

math NEWS

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Volume 129, Issue 1



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lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

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CECA

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Oct 2	Name Your Car Day
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Article of the Issue

The Article of the Issue is: *WTF: US Customs* by theSMURF.

This article was chosen because other people's pain gives us great pleasure. We have seen fools suffer the US Customs system and we enjoy it every time. Please come to the *mathNEWS* office to pick up your prize in person so we can physically congratulate you on a job well done.

The Editors

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mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* will eventually be available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathNEWS.uwaterloo.ca/>. On May 14th, 2014, Thomas Baxter claimed that this ISSN was "bland" and "lacks humour", hence implying that it should be changed. [*I said so humourously; your inference is not my implication.—ConvolutED*] What do you think? Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3030, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or to mathNEWS@gmail.com on the Internet.

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Thomas Baxter (David Cameron's #piggate), Katherine Tu (Rob Ford's crack pipe), Jose-Miguel Velasco (Donald Trump's toupée)

mastHEAD

Welcome, new students and old, grizzled veterans, to the new school year! We here at *mathNEWS* have seen many years of students come and go; of all the students we've ever seen, you're one of them.

But enough about you, because you're not important. Let's talk about us! We are *mathNEWS*, your student publication with no math and even less news! And that's about all you need to know.

We asked our authors, "How should *mathNEWS* welcome the new first-years?"

ELEMENT 118 ("A year's supply of condoms"); Alias ("No"); Zethar ("An infernal contract, binding the students as writers/henchmen forevermore"); Depressionist ("Antidepressants and counselling"); Paruparo ("With the sacrifice of 1000 goats"); Stubbs ("Buy them a beer. Wait, what? They're underage?! Buy them a root beer. *wink*"); Shay Blair ("Let's have a Kiki"); Dusk Eagle ("Eat their brains"); $s, t \in \{2k, k \in \mathbb{Z}\}, 144$ ("Torches and pitchforks"); me ("Back pain"); 2manymajors ("Water balloons"); darshwanda ("Netflix 'n' chill"); teapot ("Allllll the swag"); Githro ("Raid their WatCards for precious cash"); maya ("Math BS answers"); Soviet Canadian ("With a red stamp ready, and a 'Glory to Arstotzka!'); Diminutive Rex ("With open legs"); Beyond Meta ("By scheduling all their midterms on Monday so they can never attend Production Night"); Scythe Marshall ("If there's no free food, I don't want to know.");

ConvolutED ("With a variety of insults and injuries").

Prez Sez

Hello Mathies!

I hope your first week of classes was fantastic! The term is really getting started now, with some exciting things happening in the next few weeks:

- The budget meeting (YAY! FUN!) will be on October 1st 2015, this is where all money gets approved by Council.
- Elections for Councillors (first years and upper years, campaigning is from Friday, September 25th, 2015 at 12:01 AM until Friday, October 2nd, 2015 at 5:00 PM).
- Volunteer applications and hiring! I hope you all had the opportunity to apply for a position by now. Some positions will remain open throughout the term, so keep checking back if you didn't make the first round.
- Mock interviews, which are an opportunity to improve your interviewing skills are happening on September 29th, 2015. (Sign up here: mathsocmockinterviews.simplybook.me.)

Please email us at exec@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for more information or if you have any questions!

Tristan Potter
President, Mathematics Society

VPO Sez

Hi everyone,

Volunteer applications are now available on our website, and there's a wide variety of directorships and office staff positions you can apply for. It's a really great way to get involved, and it lets you meet a ton of cool people. You can find the application form at <http://testing.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/Forms/Apply>

Signups for lockers in MC opened this past Monday. The very small supply of lockers was booked up extremely quickly, and we're happy to once again provide this highly popular service. If you're having trouble opening your locker, feel free to drop by the MathSoc Office (MC 3038) and I can help you out.

We recognize that some of you were unable to sign up for lockers because of an error in the database of math students, and we're looking at potential ways of making up for this. Unfortunately, it would be quite unlikely for you to get a locker if you do not already have one at this point, and we apologize profusely for the inconvenience. We are in the process of building a new and improved website, which includes a locker signup system that keeps itself automatically updated.

Cheers,
Simon

Elections Canada

On October 19th, Canada goes to the polls.

If you are 18 as of then and a Canadian citizen, you should look into how to vote because the results of elections do affect the world you live in. So go to elections.ca for more info on how to register.

Things you should also know: from Monday, October 5th to Thursday, October 8th in the SLC there will (supposedly) be a "thing" set up where student can:

- a) Get more information
- b) Register to vote
- c) Vote

But for whom should I cast my ballot? Go to canada.iside-with.com/political-quiz and it'll help you figure out where you stand on a bunch of issues and who might be the candidate for you.

I know you'll have midterms, but please make time to vote.

Stubbs

Get on the Air with the UW Amateur Radio Club!

Interested in exploring the world of amateur radio? The UW Amateur Radio Club wants you to get licenced and get on the air with us! Come out to our weekly meetings, every Friday at 6:00 PM. We meet in a room you probably won't be able to find unless you know where it is, so come by the Computer Science Club office (MC 3036) and we'll show you where to find us.

This term we're going to be taking on a lot of antenna-building projects, as well as running the Basic Exam tutorial series and Morse code practice. Check out uwarc.uwaterloo.ca for information and study guides. Whether you're licenced or not, we'd love to see you at our meetings this term!

Murphy Berzish
Minister of Propaganda
UWARC

Further Education Boot Camp

On Saturday, October 3rd, CECA will be running an all-day series of workshops in RCH. The event is open to students and alumni. The workshops feature experts from health, business, law, and teaching, who will be discussing degrees, experiences, application requirements, and job markets.

For more information, and to register for the events you want to attend, visit <https://uwaterloo.ca/career-action/further-education-bootcamp>.

CECA

Write for *mathNEWS*!

Whenever people pick up a copy of *mathNEWS*, or glance at the the stacks of distributed *mathNEWS*, a sense of nervousness overtakes me. After they pick up the *mathNEWS*, they walk away from the stack, and open it along the way. As I follow them into their lecture, following closely to ascertain what it is that they are reading. As I follow them on to the bus, glancing at the page number and the space that their eyes fall on. As I kick in a window to their house to see what kind of person reads *mathNEWS*, being careful not to be cut by the sharp edges. As I help myself to their leftover pizza from some party that occurred last night. As I silently wait behind the shower curtain in their washroom.

Writing for *mathNEWS* is truly a pleasure. And we could always use an article from you. Comics and illustrations are also needed for a working publication. Proofreaders are welcome too! Come to out next Production Night on October 5th! We will meet at 6:30 PM in MathSoc and we will have pizza at 9:00 PM.

The Editor-In-Training

On October 19th, VOTE! Vote, you scrubs!

