

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Olin's unofficial,
student-run news
source.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

FEBRUARY 2013

FREE, AS IN BEER

Founding Precept: Service

**Ari Chae, Jordyn Burger,
Janaki Perera**
Contributors

"The College, itself, the product of philanthropy, should find ways to contribute to its community... with services natural for it as an educational institution. Policies must be maintained that support these outcomes." - Statement of Founding Precepts for Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering

Greetings from the SERV board! With the start of the new semester, we are encouraging you to use SERV (Support, Encourage, and Recognize Volunteerism) as a resource and make community service a part of your routine.

SERV exists to help Oliners find meaningful activities to "contribute to [Olin's] community, and beyond." We organize campus-wide events throughout the year. One of our biggest events is the SERV auction -- thanks to you, we set a new record this year by raising over \$10,000 for Minds Matter Boston and Hurricane Sandy Relief.

SERV also informs the community of volunteer opportunities. Past Oliners have referred to SERV as a

"community service search engine." Our goal is to better broadcast what events are happening and being organized so you can help out.

Keep in mind that your community service activities are not limited to the ones we share with you. You should always feel free to let us know if you want help putting together a community service event for an organization or a cause that is important to you. We are here to support the Olin community in their philanthropic endeavors, from providing guidance and monetary support to publicity and tabling people power. SERV is a resource for you, the student body.

Now here is our call to action. Since the beginning of Olin, 3 to 5 pm on Fridays has been designated 'Friday SERVICE' time; that's why classes end at 3:10. We are working hard to organize relevant and engaging activities each week to make a difference and give back to the greater community.

When we're caught up in the stress of classes and extracurriculars, it's easy to let community service slip through our fingers. In recent semesters, we have noticed a significant decrease

in the number of participants in Friday service. There was once a time in Olin's history when most of the college was involved each week -- we would love to see that level of commitment again!

Being aware of Friday service time not only means participating; it also means respecting the time set aside by the college for such activities. This includes not scheduling events over that time, and not using that time to work on non-community service related projects. We are asking all student organizations and clubs to please respect the few hours devoted to community service we have each week.

We also want to hear your ideas to make Friday Service a weekly tradition that everyone can be excited to participate in, as well as more enthusiastic involvement. Some of our upcoming events include Penny Wars, Relay for Life, volunteering for the Science Olympiad, and more!

SERV is here for you, and we are always open to your ideas! Email us at serv@olin.edu, and follow us on Twitter @olinserv to get the latest update on upcoming events.

Olin SWE is on a Mission

Elizabeth Mahon
Contributor

At the national SWE conference in Houston this year, 3 out of 10 finalists for best posters were from Olin. Earlier this school year, Olin SWE taught several girls in Newton's Science Club for Girls about engineering.

These activities help Olin SWE fulfill the mission of the Society of Women Engineers: to "stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity." This is done through professional development, outreach, and education. As anyone can be part of this mission, members are not required to be female.

Olin SWE provides professional development primarily through SWE conferences. The national conference is the largest, lasting three days with hundreds of workshops and companies at its career fair.

Olin SWE sends 10 to 30 people to the conference each year and does substantial fundraising beforehand to keep costs relatively low for attendees. A collegiate poster competition is associated with the conference and is meant to showcase good visual presentation of research and projects. Olin has historically done well in the competition. If missing classes and travel is not your cup of tea, there is the Region F conference, which also has many companies and workshops. This year it will be at the University of Connecticut.

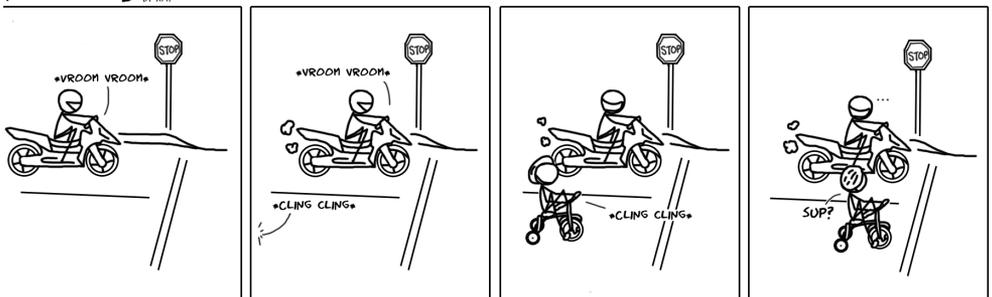
Outreach is primarily educating K-12 girls about engineering to encourage them to go into engineering themselves. These events can range from Q&A to workshops on a variety of topics. Outreach can also involve educating people about SWE. To that end we organize the open house in West Hall for candidates.

