. After the first club meeting, you realize all four of the club's members (Monika, the club's president, Yuri, Natsuki, and your friend Sayori) are all incredibly cute, and you, a chud, want to date all of them.

The game functions as a dating sim where every club meeting you can 'date' one of the girls (minus the club president), you can woo the girls by tailoring your daily poem to their personality through a little minigame. Over the course of the first act (out of three), you realize the girls are all starting to act strange…

As the game goes on, it becomes increasingly clear Monika knows more than she lets on as everything goes off script.

DDLC is available on Steam, Nintendo Switch, Play Station, and Xbox, though if you want the most immersive experience, PC is where it's at. The game is fairly inexpensive (under 20$ on most platforms) but if you want the deluxe switch edition it'll run you about 40$.

Axel:

I first learned about DDLC through big players back in 2017 when it was released. Markiplier, Jacksepticeye, and GTLive all played and replayed the game, and I watched. So going into the switch version of the game, I already knew what to expect. It deals with some heavy topics (abuse, suicide, self harm) so if those topics are not for you, don't play. I liked the second act the best, especially with all of the random events that can happen. We actually got my favourite random event, the map in the background of the classroom being switched to a picture of Sayori (IYKYK). Some of my favourite parts of the game is when it makes subtle changes until it snaps back to normal, making you feel right at the edge of your seat. I don't do well with horror generally, but DDLC does a great job of making it unnerving without keeping you up at night.

The controls were super simple too, being a visual novel (so pretty much just pressing A). The only part of the game I don't like is the length of the first act. I don't actually like the style of game DDLC aims to emulate, so for me it was a chore I had to do to get to the good stuff. That being said; I appreciate the replayability as many scenes are exclusive to whatever girl you tried to get with over the course of the game. There's also a healthy dose of secret endings to have fun with!

Mia:

I watched this video game years ago when I was really into game development. I was really into the idea of fourth-wall breaks. I stumbled across someone doing a video essay on games that involve fourth-wall breaks, and it introduced me to Doki Doki Literature club. What really intrigued me was the facade that this game leads you onto believing. I was also really interested in the rise-and-fall of Yandere simulator during that time as well, so seeing an actual game that was completed that still felt in the realm of Yandere simulator was cool.

Finally, I got the chance to play the game for real!!! The controls were quite easy as and it was mostly dialogue choices. For the first part of the game, however, I'm not sure how much those choices mattered. In the second act of the game, Axel and I were trying to get the Easter eggs, so our choices mattered a bit more. I do like how you slowly realized though, that you aren't in control at all during the game! I really like the artwork in this game, and the way we are invested/intertwined in the story. I like the music and the vibe.

Lastly, when the plot twist in the game happens, I still was excited about it. I do, however, wish I wasn't spoiled beforehand as it ruined the surprise. Overall, a very cool horror game!

CARLETON UNIVERSITY INSURANCE

Why Do You Even Exist?



Jack Tremblay-Lessard
AERO C IV



It was a beautiful sunny day in Hanksville, Utah, a small town 5 hours away from Salt Lake City where the Carleton Planetary Robotics Team was competing in the University Rover Challenge at the end of May. We were staying an hour and a half away from Hanksville, which means a *lot* of driving. We were on our way to another task, when we heard a loud crack within our convoy of cars: Utah had gifted us a windshield chip by a flying rock. We did not feel defeated right away, because we planned for this: before leaving for competition, we were added to the University insurance, meaning our rentals were insured under them. That way, we did not need to pay for additional insurance or for windshield insurance. So while inconvenient, we still felt safe. Little did we know this was only the start of the battle with insurance that would last us 4 months.



Calling the university, turns out it did not matter that we were added to the university insurance, and that we sent the claim to that policy number, no. We had to *register the car* under the name "Carleton University - [Name]" which I don't think is how it appears on my ID but what do I know. So that's $300 of our personal money down the drain, but at least now we know to book it under the university name, no biggie. We got windshield insurance for the rest of the trip, which proved to be the right choice as we got *another* crack about 12 hours later. With the same driver (who will remain unnamed).

Fast forward to the Canadian International Rover Challenge, in Drumheller, Alberta, at the end of August, in a town 1.5 hours away from Calgary. Also very rocky. This time, we followed the booking instructions to a tee: we made sure to book under Carleton University, and were *assuered* that it would be covered, that we did not need to get additional insurance on the car when we got there. So I did not get additional insurance *like I was told* and did not get windshield insurance as *I was told it would be covered*. On the drive to Drumheller from Calgary, *crack*. There goes a chip in the windshield. Again, while feeling defeated, I am at least reassured that the university will cover it.

