fig.1

WELCOME BACK!
(quack!)

*look*AHEAD

Call for Computer Science volunteers!

Help our admitted students entering in 2014 choose Waterloo for computer science by celebrating their successes and sharing your program experiences. Faculty and staff will be on hand to answer admission-related questions.

WHAT: You@Waterloo Day (`cs.uwaterloo.ca/events/youwaterloo-day`)

WHEN: Saturday, May 24 from 10AM to 2PM

WHERE: Physical Activities Centre (PAC)

Volunteers will receive a free lunch, t-shirt, and cupcake!

Volunteer orientation: Wednesday, May 21 from 5PM to 6PM in DC1302. Snacks will be provided.

To participate, email Heather Steinmetz, `h2steinm@uwaterloo.ca`.

Heather Steinmetz

*mast*HEAD

As a newly and non-democratically elected editor for *math*NEWS, I decided to have submissions due on Tuesday mornings. I had planned to wake up with the rising sun at 7AM, make my way downstairs, and out of the house. Unfortunately, I woke up late, and figuratively watched the clock on my phone tick on and on while waiting at the bus stop, until I saw my friends there. When the bus finally came, we were kicking our way through the crowd at the front of the bus to sit in the back seats. However, there were not many seats left, so my friends and I had to sit separately, and I had to make up my mind on which seat to take.

As you may know, although *math*NEWS is distributed on Fridays (I hope you're looking forward to the long weekend), writers meet up earlier in the week for production night. During this particular production night, there was much shouting about the upcoming election. So this week we asked the writers, "Which political party would you like to found?"

Stubbs ("The Helix Party of Canada. All Hail Helix!"); Shay Blair ("HYDRA"); $s, t \epsilon \{2k, k \epsilon \mathbb{Z}\}, 144$ ("The Surprise Party"); theSMURF ("The 'We Take Bribes' Party"); ScruffyED ("The Secret Society of Commie Mutant Traitors"); k! ("The Adventuring Party, which consists of merchants, bards, and warlords."); Meaningless-Quips ("The Enthusiastic Consent Party"); MuffinED ("Tech Support, the solution to all your problems"); \& ("Ain't no party like a Pyongyang party, because attendance is MANDATORY"); BlueberryMuffin ("The Birthday Party"); Ice Nine ("The Anti-Monarchist League. The Republican Party of Ontario already exists (former Freedom Party member) also not American Republicans."); VeryFilmy ("Fantasy Fighters, a party based on the grounds of implementing the government of the leading fantasy novel."); waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca ("Party like it's 1999!"); psycho-math ("Cat-lovers of Canada Unite!"); Zethar ("I don't think the draconic conspiracy needs to found *another* political party..."); Soviet Canadian ("The People's Party of Kharaa"); Cantalan ("Mathematicians for Educational Reform"); zysygy ("politician LF votes. will not tank")

bunniED ("Fun fun fun fun.")

More UAC News

Last semester, student representatives lobbied to the Undergraduate Academic Committee (UAC) to have policies changed within the Faculty of Mathematics that are inherently discriminatory toward those with chronic mental illness. It was considered that the limit on the maximum number of unsuccessful course attempts be erased from course requirements, but the action was tabled.

This semester, a sub-committee is being formed, which will include student representatives and representatives from Counselling Services, AccessAbility, and the UAC.

If you have any feedback on being a student with chronic mental illness in the Faculty of Mathematics, feel free to submit it via the **BLACK BOX** on the south end of the third floor MC.

k!

New Science Fiction Anthology From Canadian Cartoonist

Newfoundland artist Joseph Hewitt has been making comics in Korea since 2011. His imprint, Polar Bear Comix, has recently moved into ebooks with titles available on both Amazon Kindle and Comixology. He has just started a crowdfunding campaign for his latest project, a science fiction anthology called Alien Lives.

"As a child, I remember seeing all of these weird comics in my father's graphic design magazines," said Joe. "I was fascinated by them. [...] In this project I'm trying to recapture that sense of wonder, of being in an unfamiliar and slightly scary place."

To help recreate that feeling, the book will be printed with some stories in English and others in Korean, with subtitles running along the bottom of each page. This will be the first Polar Bear Comix offering done in collaboration with other artists. Ambs Myers, of the webcomic Killer Spoons, will be providing the illustrations for one of the stories in the book.

"Hopefully if this comic is popular, I'll be able to make it a regular series and collaborate with even more artists," Joe added.

Joseph Hewitt is originally from Cormack, Newfoundland. After studying math for two years at Waterloo, he transferred back to Memorial University and eventually graduated with an English degree. On the advice of another UW math dropout, he moved to South Korea where he's remained since 1998. Joseph's work has been shown at Scientific American Blog Network, Seed ScienceBlogs, and Comment is Free. Recently he has begun studying for an MFA in comic studies.