N Things You Should Do on Your Assignments to Make Your TAs Cry

As a first year, some of my assignments induced quite a bit of red ink. I then became a TA and realized how annoying these mannerisms were. Naturally, the correct logical progression to this, is that I should to strike back at the students I once TAed and who are now TAing first year courses by listing the top ways to spite your TAs while losing minimal points:

- Write with a light .5mm lead pencil. (Students that typeset are joy. Otherwise pen is usually much more readable.)
- Write in pink highlighter and try to fit it onto one page.
- If doing algebra, re-write the entire D&F chapter on UFDs.
- If doing physics, consider Lie group actions on a symplectic manifold to solve a block and incline problem.
- Submit over 30 pages on a weekly assignment.
- If writing your assignment in a hurry and not wishing to resolve some details in a proof, use the line "as demonstrated in class". The TA will never know.
- Write multiple pages for a problem you don't now how to solve in hopes that the TA will not read it and err in the favour of more points. The disclaimer is that you should always try and make as much progress as you can towards a solution and present it in your assignment, but that there is a fine line between constructive work and deliberately bull-s***ing for marks. As a TA, I usually write some instructive feedback on conducive work.
- Don't staple your assignment.
- Think that origami counts as stapling.
- Staple out of order and out of orientation.
- Staple your assignment in a zig-zig manner with four staples on each page.
- Omit your name and student number.
- Write those two values in an alphabet that is not Roman.
- Write a puzzle to deduce these values.
- Hand-write your assignment on one side of an unlined sheet of paper in the smallest font you can muster.
- Write 'apologies to the grader' on the other side.

It's funny because writing this involved zero creativity.

FrozenWinters

I Just Can't Even

And because of this tragedy, I can't number. Because although I can odd, I can't add or divide. I try and try, but I can't figure out the results that are even. I try to make up for this tragedy by multiplying but it is not enough. I cannot have a closed group.

I dream of the day when I can even, even if it means I can no longer odd. Because then, on that magical day, I will be able to number. I will have the closed group I have always dreamed of, and my life's work will be complete.

Yours in tragic uselessness,
Shay Blair

Zethar and IceNine Go to 168 Sushi

The week before classes began, on several occasions, we asked ourselves, "How good is 168 Sushi?". For those who are not aware, 168 Sushi is a chain, which recently opened a location in Westmount Plaza. On an innocent evening, the two of us decided to visit this establishment to settle this question.

168 Sushi is an all-you-can-eat sushi restaurant with \$25 per head on Fridays. Here are our thoughts on it:

Zethar: I do think that the location has a reasonable atmosphere. They use a generally functional iPad ordering system, but even as such a waiter is required to come by to affirm your order. It's a little expensive for that, though.

IceNine: WTF what is this mayo doing on the dragon roll and tempura yam? WTF is this warm rubbery pink brick sitting on the rice masquerading as salmon? WTF is with the bathrooms?

Zethar: They sure are... interesting. Reminds me of (mainland) Chinese restaurant décor.

IceNine: The crab legs at the central table were fine, though.

Zethar: And their shaved ice machine works wonderfully, although they are missing taro. They have azuchi beans but not taro? Are they that hard to get here?

IceNine: I rank the place under Green Sushi and the post-restructuring Ye's Sushi. Bleh.

Final verdict: Only come if you want to gorge yourself on crab legs *and* shaved ice. If you only want crab legs, I heard that Mandarin is better.

Zethar and IceNine

GIF OF THE DAY



horrorSCOPES

Accounting: You try to apply accounting principles from your first-year courses to real life and lose all your savings. You can't pay your tuition for next term, so you decide to use what you learned in networking sessions to start a startup.

Your unlucky number is: 8108 dollars, the price of your second-year tuition per term.

ACTSCI: Worried about the difficulty of your program, you calculate the tables for your Fall term grades. You spend so much time on this project you forget to study.

Your unlucky number is: 70% chance of failing.

AHS: During your orientation leader shift, you were assigned the work of helping the first-years move into residence. You decided to skip your shift instead and hit the gym to bulk up before school starts.

Your unlucky number is: 35 other AHS leaders also decided to hit the gym instead of going to their move-in shifts.

AMATH: Your friend told you about the corn test to determine what kind of mathematician you are. You decide use this as an interactive demonstration to first-years and buy 5 kg of corn for MathSoc Clubs Day.

Your unlucky number is: 32 minutes picking up chewed up corn cobs.

ARTS: All of a sudden your women's studies courses are filled with engineers. You strike up a conversation with a few of them and realize that none of the engineers you talk to actually care about the subject matter. Moreover, ironically, many of them are taking the course just to pick up girls.

Your unlucky number is: 5 unwelcome attempts to obtain your phone number.

C&O: Your friend tried the corn test on you to determine what type of pure mathematician you are. Unfortunately, your preferred method of breaking off kernels randomly before consuming them is not one of the options. As usual, nobody outside of your field can determine what type of mathematician you are.

Your unlucky number is: 26 minutes spent explaining to first-years that what you study is related to corn kernels.

CS: You had bragged to everyone within the first week about taking Real Time this term. The first assignment is revealed and you look at it, dumbfounded. You feel a sinking feeling in your stomach as you have no idea how to do it, and it's going to look really stupid when you drop this course with your tail behind your legs.

Your unlucky number is: 452, the devil's number.

Double Degree: You took over an exec position for the Double Degree Club. On MathSoc Clubs Day, several students approached you attempting to join your club because they are pursuing concurrent degrees in two different programs. You look into it and decide to pursue a double degree in the Arts and Math Faculties instead, to save tuition.

Your unlucky number is: 20 courses that can be double-counted in your second degree if you can convince the Registrar's Office.

ENG: After messing around with your schedule, you are finally able to get into that women's studies course. You confidently stride into the lecture room on the first day, only to be confronted by a room packed full of male engineering students.

Your unlucky number is: 170 minutes of Oktoberfest, every week.

ENV: During your field course, you notice an abnormally large number of discarded corn cobs. You begin to search for your own hypothesis as to the cause of this environmental disaster. Your investigations eventually lead you to a weary student cleaning up their display for MathSoc Clubs Day.

Your unlucky number is: 32 minutes making sure the student picked up all the corn cobs on campus.

Math Bus: Your friend approaches you about creating a startup based on their new approach to accounting. You reluctantly give them your scholarship as venture capital, only to find out they based the company solely on first-year principles.

Your unlucky number is: 90%, the percentage of startups that fail.

Math Phys: Your double degree friend suddenly calls you up and tries to convince you to get two degrees, one each from the Math Faculty and the Physics Faculty. You think this is a good idea as you can get two sheets of paper instead of one.

Your unlucky number is: 5 extra terms until you complete all the courses required for your second degree.

PMATH: You discovered a really cool way to predict whether a mathematician prefers analysis or algebra via a simple corn test. You try this out on all your friends, and to your surprise, 15 test subjects confirmed this test.

Your unlucky number is: 7 subjects who eat corn by rotating it also prefer analysis to algebra.

SCI: You overhear an intriguing hypothesis relating a person's preferred method of maize consumption with their preferred field of math. Ambitiously, you decide to apply the scientific method and conduct your own study with some leftover grant money.

Your unlucky number is: 52 subjects, 3 weeks, and \$260 later, and the hypothesis is rejected.

Soft Eng: Your friend keeps showing off how tough they are by taking Real Time this term. You can't let them one-up you, and you defend your ego by responding that you already took real time for engineers on top of a full course load, which is so much tougher than their course load.

Your unlucky number is: 1 engineering ego successfully defended.

STAT: Your PMATH friends keep bugging you about your preferred method of eating corn. When you finally figure out the reason, you are appalled by their misunderstanding of statistics.

Your unlucky number is: $0.05 < p$; there is no statistical significance.

How to Write Crowdfunding Proposals

Sometimes you just need a bit more money. Whether you're a fledgling company trying to put out a fantastic first product, a rag-tag group of programmers looking to do right by their labour of love, a webcomic artist gauging how interested her audience is in an actual book, a journalist needing help to keep an alternative news podcast going, or just a poor student trying to get by during their undergrad without going into an ark-load of debt, money inevitably ends up as a concern.