So I drove it back to the rental place. They quoted me $800 for the windshield, I said no problem and sent the claim to the university. I still had to cover the initial charge, but I at least knew I was getting reimbursed. *Weeks* go by with no response, that's fine. Insurance takes a while. But a few weeks later, the university tells us they won't cover the windshield *even though they told us they would* because it is less than their deductible. Even though, when we called them right after the incident, they assured us they would.

Now I cannot submit another claim through *my* insurance because the university assured us *they would cover me* so I booked through them. Oh but wait! At least my credit card has a clause

CARLETON UNIVERSITY INSURANCE

Why Do You Even Exist?



that covers some car rental incidents. Good! Except I needed to call them within 48 hours. Which I didn't do, *because I was told the university would cover it*.

Carleton, how the hell do you think some students will cover anything under $1000 deductible??? How is that a reasonable price to expect a student to cover? Why did you take so long to respond to the point I couldn't use other avenues to get it covered? Does your phone work? Why did it go to voicemail every single time? *Why do you even exist if you aren't actually going to help students?*

In conclusion, fuck Carleton University Insurance for robbing me of $800. You are driving me to crime and frankly I wasted a perfect opportunity to commit insurance fraud. Until you give us back $800, we are now the Planetary Robotics Team. Fuck you.

But hey, at least we won. Go Eileen.





The Gay Agenda

November 1st: Trans Parent Day

If you know any trans parents tell them you love them!!

(insert joke here about transparency and opacity)

November 8th: Intersex Solidarity Day

Intersex Solidarity Day is a day to reflect on the important history and struggles of intersex people

November 13th - 19th: Trans Awareness Week

This week is to recognize all those who fall under the trans umbrella and to appreciate them even more than we already do

Make sure you tell any trans people in your life just how important and special they are

November 20th: Transgender Day of Remembrance

Today is a day we recognize and remember all those who have lost their lives due to transphobia. Trans people are the most marginalized group in the LGBTQ+ community, and it is important that we stand up for them and fight for their rights as they have fought for ours

Carleton University
EngiQueers

The Iron People

The Iron Deficient

Jules Wong (she/her)



What's your character class and level? (program and year)
COMP SYS III+I

Where do you hail from, traveller?
Ottawa, ON

What are you reminiscing this November?
That lovely time in first year that a professor called me a rat in front of the biggest lecture hall on campus

What are you hoping to buy this Black Friday (November)?
Craft supplies, gold bangles, maybe a wig

American thanksgiving is happening, what are you NOT thankful for?
People who TAILGATE when driving. People who TAILGATE ME WHEN I'M DRIVING SHOULD GO TO PRISON!

What pop culture moment can you not get out of your head right now?
Megan Thee Stallion's Tina Tuesdays series

What are you cuffed to this cuffing season?
Not a man that's for sure #ladieshitmeup

Anything else you'd like to say to the fans?
Peace be with ye

Here's your chance to flex and include your lengthy list of C-Eng involvement
**"SCESoc Office Manager 2023-24,
EWB Merchandise Design Director 2023-24,
Troitsky Participant 2023-24
C-Eng Musical Band 2023-24,
Matty B Flips Organizing Committee 2024,
Cosmic Conductors Facil 2024
SCESoc VP Publications 2024-25,
C-Eng Musical Writing Team 2024-25,
Cartogophers Head 2025,
Yes Committee Member 2025,
Matty B Flips Organizing Committee 2025
C-Eng-C Communications Director 2025-26,
C-Eng Musical Writing Director 2025-26,
Matty B Flips Organizing Committee 2026.
Engfrosh Operations 2026,
CSES Administrative Assistant 2026-27,
CSES Delegate Selection Squad 2026-27
Etc..."**

The Iron Theatre Freak

Alice Hesse (they/she)



What's your character class and level? (program and year)
Mech IV

Where do you hail from, traveller?
Coquitlam BC (Vancouver adjacent)

What are you reminiscing this November?
Warm Vancouver winters

What are you hoping to buy this Black Friday (November)?
More skirts to add to my collection (I have a problem)

American thanksgiving is happening, what are you NOT thankful for?
America

What pop culture moment can you not get out of your head right now?
""""You did this to me you told coach Sylvester about my summer surgery!""

