

FISHWRAP

Official newspaper of the Engineering Student Society Stream A

Issue C2

CO-OP EDITION: Only online! For added entertainment, the reader can print the fishwrap!

I need your articles

As part of a new staffing policy here at the fishwrap, I am offering remuneration for articles. For every article submitted and printed, you will receive a shot glass (or a prize of equal or lesser value). For the article to count, I must print it. So don't spam me with a bunch of one sentence articles. Also, this policy has not been approved by the ESS, therefore the prizes will be coming from mine own pocket. Send 'em to fishwrap@enr.uvic.ca.

~D Fresh



Scan this with your phone, webcam or anything to get the digital copy of the fishwrap. (or go to <http://ess.uvic.ca/publications/fish-wrap/>)

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Pic of the Week



Deb WESST: Back on the West Coast

To the left is a picture of one of our SFU counterparts carrying Deb WESST. Deb is the cement donkey and WESST mascot. A couple of UVic engineers stumbled upon an unguarded Deb at WESST EM. However, we had flown to Winnipeg and did not want to pay the \$5000 overweight baggage fee to ship a piece of cement across the country. In an act of good inter-university faith we stole Deb and gave her to SFU Surrey, who drove to the conference.

Heard a prof or student or co-worker say something funny? email quotes to fishwrap@enr.uvic.ca

"If it's not practically useful, then it's practically useless."

Co-op Corner

Note to those Alberta Folk!

June 12-14 Global Petroleum Show

June 14 UVic Mixer in Calgary

Co-op Stories

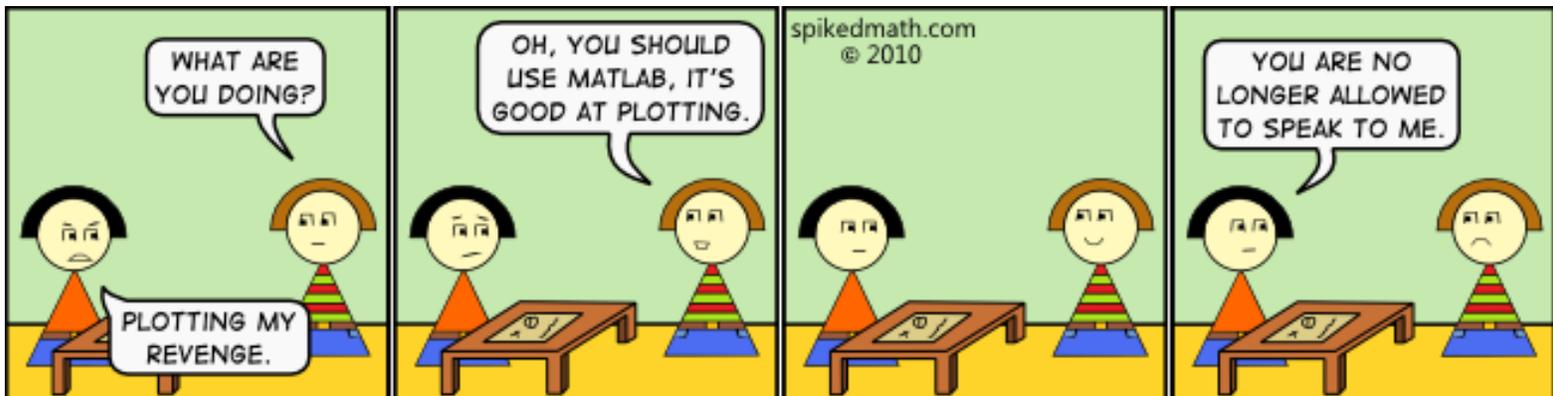
Send in your funny/interesting/embarrassing co-op stories. fishwrap@engr.uvic.ca.

Machining Madness Embarrassment

I have a decent amount of experience in the machine shop using a mill and a lathe. However, you wouldn't have guessed it on the first day at my coop. My first milling operation ends with a shattered end mill bit and some odd marks in my steel part. Cool. It seems the spindle was not at the right speed (in my defense, I was cutting stainless steel with a 3/16" cutter).