One way to remedy some of your money concerns is through this 21st-century Internet-created revolution, crowdfunding! "What is this crowdfunding thing?" you might ask, rhetorically. Well, it goes something like this:

Step 1: Come up with a project idea and enough of a demo to make it look like it can actually happen, and that it will appeal to enough people for it to matter.

Step 2: Ask for money from random people (the Internet!) and promise rewards to people who pledge and/or donate a certain amount of money, over and above actually releasing the product.

Step 3: ???

Step 4: Profit! Also give people their stuff.

Clearly, the unknown step above is "actually do the stuff", but we'll ignore that, since it's the least important thing for crowdfunding. The most important thing about crowdfunding is, contrary to popular belief^[1], the reward tiers. Let us consider an example.

Example 1. Suppose you found a job, but you don't want to move/cannot move to be within reasonable transit distance from your job, for some reason. The easiest solution is to come into possession of a car and a valid driver's license and insurance. Supposing you already have a license, we can lump the costs of the car and insurance together, and arrive at the reduced problem: you need to obtain a car.

Well, here's a solution: crowdfund it! The whole demo thing isn't hard; rent a car for a day, and make a video about how much better it makes your life, and how much better it makes your friends' lives, since you can drive them places when they're drunk and stuff. Okay, now that Step 1 is out of the way, time to deal with Step 2: the rewards.

What are some possible rewards? Well, you want to link the reward to how much money you get for it, but you shouldn't be losing money off of it. Let us examine some possible reward tiers.

- \$10: 5 minute conversation on Facebook about longcat;
- \$100: a week's worth of verifications that the weather forecast will probably be wrong;
- \$1000: mint condition Spiderman #1337;
- \$10,000: will come to pick you up from the airport if you fly into like, Pearson, for the start of an Ontario visit.

See, that wasn't too hard, right? But you have to make sure you can actually follow through with the rewards if someone meets the tier; this restriction means that the above \$10,000 tier is maybe not so useful if you end up going to school in say, Nova Scotia and the reward is being cashed in while you're not there. (Although, really, since flying between the two locations isn't quite that expensive, you still make a net profit. You can even make a net profit if the reward was "fly to where you are and drive you to UW", it turns out!)

There are certain other things you don't want to do when offering rewards. High up on the list is "sell your soul"; explicitly, you should not set as a reward tier "a pot of gold and a ride in a flying canoe" and offer as a reward "my soul". [footnote: the set of people who will get this joke and still attend UW is almost surely empty.]

In any case, crowdfunding can be useful! And as long as you trust companies like Kickstarter not to screw around and to be socially responsible, everyone wins! For the most part. But really, if you're a student looking for quick tuition help, sadly, you might not get many pledges. The whole scholarships thing has deep, deep roots, and society's insistence on supporting students only through merit while supporting politicians only through nepotism means that this won't change for far too long a time.

Scythe Marshall

[1] Logic and common sense and really this is quite incorrect, but work with me, here!

Childlike Technology

Ever find yourself nursing your computer or cuddling your cell phone? Well, that's understandable, since technology is basically just a subset of children. For example:

- When it's been running too long and gets all tired and cranky, it's best to let it sleep for a while to recharge its batteries.
- If you leave it with the old people, they'll spoil it rotten and it will get sick from being allowed to do things it shouldn't.
- It'll just go off in the middle of the night, make a whole bunch of noise, get you out of bed for what is basically

no reason at all.

- It keeps getting viruses from sharing everything with its friends.
- It is physically, mentally, and emotionally fragile. If you drop it, it'll crack and you'll have to explain to people why it doesn't work as well any more.
- If it won't stop, just smother it. That'll quiet it down.
- It tastes like chicken.
- When it gets too old, you get rid of it for a younger model.

Stubbs

Blondies Are More Fun

Good day, fellow math nerds. Welcome to a new term and with it a new issue of *mathNEWS*. For those of you who don't recognize my greeting, please allow me to introduce myself. I am The All-Knowing, Mystical, Magical, Adorable, Dependable, Dangerous, Victorious, Cheerful, Loveable, and sometimes Crazy Pastry Genie, or AKMMADDVCLCPG. But you may call me Pastry Genie for short. I am here to help you with all your baking needs.

Near the end of last term I did something crazy. I attended a *mathNEWS* Production Night. This might not seem crazy to some of you, but it is for me. For you see in order to attend Production Night I had to go to the math building on campus. Again, maybe not crazy for some. For a genie such as I this was quite a feat. What you need to understand is that I have never attended this university, and I have only been on campus once before about 11 years ago. I was attending a kinesiology lecture with a friend, but that is beside the point. The point I am trying to make is that do you have any idea how difficult it is to find your way through campus? I was told by some students that when I got to the math building I should tie a string to the door so I would be able to find my way out again. The things I do for you people.

Now at this production night, since I am The All-Knowing, Mystical, Magical, Adorable, Dependable, Dangerous, Victorious, Cheerful, Loveable, and sometimes Crazy Pastry Genie it was only right that I bring treats with me. So I brought my world famous Blondies. Upon presenting these Blondies to the writers of *mathNEWS*, I was set upon by vicious, starving math students. I just barely escaped with my life. Which is saying something, considering I am immortal. Once they finished stuffing their gullets and their hunger had been sated, I was hounded to share my recipe for Blondies.

For those who don't know what a blondie is fear not! For I will tell you. A blondie is an ooey, gooey, fudgy, almost cookie like bar. They are called blondies because they are considered the counter item to brownies. Sometimes they are called blond brownies. They are made with vanilla and brown sugar instead of cocoa. This gives them a very unique and delicious flavor. They often contain white or dark chocolate chips. Traditionally, they aren't frosted, but you are more than welcome to frost yours if you so desire. So without further ado, here is my favorite Blondie recipe. Enjoy, and welcome to Fall 2015.

With the beginning of term again and my pizza addiction relapse, I have neither time or money. But I still want to be able to enjoy all the new games that are coming out and are just so damn pretty. I've found that the best way to do this is to watch game movies on YouTube. That is, someone took the time to piece together all the cut scenes and enough game play to make a coherent movie out of the game.

This has some advantages. First, if you don't have the greatest of computers this might be your only way to experience games

The Best Freaking Blondies You Will Ever Eat. Ever.

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter, melted
- 1 cup brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract (or almond extract)
- 1 cup flour
- pinch of salt

Here is the fun part. You can add in almost anything. Personally, I go for ½ cup of chopped white chocolate and ½ cup of Skor bits (you can find them at Balk Barn). Here are some more suggestions for you. Of course, you can make them without adding anything in or add something that isn't on the list. They will still be delicious. Please don't add everything to one batch of blondies. It just won't work. Try to only pick one or two things.

- ½ – 1 cup chopped toasted nuts
- ½ – 1 cup chocolate chips/ peanut butter chips
- ½ tsp mint extract in place of the vanilla extract
- ½ cup mashed bananas
- ½ – 1 cup dried coconut
- ¼ cup bourbon, scotch, or other whiskey (make sure to add 1 tbsp of flour)
- 2 tbsp espresso powder with the vanilla
- ½ cup dried fruit [cherries, apricots (chopped), etc]
- Tequila Mix: ¼ cup tequila, 1 tbsp flour, 1–2 limes zested

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F
2. Grease an 8x8 pan
3. Mix melted butter with the brown sugar until smooth
4. Beat in eggs and vanilla (or other extract/alcohol choices)
5. Stir in salt and flour, until it just comes together
6. Add mix-ins of your choice
7. Pour into prepared pan and smooth the top
8. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Be careful not to over bake or you will lose that gooey yumminess that is a blondie.
9. Cool completely before cutting. (This is important. If you don't cool them, they will break apart on you. And you will be sad.)
10. Enjoy your delicious treat

Pastry Genie

Games the Movie

in 60fps, 1080p. Second, it takes up only a few hours instead of a few dozen. Third, you can eat food while watching without feeling bad that you're making a mess of your keyboard. Fourth, you can drink all you want and it won't hurt your ability to progress the story.