""You have a surgery when you get your appendix out YOU GOT A BOOB JOB!""

""YUP SURE DID!""

Slap

""YOU CAN'T HIT ME!""

""SURE I CAN UNLESS YOU GOT YOURSELF KNOCKED UP AGAIN, SLUT!""

""stop the violence""

""woah woah woah, what ever happened to us being a family?""

""Oh please she has a family SHES A MOTHER!!""

""WALK AWAY AND TIGHTEN UP YOUR PONY BEFORE YOU GET TO CLASS!!""""

What are you cuffed to this cuffing season?
me and my hot chocolates are like this👌

Anything else you'd like to say to the fans?
Have fun, be nice and stay awesome! (also you should go watch the musical in March)

Here's your chance to flex and include your lengthy list of C-Eng involvement
Director of the C-Eng Musical, CUE VP Awareness, miscellaneous other stuff

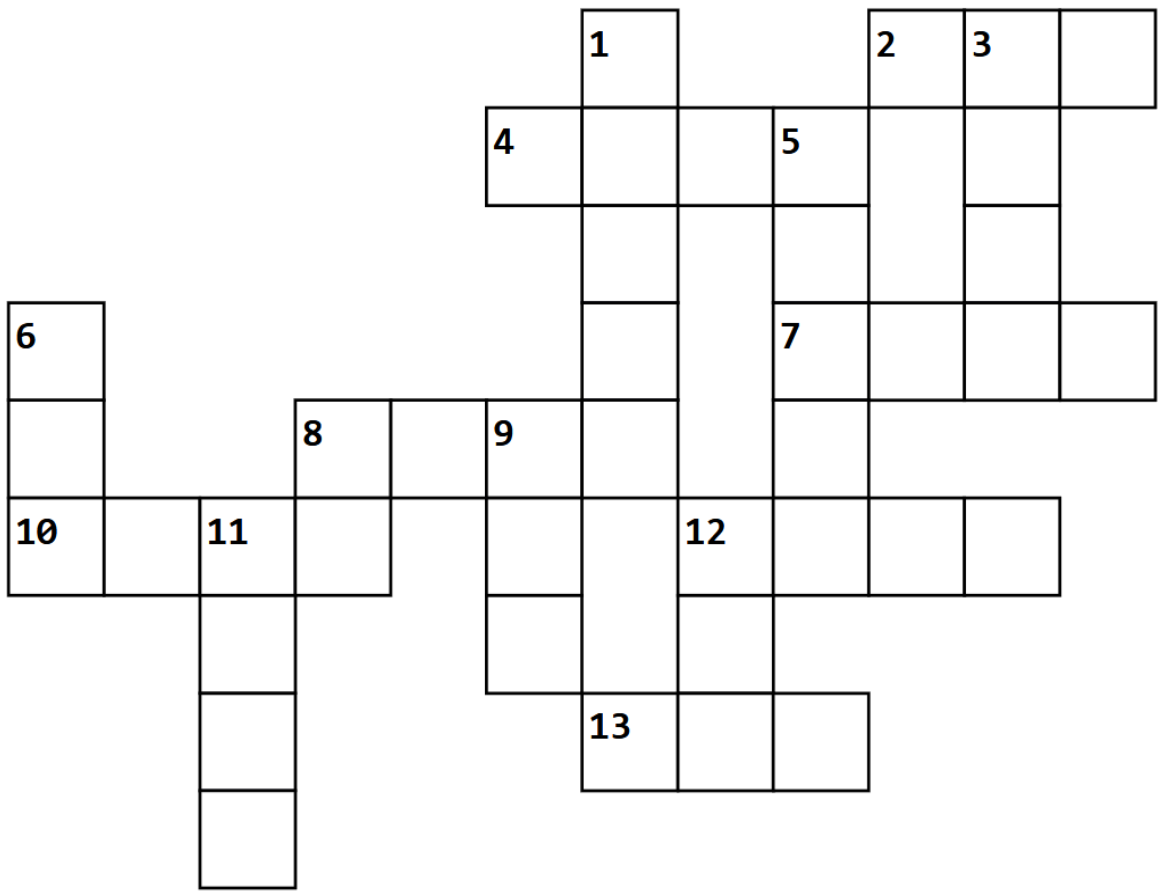
THE FUN

Across

2. Campus building, all about computers
4. General student's association
7. World's largest technical professional organization
8. Engineering student's society
10. Carleton Radio Station
12. Carleton Engineering, for short
13. Our faculty; a cop