Education involves recognizing and discussing topics important to women in engineering, both topics that are specifically related

to women in engineering and topics that are equally relevant to all engineers. We have two primary methods of achieving this part of the mission: discussion on our list (swe@lists.olin.edu), which is open to all, and bringing speakers to Olin. Speakers we have brought to Olin in the past have included entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, and workshops on communication. We've also held study breaks with professors during finals periods.

There are many ways to get involved. The most involved is to run for collegiate positions at the regional level. Olin has historically had success in this pursuit, with at least three current or former members of Olin SWE advancing to regional positions. On the other end of the spectrum, the lowest level of commitment is simply to join the mailing list, come to our events, and volunteer for our outreach events. We have board meetings every week, and everyone is invited. There are spots open on the board if you would like to join!

NOT XKCD BY KAI



(ONCE RIDE. - THANKS! HAD IT SINCE I WAS THREE.)

Popping the Olin Bubble: Dec-Jan Edition

12/1 Rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo withdraw from the city of Goma, located on the country's border with Rwanda.

12/4 More than 40,000 people move to shelters in the Philippines in preparation for Typhoon Bopha.

12/5 Australian radio DJ's pose as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Charles in order to get information from hospital workers about Kate Middleton who was being treated for severe morning sickness.

12/6 John McAfee is arrested in Guatemala and accused of entering the country illegally.

12/7 One of the nurses involved in the hoax call regarding Kate Middleton commits suicide.

12/8 Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian Prime Minister, confirms that he plans to run for PM again next year.

12/12 The US-based Human Rights Watch presents evidence that the Sudanese government has committed crimes against humanity.

12/14 Twenty children and six adults are killed in a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut.

12/16 Obama calls for using "whatever power [the Presidential] office holds" to prevent another Sandy Hook tragedy.

12/17 A 23-year-old student is raped and her friend attacked on a bus in New Delhi, India.

12/21 The NRA calls on Congress to appropriate funds for the hiring of armed police officers in every American school.

12/22 In New Delhi, a water cannon is used to subdue demonstrators at a protest against the gang rape of women.

12/24 At least 42 people are killed and 17,000 displaced due to extreme flooding in Sri Lanka.

12/27 The India rape victim, called "Damini" by protestors, is flown to Singapore for treatment.

12/29 "Damini" dies from her injuries.

12/31 The "Dairy Cliff" crisis is averted, meaning that milk will not cost \$8 a gallon.

1/3 Sandy Hook students return to class at Chalk Hill Middle School.

1/6 The father of "Damini" is quoted saying that he wants his daughter's true name released only if a law is named after her.

1/7 An appeals court in Cameroon overturns the conviction of two men jailed in 2011 for homosexual acts.

1/9 More than 3000 square km of land in Australia are razed by forest fires.

1/11 France confirms that their troops are assisting in driving "terrorist ele-

ments" out of north Mali.

1/13 France bombs Islamist strongholds in northern Mali.

1/14 Lance Armstrong admits to using performance-enhancing drugs.

1/16 At least 20 foreigners are taken hostage by Islamist militants at a gas plant in Algeria.

1/17 The NRA releases a pro-gun ad which calls Obama an 'elitist hypocrite' because his daughters have armed Secret Service protection.

1/18 The US grounds all Boeing 787 planes due to safety fears.

1/21 At least 48 hostages are thought to have died during the hostage situation in Algeria. The hostages include Filipinos, Britons, Colombians, Japanese, Romanians, Malaysians, and Norwegians.