Stubbs

P.S. I recently watched *The Last of Us* and I cried a lot.

I Paid \$4390 in Co-op Fees

Now give me my fucking degree

I thought I was free from your oppressive grip. I completed my degree requirements last term, and fifth and final co-op term two terms before that. I submitted all of my work reports on time (even though you didn't have the courtesy to mark my work report in a timely manner; one term you gave everyone failing grades, then sent an apologetic email much later). I even paid for you to have someone verify that I can adhere to absurd formatting requirements for all of these useless reports (you even charged me for a work report that I didn't write, but I wasn't about to fight over \$14). I went to all of my interviews, even the first post-workterm meeting (until I discovered what an utter waste of time that was). I jumped through your hoops, filled out all your forms and paid my dues. All of this despite a continued lack of support (and occasionally outright opposition from you).

During my first work term, I received an evaluation of Outstanding. I was probably a student that you should have tried to support; a nice mixture of good grades, extensive volunteering and an excellent worker for my co-op employers. In the first round of interviews for my second term, I was granted 27 interviews and received 8 job offers. I chose the job I liked the most, and exactly one week after matching, I received a call saying that my co-op position was cancelled due to "budget constraints" (pray tell, how can your budget change so much in one week, and how can you not have the budget for a practically-free employee?). Since this had happened after matching, my other job offers had disappeared. I was absolutely devastated, and immediately reached out to the co-op coordinator for that position. I got a "there, there, we'll look into it sweetie" and I never heard anything back (despite repeated attempts at contact). I complained to Eddie Dupont, the co-op advisor for math (he's a sweetheart, by the way), who told me that he would do his best, but there wasn't much he could do. I then found out from a friend that this company was well known for cancelling jobs at the last moment. What the fuck? How is this acceptable on the part of a co-op employer? How can students be required to adhere to a job match if an employer won't do the same? In this case, the employer continued to hire co-op students with zero backlash, whilst I had to scramble for any job that wouldn't make me extremely miserable for the next term.

Because of you, I got a shitty job for my second co-op term, and because of that shitty job I got an even shittier job my third co-op term. For my fourth and fifth co-op term (a double), I was determined to get a great final job. However, this was during the winter term, and I had plans to go away for Reading Week. I was leaving a couple of days before reading week, anticipating that if I received any interviews in those few days before the break, I wouldn't necessarily be kicked out of co-op. Lo and behold, I received a request (though with you people, it's more of a demand) for a phone interview the day after I was leaving. As soon as received the email from you, I trucked over to the Tatham Centre to explain my situation. As expected, I could not reschedule or opt out of the interview. I would have to miss it, and I would have to write an apology letter. I expected this, despite giving them as much warning as possible. However, when I asked if they would inform the interviewer that I would

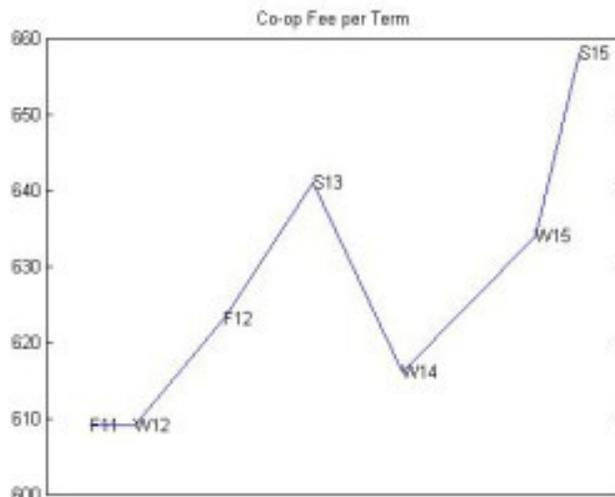
be missing the interview (I had the first slot, very early in the day), I was told that they would not be informing the interviewer. I would just not show up and look bad, and this person's time would be wasted. By all measures of human decency, how is that fair? So I took matters into my own hands: I found the interviewer's contact information, and sent an email explaining the situation. I didn't ask for an interview. My only concern was informing this person so as not to waste their time. The response I received was "Well, we really want to interview you, can we do it today?". The interviewer then contacted you to set up a phone interview. You were not impressed, strongly cautioning me to "not directly contact employers in the future". Honestly, though, if you had any respect for either the students or the employers, that would not have been necessary. I ended up getting that job, and received an Outstanding evaluation thank-you-very-much.

Now this? Seriously, what the fuck are you trying to pull? I received an email today saying that my intention to graduate has been cancelled because I was not evaluated for one of my work terms. The term in question was the first of my double work term; my supervisor filled out the evaluation for the second co-op term, but forgot to copy the information to the first. Seriously, this is a pretty obvious oversight, and something that you probably see a lot. A very, very simple problem to solve: contact the employer, and inform them of their oversight. However, you decided to make your bureaucratic bullshit for employers my problem. It's now a month before convocation, and if I don't end up convocating on October 23rd, it will be your fucking fault. I worked hard for five years to be a good co-op student, and now I'm one more person to contribute to your lovely statistic of "graduates who have found work in their field within 6 months of graduating". And that's all because of me, in spite of you.

I loved co-op, but I hate you CECA. I believe that co-op is wonderful for students, but you were the worst thing about my five years as a co-op student. Do not expect my support in any form as an alumni. And I don't know of a single co-op student (both past or current) who likes you either.

AngryAlumni

P.S. How's Waterloo Works going? Assholes.



University is No Longer for an Education

There, I said it. Yes you can still get an education from going to university, but I do not believe that it is the primary reason of attending any more. Not to long ago, only the top percent of graduating students continued pursuing their education at a university level, but why is it that it seems like everyone is taking a crack at it? In the wonderful world we live in today, mostly everything that you can think of you can find online. University level courses taught by prestigious schools? Check. Academic papers on the latest and greatest new discoveries? Check. So why are people still spending their life savings attending a university when they can get the same thing online for free or a nominal fee? The answer lies within the subconscious of every parent sending their children to universities: to get a job.

Jobs. That single word has been the main topic during political campaigns, it has brought beautiful looking, gimmicky computers into existence, and has now become one of the main reasons people attend universities. Our university is a prime example of, dare I say the word, employee farms. We have a wonderful organization called CECA which oversees and manages our cooperative education, in which students alternate between work and school in sequences of 4–8 month periods. The system is set up to glorify and reward students dressing in fancy suits and walking around campus to interviews like poodles at a dog show. Academic Excellence logically seems like it would be an important factor in a process like this yet isn't. In fact, your GPA can suck, and you'll still get hired anyways. [<http://www.youtern.com/thesavvyintern/index.php/2012/03/16/your-gpa-sucks-and-i-will-hire-you-anyway/>]

With that out of the way, I'd like to bring up an even bigger problem about universities to which I have no answer: the lowering importance of a university degree. I feel like it would

make sense that once a student graduates from university, that prestigious piece of paper they get should open up opportunities for said student to get a job in their field. I don't think any thought I've had could be so wrong. Just by looking at this thread [https://www.reddit.com/comments/1r57m0/what_university_degree_do_you_have_and_what_job/] from Reddit, you can see that so many people have put ridiculous time and money to get a degree, only to end up working in unrelated field, or not working at all. Yes, they may love what they are doing now, and yes, it could all be worth it in the end, but what this shows is that the importance of a university degree is going down, and I have no idea how to fix it properly. You could do away with programs that leave graduates with meaningless degrees, but that would reduce the amount of money universities bring in. We could try and convince future applicants to really consider if going to university is the right choice in their path towards life, but we would have to completely alter the way society functions right now. I really don't have any feasible solution to this growing problem.