Down

1. Biomedical soc; platonic solid (pl.)
3. Civil soc
5. Closed building, specialized laboratory
6. Provincial engineering competition
8. University
9. Relatively new, houses bays
11. Mars Rover team
12. Gay soc; snooker ___



Only Real Acronym Knowers can soilve this crossword, Widely considered to be The Greatest Crossword Of All Time, Maybe Ever

Sudoku

								4
	2	8	9	7				
			5				3	2
8	6		2		3			
			4			1		
	7						9	
							1	5
4				1		6		
		7			8			

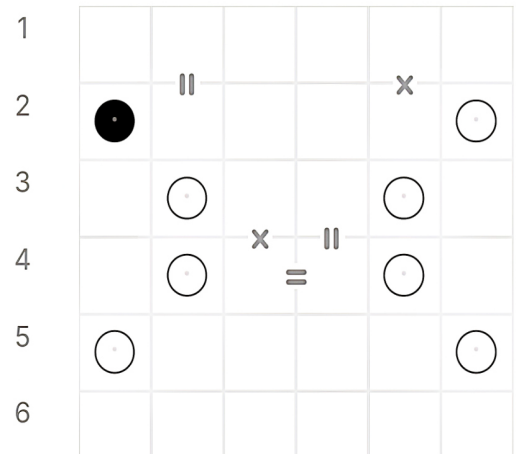
4	A	B		9		D		F		1	G		C		
		6	F	3					E				A		
C	9		2		F			5	6						
	G				6		E	9			C			8	
2			B	1					9		5	A			
	4								A		7	G	1	D	
D			7	2		9	5	1				6	4		
	F			A	3			D	4	6	B	9			
	D			G	1			3	C	E	9	2			
8			G	4		C	F	6				3	5		
	2								B		4	8	E	F	
9			C	7					F		D	4			
	C				9		4	G			1			6	
7	1		6		5			C	D						
		2	D	C					5				B		
G	5	F		D		2		B		7	E		9		

ZONE!!!!

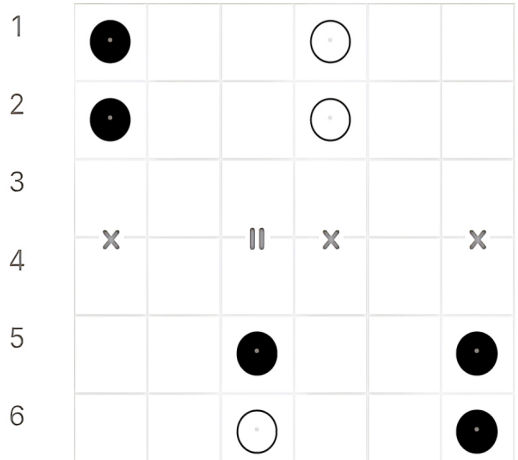
Binario+

Fill all cells with a black or white circle accordingly: Every row and column contain equal black and white circles. No more than two cells of the same colour can be adjacent. The "=" sign means both cells must be the same color. The "×" sign means they must be opposite colors.