1/22 Deep Space Industries, Inc., announces its plans to launch a fleet of prospecting spacecraft in 2015 to start the process of harvesting minerals from near-Earth asteroids.

1/23 A tunnel in Norway is closed for six days due to a cheese fire. No one was injured in the legendary inferno.

1/24 At least 15,000 crocodiles escape from a farm in South Africa due to heavy rains and flooding.

Jackie Rose
Staff Writer

Invest Yourself in the Earth

Jared Kirschner
Contributor

Welcome to your first day on the job. Our clients are heavily invested in the performance of a vast endowment which you will be overseeing. This endowment is an enormously diversified portfolio with incomparably-complex instruments—we call it “Earth”. Said endowment comprises all of this world’s natural systems and actors, from the depths of its crust to the outer reaches of its atmosphere.

From this day forward, you will be responsible for investing this endowment to create shareholder value. You will create the technology that transforms this natural capital into engines of value-creation. Though the definition of value will vary by client, it is generally associated with stability, comfort, and happiness. I hereby bestow you with the title “engineer”, providing you a social license to so manage this endowment. So what will you do with it?

But before you begin, let me briefly recount the history of our (engineering) firm. The endowment was not originally owned by our clients (humanity). Instead, all actors (species and abiotic structures) in Earth’s natural systems were equally-rightful inheritors of the endowment, each able to manage the Earth’s natural capital at will. Relationships among inheritors tended to

create a self-regulating system, preventing any one inheritor from overstepping its bounds. After 4 billion years and innumerable changes, our ancestors evolved, becoming yet another inheritor and member of the endowment’s distributed management team. For many years, our ancestors simply lived off of the interest resulting from their investments, producing small but sufficient

“Achieving a sustainable world will not be fast or easy”

returns in various forms (e.g. food, water, shelter).

Our firm was founded on a revolutionary idea—producing greater returns by investing this natural capital in technology. Technology greatly increased our ancestors’ abilities to access and to modify natural capital. With the aid of technology, our ancestors’ developed sufficient power to overturn the decisions of other managers (non-humans) if desired. The technological infrastructure they developed enabled management decisions of unmatched speed, scale, and impact.

For several hundred years, few questioned the management decisions of our firm. Recently, increased attention has been given to the state of the endowment, and some troubling discov-

eries have been made. It appears that the “returns” from our current technological infrastructure would be more accurately described as “withdrawals”. Though our clients have gained much wealth through these investment practices, they have turned a blind eye to the consequences. The endowment is diminishing across nearly all sectors of the portfolio. Worse yet, the declining state of the endowment damaged its self-regulating systems, increasing future instability.

The internal stabilizing factors of the endowment will continue to degrade, accelerating the decline of its value. In just a few decades, our clients may no longer be able to live on the interest; significant austerity measures will be required to rebuild the massive amount of expended capital, likely without the aid of the self-regulatory mechanisms that remain at present.

It will be impossible to provide continued strong returns to our clients without a new investment strategy. Our directors have bought you some extra time to think by disenfranchising our less wealthy clients. However, we will not be able to keep them disenfranchised much longer—the less wealthy clients are rapidly developing their own competing firms with similar access to the endowment.

The majority of people are not aware of the degrad-

ed state of the endowment, as they lack access to the balance sheets. You cannot claim such ignorance. As an engineer, you will build the technologies and systems which draw from this shrinking pool of capital in order to create value. And you're not just any engineer—you have been trained at one of the finest engineering institutions in the world. No one is in a better position to determine the future of this endowment. There is very little time remaining to change our investment strategy and produce value-creating engines which simultaneously restore and support our natural capital.

Achieving a sustainable world will not be fast or easy, but it will not even be possible without your help. Yes, it may seem impossible to effect change as an individual, and you'd be correct. But together, we can change

the hearts and minds of our families, friends, bosses, and co-workers. We must act swiftly; the longer we wait, the longer the odds of success. Lead by example—make sustainability a top priority in the workplace, in your everyday behaviors, and in the products and services you purchase. Without global agreement that pre-emptive action is gravely necessary, we will not succeed.