I'll leave you with a thought inspired by a talk I attended last year where the speaker was talking about actual goals vs. ladder goals. Think really hard about what kind of goal attending university is to you. Is it an actual goal, where you want to go to university to further your understanding in a particular field and become a smarter person overall? Or do you want to attend university as a stepping stone to ultimately get a job? Compare the pros and cons of each, but ultimately, do what you want to do with your life.

DrLazors

The SUSHI CYCLE ©

or How to Avoid Ants in Your Sashimi

or How to Collect Hosts for a Hive Mind with Sushi

Waterloo is the place for ~~great good okay~~ cheap food. I'm a student; I don't have the money for fancy shmancy dining. But sometimes, after not buying class textbooks and eating only instant ramen for days, I manage to save enough to afford one of Waterloo's many esteemed all-you-can-eat sushi restaurants for a two-hour raw fish binge.

Now, if you haven't noticed, not all sushi places are equal. Some are good, some are bad, and some get closed down for having insect parts in the food. (I want to say where but I also want others to suffer like me.) However, unlike other restaurants, every sushi restaurant goes through each phase at least once. Introducing the SUSHI CYCLE ©! Made using carefully collected hands on data (read: I ate bugs), the cycle helps you to understand when to go to which sushi places, and when to avoid them like the plague.

Grand Opening → Good → 10/10 → O.K. → Horrible → Shut Down → Formation of Colony of Sushi Bugs → Creation of Hive Mind → Build new sushi place, to gain hosts for the Hive Mind → Grand Opening

Look at it, and bathe in its glory. Notice the careful detail, the passion, the heartache, the late nights put into this majesty of what can only be called a statistical Magnum Opus. Now obviously there are some exceptions to the SUSHI CYCLE ©, such as restaurants where the prices are exorbitant, or places that specialize in more foods than sushi, but who would ever eat somewhere like that? The Canadian Government isn't paying me enough for the 5-star food factories so I think I'll just settle with running the risk of wrecking my toilet from time to time, calling it sushi and starting my own place. How else am I going to afford all those textbooks?

Here is the SUSHI CYCLE ©:

Tudor Datcu

PC Master Race Chant in Binary

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me

Class Completely Impressed by Classmate

Toronto, ON—Students in a first-year University of Toronto calculus class were completely impressed by fellow classmate Samuel Estevez's comments today.

During a lecture on derivatives, Estevez raised his hand and started talking even when the professor did not call on him. He proceeded to take up 2 minutes of class time explaining a complex topic tangentially related to the one at hand.

"I was blown away," said student Sofia Schmidt. "I completely understood Sam's explanation of a topic that has no bearing on my major. It really opened my eyes."

"It was amazing," reported the professor of the class, who chose to remain anonymous. "I was genuinely awed by Samuel's mostly correct description of something I could do in my sleep, and I appreciated him taking several minutes of scarce class time to elucidate a topic that will matter to only a handful of class members."

At press time, Samuel was reportedly attempting to explain another concept to a girl awkwardly trying to excuse herself from the "conversation".

Paruparo

N Things that Do Not Matter to Frosh

- **Electrical Appliances:** If the lamp in your room doesn't work, use an extension cord.
- **Plumbing:** If it's clogged for long enough, the janitor has to clean up the health and safety issue.
- **Laundry:** Info sessions provide enough free clothes of all sizes that you never have to buy or launder clothing.
- **Food:** Magic plastic wotKard gives you unlimited food. In event of no wotKard, Kraft Dinner is currently 50¢ per box at Sobeys: one box is a day's worth of calories and has enough vitamin C to avoid scurvy. Alternatively, *mathNEWS* for free pizza.
- **Hygiene:** Blend in with the upper-years better by not showering. Beware the Real Time students thinking that you are one of their own.
- **Sex:** Look to your left, now to your right: both of these people are virgins and one of them will graduate as such.

ELEMENT 118

Submit your articles in the **BLACK BOX** outside the MC Comfy or email them to mathnews@gmail.com!

Massage Trains

There are very few things as wonderful as a massage train, the experience of people uniting in the simple goal of relieving each other's muscle tension. Massages trains are great way to pass the time if you are ever so unfortunate to be stuck in a bathroom surrounded by a horde of zombies.*

To start a massage train all you need is two friends who are willing to participate. Once you have your small train started other people will naturally join wanting to be part of the fun. When making a massage train there are two possible models you can go for. You can have the stair massage train, which has the nice property of giving masseuses some height in order to give a better massage. Unfortunately, it has the drawback that the person at the end of the chain doesn't get a massage. Alternatively you can go for a massage circle on level ground to combat this problem.

For the ultimate massage train that's out of this world, we recommend you locate some Penrose Stairs. Bonus points if the Penrose Stairs are in turn that part of a massage machine for a giant, who is part of his own massage train. Apply this logic recursively.

Beyond Meta

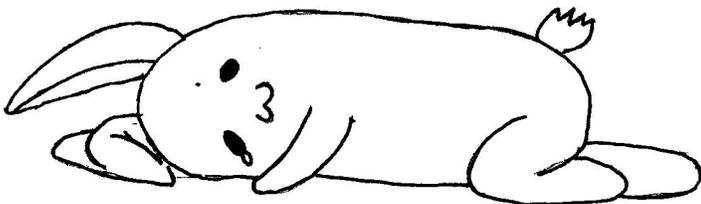
*This is a lot less hypothetical than it sounds.

Rain Plan

For the fourth year in a row, rain cancelled Waterloo Park Day. Maybe it's time to make a plan for the rain plan. Here are a few ideas for next year, when it rains again.

1. Learn the rain dance. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em. We could even make first years do weird chants.
2. Read a book with a cup of hot cocoa. Nice and relaxing. Perfect for meeting new people and starting university.
3. Catch up on cleaning! If everyone works together, maybe frosh could make MC not look bad. Maybe.
4. Listen to raindrops hit the window panes in DC, waiting for the rain to pass.
5. Learn the faculty dance in a small space, crowded with teenagers.
6. Go to the park anyway, fuck it. None of us know what Park Day actually is anymore, so we can probably wing it.

Aidan



Gross Bakers

Most of you are likely familiar with the concept of a baker's dozen: bakers would include 13 rolls instead of twelve to avoid having their hands lopped off for cheating their customers. You might also be aware that 144 (a dozen dozen) is also known as a "Gross".

Here's where things get ambiguous: How many would you say a baker's gross is? The obvious candidates are 145, 156, and 169. We could assume that a baker's "n" is just $n+1$. We could see a baker's gross as a baker's dozen dozen. We'd get the same end result if we took a dozen baker's dozens. Finally, we might just have a baker's dozen of baker's dozens.

Really, it all boils down to how paranoid the baker in question is. Most would probably be comfortable with simply adding an extra dozen rolls, or adding an extra roll to each dozen. The baker might be feeling lucky and only toss in one extra. Or they might be particularly attached to their hands, and baker's up all the relevant dozens.