Funding campaign:
https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/alien-lives
Polar Bear Comix on Comixology:
https://www.comixology.com/Polar-Bear-Comix/comics-publisher/621-0

Joseph Hewitt
pyrrho12@yahoo.ca

How to get ALL the StreetPasses!

Step 1) Own a 3DS
Step 2) Have your 3DS charged
Step 3) Have the wireless feature enabled
Step 4) Have StreetPasses enabled
Step 5) Go to a convention*
Step 6) Collect all the streetpasses

*For maximum effect, go to conventions which focuses on traditionally nerdy things. No guarantees what results you will get at a Mennonite convention.

Beyond Meta

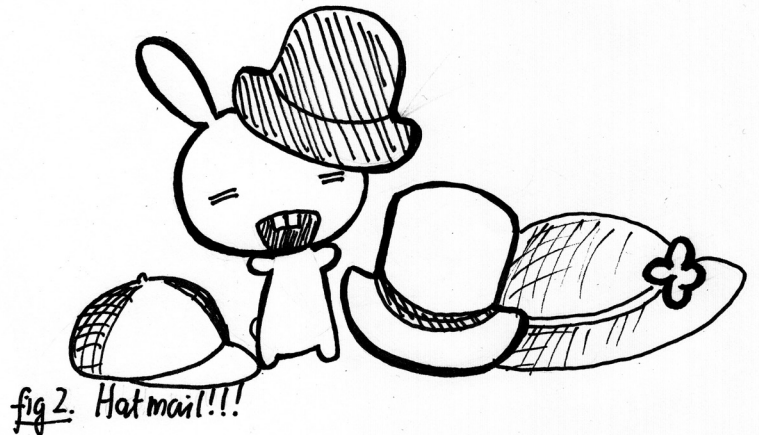# Exec Sez

Hello Pink Tie believers,

We hope that your first two weeks of classes have gone well. If you are thinking of changing your class(es), you have until the end of day (Friday, May 16) to do so on QUEST.

We were thrilled with the incredible turnout for our Welcome Week events and were particularly surprised that the ice cream sandwiches were all gone after 30 minutes! We hope you'll take part in our other exciting events this term, including, but not limited to, a trip to Wonderland, Spirit Days, and Pi Approximation Day! Look out for more information in upcoming issues of *math*NEWS or on our website at mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

We are also excited to welcome Darcy Alemany as our first ever part time Office Services Manager. He will strive to ensure that the MathSoc Office will be able to serve all math students in a more organized manner. That said, he can't do all the work by himself! If you are interested in helping out as an Office Worker, you can sign up for an office hour at http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/office/signup.

Finally, we wish you all an enjoyable long weekend!

Your MathSoc Execs

fig 2. Hatmail!!!

Proof That Lists Are Controlling Your Life

- You are reading this *math*NEWS article
- You are still reading this article
- You now know the first 21 digits of pi are 3.14159265358979323846
- If you already knew the first 21 digits, you now feel powerful compared to the people that didn't
- You are now thinking how that is even relevant to this article
- You will now think of penguins
- You tried your best not to think of penguins
- You now feel strange because I just put random nonsense into your mind.

rayman

Ontario Election 2014

Kitchener-Waterloo Riding Edition

In case you haven't heard, the writ has dropped, and Ontario has a general election coming up on June 12th. Of note: I am not writing this article from an unbiased standpoint. I do not like any of the big three, nor do I like the Greens, at least from a party perspective.

While most articles will focus on the parties available, I assume that you will be inundated with a variety of news on the leaders of the big three parties, the New Democratic Party, the Liberal Party and the Progressive Conservative Party. The Green Party of Ontario also is running, but due to polls implying they will only get about 6% of the popular vote, they are likely to be largely ignored by most of the media. A quick run down of them is:

- Kathleen Wynne is the incumbent Prime Minister or "Premier" of Ontario, the leader of the Liberals. She inherited the government after Dalton McGuinty won a minority in the last general election. She is likely going to campaign mainly on fear of massive public spending cuts from the PCs.
- Tim Hudak is the official Leader of the Opposition, the leader of the Progressive Conservatives. He has been the leader of the opposition for the past two elections. He has been their leader since 2009. He has promised to cut 100,000 public sector jobs, as well as creating 1 million jobs by the next election, specifically by tax cuts.
- Andrea Horwath is the leader of the NDP. She also is calling for tax cuts for small businesses and working on cutting electricity costs. The NDP voted against the budget, triggering the election. Her major tack is broken promises, focusing on how the Liberal budget was full of nonsense.

I for one think that all of the leaders are peddling bullshit. The PCs say that they will cut corporate taxes by 30% for corporations to make jobs. This is unjustified with no real claim to truth and is effectively the Republican playbook in the US. He also, until recently, was supportive of Right to Work policies which effectively strip unions from collective bargaining power.

