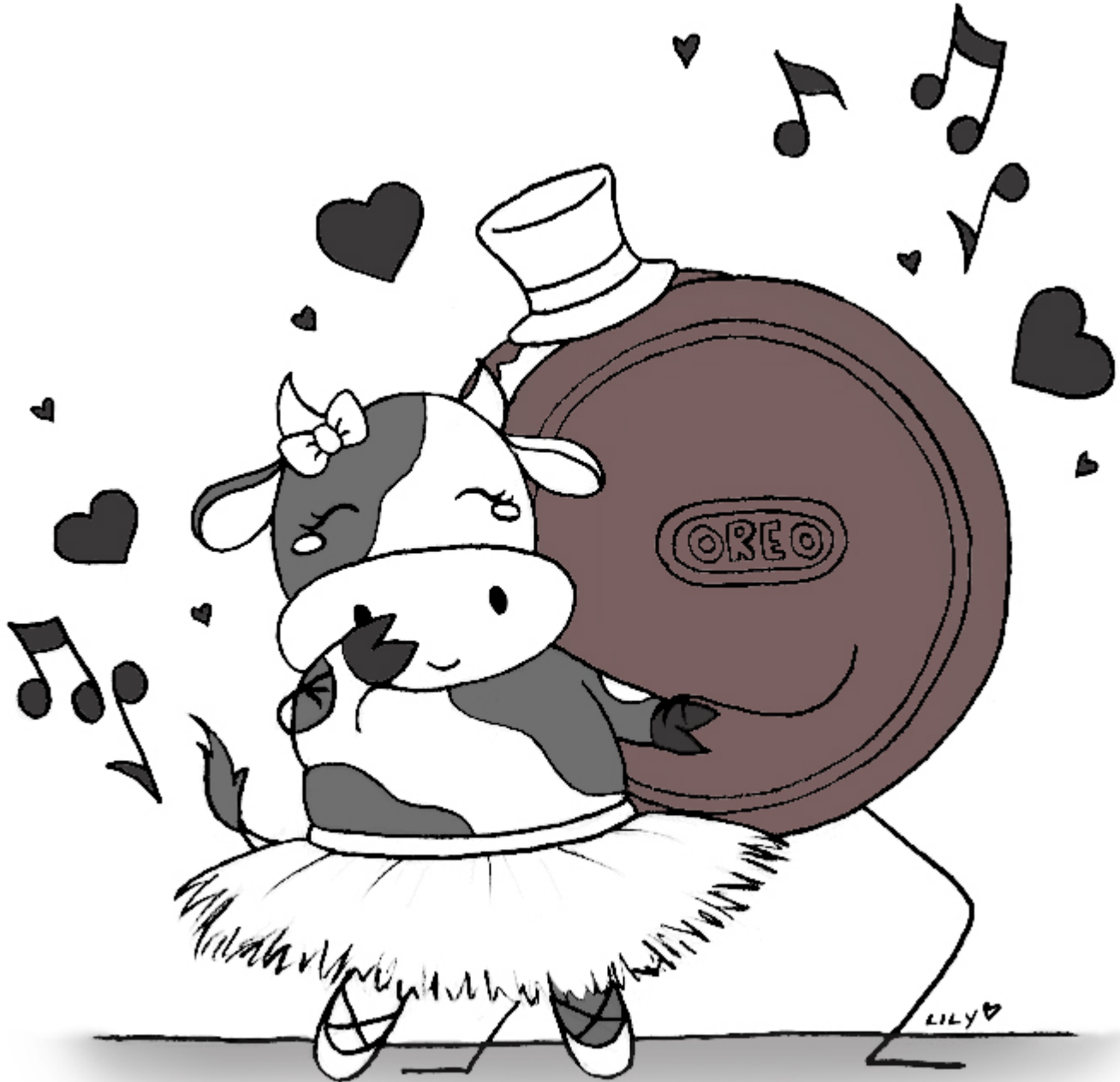


math NEWS

Volume 119, Issue 1

Friday, May 11th, 2012



Milk and Oreos: Made For Each Other!

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lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

May 11	Issue 1 does a little dance
May 28	Production Night for Issue 2 (finally)
June 1	Issue 2 arrives fashionably late

CECA

May 12	Job postings open
May 22	Job postings close (11:59 pm)
May 22-31	Employer Interviews

University

May 21	University Holiday
May 21	Drop, No Penalty period ends
May 22	Special Make-Up Date (Monday schedule will be used)

Misc

May 13	Mother's Day
May 17	Norwegian Constitution Day
May 21	Victoria Day
May 25	Towel Day

**See this chunk of text here?
This is called "filler".
If you come to our next
production night
on May 28 (meet outside the
MathSoc office)
you can write something for us
and that way you'll never
have to see filler again
(at least for a little while).**

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The editors: P-Body (Will Morrison) and Atlas (Murphy Berzish)

mastHEAD

It's a brand new term and the sun is high

It's the beginning of term, the birds are singing, the sun is shining, and you have class. You might even have enough time still to enjoy some of that weather, say, while travelling between MC and the SLC.