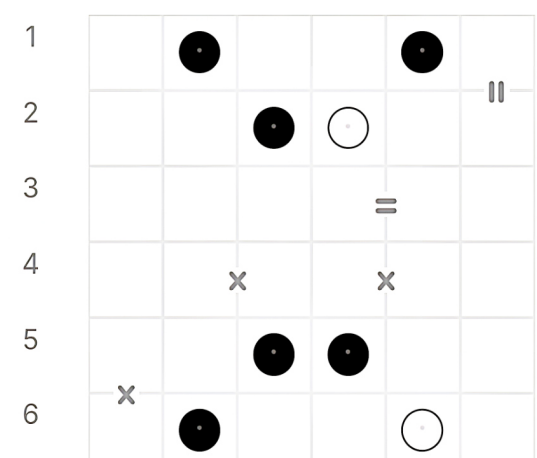
6x6 Easy



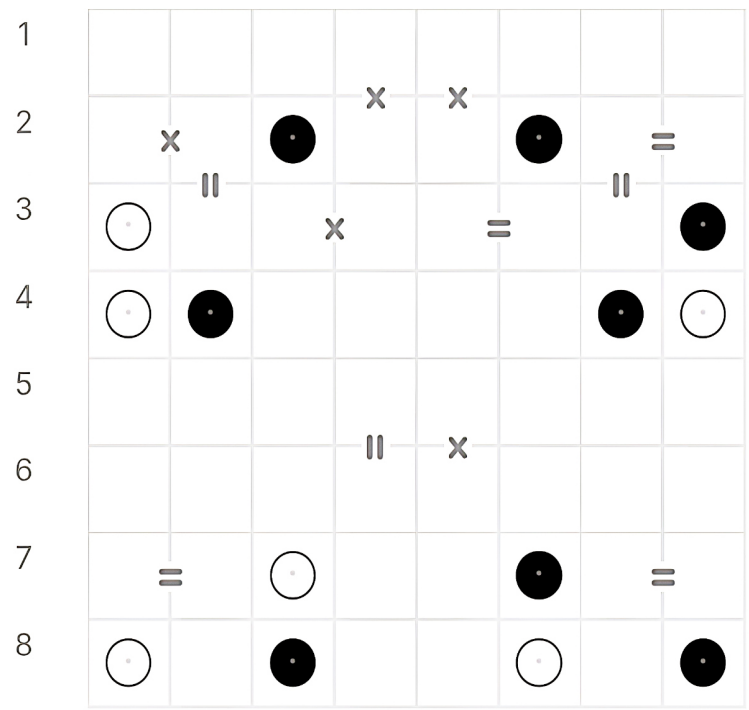
6x6 Easy



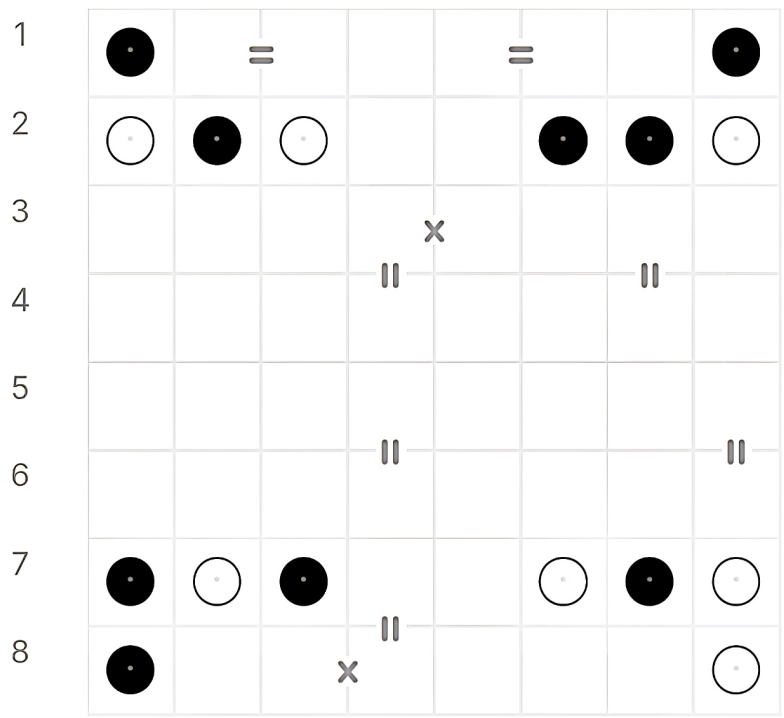
6x6 Hard



8x8 Easy



8x8 Hard



C-ENG SPEAKS

What do you have to say for yourself??

1. Do you have a pre-study routine?

sleep

Jonathan Dong

A crisp coke zero

Bogdan Price

some beers usually

Zachary "Soft Serve" Scott

Contemplate my life and the fact that all my choices over my 21 years have lead to me studying

Anonymous

Goof off for twice as long as I plan to study

Andrew Cavazzon

Reels until I forget about studying

Tony Hoang

A quick 12 hour nap

Madeline Neubrand

I brood on the bus to Stittsville

santiago hernandez velasco

Think about the exam the whole week before, then study everything the night before.

Chris Meiling

Get a glass of water sit at my desk open bright space and then get distracted and doom scroll instead. I don't know how to actually study.

Tress "Agnus Dei" Silverberg

Dread about having to study

Anonymous

waiting until the night before the exam usually does the trick

Amy Kopytskiy

Scouring campus for a niche spot

Craig Rahman

2. What is your weirdest study spot?

The room behind Southam Theater B with the people cage in it.