If present trends don't drastically change, I don't like our future prospects in the year 2040. If I sound like a doomsayer to you, I urge you to take a look at the evidence yourself and draw your own conclusions.

You have a choice. You can either help to make the world a better, more equitable place for all of humanity and the rest of nature, or you can dismiss me and continue to lead the world on a path

towards destruction. For now, we will all continue to participate in unsustainable behaviors, regardless of our perspective; often, we don't have another choice. But we are engineers—we will determine humanity's future choices.

I hope you understand the gravity of the situation, and the responsibility that you bear. The future rests in your hands.

Author's Note: I will be preparing material to teach environmental ethics to engineers for my AHS/E! Capstone project this semester. If you have any experience with ethical dilemmas as a scientist or engineer, especially with regards to the environment, please contact me. Even if you have no such experience, let me know if you'd like to share with me your perspective on an engineer's ethical responsibilities to the world at large.

A Puzzle by Midnight Math

On a circle are placed an equal number of "x"s and "o"s.

Starting with a value of zero, you chose a starting place on the circle and begin moving clockwise around the circle.

Every time you pass an "x", you add 1 to your value, and every time you pass an "o" you subtract 1.

Once you have returned to your starting location you stop.

Show that no matter

how the "x"s and "o"s are placed (as long as there are an equal total number



of each) there will always be a starting location such that your value is never less than zero.

Send your solutions (with proof) to midnight.math@outlook.com. If you are correct, you will be given the highest of accolades: your name mentioned here, next issue.

Correct answers to last month's puzzle:

*Arash Ushani
Berit Johnson*

FRANKLY INTERVIEW: SALLY PHELPS

A candid conversation with Sally Phelps about her mission on campus, how she spends her free time, and the challenges of working with Olin students.

I met with Sally Phelps in her office in the lower floor of the library. As always, her schedule was tight, but as always, she was happy to meet with me and speak for a full hour— a clearly prioritized hour of uninterrupted conversation, despite the ringing of phones and the dinging of incoming emails.

Sally originally worked in advertising for Bose, but was convinced by a co-worker to do college recruitment for the company. She found her mission in that role much more meaningful, and furthered that personal mission in coming to Olin. She has been the Olin's Director of Postgraduate Planning since 2007.

FRANKLY: What is your philosophy for PGP?

PHELPS: When I first came here, I thought, I will help them figure it out. But what I have found is, by and large, our students have figured it out; they just need a little help with the road map.

I think one of the really exciting things about Olin is the different roads students take, and the people doing multiple things: the alum who goes to work for a company, but also has his own side business, and is doing all sorts of volunteering, and also likes to travel. I think that sort of multifaceted direction is one of the things that's very cool about our young people.

FRANKLY: Is it part of your job

to help alumni, too?

PHELPS: Absolutely. They're a huge part of our story.

One of the things that I've been trying to do— you asked how I spend my time, another thing that I've been doing a lot is telling our stories. It's all about students coming in and students going out. What do they do? We have a blog on our website, I try to get two stories a week up there, and there's no shortage of stories. There are so many great stories, in terms of what are our students doing, what our alumni are doing, in all different walks. If we don't illustrate what our people are up to, no one will really know what we're doing here, whether it's having an impact



Photos by Mike Maloney

“Every one of us...is continuing to build our reputation.”

“There are so many great stories, in terms of...our students.”

“As my daughter says, all you talk about it books and yoga.”

or how we are different.

FRANKLY: What is your favorite part of your job?

PHELPS: My favorite thing is to sit one-on-one with students and help them: either what am I thinking about, where do I want to go, how do I want to get there; or specifically: how do I write this cover letter, how do I make this resume, how do I negotiate this offer, how do I get companies to notice me? That's by far my favorite part of this job.

FRANKLY: What is your least favorite part of working here?

PHELPS: One of the challenges I find is when I meet a student who does not show humility. Our students are here because they are very special, but I wish they'd be a little bit more humble. I don't mean this as harshly as it sounds. But let's face it, many of you have been told 'you are special' all of your lives. And with some of your peers, that 'I'm pretty special' attitude comes through loud and clear and it isn't pretty. I have even had employers say, 'Olin students think they're something special.'