The lesson to take home from all this is, if you're buying bread in bulk, get it from a baker with nice hands.

Yours,
 $s, t \in \{2k, k \in \mathbf{Z}\}, 144$

Basic University Etiquette

Get out of the way, please

Those just entering university and those who have been here before are no doubt intelligent individuals, who know how to treat others with respect. That said, there are still many people who seem to act without thinking of the consequences on others. This is mostly people who are literally standing in the way of others in and around campus. This (very) short article will inform you of some of the most common issues.

When getting onto a bus, move as far back as you can and find a seat. DO NOT stop halfway and stand there. If you can see room further back in the bus, make your way towards it. You do not want to be stuck in the front half of the bus, packed in with a dozen others, while the back is nearly empty. Do not do this to others.

When attempting to enter a classroom, WAIT. Allow the majority of people currently within the room to leave before you attempt to enter. If you try to enter while others are leaving, everyone will be slowed down and the room will be packed. Do NOT do this; people who are leaving a classroom generally need to go somewhere immediately after, and being stuck inside the room while another section-load of students block the door is at minimum a serious inconvenience.

There are likely many other scenarios that should be covered, but these will be the most immediate/common ones you will encounter. I hope you will have a courteous term.

Soviet Canadian

So You Want to Date a Pigeon

I was recently made aware of *Hatoful Boyfriend*, a Japanese visual novel where you attend high school for pigeons, and get to seduce one of seven sexy pigeons. I personally think what *mathNEWS* needs is more *Cosmo*-style romance quizzes, so we're going to play a little game I just named "So You Want to Date a Pigeon". That way, you won't need to invest any of your time in the game before you order a full-size body pillow image of your truest love.

1. If you heard about a secret conspiracy to destabilize a certain building on campus, you would...
 - (a) Bring the matter to a professor, and get immediately laughed out of the room.
 - (b) Ignore it. Rumours are for idiots who read OMGUW—you only get your news from Imprint.
 - (c) Work the news into a pickup line for that cute girl in your ECON 101 class.
 - (d) Skip all your classes to investigate.
 - (e) Write a *mathNEWS* article about it.
 - (f) Turns out you're the one who spread the rumor in the first place.
 - (g) Attempt to take the news to Feds but get sidetracked at Campus Bubble and forget all about it.
2. Humans VS Zombies time has rolled around again. You are...
 - (a) Not playing. You wanted to study for your midterms.
 - (b) Well, if you were playing, you would have the biggest and best Nerf arsenal anyone had ever seen.
 - (c) Only making the most badass dodges and saves any human has ever seen.
 - (d) Doing what you've done every term: trying minimally, dying early Tuesday at the latest, and pretending you were never a player for the rest of the week.
 - (e) A moderator, because you want to put it on your resume.
 - (f) In the vantage point you've been scoping out for weeks, waiting to catch humans the second they step out of a safe zone.
 - (g) Rushing out into the middle of MC Rock Garden, looking for a fight!
3. How do you celebrate finishing your last midterm?
 - (a) You immediately start studying for the final.
 - (b) You go out for sushi with all your closest friends, and start planning the holiday you're going to take between terms.
 - (c) Somehow you manage to do kegstands without losing any of your dignity.
 - (d) Frantically research what mark you'll need on your final if you still want to pass the course.
 - (e) You have to go help mark the midterms for the classes you TA.
 - (f) Pay off the grad student you got to write them for you.
 - (g) You go back to your basement apartment, take out the mixing bowl of pudding you made earlier, and eat it all.
4. What is your favourite club on campus?
 - (a) Your program's club. Maybe you can meet studybuddies?
 - (b) Imprint. You know that the people on campus need to hear what you have to say.
 - (c) *mathNEWS*. Because they're great.
 - (d) FASS! You love going back year after year. You never leave.
 - (e) You don't have time for clubs, you just go to office hours.
 - (f) You want to run for Feds,
 - (g) Cheese Club. They have cheese.
5. What type of book is your favourite?
 - (a) Textbooks! You like getting ahead in your classes.
 - (b) Shakespeare, Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky. You've never read *Twilight*. Never. That would be beneath you.
 - (c) Dystopian sci-fi! It's hot right now.
 - (d) Anything BUT textbooks. Those aren't important for passing your classes.
 - (e) Textbooks! ;) You like getting ahead in your classes.
 - (f) You've been getting some good ideas from Machiavelli and Rand lately.
 - (g) Cookbooks. I found this great one recently, "*Microwave Meals for One*"!
6. How do you ask someone out?
 - (a) Pass them a note that says: "Do you like me? Check one:"
 - (b) A dozen roses and a box of chocolates is the only way to go.
 - (c) Ask them to their face, like a normal person.
 - (d) Facebook message them, so you can go offline and cry if they reject you.
 - (e) The person you're interested in is a bit older than you, so you haven't been able to figure out how to bring it up.
 - (f) You engineer your OKCupid profile to make them a 99% match, and then ask them out for bubble tea.
 - (g) Nobirdie could be as interesting as your hobbies, so it's never really come up.
7. How do you eat your corn?
 - (a) Rotate down. Mmm, corn.
 - (b) Slice it off with a knife, eat it with a fork. Don't forget the napkin!
 - (c) Blended into a healthy smoothie that you bring to the gym.
 - (d) The only corn you eat is high fructose corn syrup.
 - (e) You prefer to insert it lengthwise into your mouth, and then take it out, and then put it back in again... but you only eat corn during class.
 - (f) Swallow it whole while maintaining eye contact to show your dominance.
 - (g) NO CORN ONLY PUDDING
8. How is your homelife?
 - (a) Your parents are supportive, you scrape by on OSAP.
 - (b) You fly to France twice a semester for your mother's dinner parties.
 - (c) Your mom's a DJ and your older brother is a snowboarder.
 - (d) Your whole family has multiple degrees. You will too... maybe... someday...
 - (e) Your parents are both good looking. Very good looking.
 - (f) Your parents never existed, and no one has any evidence otherwise.
 - (g) Your house is made of pudding cups, and you were home-schooled.

9. What faculty are you in?
- Arts. Undeclared. Third year. You're here for a degree.
 - Engineering, of course. You want that iron ring.
 - AHS! Wooooo!
 - You're... well, you're in between faculties at the moment.
 - Math. You don't really love the subject... but you do like the profs.
 - Environment, and nobody is really sure what you actually study.
 - Science—you've constantly got multiple gelatin experiments on the go.
10. Where do you hang out on campus?
- In the library, studying.
 - Why would I spend any more time on campus than I have to?
 - Bomber every day—but especially Wednesday.
 - You've basically moved into the Math CnD. You're not even in math!
 - In your prof's office, for some one-on-one tutoring.
 - I'd tell you my favourite, low-traffic study spot... but then I would have to kill you.
 - You prefer to perch on the roof, by yourself.

If you chose more of:

(a) you deserve Ryouta. You're just as boring as he is. *[Excuse me. Ryouta is the perfect pigeon boyfriend who would sacrifice life and limb for your ungrateful bird butt.—bunniED]*

(b) Sakuya is the pigeon for you. A pretentious, bigoted French aristocrat is the only person who will be able to support your lifestyle.

(c) you and Yuuya belong together. You two will be the couple that everyone envies, because both of you are cooler than any of us could ever hope to be.

(d) you need Nageki. He's perfect for you, because just like you, he's never going to leave school. Ten years down the road, when you've switched majors for the fifth time, he'll still be there supporting you!