Tress "Agnus Dei" Silverberg

Cahill floor, laying like a starfish on the ground, study supplies everywhere

Avery "#Hydration Hero" Kohlruss

In the sub-tunnels under campus

Ryan Killins

Basement (it's cold down here)

Tony Hoang

in an uber?

Jonathan Dong

In your arch friends class that you don't belong in

Andrew Cavazzon

Place de Ville underground food court on the weekends

Craig Rahman

The Mind Beam Chair. It transmits the knowledge directly into my cranium.

santiago hernandez velasco

Upside-down in a tree

Kyle Lyon

Sit down on the ground immediately as soon as you think about studying.

Chris Meiling

Mike's Place

Amy Kopytskiy

Roof of dunton

Anonymous

You guys study?

Anonymous

My car while driving to my exam

Sanil Srivastava

3. When does the Christmas season officially start?

November 1st

Andrew Cavazzon

The first time it snows

Sanil Srivastava

RIGHT NOW

Tony Hoang

September 1st

santiago hernandez velasco

NOW!!!!!

Jonathan Dong

January 1st. Santa is watching all year.

Chris Meilling

It never ends

Madeline Neubrand

whenever you get a watch! hah.

Amy Kopytskiy

December 19th (my sisters birthday was on the 18th and fear has conditioned me)

Anonymous

Playing "All I Want For Christmas Is You" year-round WOOO

Kyle Lyon

November 13th. Gotta wait until after Remembrance Day, and I prefer to wait until after my birthday too :)

Avery "#Hydration Hero" Kohlruss

November 1st. There's no other holidays before the winter holidays.

Tress "Agnus Dei" Silverberg

After the snow had stayed for a week, or after finals

Bogdan Price

4. How long after starting eng/uni did it take for you to develop an addiction?

2.5 ish

Sanil Srivastava

2.5 weeks

Craig Rahman

1 day. Got the SCESoc patch and the rest was history

Ryan Killins

I held out for a straight year

Anonymous

A month in when I caught a whiff of monster

Andrew Cavazzon

Grade 9 (Caffeine)

Benjamin Stemmler

I was addicted to good grades until 2nd year started. Now i'm allergic.

Chris Meiling

After?

Anonymous

solid 10 minutes. it was a rough syllabus.

Amy Kopytskiy

Second year. The first monster you have tastes like battery acid. The second taste like a promise of better days

Anonymous

1 week.

Tress "Agnus Dei" Silverberg

i dunno... hope theres another year before it starts

Jonathan Dong

5. What video game has taken the most time from your studies?

Terraria overall. Resident Evil 4 and FFVII lately

santiago hernandez velasco

Minecraft, one two-week phase at a time

Amy Kopytskiy

Deadlock (release me)

Andrew Cavazzon

Google Dinosaur Game whenever campus wifi shits itself

Chris Meiling

Minecraft, 2 weeks can have a lot of hours

Bogdan Price

Rainbow Six Siege

Tony Hoang

math1005

Jonathan Dong

Shout out Dressmaker. Shout out 2048

Anonymous

random games that tiktok shows me in ads

Zachary "Soft Serve" Scott

Travel Town, I could merge all day long if it would let me

Avery "#Hydration Hero" Kohlruss

I wish I had the time to actually answer this question

Sanil Srivastava

Reels, my beloved

Anonymous

Deadlock.

Tress "Agnus Dei" Silverberg

HOROSCOPES

Foreseen by Jacob "Lathander" Kluding

ARIES

You will be sent a package in the mail, consisting of a large boix, containing a smaller but still large box, containing another box, etc. Matryoshka style. After opening 60 boxes, you will get your final prize: A small brown mammal.

TAURUS

Copper awaits you.

GEMINI

You will get lost in a MacDonald's PlayPlace, not to be found for anywhere between 3-6 weeks.

CANCER

Take your age. Add 7, divide by 4, round up to the nearest whole number, take the Factorial of that number and divide it by the nearest prime greater than it. Add 40. That is your age.

L.E.O.

I think most of the satellites are here.

VIRGO

Dude, I, like, I can't tell for sure, but I think your Js are fake. Like, I see the logo embroidered on the side, but, he's like, not hitting the right pose at all. It just looks like he's cradling some kind of small brown mammal in his hands. It's kind of endearing. How much did you pay for those? Where did you get them?

LIBRA

The love of your life is in Nashua, New Hampshire. Go find it.