Of course, this does not go for all students. But you know who they are, even though they might not know it. If these are your friends, find a way to gently tell them this. Be specific and constructive. Every one of us here at Olin is continuing to build our reputation with every action and conversation with the external world, and it only takes one to turn potential advocates away with the wrong attitude.

FRANKLY: What is one major challenge for PGP?

PHELPS: One of our challenges continues to be finding job leads for materials science and bioengineering, and even mechanical and electrical at times. We just don't have enough leads in those areas—also international leads, ADE type of leads—those would be the areas that I'd say we're always looking for innovative companies to bring to our students.

Honestly, when I look at the companies and grad schools that are coming here and the leads they bring, and the huge—the growing interest they have in Olin, I do believe that every student, every first-year, if they try, should be able to get an internship, research experience or job. Every single one of them. The caveat that I would put to that, if someone is looking for something very specific, either in terms of type of job or location, that's when it might take longer or it might not necessarily happen right away. But there is a lot of interest in our students. That's why I say to the first-years, if you get organized, if you stay focused, if you continue to just send out a couple of resumes a week, with a cover letter, you will find something.

FRANKLY: What was your first job?

PHELPS: My first job out of school was working for Blue Cross Blue Shield, writing their newsletters, and that was boring. [laughs] Very, very, boring.

I needed a job, I was living at home, and he liked my handshake. I had a good handshake, my dad was in

sales. All that helped. Helped me get that very boring job.

FRANKLY: What do you do outside of work?

PHELPS: Two of my three kids are in college, so I do find that I have some extra time. My daughter is a dancer, so I spend a lot of time with her, helping her get where she needs to be and supporting her in competitions.

I do find I have more time than I used to. I like to help young people with career counselling and the college admissions process—people that I know, friends of our family. For a lot of people that's very overwhelming, so I can help them get organized and make a plan.

I'm very involved in our town library. I know my daughter thinks that's the most boring thing in the world, but I help in fundraising for them, collecting books, having book sales. And then yoga. I love yoga. As my daughter says, all you talk about is books and yoga, Mom. But it works for me. I just love my local yoga studio, our teachers and our community.

FRANKLY: Why did you choose to come to Olin?

PHELPS: This school is doing important work. We are doing something. We are beginning to make a difference in this space that so badly needs attention. So to be a part of that, in my role, is thrilling.

I love this place, my work and my role here. I'm having a blast, and I feel strongly about the greater mission we all have.

Kelsey Breseman
Editor-in-Chief



GREEN SPACE*

Molly Farison
Contributor

Paper or plastic? This debate never seems to end— Whole Foods and others have banned plastic bags, but Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) data shows that plastic bags are actually less impactful than paper.

If we care about the environment, why not base our decisions on data? Let's find out what parts of our lives have the

most impact, and drive those factors down.

Last fall, Boris Taratutin explored the typical Olin student's impact for a project in Sustainable Design using LCA. His work showed that the major factors for Olin students were food, heating, "stuff," and travel.

This fall, a group of students further explored Olin students' impacts for Rob Martello's Paradigms, Predictions, and Joules course. Jared

Kirschner, Larissa Little, and Trevor Hooton worked with several Olin volunteers to estimate their personal impact, set goals for a week, and track changes in impact based on changes in behavior. Many students ate vegan for a week, which led to a significant reduction in impact, but was extremely difficult.

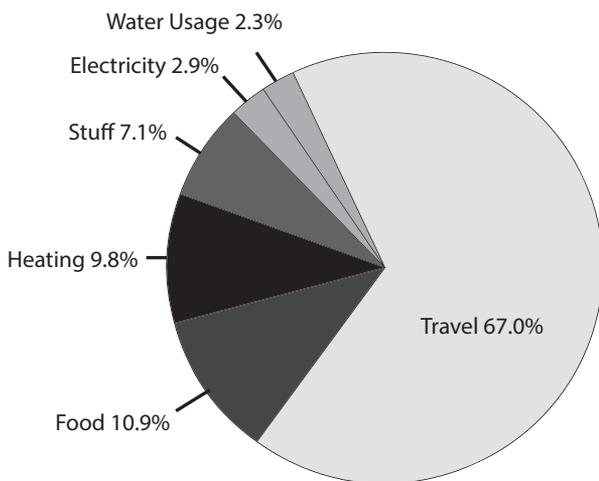
Reducing personal impact is hard without the infrastructure in place, but we can help build that infrastructure in our community.

