ENGINEERS with a TOEHOLD in the arts

Things that Think
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The Cornell student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers triumphed in the upstate New York region concrete canoe competition held at Union College April 8.

The concrete canoe contest entails designing and building a boat out of concrete. The team, dubbed C4 (for Cornell Concrete Canoe Company), first won "best design paper" in the competition, then "best presentation" and finally went on to place first in the men's sprint and the men's long-distance races. The team also placed fourth in the women's sprint and third in the four-person, co-ed race.

Nine canoes competed in the upstate region contest. Cornell's toughest competitor was the U.S. Military Academy, which took a first in the women's sprint race and seconds and thirds in other competitions. Other teams were entered by Union College, Hudson Valley Community College, Clarkson University, the University of Buffalo, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Nassau Community College, which entered two teams.

Cornell men on the team were Troy Zezula, Dan Mullins, David Krell, Paras Shelawala and David Saunders. Cornell women were Martha DelCampo, Courtney Kimball, Karolyn Sutphin, and Lucie Fougner. Team members not competing were Rob O'Neill, John Tam, Peter Velez, and Ed Brillante.

The winning Cornell team suffered no major mishaps. The only damage that was inflicted on the boat occurred at the shore when a competitor's boat chipped a piece out of the gunwhale. But the canoe was repaired in time for the finals in Golden, Colo., hosted by the Colorado School of Mines, in June. It was Cornell's first visit to the nationals in a decade. Though the team was unsuccessful, they had their best showing ever, garnering ninth place in the best paper portion of the competition.

Cornell's student Formula SAE team scored well when the Society of Automotive Engineers' collegiate race car competition was held in Pontiac, Mich., May 17–21. Competing against 103 other teams from the United States and abroad, Cornell scored three firsts, two seconds, and two thirds, taking home $3,750 in prize money.

The overall winner of the competition was Texas A&M, with the University of Wisconsin being the runner-up. Cornell placed 13th overall, losing points after failing to finish the endurance event.