SCORPIO

Every atom in your body will gain an extra neutron in exactly 45 days from when you read this. And no, this doesn't apply to just Scorpio. Anyone who reads this will have this happen to them. It's infohazardous.
Maybe I should have led with that.

SAGITTARIUS

You will get a trillion dollars, your dream job, and two cats.

CAPRICORN

You await copper.

AQUARIUS

When this creature enters, create a 3/3 colorless artifact creature token. If one or more tokens would be created under your control, that many 3/3 colorless artifact creature tokens are created instead in its place.

PISCES

A large hawk will swoop down from the sky, grab you, and carry you up into the sky. You will not be heard from again.

Uses For the Charlatan

Turn into paper airplanes to throw at your enemies

Cleaning up coffee spills

Fold it 42 times to reach the moon

Paper mache again

A gargantuan statue of the bisexiest cses exec

Use it as a heat shield for atmospheric reentry

Shred it up into fine dust, use it as gunpowder to kill enemies

Kleenex

Umbrella

Shitty Advice

Jacob "Lathander" Kluding
Knower of Things

Q.
Whether I should buy an old bmw and whether it will put me into financial ruin?
- Sanil Srivastava

A.
Hell yeah! Why not stop at one? Get two. Three, maybe. Four. Corner the market. Hire employees, get them to find and collect old BMWs. Get ten, combine them into one giant BMW. Keep adding to it. It hungers. More BMWs. Keep adding to it. It yearns. Do you yearn? Not like it does. Keep adding to it. It consumes all, and that is ok. More BMWs. More BMWs. More BMWs. Mo

Q.
How do i stop people from uni from finding my twitter?
- Anonymous

A.
Delete it. Actually, please don't, you're really funny.

Q.
How do I deal with the cold when locked in a cage in the basement?
- Tony Hoang

A.
Gnaw on the bars of the enclosure to get out, and then grab some blankets and crawl back in. Or a jacket.

Q.
How do I get the thing in my basement to be quiet ?
-Madeline Neubrand

A.
Gnaw on the bars of its enclosure to help it get out, and then grab it some blankets for it. Or a jacket.

Q.
How do I min-max my schedule?
- Amy Kopytskiy

A.
I actually know of a few mods that let you see your step counter, which kind of describes your luck and the weather and such. Once you get good odds, you kinda have to shuffle your feet from then on though.

Q.
Why is this a required field on the form??
- Anonymous

A.
It isnt. It should be though!
Billions should submit to Shitty Advice.

Got a Problem?
Need Some... *Shitty Advice?*

WE CAN "HELP"!

Write in to C-Eng Speaks! We want to ~~exploit your problems~~ hear from you!
The most recent submissions form can be found at: linktr.ee/TheIronTimes

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Via Rail coffee
And our wonderful contributors!

SUBMIT TO
NEXT MONTH'S
Iron Times
SEND US YOUR
ARTICLES
COMICS
PICTURES
GAMES
QUESTIONS
ANSWERS
WE WANT IT ALL

linktr.ee/TheIronTimes

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 IEEE SLAM	3 Sugar CUBES BITSoc Escape Room	4 CSCE Barcade Night	5	6 Mac & SREEse **Boobies x Movember** Patch Auction	7
8	9 IEEE SLAM	10 CSCE Pizza with Profs CAAS Ghost in the Machine Screening	11 WiE Coding Workshop *Rememberance Day*	12 **Fall Merch Fair** AAIA Distinguished Speaker CSEE FSGM	13 TRONSoc Pen Plotter Poster Sale IEEE SPAC **Whirlwind: Friday Night Fever**	14 **C-Eng-C** Communications Consulting
15 **C-Eng-C** Jr. Design Bio-Engineering *Fall academic withdrawal deadline*	16 IEEE SLAM	17 CAAS Poetry Open Mic	18 BITSoc AuGM CUE FSGM	19 SCESoc Pops with Profs CSCE Gingerbread Engineering Competition CSEE Movie Night	20 **Movember** Chili Cookoff	21 **C-Eng-C** Sr. Design Debates
22 **C-Eng-C** Programming Re-Engineering	23 IEEE SLAM	24 CSEE Craft Night	25 &Design x Eng-Knitters Cozy Craft Night Patch Making Workshop **HaMP!**	26	27 CU FIRST Carleton Capital Circuit Day 1 **Movember** Shave-Off	28 CU FIRST Carleton Capital Circuit Day 2
29	30 IEEE SLAM	1	2	3	4	5

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