Where can we start? Join the group of students working with facilities to make our campus more resource and energy efficient or advocate for more vegetarian and vegan options in the dining hall.

Even better? When going out with friends or traveling, advocate for using public transit, bicycles, or your own two feet. Ask your family to eat something other than steak. Share your stuff so others don't need to buy more. It's high time to Do Something.

This new column is searching for writers! Contact Ben Smith or any Frankly Speaking editor.

Impact Distribution of an "Average" Olin Student



Environmental impact graph based on self-reported surveys (26 respondents) in FA2011, weighted using the ReCiPe points heuristic. Contact Larissa Little for more information or the dataset.

An Island of Sustainability

Amos Meeks
Contributor

Singapore is a country many of you have probably heard of, possibly as the current home of Eduardo Saverin, or for their authoritarian laws. However, the centralized authoritarian government has also taken many impressive steps towards turning Singapore into a sustainable city, steps that could only be taken because of the nature of the government.

This government is a republic much like our own, except that there is only one party, the People's Action Party, which has won every election since the beginning of Singapore self-rule in 1965. This government is constantly criticized for its authoritarian policies. For example, posting negative comments about public officials online can get you arrested. Yet, unlike most other authoritarian governments in the modern world throughout history, Singapore has extremely low levels of corruption, ranked the 5th least corrupt government worldwide by Transparency

International (The US is 24th). Despite their power, Singaporean politicians have the best interests of the country in mind.

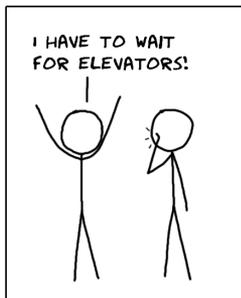
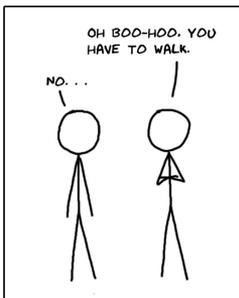
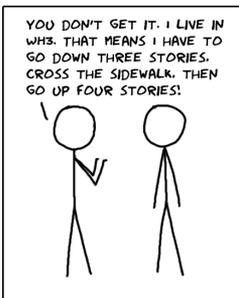
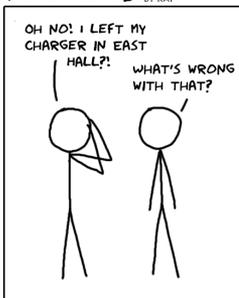
One such interest is the sustainability of the country. Being a large city on a small island, Singapore has extremely limited natural resources. All of the material needed for land reclamation or concrete needs to be imported from nearby Malaysia. Singapore also imports over 99% of its energy as fossil fuels from other countries.

With these in mind the government has chosen to implement several policies to create a more sustainable city. The number of cars on the road is kept low via a Certificate of Entitlement, which can cost up to \$50,000 just for the right to own your car for 10 years. Housing is done more sustainably by the government's Housing Development Board, or HDB, which creates public housing for over 84% of the population. This is not the sort of public housing that we know here in the US, as flats can cost hundreds of

thousands of dollars. With the government controlling housing, they can work on creating more sustainable buildings by implementing passive cooling, improved insulation, and using better building materials. In addition, they can knock down older HDB buildings from the 60s and 70s to build newer, more sustainable ones, which is not seen here in the US, where many homes are over 70 years old.