The Liberals continue to suggest good ideas for spending, but refuse to fuel taxes to correspond to the spending. I have heard people call them "tax and spend" Liberals, but the fact is, they are only spend, forgetting the important part of needing finances for spending.

The ONDP are trailing in the polls, and their anti-nuclear policies piss me off something fierce. Many people think that they would be over-spenders, I think they probably would just end up pulling to right of centre if in power, which is not something I favour.

Despite all of this, these aren't necessarily the most important points of information available to voters. Of note is that in our electoral system, we do not vote for a party, but a local candidate which we pick by plurality in the riding poll. Our local riding for the University of Waterloo is Kitchener-Waterloo. Of the major four, we have a surprising event in that all four of the candidates nominated for this election are women. This is encouraging in comparison to the recent study conducted by the left-leaning Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, about gender equality rankings, where the region got 16th our of 20 major Canadian municipalities studied.

The local riding was long held by Progressive Conservative MPP Elizabeth Witmer who resigned in 2012 for a job with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board. Afterwards, the NDP scored an upset in the by-election, scoring approximately 40% of the vote for current incumbent MPP Catherine Fife, the former chair of the local public school board where she claims to have balanced a $645 million dollar budget while also providing 1600 more child care spots. She was also the NDP Research and Innovation Critic as well as the Economic Development, Trade and Employment Critic.

Running against her, coming in second place in the last election, is the PCs' Tracy Weiler. An instructor in the Laurier MBA program, she works as a private business consultant, and has previously been employed by Blackberry and PriceWaterhouseCoopers. She cares immensely about early childhood education. She has also been the Chair of Winterloo: Waterloo's Winter Family Festival.

The Liberals, smarting from only 24% of the vote in the by-election, are fielding a new candidate for the riding. Jamie Burton, a uWaterloo BA, Vice-President, Corporate Development of Dolphin Digital Technologies, a Kitchener business. She has a focus on accessibility and inclusion in the workplace and has won Rogers Woman of the Year – Entrepreneur in 2013.

Finally, the Green candidate, Dr. Stacey Danckert got only about 3% of the vote last time around, but is not letting that deter her from running again. A PhD in cognitive neuroscience from uWaterloo, she studies the effect of aging on the brain. She has sat as a member on the Kitchener Environmental Advisory Committee. She advocates, as the Green Party does, a merger of the public and separate (read: Catholic) school boards, as well as a halt of a continuation of Highway 7 if it is to go through sensitive wetlands.

I hope all of you follow the upcoming campaign, and determine who to vote for to best represent our riding, as each of these four women seem like strong candidates. Sorry Communists/Libertarians/Freedomers/People's Partiers, but I simply don't think you stand much of a chance.

Harrison Gross

Submit your *prof*QUOTES, grid solutions, beautifully-composed hatmail, and love letters to the BLACK BOX on the third floor MC!

Bad Math

In Recent News, The Internet Can't Math

Several times in the past month or so, I have encountered the infamous "$1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \ldots = -1/12$". On its own, this would not be concerning, except for the fact that not everyone involved in the discussion had a math background beyond high school. Each time, someone pointed out that at every step, the partial sum was positive, so the answer being negative was nonsensical. This is entirely correct. Attempting to compute this sum in the normal way does not work. What *is* important is that this sum is not computed in the normal way.

The proof that was offered in one case was incorrect. It proceeded as follows:

$$c = 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + \ldots$$

$$4c = 4 + 8 + \ldots$$

$$\text{So, } -3c = 1 - 2 + 3 - 4 + 5 - \ldots$$

As well, $1/(n+1)^2$ can be expanded as a power series by $1 - 2n + 3n^2 + 4n^4 - \ldots$

However, $-3c$ is the expansion of $1/(1 + 1)^2$ as a formal power series, so that gives that $-3c = 1/4$. Then $c = -1/12$. The is the "correct" answer, but the logic is wrong. One cannot simply subtract infinite series like that. A minor change to the argument would give that $-3c = 1 + 2 + 3 + 5 + \ldots$, which still diverges. This "proof" is wrong.

The correct logic is much more difficult. It revolves around defining the Riemann Zeta function, which is the sum over the natural numbers n of n^{-s}, for s a complex number. When s has real part larger than one, this works out properly in the normal way. In this region, it is analytic, meaning that at every point, it converges locally to its Taylor Series. It is then possible to extend the Zeta function to the whole complex plane, using a functional equation relating the value of the function at s, $s+1$, in such a way that it is analytic except at the point $s = 1$, and is the "proper" value for values of s with real part larger than one. At $s = -1$, this extended function has value $-1/12$. This corresponds to the value of the sum of $n^{(-(-1))} = n$ over the natural numbers. This proof is heavily based in complex analysis, and is clearly not using conventional summation or manipulating divergent series. This proof is correct.