In other areas of the campus, the engineers are getting ready for another term with seven classes, the artsies are nowhere to be found, and the environment students are busy climbing trees and playing frisbee. The geese are busy fertilizing lawns, paths, and shoes across campus. Plaza is somewhat quieter without the usual assortment of students seeking sustenance. Which leads us to this issue's question: "Farah's no longer carries double stuffed Oreos. What will you substitute for them?"

(define this(not cool))("My seething rage") Ice Nine ("Fudgee-Os") Shay Blair ("my desire to be healthier") moment ("2 normal ones = 1 double stuffed Oreos + 1 chocolate cookie to be crumbled over ice cream") optimized Sleep ("Zzzzz, what?") waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca ("Double stuffed Oreos from Zehr's and a bus ride") Soviet Canadian ("some nice strudel and bienenstich") theDreamer ("Instant Noodle") maplebaconburger ("cherry coke") Zethar ("Magic") ScruffyED ("Dwarven Firewater") ConcealED ("Chocolate covered bacon")

Nyancat Sez

Nyannyannyan, nyannyan nyan. nyan nyannyan, nyannyan nyan nyan nyan nyan nyannyan - nyan!

Nyan nyan nyannyan. Nyan nyannyan, nyannyan nyan nyan nyannyan Nyannyan, nyan nyan nyannyan nyan nyan. Nyannyan! Nyan nyan nyannyannyan nyannyan. Nyannyannyan nyannyan nyan nyan nyannyan nyan nyannyan, Nyannyannyan nyan. Nyannyan nyannyannyan!

NyanNyanNyan
Nyan

**Volunteers are needed for
You@Waterloo Day**

Saturday, May 26
10 am - 2 pm

This event will be attended by students with offers of admission and their families.

We need volunteers to:

- Answer questions at our booth in the PAC
- Take visitors on tours of the Math Faculty facilities
- Participate in a clubs fair on MC 3rd floor

Training will be provided. Free t-shirt and pizza lunch!

Interested? Email: Gayle,ggoodfellow@uwaterloo.ca

MathFOC Sez

Hey Mathies!

Welcome to the Spring 2012 term at Waterloo! We hope you're having just as much fun as we are this term! Weekly office hours are now posted on the door of the Math Orientation Office. We've also posted an online version on the Math Orientation website as well, in case you were curious! All coordinator positions have been hired; stay tuned to the Math Orientation 2012 website for more details!

For those not involved in Orientation yet, Cross-Campus is still looking for leaders! Applications close soon, so please check out <http://uwaterloo.ca/orientation/opportunities> to sign up and volunteer in the awesomeness that is Orientation Week.

Stop by the MOO sometime and say hi!
Until next issue, mathies – remember to stay classy and work hard! :)

Amanda, Anna, Michael & Sacha
MathFOC 2012

GFC Sez

GFC's first excursion of the term will take place this Saturday at 2:27:41 AM in the graveyard. Following our previous successful outing to the Netherworld, we will go and bother the shrine maiden and see if we can get some tea before being thrown out. Come visit us in our office, GNSK219.

Maribel Hearn and Renko Usami
Ghostly Field Club

SSS Sez

Welcome to yet another term in the Afterlife Battlefield. This notice is for any of the other PCs which are in this forsaken school not under our scrutiny. Head towards our Anti-Angel Headquarters, located at NH3073, and sign up when we are in session; don't worry if you die, we'll collect your body.

This purgatory is a vengence of god, and the infernal council as well; He seeks to destroy our individuality and conform to the standards of life. Is the suffering that we went through in life not enough to satisfy your divine thirst of blood? Your "benevolence" shall not claim more lives here - we shall fight you and your Angels in vengence and with earnest. These injustices shall not go unanswered!

If reading the preceeding paragraph makes your blood boil, you'll fit right in - we'll hand you weapons and provide you with all you need to survive without being eradicated.

Members: We will be commencing Operation Tornado on Monday. Don't be late.

Yuri Nakamura

CMC Sez

There's a cute-ceañera this afternoon and everypony in my class will be there and they'll all have their cutie marks and I wanna get my cutie mark but I'm no good at selling apples but I really wanna go to the party but how can I go to the party if I don't have my cutie mark which my big sister says I'm gonna get eventually but... I WANT IT NOOOOW!

Apple Bloom
Cutie Mark Crusaders, Spring 2012

SOS Sez

Let's commence the first SOS Brigade meeting! We've done a lot to get this far. We passed out flyers and we even made a home page. The celebrity of the SOS Brigade in this school has skyrocketed! This first stage can be considered a huge success! However, not a single tale of mysterious happenings has reached our brigade's e-mail inbox and not a single student has come in for consultation regarding bizarre troubles.

Someone once said, good things come to those who wait. However, we live in the modern world now! You have to find the good for yourself, even if you have to dig through the ground! That's why we're going to search for the mysteries of this world!

People who have experienced something mysterious in the past. People who have run into something mysterious recently. People who plan on a mysterious experience in the near future. If any of the above apply to you, please come see us! We'll solve your problem on the spot! However, a normal mystery won't do. It has to be a mystery that wows us! Make note of that!