Many of these are admirable sustainability policies, yet are not at all practical for implementation in the US in their current state. How many Americans would vote for a politician that made them pay tens of thousands just for the privilege of owning a car? How many Americans would want to live in public houses that are the same as everyone else's? Is an authoritarian but more sustainable country worth it? And with all of Singapore's energy still coming from fossil fuels, and no radical plan for changing to renewable energy and non-fossil fuel burning transportation, is this even enough?

NOT XKCD BY KAI



(AND THE TELEPORTER TAKES 5 HOURS TO BOOT)

The Five Languages of Love

Kai Austin
Editor

How do you know when someone cares about you or loves you? How do you express your care or love for other people? What makes you feel like the people who care about you actually do?

“Love Language” is a delicate form of communication that can break or make any relationship. And it does not apply to just romantic or family love either – it applies to apologies and general workplace appreciation as well. But in the spirit of the month, I will focus on love. There are five types of love languages in total. We all have one which we likely prefer, though it is not uncommon to have more than one. Here they are.

Words of Affirmation: Encouraging words are important to everyone, but they are everything to those with this love language. For them to feel loved, they need to be told in words how they are appreciated: genuine compliments, not flattery. Saying “I love you” is one thing, but telling them why and what you like about them will send their heart flying. Insults and sometimes misdirected criticism can leave them shattered, and are not easily forgotten.

Quality Time: Nothing is as valuable in this language as time. Specifically, the time you spend together with undivided attention. This means putting the

phone down, the Facebook away, and being there 100%. Sometimes you will be the talker, other times the listener, sometimes no talking is needed at all and you should just be physically there. Relationships where one party is always absent or means there may be no relationship in the near future. And make sure the time spent is doing something you both enjoy or agree to. It is not quality time if someone is being forced to spend it.

Receiving Gifts: Gifts do not have to be expensive. They can be as simple as sharing a cookie or giving them a shell you found on the beach. The gift is a symbol that you were thinking of them. Make sure it is something that shows the receiver you know what they like, what they care about, what they would use, or else you may miss the mark. Even the time spent making the gift can mean more in the world to them than anything. Missing anniversaries or birthdays can be detrimental to relationships, so be sure to always at least keep these in mind.

Acts of Service: For these people, it is those little acts which stand out the most. Whether it is helping with chores, a surprise car wash, carrying their groceries, opening the door, bringing them food if they miss lunch, it means the a lot to them. This language is composed of subtle everyday actions. Ignore those little

things, and the person will feel as if everything they do is not appreciated.

Physical Touch: A pat on the back, a hug hello, clinging to each other while walking, clinging to one another while watching a movie– yes, nearly all of us gear to some form of human contact. But people with this love language actually need it the most. Thankfully, they are the easiest to spot, since they are seemingly always seeking out the next person to tackle. But nothing is as detrimental as denying this person any form of physical contact. Even a friendly poke can be enough.

It is important to be aware of the love language of those close to you. Why? If you want them to know how much you care, you must express it via their language or it will not work. Granted, they may know your love language and how you best express it – but knowing that you love them is not the same as actually feeling it.

To figure out your own language, ask yourself these few things: What do you do for others to show you appreciate them? What are the things you remember the most? What do you complain about? What makes your day? What ruins it? Are there any outstanding patterns from all this? And the same goes for figuring out those of the people around you. Best of luck in your endeavors.



The Duchess

The Dominatrix

I was recently in a relationship where we minimized disagreement to avoid conflict. Then things blew up. How much disagreement is healthy?

—Passive Pamela

How much disagreement is healthy? How much disagreement can you resolve? I know some couples who have disagreements all the time but they are able to talk to each other and work it out.

It sounds like what you need to do is be more honest with your partner and yourself about things when they bother you instead of just brushing it off and then blowing up later. I am a firm believer in safewords and although this is not really the traditional use, a safeword can be useful in this situation.

If something is bothering you, use your safeword, stop what you are doing, take the time to talk about what is bothering you, and get it resolved.

—Captain Dominatrix

I can't afford textbooks, but most of the time someone is already reading the library copy. Is it really wrong to scan the library book and share with the class? Would you?