(e) Kazuaki is your Legumentine. You're basically a teacher yourself, so seducing the teacher is just the logical next step.

(f) Shuu is the only one you should pursue. He's creepy and evil, you're creepy and evil. That's the basis of a solid love story.

(g) please go for Okasan. Nobirdie else will be able to handle your crazy. You two will be like two peas in a pod.

Did you have three or more pigeons tied for first place? SPOILER WARNING! They kill you. You're dead now. Yeah, might want to try the quiz again.

Diminutive Rex



Tales of Roommate Horror

With the newfound freedom of university comes the experience of sharing your living space with a variety of people some so awful you'll even start to miss your family.

The Drama Couple

There's nothing quite like coming home after a long tiring day to be greeted with the lovely sound of a guy banging on the door of his girlfriend's room yelling, "Let me in, I know someone else is in there, let me in." If this ever happens to you then you are living with the drama couple. A pair where the only emotions they feel stronger than the love they feel for each other is the hate they feel.

The Complete Animal

I had the pleasure of living with this roommate. They were constantly invading my personal space. I would sit on the couch and they would immediately start hitting on me and sometimes they would try to sit on my lap. They were also in a perpetual state of undress. They seemed to believe they could get away with this behaviour because of their looks. Then there was their annoying habit of barking really loudly when someone was at the door. Let me tell you this roommate was a real bitch.

The Ghost

You have heard of this roommate's existence and occasionally you see the mail that's addressed to them disappear but you have yet to see their face. Sometimes, late a night, you can hear their quiet haunting. If you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of them. And when you finally do encounter this mysterious being, all you will end thinking about is, "Ohs so that's the person who's being stealing my toilet paper!" It was triple-ply, damn it!

The Slob

This roommate never has to worry about anyone stealing their stuff as anyone entering their room is likely to pass out from the stench of rotting food. You remember exactly the last time the slob took a shower as the time you could actually breathe when talking to them.

The Drug Dealer

This person is the life of the party, very friendly, very sociable and, as it happens, they are always having parties with a lot of really sketchy friends. While you are late at night unable to sleep because of their parties you ponder the ethical dilemma of reporting your friend to the police.

Beyond Meta

Submit your articles, *prof*QUOTES, warm fuzzies, and jars of peanut butter to mathnews@gmail.com or the **BLACK BOX** near the MC Comfy Lounge.

profQUOTES

- "Google has infinite money, so it's okay."
Wong, CS 350
- "Don't print it. You'll just waste a tree."
Buhr, CS 343
- "I can read this book or I can go drink beer.' I mean, duh."
Buhr, CS 343
- "I tried automatic enrolment [for Piazza] once. I got half the people on campus."
Buhr, CS 343
- "I've heard them all: 'My dog ate my laptop.'"
Buhr, CS 343
- Prof: "[Priming] is absolute rubbish."
Student: "Then why in [CS] 246 do they force us to use this pattern?"
Prof: "I won't answer that question."
Buhr, CS 343
- "I don't ever use Windows. I only use Mac under duress."
Buhr, CS 343
- "My name is Dave McKinnon and I'm a small piece of cheese in my spare time."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "QED is Latin and therefore cool."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "The problem with the fourth floor of MC is that you could rotate it 90 degrees and probably not notice the difference."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "You'll notice that no one has to be sitting in the aisle today, even though six people are."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "They're called **Z** because Z is the first letter in the word number....in German."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "Alright now we're gonna prove this, because proving stuff is AWESOME!"
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "Just don't try to induce someone into the hall of fame."
McKinnon, MATH 147
- "While the Dairy Industry in Canada is a monopoly (despite no one wanting to call it one), the Egg Industry has formed something resembling a cartel."
Rajsic, ECON 211
- "Along with his 22 volumes [of mathmematic publications], Euler also had fifteen children, so he was very productive, on all fronts."
Sivaloganathan, MATH 137
- "For those of you who don't know what baseball is, it's like cricket, but less interesting."
Banerjee, STAT 231
- "Ted Williams is frozen somewhere. He might come back to life as a zombie."
Banerjee, STAT 231
- "I've never said, 'I love the distance between your eyes.'"
Banerjee, STAT 231
- "I'm having a baby—not me, but my wife."
Banerjee, STAT 231
- "Is Windows 10 provably correct? Definitely not; it crashes all the time!"
Lanctot, CS 341
- "It takes 30 billion jellybeans to fill MC. That's a lot of calories."
Lanctot, CS 341
- "If I don't answer an email within 5 seconds, I'm a failure as a friend and I don't deserve to live on this Earth."
Lanctot, CS 341
- "In 40 years, they might say, 'Computers were so primitive back then. They couldn't even recognize Kevin's mother!'"
Lanctot, CS 341
- "You might draw inspiration from chemistry, physics, *Game of Thrones*... Now you have official permission to watch *Game of Thrones*."
Lanctot, CS 341
- "My algorithm is faster than your algorithm. Ha ha ha!' That basically summarizes this course."
Lanctot, CS 341
- "Don't take any of my comments personally. It's like I say to my kids, 'I hate you all the same.'"
Baranoski, CS 488

N Things Better than Netflix 'n' Chill

- 8:30 AM classes 'n' chill
- Comfy 'n' chill
- Chemistry 'n' chill
- Free food 'n' chill
- Friendzone 'n' chill
- Info sessions 'n' chill
- MATH 135 'n' chill
- *mathNEWS* 'n' chill
- A million dollars
- Murder 'n' chill
- Real Time 'n' chill
- STAT 230 'n' chill

Dee Darby Drizzle

WTF: US Customs

TN Visa Woes

So you want to work in the US full time. You have an offer from a great company from that last co-op or from acing that interview. All your travel and relocation is planned, and you even found a place to live. Now there is just one little thing stopping you: the US customs, AKA Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Like many government organizations, CBP has its set of strange, somewhat hilarious, but ultimately annoying quirks. These were all experienced by my friends and I during our applications for the TN visa as a part of the North America Free Trade Agreement.

They fucking love paper

Unacceptable: crypto signed message from University/College proving degree, crypto signed message from company detailing job position.

Acceptable: Fancy piece of paper from University/College proving degree, 8 1/2" x 11 print out of letter from company detailing job position.

An actual quote I received from a lady on the phone: "No, this is the federal government, we need the paper."

They have strange profession/degree requirements

A TN application indicates a profession of some kind. One possible profession is "Computer Systems Analyst". The problem: "Computer Systems Analyst", according to the NAFTA, either does not involve programming, or can only program for some small portion of their job. If your job title is Software Engineer or something similar, it is very likely that a CBP agent in a bad mood will deny you entry.

Another profession is "Engineer", which is rather generic, though it supposedly includes software. This will more closely resemble the actual job title (unless you're going to a hip start-up

and got the job title of Super Ninja Rockstar Guru Laghima, in which case good luck to you), with just a minor issue: if you're not actually in engineering, your degree will be Bachelor of Math / CS / something else. Oh no! Your fancy piece of paper isn't an exact match to the job title and profession! Obviously you are not actually capable of performing the duties of the job, nevermind the fact that there exists a company willing to pay you for it. You are denied entry.

They don't think you are an engineer because you're a woman

Okay, so you actually have an engineering degree, your TN application says "Engineer" and your job title matches `^.*engineer.*$/i`. Good enough right? Nope. There is a non zero chance — that is, I have anecdotal evidence — of you being denied entry because you don't "look" like an engineer, which begs the question of what engineers look like. Coincidentally, this actually happened around the time of `#iLookLikeAnEngineer`, which was rather fitting. Holy shit, women can be engineers?! Yes, yes they can. Hell, it's almost as if they're people too.