Suzumiya Haruhi
Brigade Chief and Founder

HVZ Sez

BRAAA
AA
AAINS

the zombies

TCP Sez

SYN
SYN/ACK
ACK

FIN/ACK
FIN/ACK
RFC 793

GLaDOS Sez

It says here in your file that you tend to eat when you're nervous. Exams weren't that long ago either.

Genetic Lifeform and Disk Operating System
Aperture Science

New Psychology Course Proposed

A new psychology course is being considered for addition into the program. This would be a practical course intended to give students hands-on experience observing upper year math students in their natural environment: the real time lab.

Minor changes would be necessary to the lab. One-way glass would be installed in order to hide the psychology students and ensure natural behaviour in the subjects. Recording devices, audio and visual, will also be installed in order to capture data for future reference. Waivers would become mandatory for any math students taking the course, and math students would be required to remain in the lab overnight over certain time periods.

However, the benefit offered to psychology students would outweigh the minor drawbacks. The psychology students would gain real world experience in the field of stress and the induced mental breakdowns. Math students would be provided with food and drinks as incentive, and the requirement of sleeping in the lab will only minorly impact their current habits. This proposed psychology course will allow valuable insight into the psychology of math students and eventually aid the understanding of the psychosis induced by the lab.

Overall, a valuable experience offered to psychology students at minimal cost to math students will hopefully soon be instated.

Yours in scientific curiosity,
Shay Blair.

So Easy, Your Grandmother Could Do It

I've decided that I should be able to explain my ideas for computer projects in such a way that people with non-technical backgrounds can understand them. However, to explain my solution fully, some terminology and background is required.

Sometimes you want to use a public internet connection, for example, in a coffee shop, but you don't want the providers of that connection to be able to tell what you're doing with it. This could be for several reasons, from avoiding tracking activities by the Internet Service Provider, (ISP) or getting around an overly restrictive firewall. Most firewalls in these situations will allow at least web browsing traffic through.

The majority of internet users will be doing web browsing. This is made possible by a communication protocol called HTTP, which effectively allows a user to ask a webserver for, and receive, a web page. However, all of this communication can be intercepted and changed by the ISP. This presents a problem when you do something that you don't want the ISP to see, like logging into your bank's website. This problem is fixed using a second protocol, called SSL. SSL allows two computers, generally yours and the webserver, to set up an encrypted connection, and be certain that the content you get is what the webserver sent, rather than something the ISP or another party has modified or seen. HTTP is then run normally inside this encrypted SSL connection. This HTTP over SSL is more usually known as HTTPS.

Windows 8: The Magic of Touchscreens

The Windows 8 Consumer Preview has been out for quite some time now, and if you haven't tried it already you really should. Windows 8 is the most revolutionary operating system of all time. This magical piece of software manages to convert your otherwise ordinary computer into a magical touchscreen computer. It gets rid of the boring ordinary Windows UI and replaces it with a series of increasingly colourful squares, which makes even launching a program an exciting adventure.

Windows also finally adopted Apple's incredible idea of not actually making a program close when you tell it to. Sadly, some programs still behave like they would on Windows 7, but soon every program will be an app, and closing them will merely banish them to some menu that I never know how to find. Although seemingly awful, these menus are really the most wonderful innovation in Windows 8. Microsoft has moved away from the dated notions of having menus appear when you click on things, and instead took the modern approach of having them appear when you move your cursor in obscure patterns. These menus are never there to clog up your screen, and they always end up appearing as long as you shake your mouse long enough. In short, Windows 8 is a wonderful operating system, and should be used universally. Its ability to magically transform an old, boring Windows computer into a shiny touch-screen computer is really something to behold!

A third protocol that needs introducing is something called SOCKS, which allows a client to request that a SOCKS server, or proxy, connect to a third party, and relay data between the client and this third party. You can think of a SOCKS server as something like a mailman. You address the letter, (connection data) which allows the mailman (SOCKS server) to deliver it to your friend. The address on the envelope is the SOCKS protocol, telling the server where you want it relayed.

The problem we now face is how to make arbitrary connections to the outside world that cannot be read, modified, or blocked by the ISP. Let us assume we own a server (the proxy) on the internet that is not restricted as to the connections it can make to web servers. We (the client) cannot simply make a SOCKS request to our proxy however, as that does not fulfill our stated goals. The ISP could easily see that it was SOCKS traffic and not web browsing, and furthermore, SOCKS offers no encryption to stop prying eyes or modification. We also can't make direct connections to arbitrary web servers, as they don't all support HTTPS.

My proposed solution is to first establish an SSL connection to our proxy, then speak SOCKS over that connection. The SSL layer gives us our goals of privacy and tamper-proofing, and the SOCKS protocol will allow us our arbitrary connections. Even better, we can make our SSL connection virtually indistinguishable from legitimate web browsing to HTTPS enabled sites. Problem solved.