MeaninglessQuips

How to be a Good Parent to Your Computer

Congratulations, you have made the bold decision to own a computer. Perhaps this is the result of years of trying, or perhaps you were careless and accidentally bought one. Regardless, you are now the proud parent of a personal computer. Here are some helpful guidelines in order to raise your computer through both good and bad times.

The first step is to provide a nurturing environment. This can be accomplished before you bring your new computer home. A nice, clean desk area will never go awry, and be sure that there are no dangers to your computer. These can include: anything with the potential to be liquid or overstuffed outlets. Please note that the computer being inside the fridge is also a danger. If necessary/wanted, ensure a quality mouse, monitor, and/or keyboard are present so your computer will have friends.

Next, you want to treat your computer lovingly while it's in its formative stages. Whilst setting up the OS and installing requisite and desired software, be sure to treat your computer kindly and help it to grow into the computer it was meant to be. Frequent reassurance that you do love your computer and it definitely can install this damn software are integral.

Throughout your computer's lifetime, you must strive to be firm, but loving. Replace parts and toys when they break and take your computer to the doctor when necessary. You must provide guidance and limitations in order to protect it and help it grow. Use caution in order to guard your computer from spammers, kidnappers, and those who seek to corrupt your innocent computer, the dreaded VD (virus disseminators). In addition, you must prevent the unthinkable: you yourself harming your precious offspring. Beware of anger rising when your computer reveals its flaws. Violence and profane language will not help.

As your computer's life draws to a close (for the tragedy is it will die before its parent), try to continue to treat it kindly. Recognize the signs that your darling may be dying, and move on when appropriate. While some computers appreciate still being around when a new one is acquired so they can take comfort knowing you will be taken care of, others may become jealous. You must make this choice yourself, as after caring for your computer throughout its lifetime, you should be familiar enough to know when to let go.

Yours in parenthood,
Shay Blair.

Drop your Minecraft username in the BLACK BOX or email it to us at `mathNEWS@gmail.com` to be whitelisted on our Minecraft server (129.97.134.134).

N Things Better than Cat Articles

$\varnothing$

psychomath

What Happened to Course Scheduling?

Like a good little UW student, I pre-enrolled (sorry, "course-selection-ed") in the classes I needed and wanted in the designated period way the fuck ahead of time—which is perfectly fine since, like most, I have planned out which courses I absolutely need (hint: do this if you haven't). I also understand that pre-enrollment is absolutely necessary for advisors and the Registrar's Office to work out which classes and how many sections of them are offered in any given term. This is awesome and should lead to people getting into as many of their desired classes as possible. Except that everything has gone wrong.

I remember a survey being e-mailed out a while ago asking about preferences in course scheduling. I actually answer surveys they send out because I get bored in class occasionally and it's something to do. It seems the result of the survey was to randomize when classes are in a vain attempt to prevent Friday classes and to inject breaks. The effect of doing this has royally fucked things up.

It seemed like in the past there was a grid-like system where classes fit into very specific slots. They were either Monday, Wednesday, Friday starting on the half-hours, or they were Tuesday, Thursday in hour-and-a-half blocks starting at 8:30am. For many, if not most, this system seemed to have worked OK, whilst for others (like those taking a wide array of multi-faculty courses), it sucked balls. This system has gone the way of the Dodo.

For example, PHYS 334 Quantum Physics 2 is scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:00am to 12:20pm. Not 10:00am or 11:30am, fitting into one of the nice slots. As another example, AMATH 332 Applied Complex Analysis is MTTh at 2:30. STAT 231 has multiple sections; one is a normal MWF 1:30, but the others are MW 4:00 and WF 2:30. For the STAT class, some are planning to do a solid 3 hours of Wednesdays to avoid the stupid breaks in their schedules.

For many, this has made getting into the courses you want difficult, if not impossible. Before, for two classes to conflict, they had to be scheduled for the exact same time. Now, a half-hour overlap once a week is enough to screw up your term. The old system had its flaws, but at least it was somewhat predicatable. As a math student, I could plan to have a couple of math courses and CS courses every term, knowing that the math courses would be MWF and the CS TTh. I could plan ahead to reduce the number of conflicts in my life. This new system makes balance like this unplannable. That's scary.

I dislike breaks in my schedule, but I can live with them. What I really can't work around is not getting into my required classes. Some of the classes that I'll need to graduate are only offered on specific terms. What if they conflict with each other and I can't take them? If this term is any indication of the future, I might not graduate on time or at all. This figuratively scares the shit out of me.

Personally, I would take a class that was at 7:00am on a Saturday morning if it was something that I cared for and am interested in. I mean I would, but it conflicts with another course…

Stubbs

P.S. Advisors are amazing people whom we should all thank every time we see them.