—Captain Blackbeard

Unless the book was published under a license that allows that, it is both wrong and illegal. For almost every Olin class, you can find someone who has taken the class before and is willing to lend you his or her textbooks, and you should do that instead.

Although there is no consequential difference between this and scanning the book (in either case, you get the information and the textbook publisher gets nothing in exchange), there is a difference of intention: In the second case, you are behaving within the bounds of what was expected and accepted by the content creator as a way of sharing the content.

—Duchess of Department

I'm in a relationship, and it's going smoothly but I'm losing interest. We're planning on breaking up when I move away, and I'm afraid that if I break up early it could be painful and awkward. What should I do?

—Scared Simon

The thirteen weeks of this semester might seem short, but that's a long time to pretend you're still interested in a relationship you would rather end. I

would suggest risking the awkwardness and breaking it off now as gently as you can. If a break-up now is too painful to allow him or her to continue being your friend, a break-up at the end of the semester—even a pre-planned one—would probably have been similarly challenging.

—Duchess of Department

One of the fastest ways to kill a relationship is a pre-planned break-up. You tend to start to get over the person while you are still together! Instead of saying when you will break up, set a date to re-evaluate your relationship and if that means breaking up at that point, then so be it, but at least you aren't in a relationship with an expiration date and feel forced to stick it out until the (bitter) end.

—Captain Dominatrix

Write to our columnists by sending a scan of your question via one of the campus printers to fscolumn@gmail.com.

**Frankly Speaking
sells ad space!**

\$20 per half-page

Horoscopes: Drunk and Lonely

Aries (March 21 – April 19): I see chocolate in your future. Preface those crunch bars with some crunches! Hit up the gym in preparation.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20): A big due date approaches. Step up the pace in the home stretch to beat your high score. Beef up your defense to score a three pointer in the final inning!

Gemini (May 21 – June 20): Get cracking on those resolutions. Quit your bad habits and start some good ones. Subtle nail polish discourages nail biting. Sticking to a routine cuts down on procrastination.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22): Your SO is thinking about dumping you. Break up with them first so you don't feel like a loser. (See D&D column)

Leo (July 23 – Aug. 22): Your relationship is perfect. Go you! Try mak-

ing out in hallways. Try the ModCon Lab to mix things up a bit! Your hall-mates will appreciate it.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22): Your love life is about to go up in flames. Will it be the heat of passion or the destructive blaze of the relationship from hell? Only time will tell. And Time just happens to be a closed-mouth strumpet who isn't going to tell you anything.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22): I see flowers in your future...aaand I see dead flowers slightly further. Don't even bother with that bullshit plant food. Throw them out before they start attracting flies.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21): Someone close to you is harboring a secret crush. Friendzone aggressively. Squash their dreams by repeatedly referring to them as your "BFF".

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 –

Dec. 21): Don't even think about asking out *that* person. I know you want to. Just don't. It will end so badly that your first thought upon the invention of time travel will be to go back in time and WRITE THIS HOROSCOPE.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 19): Your SO is the best. They would probably appreciate a nice potted plant for Valentine's Day.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18): Your crush will surprise you before class with a big revelation. Unfortunately, it will be that they are a terrible kisser. Kindly inform them that they should cut down on the tongue action and avoid them forever after.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20): Your ex will be showing off their new flame this month. Ignore them. They're feeling insecure because of your hot new look!

Want to write for Frankly Speaking?

Send us your articles at

SUBMIT@FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM

Write to the columnists

FSCOLUMN@GMAIL.COM

Or check out the website at

[HTTP://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM](http://FRANKLYSPEAKINGNEWS.COM)

Olin College of Engineering does not endorse and is not affiliated with Frankly Speaking.

Editor-in-Chief: Kelsey Breseman

Editors: Kendall Pletcher, Kai Austin, Abe Kim, Graham Hooton

Staff Writers: Jackie Rose, Columnists

Contributors: Ari Chae, Jordyn Burger, Janaki Perera, Jared Kirschner, Molly Farison, Amos Meeks, Elizabeth Mahon

Special thanks to Michael Maloney, Sally Phelps, Ian Hoover, and Jessica Bethune!