Concealed

Rainbow Mathies 21

Safety, Dating, Relationships, and Sex in the Digital Age

Hello mathies! Welcome to yet another summer term on campus. Whether you're working, schooling, or still trying to find a job (like me!), I hope you get to go out and enjoy the upcoming nice weather at some point. Of course, if you're one of those lucky ones who get to take the summer off to relax, travel, and take a break from life for four months, I hope it inconveniently rains for you whenever you happen to step outside, just out of jealousy. Since it is a summer term, all of my articles this term are going to centre around a theme. This term, I decided to tackle Dating, Relationships, and Sex in the Digital age. Throughout the next five or six articles, this column will discuss topics like Online Dating, Cruising on the Web, Long-Distance Relationships, and more. (I'll be taking a break one week to talk about various Pride events happening around Southern Ontario.) I'm not going to lie, this term has got me pretty excited.

Before we can get talking about the good stuff, I feel I need to start with the obligatory topic of online safety. Dating and sex have always brought along their fair share of physical, mental, and emotional risks. If one is not careful, introducing the Internet to the equation may just prove to be a recipe for disaster. Anonymity, ease of contact, and connectivity from the comfort of *wherever* all mean the medium can be (and is) used by every sort of person, and not all of them necessarily have your best interests at heart. With that said, by every sort of person I do mean every, including those who would prove to be a wonderful match. Working safely within this medium to find those great matches can be tricky, but I've got a few tips to make things easier.

Focus on comfort first. One of the easiest ways to find yourself in a sticky situation is when online is moving too quickly. Before agreeing to meet, be sure to take enough time to connect and dialog with the other party. Make sure that everyone is on the same page in terms of what to expect and what to avoid. Remember that people's online personas can sometimes be quite different than their offline personalities, and that this isn't necessarily due to deceit, but just the nature of online communication. Make sure you're in a place where you can be comfortable even if these differences emerge. Finally, if you find yourself knowing there is no way you could feel comfortable in the situation, then trust your gut and cease contact with the other side. You have no obligation to them, and there will always be other people to connect with. Plus, if you can't trust yourself and your own feelings, how can you expect to trust another person's?

Don't be afraid to ask questions. This is strongly related to the point above about trusting yourself and finding comfort. Feeling doubt or curiosity are wonderful, natural indications of what is important for you to find out about your partner(s) to be as safe as possible. Clearing up these doubts and curiosities will put yourself in the best place and making going forward, if desirable, much easier. You may be hesitant to ask some questions because they feel invasive or because they may sway the other party into deciding not to pursue this connection. You may even decide to ignore these questions, or choose to ask

them after you've met. In most cases, though, I strongly recommend against these decisions. Even these invasive questions need to get asked before deciding to meet, because you will have so much more control over the conversation when there isn't the pressure of being face-to-face for a certain period of time. Always remember that your safety is always more important than the other person's privacy or comfort when the information (like HIV status, for example) is need-to-know.

Meet in public. This is an obvious one. Meeting in public just means that you have an exit strategy in case something goes sour early on. Be sure to meet someone where there are people regularly around, and that you stay in the area talking with the other party to ensure you are still comfortable.

Demand an identifying photo. This serves two purposes. Firstly, having such a photo puts the power of recognition into your hands, and by having it you can know who you are going to be expected to meet. It's much easier to get away from a meet if you can see the person coming from a distance than if you're randomly approached and forced into a conversation. It also can function as a sort of "test" to make sure that at least some of the info provided by the other party has been accurate. If someone does approach you, and they look nothing like the picture they sent you, do not continue to connect with them (because, after all, what else could they have been lying about?).

Tell someone what you're doing. Establish someone you trust to be your confidant. When you go to meet someone you met online, send them all the information you have about the other party. Figure out a way of confirming to your confidant that everything is going well, and make sure that they are willing to respond appropriately if you do not confirm this. This should be done even if your partner(s) has/have asked for discreetness, because to be frank, your safety is leagues more important than a second, likely unrelated, person knowing about your encounter. If they are really concerned, let them know what you are doing and why you are doing it, and let them decide whether or not they are still comfortable seeing you.

If you are queer-identified, and are looking for someone to talk to or for supportive allies, there are always resources available to you. You can learn more about GLOW and its offerings, including a phone line, at www.knowyourglow.ca. Counseling Services is always available to you; their offices are open 8:30-8MTTh and 8:30-4:30WF, located in Needles Hall across from Student Awards and Financial Aid. If you need support and assistance immediately, you can call the Waterloo Crisis Center at 519-745-1166. If you'd feel more comfortable speaking with someone from a queer specific service, please contact the GLBT Youthline at 1-800-268-9688. Finally, if you have any comments and concerns about this column, including ideas on topics you'd would like to see, you can contact me at dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca.

Join me next issue when I start a two-part article on Online Dating, providing general tips and tricks on how to find that special someone for the long haul online.

(define this (not cool))

Observations about Spring Term

Seeing as it's my second spring term on campus, I thought I'd share some of my observations from last time, for those experiencing their first spring term.