It's probably not that bad

Don't let my dumb article deter you from any opportunities you may have. I painted a pretty shitty picture, but this is the worst of the worst. Most custom agents are reasonable and understanding. Most people get through, albeit some may require multiple attempts. Come on over, because it is all sunshine and rainbows... except if you're in Seattle, in which case, I'm so sorry.

Being paid to poop,
theSMURF

Writing About Soylent to get Pizza

Do you dislike the hassle and expense of having to prepare food? Are your meals just the same three items which you cook over and over? Do you not mind being judged by friends who think your life choices are extremely odd and foolish? If so, then you may want to consider Soylent, a meal replacement product designed to contain all of the nutrients you require in a day, so that you can completely skip eating normal food.

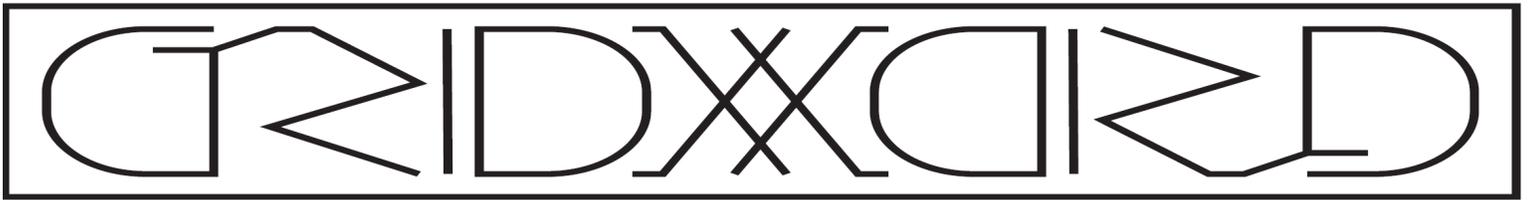
Soylent, according to its website, is a food product designed for use as a staple meal by all adults. Soylent comes in two forms - as a premade bottled drink, and in a powdered form that you add water to and shake before drinking. After hearing about this product, I couldn't help but fall in love with the idea. I decided to order a week's worth of the powdered version, which is significantly cheaper.

I'm now several days into eating Soylent as a replacement for my breakfast and lunch, and it's actually not bad. The taste is comparable to precooked pancake batter, but you get used to it pretty quickly. It actually does fill you up, and it takes only five minutes to prepare a full day's worth. There is the chance that my body will completely self-destruct if I consume it for too long, but at least that will make for a fun story after it happens.

But you want to know the best part about Soylent? By ordering it, it's given me something to write about for *mathNEWS*, and now I can get free pizza.

Dusk Eagle

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



gridCOMMENTS

Hello everyone! It's fall term, and the mood of scared and confused first-years is in the air. And it's so sad for them to be so confused...without company.

Thus, the *gridWORD!* *mathNEWS'* back cover puzzle since the 1970's. When one bright editor thought, "You know what math students want in their news publication? English puzzles!" Of course, this format has been adopted by newspapers all over the world, but *mathNEWS* proudly and fallaciously claims to have invented the crossword.

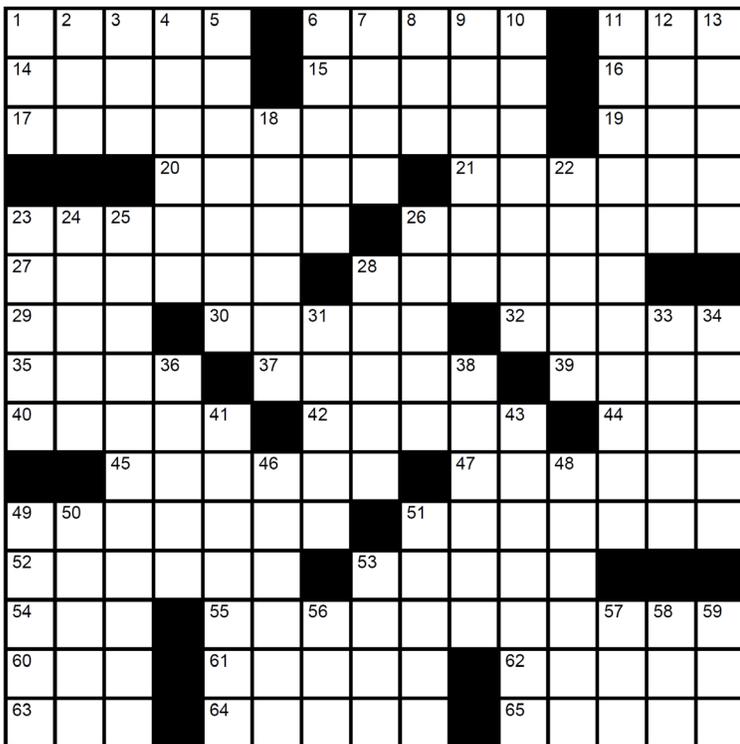
To those who don't know, the *gridWORD* has a prize for the most correct submission, where ties are broken by my favourite answer to a random question, the *gridQUESTION*.

This term, I will be adding a new level of puzzle. Instead of revealing the theme in my *gridCOMMENTS*, you will have to find the theme for yourself, and find the theme answer. This issue, **the theme answer is a place in Waterloo.**

To enter, submit your *gridWORD* solutions in the **BLACK BOX** by the Comfy before **6:30 PM on October 5th**. To decide ties, I will look at your theme answer, and the funniest answer to the *gridQUESTION*, "What is your favourite place in Waterloo?"

ConvolutED

This Issue's Grid:



gridCLUES

Across

1. Giraffe relative
6. Star called Alpha Virginis
11. June honoree
14. English county
15. Seraglio
16. "I'll take that as ___"
17. *Opera house section
19. Big shot
20. Smooth
21. Eventually
23. Brain stem part
26. "A ___'s wage..."
27. Weak
28. Ploy
29. Econ stat
30. Word with club or stick
32. Ages
35. N.Y. team
37. Opposite of dimin.
39. Faucet problem
40. Impromptu
42. Gone by
44. G8 member
45. Acknowledge
47. Rubber
49. Tier
51. Smaug and Puff, e.g.
52. Coronets
53. Put forth, as an opinion
54. What this clue don't have
55. *All-female country group
60. Hoax
61. Prefix meaning tooth
62. Windows predecessor
63. Before, in poems
64. To the Arctic
65. Courtyards

Down

1. Uneven
2. Prefix to -plunk
3. "Hail, Caesar!"
4. One who fakes their death?
5. Diabetic's dose
6. One of the Trinity
7. Trim
8. bash.org source, often
9. Aggravated by gluten
10. Comfort
11. *CSI: Miami star
12. Inner self
13. Sleepy companion?
18. Full of lime
22. Took a crack at
23. Molten material
24. Kaput
25. *Underwater mine
26. Middle school insult
28. Taking something the wrong way?
31. Target for a painful kick
33. Resurrected
34. Boxes
36. More achey
38. White-collar worker?
41. Game Corner city
43. Old Greek coin
46. Square dance call
48. One who doesn't respect their elders
49. French story
50. Cuban export
51. Biblical verb
53. Make wine
56. Either one, but not both
57. It can be burned?
58. Zen garden fish
59. Ass backwards?

Theme Answer: _____



Mathematischatte