A couple weeks later, I get to use the CNC mill. The CNC mill is basically a computer controlled milling machine (google it). I need to machine the outside profile of a part, so I bolt the centre of the part to a plate. Simple enough. I generate some CNC code. Then I quickly realize, the only standing between me and the robotic arm spinning at 5000 rpm is my code. A little humbling. So I start it up. Within ten seconds, I know something is wrong. There is a horrible clanging sound as my part is spinning wildly on the mounting plate. It seems the machine cut right through one of the bolts, instead of going around the bolts. After a brief embarrassing conversation with the other engineer in the shop, I quietly went back to my computer and corrected the code. I then produced 6 of the parts without any further inconveniences.

~the humble machinist



First World Engineering Problems

Well now that I'm not taking school I can finally get my head out of the academia clouds long enough to complain about something that is not homework. Such as:

1) Bus schedules in Vancouver. Ok vancouver, you run your transit services at 3.1 million dollars in deficit, how about making something that will actually run on time. It's great knowing that I can text the bus stop and have some million dollar server message me back telling me the bus schedule which the bus drivers do not follow. So many times I have waited at the bus stop when the bus

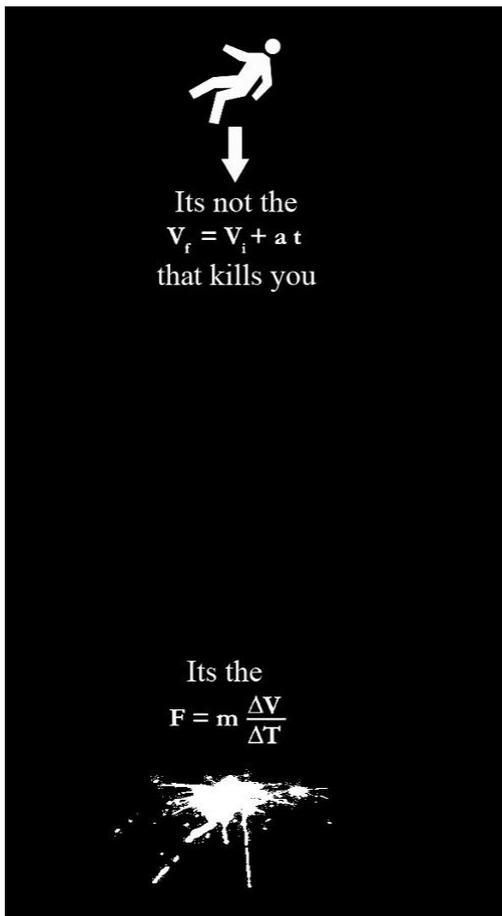


was suppose to be there 5 minutes ago, only to have it show up half and hour late literally convoying with the bus that is the next one the schedule. It like the drivers call up each other and say, "hey man, want to piss off everyone on the route today? BUS CONVOY!!!!". I've got a great solution to this problem that will cost way less then all those stupid iPod apps out there. It called a shock collar. If the bus driver is not going according to his route, give him a little negative incentive to correct it. I guarantee all the scheduling problems will be fixed the first time they experience 1000V running thought their jugular.

2) Sushi restaurants. Sushi is great. Just not on every street corner. Sometimes there are two or three. I feel like the same effect can be accomplished for far less infrastructure and time. Maybe we could reduce the price a little too in the meanwhile. Seriously, 6.25 for a roll? ALL IT IS IS RICE AND SEAWEED. I could go down to the beach and buy a sack of 10kg of rice for 10 bucks and be rich starting my own sushi business. It's foolproof. Good riddance to engineering, there are too many suckers out there to fool. That being said, it still doesn't grind you as hard as nibbles and bytes.

