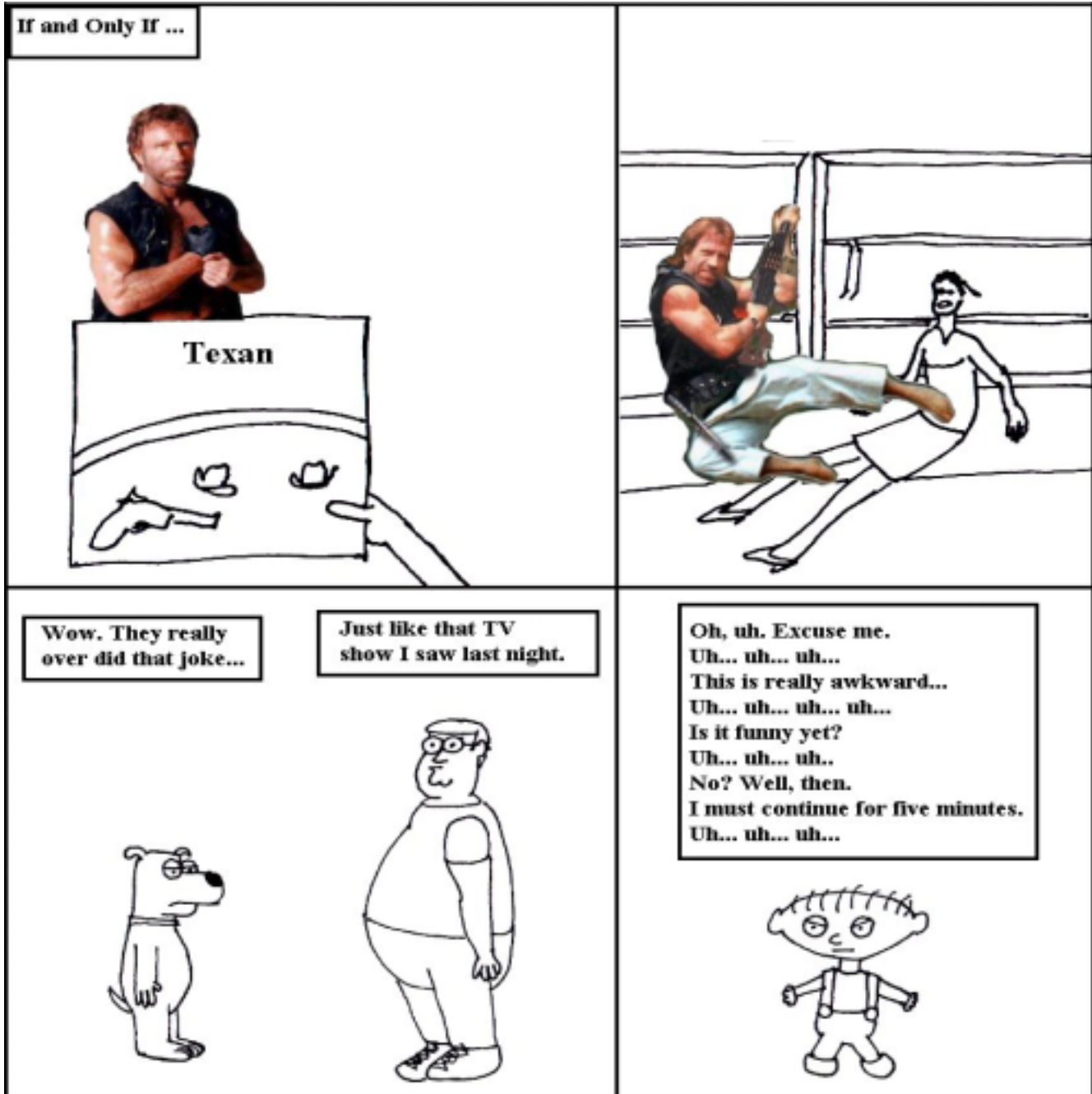


# math

# NEWS

Volume 106, Issue 4

Friday, February 29th, 2008



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**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| February 29 | <i>mathNEWS</i> Issue #4 implodes   |
| March 10    | <i>mathNEWS</i> Production Night #5 |
| March 14    | <i>mathNEWS</i> Issue #5 explodes   |

**Math Faculty**

|         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Today   | WD - Withdrawal period ends         |
| March 1 | WF - Withdraw/Failure period begins |
| March 2 | Pre-enrolment period ends           |

**MathSoc**

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Wednesdays | Games Nights |
| Thursdays  | Movie Nights |

**CECS**

|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Today    | Ranking opens at 9:00PM              |
| March 3  | Ranking closes at 2:00PM             |
| March 3  | Match results available as of 4:00PM |
| March 5  | Continuous Phase Job Postings Begin  |
| March 13 | Continuous Phase Interviews Begin    |

**Miscellaneous**

|          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 3  | Cantor's Birthday |
| March 10 | Commonwealth Day  |

**Sundin refuses to leave the Leafs***Stubborn or stupid?*

Fans of the Toronto Maple Leafs got a large dose of bad news recently when Mats Sundin, the longtime Captain of the crappy franchise, decided to not waive his No-Trade clause in his contract in order for the franchise to trade him away for draft picks and prospects in building for the future. Sundin, who is now 37 and in the last year of his contract with the Maple Leafs, has been playing great hockey this season, amassing 62 points with 25 goals in 63 games with the Buds. He cited his decision to remain with the Leafs was due to the pride of being a Maple Leaf and his unwillingness to abandon his teammates in a time of hardship, unlike other veteran sellouts like Doug Weight and Mark Recchi before him.