N Signs You're Addicted to Your Phone

- Your phone is the first thing you check in the morning and the last thing you check at night.
- You spend more time looking at your phone than you do looking at people.
- You get frustrated when typing on a normal computer doesn't autocomplete your words.
- You never visit certain websites, even on desktop, because their mobile experience has left you traumatized. (*cough cough* I'm looking at you, LEARN.)
- You no longer know what a certain website looks like, because you always use the app.
- You don't own an alarm clock, physical map, or calendar, but instead always use your phone. (Bonus: You also never carry a wallet.)
- You have more personal/confidential information on your phone than you do on your PC.
- Forgetting your phone somewhere results in a freak-out period followed by constant feelings of nervousness and unease until you have it again, even if you know you left it somewhere safe.

BlueberryMuffin

Cats > People

So, you may ask, why would I say that cats are strictly greater than people? Well, where to begin? Below I will detail my favourite reasons:

Note: This is by no means an exhaustive list.

- Cats do not speak. Thus, cats cannot criticize, complain, or disagree with you.
- Cats are less likely than humans to vomit on your belongings.
- Cats do not think you play too many video games.
- Cats do not care if you walk around without any clothes on.
- Cats do not care if you close the bathroom door. In fact, they would rather you didn't.
- Cats do not make cuddling awkward, nor accuse you of friend-zoning them.
- Cats do not borrow your stuff without asking.
- Cats do not judge your internet search history.
- Cats do not care if you shower or not. In fact, they may even start cleaning you themselves.
- Cats will never betray your secrets. Except to their majestic alien overlords.

psychomath

RE: Hatmail

```
Y U NO WEB MATHNEWS?!!??    You already
have PDFs of mathNEWS sent for printing,
why not upload this PDF? MUCH DISAPPOINT
SUCH MEME. TRY TO HAVE AS MANY CHEEEEEZE
BURGERS IN ONE MEME AS POSSIBLE. SMTHING
SOMETHING BUT I ACCIDENTALLY A CHEEZCAKE
BACON IPSUM  DOLOR SIT AMET JOWL  SALAMI
PANCETTA  BRISKET,  BEEF  SHORT RIBS PIG
CHIKEN STRIP STEAK. PORK ANDOUILE SALAMI
FATBACK  COW.  LANDJAEGER MEATBALL  PORK
BELLY  PORK LOIN   STRIP STEAK   TRI-TIP
SIRLOIN  RUMP PROSCIUTTO  JOWL DRUMSTICK
MEATLOAF  BEEF.  LANDJAEGER  SHORT  RIBS
ANDOUILLE MEATBALL BALL  LEBERKAS CORNED BEEF TENDERLOIN SHANK RUMP.
ALL YOUR MATHNEWS ARE BELONG TO US. Please web all mathNEWS. KTHXBAI
```

We received this beautifully-composed hatmail in our production system and thought it would be appropriate to reply to it publicly.

First, thank you very much for your concern, valued reader.

Unfortunately, we are in the process of migrating servers and other fun things, so we are currently engaged in a stand-still with regards to our website. After we have migrated, we will be sure to begin posting PDF versions of *math*NEWS on our website.

Forever yours,
The Editors

Love Your Segfaults

Segfaults are misunderstood creatures. When they show up, most CS students will partake in some combination of screaming, crying, and bitching at the segfault. This makes the segfault very, very sad. They don't understand it! They don't know its life! They don't know what it's been through!

When a segfault shows up, it means two things:

1. You fucked up—big time
2. The operating system was there and saved your ass

Now, at this point, you usually get angry at the segfault, when in fact it did nothing wrong. It was simply a messenger telling you that, in fact, it was YOU who did something wrong. Having an operating system is awesome, and not something that you notice until you try writing code without one—something I've been doing for the past two terms.

Do you know what happens when my program is wrong? No segfault. No errors. It just keeps going, and stuff goes horribly, horribly wrong, AKA "undefined behaviour". This shit is terrifying. When you hit "undefined behaviour", your code can do whatever it wants: print garbage, corrupt the data of other processes, or summon Cthulhu for all you know.

In other words, when you try to shoot yourself in the foot, there is no OS there to throw a bullet-proof vest over your leg. Instead, your gun is suddenly replaced with a bazooka and you blow your entire leg off. Your program runs rampant and the hardware cries as your program tears everything apart, and can only be repaired by billions of cycles of applying duct tape.

Learn to love the segfaults while you have them, because one day you won't, and it really, really sucks.

theSMURF

Persecuted

Everyone has their idiosyncrasies. For every trend, there are going to be outliers. People who go against the norm. Sometimes these people are welcomed with open arms. Sometimes they are given odd looks, but otherwise ignored. And sometimes, they are persecuted.