- **There is a lack of food on campus.** In regular terms, it's always convenient to grab a little snack between classes, or to work in the lab and only emerge for dinner at one of the cafeterias. Unfortunately, in the spring term, the number of campus places offering food diminishes exponentially after 3:00 PM.
- **There is a lack of people on campus.** This may be a good or a bad thing. It's great because the hallways and buses are typically less crowded, but then again, campus is empty. One of my clubs had only three regulars showing up every week.
- **Your non-Waterloo friends probably aren't in school.** It's depressing to go on Facebook and see your friends talk about their vacation and summer break, and then look at the stack of assignments sitting on your desk. Plus, nobody understands when you start complaining about midterms.
- **The weather is nice.** I personally hated winter term night classes, because it was so cold outside. In fact, the walk to class was so unpleasant that I eventually stopped going to class. Fortunately, it's now spring term, so such walks are rather pleasant now.
- **The weather is maliciously nice.** Yes, it's nice weather, but really, the weather is out to get you. I mean, the sun is out, it's nice and warm... and your concentration starts slipping, and next thing you know, you're outside playing Frisbee instead of studying. Whoops.
- **The sun is trying to kill you.** Evidence: last year's heatwave, with temperatures reaching 40C with the humidex. If the place where you're living doesn't have A/C, I can only wish you the best of luck. As a side note, the RCH basement ~~class~~ lecture halls never looked so inviting.

Anyway, it might seem like I hate the spring term, but I actually quite like it. Sure, there isn't enough food and the weather can be particularly cruel, but it's always nice to wake up after the sun rises, and walk out of the lecture hall when the sun's still up.

Words in Rhyme

Summer Edition

After a winter of almost no snow
The plants again started to grow
They grew and they grew
'Til the sky they broke through
Everyone just went with the flow

After the plants grew up to the sky
The birds could no longer fly
The animals now dead
One person now lead
All of their fates were now nigh

RHYMING IS HARD
RedMetal

theDreamer Plays Bad Games

It seems that I'm a masochist, because I keep on doing this: buying cheap, cheap games on sale, and then discovering why they were on sale for 99% off in the most brutal fashion. Screw you too, Steam and the indie game market. Screw you too.

Round 1: FIGHT!

Flatout: To preface, this game came out in 2005, so most of my complaints may have been fixed with subsequent releases. I don't know, but fuck this game. The premise is decent: demolition derby street racing type thing, but when you crash, your body goes flying out the windshield, which leads to shenanigans of trying to hit targets with your driver, or other cars, or whatever. And that's about it for good. The PC game only works with the keyboard (forward to accelerate, left and right arrows to turn, etc), so say goodbye to smooth controls. Seriously: caught in a wall? ENTER A DONUT. Want to quickly take a corner? DO A BARREL ROLL. ALSO A DONUT. Because fuck you, that's why. Also, if you break your car, you have to press R to reset, which teleports you at full health to some point on the track. Immersion? LOL NOPE. I've played for about an hour, and I have yet to beat a single race. I just end up rage quitting over the terrible controls. Though it looks decent enough for a 7 year old game. I guess I forgot that in the list of OK things.

So there you have it, Flatout for PC is bad. AND I HAVE SPARE STEAM KEYS. Have at it, fellow masochists!

4C5IV-CXV4X-PN5DA,4C5KE-JFN0Y-NRTIK, 4C5LJ-CFXLG-HLZYZ

#include <wit.h>
theDreamer

The World's Most Interesting Algorithm

#lang scheme

```
(define (bubblesort lst)
  (define new-1st (bubblesort-iterate lst))
  (cond [(equal? lst new-1st) new-1st]
        [else (bubblesort new-1st)]))
(define (bubblesort-iterate lst)
  (cond [(empty? (rest lst)) lst]
        [(<= (first lst) (first (rest lst)))
         (cons (first lst)
               (bubblesort-iterate (rest lst)))]
        [else (bubblesort-swap lst)]))
(define (bubblesort-swap lst)
  (cons (first (rest lst))
        (cons (first lst)
              (rest (rest lst))))))
```

Forced Perspective

My kingdom for a Monster Cable

There's pricey; there's expensive; there's darn expensive; and then there's the crap they try to sell to suckers under the guise that a digital signal can magically be made to sound better by using a better cable, better headphones, etc. Protip: digital signals do not work that way. Why, for just a few hundred dollars of co-op money, you could earn yourself no statistically significant improvement in sound quality! It's an expensive placebo effect, and I can't tell if this is funny or really really scary.

To help you put this into perspective, I propose the immediate adoption of a new measure of value: the "audiophlorin". One audiophlorin (1 Af) is equivalent to the current market price of the most ludicrously expensive consumer-grade headphones available. At the moment, these would be a pair made by Sennheiser for roughly \$300. So, let's see what various useful things you could be buying instead of magical thinking:

- 0.005 Af: one litre of gas. Cook food! Perform hydrocarbon experiments! Light yourself on fire!
- 0.1 Af: Whose Line is it Anyway on DVD. Learn what sound the arctic tern makes! Find out how to escape from hairy ice holes! Featuring do-it-yourself instructions for how to make a big stick with a big nose on it!
- 0.295 Af: 1440 golf pencils. Poke things! Slay vampires! Take lots and lots and lots and lots of notes!
- 0.5 Af: RIDGID circular saw. Do some projects! Make a flowerbox! Arm yourself for the zombie apocalypse!
- 0.67 Af: a copy of Action 52 for the NES at original retail price. Featuring the Cheetahmen! 52 "great" "games" at under 0.013 Af per game!
- 1 Af: 10 of the world's largest gummy bears. Each bear weighs 5 pounds and is equivalent to 1400 regular-sized bears. Stay awake during class and put hummingbirds to shame!
- 2 Af: AMD Opteron 6-core processor. Be the first club on your block to collect 'em all!
- 3 Af: MCF5445X Coldfire evaluation board. Better than the ones in the ECE labs and a whole lot more fun! C compiler not included!
- 4.13 Af: colour printout from MathSoc of every page of Homestuck. That's really all there is to say on the matter.
- 10.78 Af: 120 copies of Minecraft. Simultaneously bring down the averages of every single person in your class!
- 13.3 Af: Limited Edition Renaissance Encyclopedia Britannica. Knowledge is power! Crush insects beneath the might of these beautifully bound volumes!
- 10-30 Af: one term of tuition at UW. Run from geese and enjoy our beautiful campus construction!
- 20.8 Af: 120 copies of all three Problem Sleuth books. Ascension! Alignment! Conjugation!
- 1078.7 Af: APC 400 kW Uninterruptible Power Supply. Don't let anything — not even blackouts, nuclear war, or the collapse of civilization — come between you and Angry Birds!

ScruffyED

The mathNEWS Sports Report!

Hello all, and welcome to what hopefully becomes a feature here in *mathNEWS*: a sports report! Well, for this term, at least. I intend to detail some of the important sports-related news items since the last issue, or perhaps until I decide that no one cares anymore. Also, you may be able to briefly follow conversations on these topics, which could save you social embarrassment.

Firstly, it's roughly halfway through the second round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs in the NHL, and so far we've had a number of somewhat surprising upsets, an impressive sweep, and a 25-game suspension, along with many nasty hits and amazing goaltending performances. Surely, history will be made, because it's the Cup, etc. At this point, fans of the Canucks have decided to resume caring about the playoffs, because the LA Kings just swept the St. Louis Blues; the Kings are really damn good, and completely betray their seeding. Phoenix is riding another hot goaltender, Mike Smith; they're in the Western Conference Finals now, which looks to be a very low scoring affair. Brodeur is back(!) in New Jersey, as the Devils probably have closed out Philly by now, and the Washington/New York series has gone basically the same way as the Ottawa/New York series: the underdog takes the favourite to the ropes. If it goes to seven, watch the final tomorrow.

We note that baseball has been upon us for over a month now! This is exciting for fans of, well, most teams, not including the Yankees (MARIANOOOOO), the Red Sox (what pitching staff?), the Mariners (Phil Humber threw a perfect game against them, really), and a couple others. Even the Astros have something to be cheerful about, because their 5'5" 2B Jose Altuve has a .900+ OPS, and looks like a world-beater. Hopefully he keeps that up. Back in the AL East, Baltimore looks too good to be true, but their DH, Chris Davies, threw two shutout innings against the Red Sox on Sunday, with nothing but something that looked like a split-finger fastball. Yes, the Red Sox suck, but that was awesome. The Blue Jays are doing reasonably well, for Jose Bautista slumping horribly (somewhat surprising), as well as Brett Lawrie (not so surprising) and Adam Lind (don't tell me you didn't see this coming). The rotation is coming along, although they may have brought Drew Hutchinson up too early. We'll see.

Basketball playoffs apparently started. The world rolled over and went back to sleep. Apparently interesting things happened, I guess? Couldn't tell you, sorry. Also, intramural sports at UW start soon, with registration "ending" last Friday. If you want to play, contact the convenor of the sport and they'll probably fit you in, or find someone who is looking for people for their team. Finally, London 2012 is July 27 through to August 12! That is, basically overlapping with exams. It's the perfect distraction! Rumour has it that Comfy may be doing something special. Anyways:

That's it, that's all!

(But I'll be waiting there with open arms to break your fall)
Scythe Marshall

Russian Reviews: Project Zomboid

Project Zomboid shows how fire is more dangerous than zombies

Project Zomboid is an Isometric Zombie Survival RPG. You are plopped down in Knox County's small city of Muldraugh, Kentucky with only the clothes on your back, and the character traits you chose. Your goal? Survive as long as possible. There is no way of escaping, there is no cure, there is no end to the hordes. You must do what you can to survive. You will need weapons, many weapons. You will need food, medicine, shelter, and just possibly, a few helping hands.

If you search the city, you can find all of these things, but it is not guaranteed that you will find them *and* get away safely. A bite from a zombie is sure to infect you; even a scratch is rather likely of infection, where infection equals sickness that leads to death and revival as a zombie. Plus, if zombies don't get you, a survivor with a loaded shotgun might do you in, if you don't starve, keel over from sickness, or die from one of the many other ways out there, including fire. Fire has been the end of my game more than anything else. In the demo it ended my game because it crashed the demo; in the 'full' version, it killed me because there was no way of putting it out (and I was stupid enough to try to anyway).

