

Making Waves: Net Tips for University Students

This is a column I've decided to do in order to help those university students who don't know the Internet like the back of their hand. Some tips, some tricks, some recommendations and probably a whole lot of babbling, because I'm going to write this every week whether I have anything useful to say or not! But, for this week, at least, I should be able to help some of you out. How? Well, by this point in the year you probably all have your student accounts, and have learned to use e-mail. So far, so good...until you get e-mail from somebody who has been using it longer than you. Then look out! You'll see weird symbols flying all over the place, and a lot of acronyms, slang and lingo that are totally beyond your comprehension. But fear not, for I've compiled a little list of several of the most frequently used Internet jargon and symbols, and a rough guide to what they mean.

<g> - This symbol stands for a grin. There are numerous variations on this common symbol, including big grin <G>, evil grin <EG>, very evil grin <VEG>, and so on.

<ROTFL> - This symbol stands for laughter, more specifically, Rolling On The Floor Laughing.

A related one is <LOL>, or Lots of Laughter.

WWW - World Wide Web. Basically, a synonym for the Internet to most people. Also referred to as the Net. "Cyberspace" or "The Information(Super)Highway" aren't generally used on the Net-actually, people will probably make fun of you if you do.

Flame - this is a term used to describe when some-

body sends and e-mail or posts a message on a newsgroup (more on those next week) that is more or less a tirade of insults. These are sometimes personal, or sometimes just for a breach of net etiquette (Netiquette), such as chain letters or make money fast schemes.

Spam - this is a word used to describe anything pointless and useless, whether on e-mail or newsgroups.

ASCII - this is a very simple type of word processor (WordPerfect or Microsoft Word, conversely, are complex word processors) used frequently on the Internet or e-mail. The value of using this system as the standard is that nearly every word processor available in the world can read it or convert a document to it, making it much easier for people to send documents to each other, or for somebody to read them from a Web page.

sig - this isn't used in the message itself, but rather refers to a block of text that is

automatically added to any e-mail you send. .sig's come in all shapes and sizes, and come in all varieties, from interesting designs using ASCII characters, to humorous quotes, to just listing your e-mail address and organization. It's usually considered a breach of Netiquette to have one that is too- long, but not always. I, for one, have what I believe is the biggest .sig on the Net.

^_^ - this symbol, and others like it, are called "smileys", or "emoticons". They are very widely used to express emotions, such as:

^_^ - happy smiley

;-) - crying smiley

:p - smiley sticking out tongue (usually when making a humorous comment)

>_< - wincing smiley

0_o - surprised smiley

Well, that's all for this week! See you next time for a short discussion of Newsgroups, and how to use them.

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UPEI Well Represented at Atlantic Conference for Engineering Students

From September 26-29, students from all over the Atlantic provinces gathered in St. John's Newfoundland for the annual conference. Four delegates and one observer were sent to represent UPEI.

As a delegate, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. We toured the Institute for Marine Dynamics located at Memorial University as well as a tour of the construction

site of the Hibernia platform. We also had some excellent guest speakers offering their insights on such topics as engineering in today's business world. The round table discussions were a good opportunity to share opinions on many relevant issues issues facing engineering students today. Topics brought forth included the role of women in engineering, entrepeneuring, and engi-

Pss...

Beach Party!

On the glorious day of September 27 (the nicest day in two weeks, chosen by me) the Political Studies Society had a beach party...fortunately Annette and Frankie didn't make an appearance.

The party took place in Argyle Shore at the cottage of student Dianne Porter. The weather couldn't have been nicer, as the convoy of cars headed out of town. A friendly cat and mouse game erupted between two vehicles, and we will win the rematch. Some balloons welcomed the partiers to the cottage. After scaling the cliff, VP Clarey hit the water, as President I did some investigating as well. On the horizon we could see the newly named Confederation Bridge spanning the Strait.

All the professors were in attendance along with several of their dogs. The students present started several interesting conversations, communism, the Quebec issue, Halifax, Tignish, you name it, it was discussed. Like true politicians, we agreed on very little, except the fact that we were hungry.

The gourmet meal included corn (hand picked and shucked by me!), chicken

neering in the Atlantic region.

Although education and informative, there was also a lot of fun to be had at the conference. A few of the more adventurous souls decided to hike up Signal Hill. Apparently the night life of St. John's is quite lively (I chose to catch up on sleep and studying - honest). Jennifer, our fearless president, was a dancing queen

hotdogs prepared by our Chef Matt, chicken wings, and two pitchers of Tang brought to us by Tang's number one fan Jason Doucette. All in all the meal was great, topped off by VP Clarey's dessert (there was almost a brawl for the Naniamo Bars!).

The feat of the night was VP Clarey's incredible defeat of the President and past Queen of the Court, me, at the game of twenty one. The basketball gods were smiling on him, of course Matt didn't face the same fate (I whipped his butt!). Thanks to the peanut gallery for all their support. And beware, I am out to retain my title, this time on my court, ha ha ha!

All in all, the event was a success! All of those who missed it missed a great time. Thanks to the students who came as well as who brought stuff. Thanks to the professors who are always very supportive and who also brought a few beverages! The next meeting for PSS will be Oct 22, at 9am in the Politics Lounge in Main, hope to see you there! The next event is a US Presidential Election Party! Sounds like fun eh! Stay tuned!

- Yvonne MacKean

whose muscles were sore for days later. Jen's quote: "I never knew my back could bend back that far when I dance!"

So a good time was had by all - some of us just managed to stay more in control than others.

(Keep Shmoozin')

Ellen Dalton