I'll readily admit that I am commonly unusual. For the most part, this is not really an issue. I've found a place where I fit in. But there is one thing I do that I am almost universally reviled for. Whoever uncovers this dark secret of mine is sure to greet the discovery with a look of absolute disdain.

I eat cereal without milk.

I'll give you a minute to finish dry-heaving in disgust. I know, it's lunacy. If you need to stop reading this, distance yourself from the work of a madman such as myself, I understand. I won't judge you. But, if you can, try to look at it my way. No need to keep purchasing beverages just so I can eat cereal. No rush to finish my breakfast before it gets soggy. No need to make sure the bowl is washed before the milk sours.

And my roommates only stand to benefit from my condition. We'd always be out of milk before we'd bother to do another grocery run, but what little milk we had only had to go four ways, not five. If anything, I should be lauded as a hero, but instead I am shunned as a monster.

It's a constant struggle.

PS: I also don't like chocolate beverages. Let the hatemail begin…

$s,t \epsilon \{2k, k \epsilon \mathbb{Z}\}, 144$

Adventures in Cooking

Last weekend, I was making French toast for my friends. I was using the frying pan that came with the apartment, which was a heavily-scratched Teflon pan. My friends saw the pan and started to panic, claiming that if we ate anything from that pan, we would all die a horrible cancerous death.*

I had already started making French toast and there wasn't another frying pan that we could use, so instead we used a pot. The pot worked amazingly well, it was positively super duper. It cooked the french toast to golden brown about three times as fast as the pan and the French toast didn't stick to it at all, while the pan was just awful.

Eventually, the toast was cooked and all that was left to do was to eat it. So, like I normally do, I put peanut butter and maple syrup on mine. My friends looked at me as if that combination was somehow weird. "How else are you supposed to eat French toast?" I am French Canadian, so I figure I may know a thing or two about eating French toast and maple syrup. After trying the combo, my skeptics were quickly converted.

*Afterwards I did some research, and scratched Teflon pans are perfectly safe to cook with. What *are* dangerous are overheated Teflon pans. Those are to be avoided.

Lessons Learned:

1. Cooking with scratched Teflon pans won't kill you. Though they are rather sucky.
2. Pots are great for cooking French toast.
3. Maple syrup and peanut butter are a great combination.

Beyond Meta

Richards are Dicks

I'll be frank with you, I had a heck of a day. I had just got out of the john when some guy pulled out a knife. Surely he was gonna rob me. I told him I had jack, but things got pretty hairy. He told me to get on the floor and as I began to kneel, a ray of light shone through the window and blinded him! I made a dash outside, but no one was in sight. I saw a car and by sheer force of will, I managed to jimmy the lock and get away in the nick of time. I pushed that clunker to the max until it petered out and broke down in front of a diner. I decided to go in to get cup of joe. I'm not joshing ya, but this woman looked exactly like our 'ol school mistress. Sent shivers down my spine. To top it all off, my coffee had too much sugar and was lukewarm at best.

So don't you be telling me I look like a grouch, Richard.

zysygy

Sexual Economics 101

I have no printer of my own, so I am a frequent user of the library for this purpose. When I'm there, I often look at books. Because it's a library. Libraries are for books.

Well, one book that I found is called "Dollars and Sex" by Marina Adshade. It has some cool stuff in it. I don't know what your reaction to the concept of sexual economics is, but I think it's pretty cool. It's about risk, benefit, supply, demand, and other such concepts as they apply to sex and relationships. It only really effectively describes wide trends on a population level – for example, it uses the extremely coarse approximation that people are basically straight. Which they're not, but that is the largest group.

Anyway, I'm sure that the internet has many people saying quite distasteful things in the name of "sexual economics", but this book is not like that. Two of the examples I thought were really cool are birth control and pregnancy, and promiscuity on university campuses.

So, medically speaking, birth control lowers the risk of pregnancy, yes? We can all agree on this? Good. Because this is where things get interesting. With no birth control, extramarital sex is a very risky venture – you might have a baby to deal with, you might get an STI, and you will have social stigma that can affect your future relationship prospects. When birth control comes along, the risk of baby and of STI decreases. So there's less disincentive against premarital sex, and it gets more common. When everybody's doing it (Pun. Whether you take it as intended or not is entirely up to you.), there becomes less stigma attached to extramarital sex. So more people do it. And then, unless your birth control was close to 100% effective, you get more total pregnancies out of wedlock (a term I think is hilarious), and more STIs.