3) Wreck beach. Holy crap. I have never seen so many old men willing to show the whole world their jiggly bits in my life. It's not that I have anything against free spirit or anything, but if you are lying behind me completely spread eagle, please don't decide to start up a conversation about your childhood growing up on the sunshine coast with me. Can't you see that I'm pasty, socially awkward and just trying to apply my 100 SPF in peace. I'm used to being around a bunch of dudes, but not in this way. I came here to pretend to read while looking thought my sunglasses at the opposite sex. Preferably around my own age thank you very much.

~T



Summer Book Corner

All my friends are dead by Avery Monsen and Jory John

This mostly picture based piece of literature is actually quite a fascinating read. The basic premise of this book is to outline all of the unfortunate aspects of life. Although this may sound a little depressing, it is not. or I just have a really weird sense of humour. Anyways, it is portrayed as a children's book with it's bright colours, cartoonish characters and almost no text. However, the topics of death and hardship that are lightheartedly mentioned make this most definitely not a children's book.

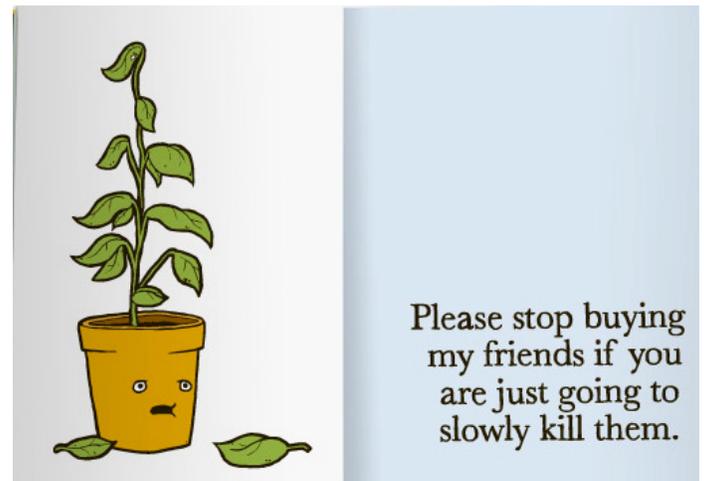
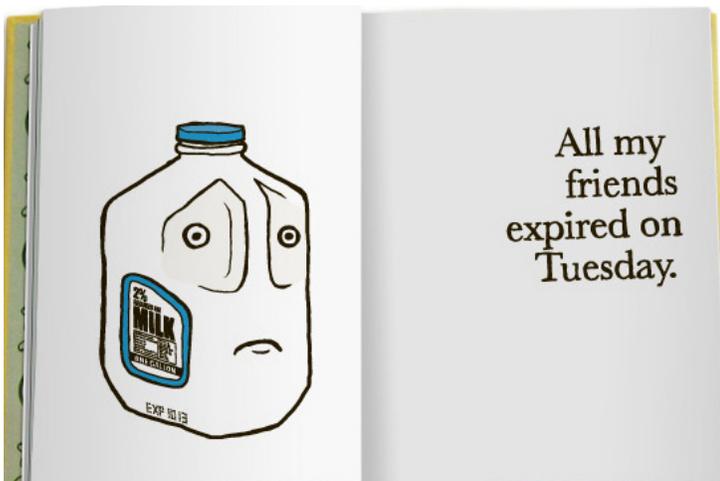
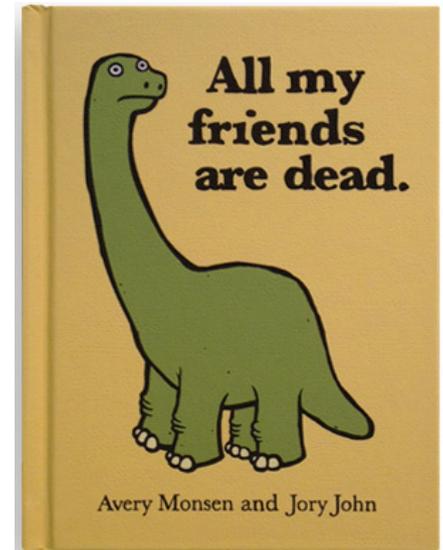
Among the topic covered are:

If you're a tree, all of your friends are end tables

If you're a chicken, all of your friends are Kentucky fried

If you're a zombie, all of your friends are undead.