Fan reaction to this monumental decision has been divided. One group of fans who want the Leafs to start selling their veterans for a full fledged rebuild are angry at the captain for his selfishness. After all, if Shane O'Brien of the Lightning last year could fetch a first round pick, why can't Sundin? This could have been the year where the Leafs start a foundation of youth in order to compete years down the road, but this plan has been foiled by the selfishness of Sundin.

On the other hand, fans who respect the player have, despite their difference in opinions, accepted Sundin's decision with class. A contract is just that, a contract, it isn't Sundin's responsibility to void his contract for the Leafs' sake even if they were on the verge of bankruptcy (Not bloody likely!). Any fan who vilifies Sundin for this act is clearly not a real fan. Yes, I went there.

On a completely unrelated note, Peter Forsberg just signed with the Avs, but I have to admit, I don't see his value for the rest of this year as being high at all, especially being a C instead of a winger.

Megaton Panda

**mastHEAD**

Lock your doors, study all night, for the midterms are coming! Take heed, for most of our production staff had succumbed to the merciless mercy of midterms. These fearsome beasts have been on the prowl ever since the end of reading week: seeking out lazy, underprepared math students to torture and fail! Never turn your back... never let your guard down... never read the Imprint...

Although, we assumed that the non-present *mathNEWS* production staff were dead (as is a natural assumption when someone doesn't show up for FREE pizza), the living members were brooding over the fates of the unfortunately not-present. Horror stories were shared, and we even pondered "How do you hide the bodies after you call kill -9?". Their terrified responses were: 42 "You place them byte-by-byte in dev/null", Matt "With a powerful electro magnet", Thor "By setting the universal constants in such a way that the world evolves without the bodies in it", Peter "Sudo alias ls=echo 'no bodies here' &&alias grep='ls'", MJB "Throw them in the trunk of my car next to the dead hookers"; and The Hee Ho "I'm in Stats... what the hell are you talking about?"

In loving memory of those who have been ravaged and destroyed by midterms, we give thanks. Thanks to graphics for making a rainbow after every storm, Kellogg's Puppy Bran for two scoops of Puppies every morning as part of my balanced breakfast, Ratatosk for making me feel like I'm in highschool all over again, and EMO music: nature's way of telling you that you are doing something wrong.

Michael 'perkiEd' Perkins "With thermonuclear weaponry."  
Michaelangelo 'AngelED' Finistauri "I call reincarnate -4, and say the other 5 were sacrifices."

**Super Smash Bros BRAWL  
Launch Party***UW Gamers, letting you play their games yet again!*Smash Bros Brawl launches in Canada: **March 9<sup>th</sup>**UW Gamers Smash Bros Brawl release party: **March 10<sup>th</sup>**Keep posted at [www.uwgamers.org](http://www.uwgamers.org)

UW Gamers Dude

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Huginn and Muninn: Michaelangelo Finistauri &amp; Michael Perkins

## Interesting Math

### *Parrondo's Paradox*

The losing strategy that wins! Yes, I'll be writing about another paradox this issue. I couldn't help it, SASMS (See article on page 8) is coming up, and I talked about this phenomenon at length at the F07 SASMS. Essentially, the paradox says that there exist two games, each with negative expected value, such that when played alternately, you will get a positive expected value. Sounds weird, right? Well, my dear reader, it wouldn't be much fun otherwise!

To understand how this could make sense, we consider a ratchet. Slight motion in one direction will load up the ratchet, but slight motion in the other direction will have no effect, so overall we can shift up a ratchet. We can think of it this way: we consider a slope and a tilted ratchet. Both are "losing", in the sense that a marble with random horizontal motion will eventually move downwards. We will now consider what happens when we interchange the profiles again and again. Assume without loss of generality that we start in a trough of the ratchet. Switch to the straight slope profile. As the marble shifts back and forth randomly, we will switch back to the ratchet in two cases: if past the next peak going up, or before falling down a previous peak. This way, if we get past a peak then we can stay in the ratchet profile, and the marble will more likely fall up into the next trough. Conversely, if we switch to the ratchet before falling down past a previous peak, we can use the ratchet to push the marble back to the trough, and we've lost no ground. Parrondo's Paradox is just that, essentially the losses don't set you back to a previous peak, and we switch games for some wins to push us ahead. If you understood all that, excellent — I usually have the aid of props or a blackboard to help explain.