tesseract

Enter Title Here

There are some big problems on the Internet, but we have to start off with the one that's pretty much everyone's pet peeve: deciding your username. The problem does not stop when you finally decide one, it grows when you find out that it's already been taken. In fact, any blank textbox that requires at least some sort of creative thinking is bound to have you ending up spending way more time than the person who made it expected you to spend. I, for one, can't hide the fact that it takes me an entire day to come up with a new username. It takes me at least two hours to design my game characters, and kill me if I say it takes me less than a minute to come up with a title for a post. I feel as though coming up with a bunch of creative usernames is a form of torture. I know how I'm going to get somebody to finally tell me their passwords. Not saying we're not creative, but we're just not creative fast enough.

rayman

*math*NEWS 1kBWC
Origins

A little over a year ago, a tanuki and a dragon needed to purchase some blank index cards for a project now lost to the mists of time. When they got to the stationery store, the blocks of index cards were on sale and contained 1,200 index cards. 'Surely we could find a use for the excess ones,' conferred one, and with the cards the journey of *math*NEWS' 1000 Blank White Cards (1kBWC) deck was born.

1000 Blank White Cards, nominally, is a simple game where people write things on cards and play them to some effect detailed on the cards. A careful analysis of the *math*NEWS' 1kBWC deck shows that the game is superficially similar to the somewhat well-known namesake, but is a hybrid of that and a similar game known as Dvorak (no relation to the keyboard guy). We have a rules corpus which is of questionable state due to its physical nonexistence, but even without this, *math*NEWS' 1kBWC is playable.

Since its nativity, the deck has grown to 400-odd cards which are blank on one side and have text and/or art on the other. Hopefully, throughout the term, I will explain some history of this deck as it has progressed throughout time.

Zethar

Why, Spiderman.
Why.

I watched the most recent Spiderman movie. On the one hand, the awesome effects and the magical chemistry between Gwen and Peter had me spending a good hour talking over the details of the movie with my ten-year-old brother, who was equally stunned by the film.

What I didn't like is the intricate plot web that director Marc Webb artistically rolled out, which implied that Spiderman created every supervillain. Let me explain. Starting with the first movie, if Peter hadn't given Dr. Connors the magic formula from his father's bag, Dr. Connors wouldn't have turned into a gigantic lizard. Had Peter not made Max Dillon feel like a model citizen, he would not have gotten overly obsessed with Spiderman and felt the need to rid New York City of all electricity after falling into a tub of electric eels. When Harry asked for Peter's help, had Peter just given up his blood, Harry would not have gone all ape-shit and tried to inject himself with some unstable green compound that promptly turned him into the Green Goblin.

Seems like the city would be safer without Spiderman's personal problems turning into terrorizing monsters.

VeryFilmy

*prof*QUOTES

"I wonder if this works in $\mathbb{R}^3$… [*Strokes beard.*] That's why you grow these things."

Marcoux, MATH 146

"Example: consider everyone's favourite graph, the Peterson-graph. Except it's not yours; you are all sick of it."

Purbhoo, MATH 249

"Alberta, you're red because you're on fire all the time."

Vasiga, CO 380

"Math is not about feelings. Except perhaps pain."

Vasiga, CO 380

"Perhaps I really like 2. After all, it is the smallest even prime."

Vasiga, CO 380

"These conditions, plus the punchline, is Green's Theorem. If I ask you to state Green's Theorem on an exam and you just give me the punchline, I will kill you! I once had a textbook that said the punchline as the whole theorem. I poured lighter fluid on it and burnt it because it pissed me off."
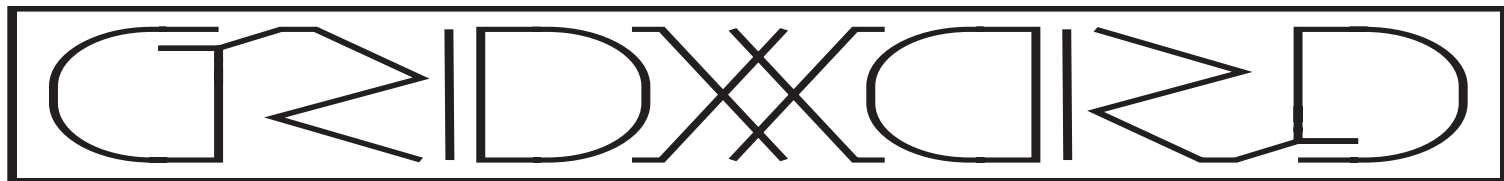
Hewitt, AMATH 231

"I came up with a good way to improve attendance. I'll tell you I'm going to do exam review on Monday, and on Monday I do some other stuff and say I forgot and will do it on Wednesday, do the same thing on Wednesday and, finally, on Friday do the review."

Mann, CS251

"Just imagine all the different ways you can have sex, and that's where you can find HPV cancers."

Dupont, BIOL 239

Student: "What does MIPS stand for?"
Professor: "Multiple Intelligence Processing Something."

Mann, CS 251

[*On "colour."*] "When I wrote my textbook, they insisted I use the American spelling… They were wrong. It's 'zed', not 'zee'. 'Zed'!"