Some more excerpts are pictured below:



You know what grinds my gears...

So there I am, minding my own business, eating a huge bowl of spaghetti. I'm pretty hungry as I haven't eaten since lunch. My teeth are doing their thing, chomping at the spaghetti. Then F@S#!. It seems my lip (not food) got in the way of my teeth. Seriously, I have been eating for almost 21 years now. I thought I had that one figured a long time ago. This is equivalent to suddenly forgetting that you alternate feet as you walk (left foot, right foot, left foot, left foot... then face plant on the cement).

I'm going to go now and nurse this battle wound incurred by my pasta eating.

~D Fresh



More quotes

“if you showed this block diagram to a computer science student, would they understand it? Probably not.” -Fayez Gebali, C.Eng 441

“But if you implement it this way, the older engineers will mutter something about the things they teach kids in school these days” -Michael McGuire, Elec 407

GPA? Percentage? Percentile? Numbers!?

Through my various travels and conversations with students from other universities, I have realized that grading systems are extremely convoluted everywhere. As we all know, UVic uses a wonderfully popular 9 point scale for our grades. Another popular system is the 4 point scale. Then there's the 4.5 scale, the 5 scale, the 10 scale, the 12 scale.

This is all quite ridiculous.

Every academic class in the country and probably continent starts with the same scale. 0-100%. Then using their own random conversion scale, they convert the standard percentage to some arbitrary integer. Also, this conversion usually reduces the precision of the grade. For instance, an 8 on the UVic scale could be an 85 or an 89.

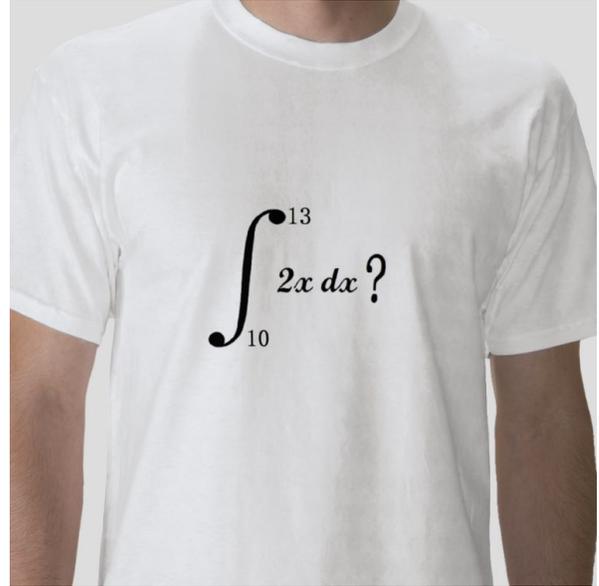
To add to this confusion, UVic does not publish our grades in percentage form. Anywhere. So we, as students, has no idea what percentage we achieved in a class. All we get is a letter grade. This is very ambiguous and untransferable. We don't have any hard numbers, such as percentages. Then the next question would be "what was the average of course X?" or "what was the distribution?" Of course, UVic does not publish these metrics.

There is a reason everyone starts with the percent scale out of 100. It is simple. It is base 10. And everyone is familiar with it.

~D Fresh

Engineering Relationship Advice

(the usual correspondent is currently away. I apologize if this advice is not actually helpful.)



From the Editor

In the next issue, "Now we have to pay to print???".

First off, you might have noticed the engr scopes are missing. I also noticed this. Second, I haven't heard from any of you. Do you like the co-op fishwrap? Do you read it? Do you have articles to submit? Do you want a prize? As always, send it to fishwrap@engr.uvic.ca.

~D Fresh

PS. I think the relationship advice should be our next EEE design. Thoughts??

Thanks to all who contributed:
Tyler Lanigan
The Humble Machinist