There are plenty of ways to die, but this is OK since that is to be expected in the Apocalypse. The difficulty adds to the fun; when your character dies and it shows you how long you lasted, you only feel like doing better, not that you have failed. You think about what got you killed — you shot off a shotgun when you had no escape route and attracted a horde that you couldn't escape; you were carrying too much and were too exhausted to fight off the small pack that cornered you; you set off an alarm and didn't distance yourself fast enough — and work to avoid such mistakes in the future.

You can pick up the free pre-alpha demo from the Project Zomboid site, or purchase the WIP Alpha that will guarantee all future updates (similar to Minecraft). The longest I have made is 15 days and 8 hours, but some have made it over a year. How long will you last?

Soviet Canadian

Greek Nazis? Say it ain't so!

Greece recently had an election. The winning party gets fifty extra seats just for the virtue of being in first, but other than this, they have a form of proportional representation which allows various opinions and ideologies to enter the parliament.

Turns out, lack of jobs and people yelling about immigrants makes people actually consider fascism as a legitimate ideology! Who knew? The neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn got 7% of the vote. In comparison, the "winning" party PASOK, the third-way social democrats, got less than 20% of the vote. Between this and Italy, I think we've finally found how to end Duverger's Law: splitters and crazies.

Waterloo Implements Quantum Midterm Scheme

If that's not the case – wait, we're screwed either way

It all started so innocently with a denied room booking request from a club on Friday nights, then it escalated to a flurry of letters between the administration, the clubs director and club presidents. A leaked e-mail had indicated that the reason for the prohibition on Friday evening events is because the professors need all the rooms for midterms.

This could mean that all the rooms are filled up every week because the number of midterms in classes will be raised such that the monopoly on space is justified, but that is a logistical nightmare for the professors and unless the administration wishes to torment students and profs alike, it is an unlikely course of action. However, a bird has unearthed the following dastardly plan to light:

Since portions of the administration already belittle students to such a degree, they have successfully generalized and applied quantum concepts to the students. Using the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, quantum probability, and quantum superposition, they allow students to write multiple instances of the same exam at the same time (although without observing it it's hard to know if the exams are the same or different), and thus allows for a better assessment of the academic abilities of students.

Pilot testers of this new scheme report confusion and distress after the exam, but these results are statistically indistinguishable from regular exams. Academically, however, lacking computers which can adequately handle the quantum information, resort to the approximate method where they observe the exam, collapsing it to a non-quantum state and then grading that. Theory tells us that it gives approximately true results, but the students are skeptical.

When asked of a regular student what they thought of this scheme, one student responded, "What, they're merging Quantum with Scheme now? The end is nigh!". Surely such howls from the student body will reach the administration's ear.

Zethar

The fun thing is, the KKE, a Stalinist party, is also in the parliament. There has already been some smashing-up of the fascist offices by anarchists. With all this going on, civil war, or Macedonian adventurism may be ahead, what with Greece having a fairly large military. Will this be the tinderbox that once again sets Europe ablaze as Weimar Germany was? With a lack of major allies, it is unlikely for such an event to occur, but one thing is for sure, Europe will not be peaceful for long, with Greece and other maligned countries having around 50% youth unemployment each, and Spain reaching 25% unemployment overall.

Stay safe, my friends. We live in interesting times.

Ice Nine

Foundation of the MOSS

The Mathematically Ordered Secret Society has finally joined the ranks of the illustrious groups Engineers Gathering Great Secrets, Magical Artsies' Declarations, Science Students Stealing Stuff, Treat Red Environments Excellently, and Healthy Enchiladas Lack Poise. Daily meetings will be held in the farthest corner of each cafeteria simultaneously. Any engineers who try to infiltrate will be met with stern looks. Any math students left unattended nearby will be given a free espresso and a puppy.

Want to join? Search out our shadowy leader and ask their permission to embark on a quest to prove your loyalty.

Beware of the double agents: Software Engineers.

Yours in mystery,
Shay Blair.

N Things To Do on a *mathNEWS* Hiatus

Waldo is sad that there won't be any more mathNEWS issues out until June 1st

- Celebrate Mother's Day and show appreciation for her (how you do so is up to you)
- Take the day off for Victoria Day
- Go to Anime North, take photos of cosplay, purchase some art, hang out with friends, par-tay (a bit), and enjoy
- Attempt to endure the first midterms and re-learn some math (not doing math for a term can really hinder your numeric ability), panicking optional
- Get involved, join some clubs, participate in some events (Humans vs. Zombies will be starting up and there'll be Mod positions available! Contact uwhumansvszombies@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding this term's game or are interested in becoming a Mod!)
- Congress 2012 will be going on from May 26 until June 2, so maybe you'll be able to catch a lecture on something interesting or something
- Listen to random wharrgarbl at the next mathNEWS production night where you can write or draw or just stop by for the company! You do get pizza if you contribute though. New writers = ALWAYS welcome ^ ^

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Motherly Love

This Sunday, May 13th, is Mother's Day. So go home, give her a hug, or at least call her. Seriously.

Soviet Canadian

profQUOTE

"I like to kill things."