Mann, PHYS 124

[*On quark colour.*] "The Americans wanted red, white, and blue; the international community wanted red, green, and blue, the primary colours."

Mann, PHYS 124

"What is the similarity between an actuary and an evil villain? They both believe that they know when you die."

Metzger, STAT 340

[*Points at "F" function.*] "The F word is the most important word that you need to know."

Reza, STAT 372

"Does anyone know what friendship is? [*Explains C++* `friend` *keyword.*] And that's how friendship works."

Dubrisingh, CS 247

GRIDXXARD
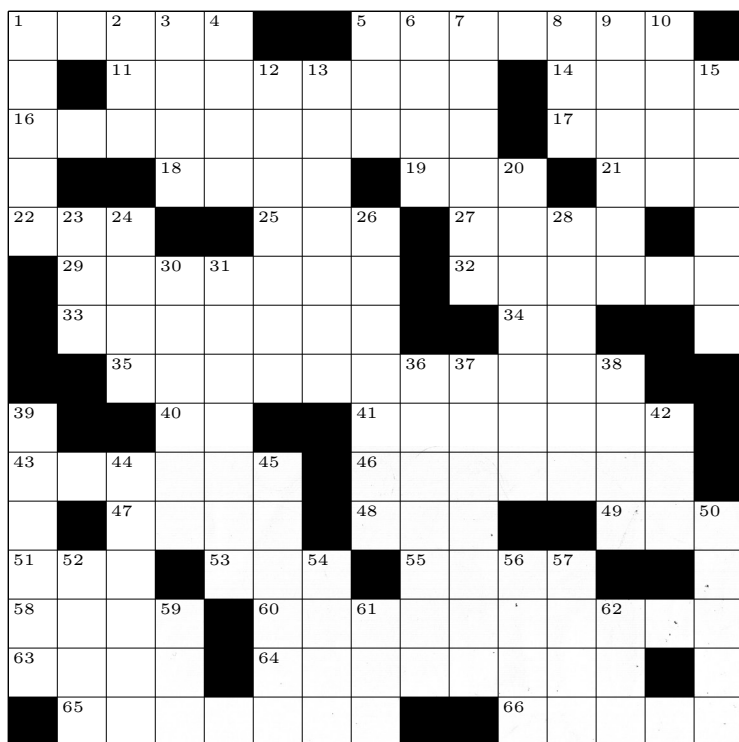
*grid*COMMENTS

Two Dinosaurs

Despite the short notice I think I managed a pretty good grid: 46 black squares and only two two-letter words!

I wasn't expecting any submissions, but I got two! Sorry, Cynthia, but I can't really give extensions; even if I could, your top left corner was a little off. And Yomna: thank you for the lovely letter! Maurois's praise of Borges makes me want to read everything he has ever written—I'll make sure to make time.

Anyway, submit complete (or incomplete!) grids to the **BLACK BOX** (by the Comfy Lounge on floor 3 of MC) by 18:30 on Monday May 26th. Include your name and your answer to this issue's *grid*QUESTION—the best answer decides the winner (of a $5 C&D gift card) in the event of a tie: "Why are there ants in my laptop?"

Cheers,
unit

This Week's Grid:

*grid*WORD Clues

Across:
1. Vertices and edges
5. Saint Paul's pal
11. Tome holder
14. Let tears fall
16. Bread and butter
17. Of the mouth
18. Dole
19. "It is"
21. Psilomelane to manganese
22. Big boys
25. Safe side
27. Oven-baked flatbread
29. Portuguese archipelago
32. "We are not _____."
33. French "supply"
34. You and me
35. Dorsal plates and tail spikes
40. Illinois
41. Fit for work
43. Oval carvings
46. Frank
47. "Is not"
48. Polish "background"
49. #151 in Kanto
51. "It is"
53. Mouth cloth
55. Hunch-backed butler
58. No, no, no!
60. Shakespeare and Spenser
63. Spiritual teacher
64. Abandoning on an island
65. Composed (text)
66. Poultry pens

Down:
1. Mud man
2. Alcohol by volume
3. Rhyming lines
4. Orifice
5. 道
6. Turkish red pepper
7. The City of the Prophet
8. Takes this many to tango
9. Egrets et al.
10. Spring to spring
12. Little kitten
13. Oat hoop
15. Begs
20. Bushi
23. Electromotive force
24. Inner temple chamber
26. Hearing distance
28. Cow-tree
30. Customs levies
31. Soon
36. Maybe
37. First bird
38. Ghetto
39. Thespian talent
42. Levante-sirocco
44. Dolor
45. States of motionlessness
50. Yellow jackets
52. Talk up
54. ____ with the wind
56. Of the ear
57. Where Cash shot a man
59. inf dual
61. Parasite's egg
62. Bigheadedness