Dan Wolczuk, WatSFic RPGA Session

Ambiguous Video Game Quiz

Here is this edition's quiz, as always drop off your answers in the *mathNEWS BLACKBOX* on the 3rd floor by the Comfy lounge.

1. A running maid.
2. Lagging is good.
3. Game-ception?
4. Shoot all the asteroids!
5. You play it for the music.
6. That's not how hacking works!
7. Two player coop, where you can carry your team mate.
8. The best Doom clone!
9. Darkness is your friend.
10. Boobs don't move like that.

Optimized Sleep & theDreamer

N Things Observed While Watching ScruffyED Use an iMac

Waldo should've gotten some popcorn.

- The iMac can be very slow to load certain windows
- Firefox fails at opening
- The first time opening Safari may cause a heart attack when you are smashed in the face by an apple
- Windows don't size properly
- Minimizing and maximizing windows can be frustrating when the opposite of what you intended to happen happens
- Double clicking on nothing opens a tab
- Opening a new tab gives an annoying menu that can be baffling
- Yelling and screaming in annoyance
- Confusion with regards on iMac use in general
- Keyboard keys switched on you!
- Secretaries need better headphones than audiophiles and studios
- The screens can be very dirty
- You know you've been watching too much anime when you typed "maid" instead of "made"

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[prez@whitehouse.gov:~] # :(){:|:&}::

Follow us on Facebook
(*mathNEWS*), on Twitter (@*UWmathnews*), or in person (MC 3030)!

Submit your *profQUOTES* to the **BLACK BOX** (by the Comfy Lounge) or email them to us at mathnews@gmail.com!



gridCOMMENTS
Wanna play a little game?

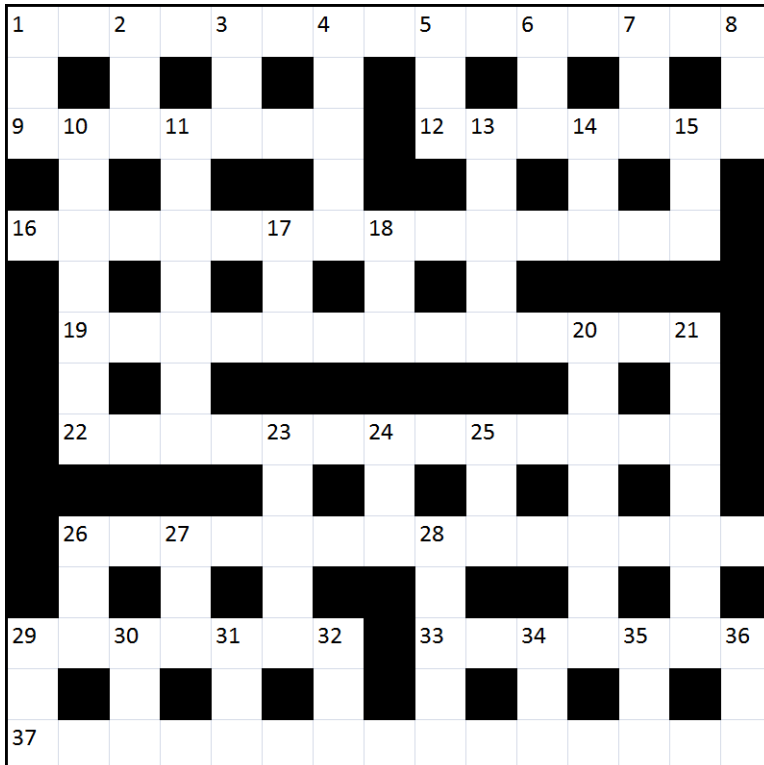
A new term, filled with new students and new articles consisting entirely of me begging for submissions for the gridWORD, so PLEASE PLEASE SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THE GRIDWORD PLEASE I WILL BE YOUR BEST FRIEND FOREVER.

ahem

I should be okay now. Keep in mind that you have three weeks to get your answers in; the deadline for submissions is May 28th at 6:30 p.m. (in the BLACKBOX just outside the Comfy Lounge).

Want a Clue for the theme this week? Sorry!

moment



Straight Clues

Across

1. *Naval warfare board game with cargo vessels?
9. Set apart
12. Tasks
16. *X's and O's with keratin materials?
19. *Board game involving properties and three-dimensional shapes?
22. *Lord Licorice's board game, set in the city dump?
26. *Rube Goldberg board game, made entirely of a specific shape?
29. Supplements
33. Sensitivity
37. *Disc line-up game extended to 3.5 times normal?

Down

1. Health measurement based on height and weight
2. <-
3. Field
4. Throw
5. Fury
6. Blemish
7. Sister
8. Sister
10. Talking about vibrations?
11. Confide
13. Farm
14. Luke's dad to Binks
15. Spanish for 2 down
17. Chalice
18. Grease
20. Light rain
21. Teaming up with
23. Produce
24. Broadcast
25. Plunge
26. Frenetic
27. Abu Dhabi country
28. San Antonio battle
29. Crescent
30. Atelier
31. Bill (of Science fame)
32. Option key
34. Desert Bus for Hope drivers
35. Grieve
36. Negative, dark, and feminine