I'll give an example of two games that satisfy the paradox. Consider Games 1 and 2, where if you win, you earn 1 unit and if you lose, you lose 1 unit. Game 1 you have a probability  $(1/2) - \epsilon$  of winning, for some small  $\epsilon$ . Clearly this is a losing game. Game 2 is a little more complicated, you first check if our current earnings is a multiple of 3. If it is, you have a probability  $(1/10) - \epsilon$  of winning. Otherwise, you have a probability  $(3/4) - \epsilon$  of winning (this is analogous to playing Game 2 with two different coins, with mentioned weighting). It can be shown that Game 2 is also losing, but it takes a bit more work (try it out for fun). If you've taken Stat240, the problem about the drunk walking over a cliff is very similar. Now if you play the games interchangingly, you can again work out the expected value, and find out it's positive! Moreover, you can get a winning strategy by playing game 1 with random chance  $\gamma$ , a factor of  $(1/2)$  works fine. If you work out the math a bit, you'll find that there's a whole space of parameters that will satisfy Parrondo's Paradox; I'm using the values Harmer and Abbot used in their paper.

As we can see, the paradox relies on the dependence between the games. For if they were independent, any combination of losing games will yield a losing game. This fact makes Parrondo's Paradox relatively useless in stock market investment; however, it is still quite applicable for fields such as game theory, financial risk management, and dynamics of population, to name a few.

**Vince's Problem of the Issue:** Suppose  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  are complex polynomials with the same set of roots (but possibly different multiplicities), and  $f(x) + 1$  and  $g(x) + 1$  also have the same set of roots. Show that  $f(x) = g(x)$ .

Vince Chan

## profQUOTES

I'm missing my big, kick-ass eraser.

Boudreau STAT330

We're pretty happy, but there's this little jackass [term] here.

Boudreau STAT330

The midterm coverage is up 'til here. But you have to stay [in class]. Don't go.

Tian ACTSC372

That's the law of large lovers... lovers?

Metzger STAT340

This is [my wife's] Valentine's gift: Monte Carlo integration.

Metzger STAT340

When I was at Stats Canada they spent millions of dollars to build an optimal random number generator. It was actually a lot of fun making fun of what they were doing.

Metzger STAT340

You probably need some hallucinogenic drugs to see what it looks like.

Chisholm STAT331

This is fun. I want to teach kindergarten one day.

Chisholm STAT331

I won't laugh at you, your classmates might, but I won't.

Chisholm STAT331

That's the end of my seven magical properties of awesomeness.

Chisholm STAT331

We're saying: okay, screw this.

Chisholm STAT331

[In a 500 person tutorial] Now to both of you who don't know any Mandarin or Cantonese...

Celmins MATH136

## Instructor of the Year Nominations Open

Know an instructor who does a particularly good job? Does your prof repeatedly go to great lengths to explain a difficult concept, or simply make every class engaging and fun? Is he or she simply a very nice person? Then nominate them for the Instructor of the Year award!

The Instructor of the Year award is presented annually (at the end of each winter term) by the Mathematics Society to distinguished lecturers, based on nominations submitted by students during the past two terms as well as the current term. Only instructors in the Faculty of Mathematics are eligible. If you would like to nominate your prof, then come by the MathSoc office (MC3038), pick up and fill out a nomination form, explaining why you think your instructor deserves an award, and drop it off with our office staff.

Nominations are open from now until Friday, March 21st (three weeks from now).

Dmitry Denisenkov  
MathSoc VP Academic

## HorrorScopes

*Quite possibly responsible for mass kitten seppuku*

### ACC

As the moon is moving from CM to SE you are finding that your fortune is changing with it. Things you considered lucky are now all exploding in extravagant manners. Assume an anti-hero disposition and seek to bring your luck back.

Your lucky number is 45 minutes of non-stop action.

### ACTSC

Taking a break is helpful, but reading week has left you so relaxed that you can no longer function. If it persists, you will find that many incompetent and useless people make very good livings. You just have to get used to doing things for money and not for the enjoyment.

Your lucky number is one true calling ignored.

### AMATH

A few alterations at home will make things easier for you in the future. When the police ask about the bodies, tell them that your roommates decided to stop delaying the inevitable.

Your lucky number is a 100 in all of your classes.

### BBA/BMATH

Life will be taking a surprising turn for the better when you develop super human powers that allow you to stop time. When writing your next test, freeze time when someone flips a page and erase everything they've done.

Your lucky number is five induced bell curves.

### C&O

Expect something good to 'light your candle', where candle is loosely defined as your body. An arsonist is trying to show their undying love for you in a combusted state. They may seem like they are using you only for firewood, but there just may be more to it than that.

Your lucky number is one mysterious, burning passion.

### CM

Planetary powers put you in the driver's seat of life. Please note the distinct lack of steering wheel and brakes. Don't worry about the damage done, you just go about your business and let the bodies take care of themselves.

Your lucky number is 0 witnesses standing.

### CS

The moon moves into Scorpio, killing millions in the collision, but don't cry over spilled bodies: you can replace them with your code. It's all a matter of looking on the bright side of your life while profiting off of the dark side of other's.

Your lucky number is over 9,000 lines of code to replace many people.

### MATH/BUS

If you were preparing yourself for bad news and misfortune, then you will be pleasantly surprised when you find out that you were exactly right! You win at life, but lose at winning.

Your lucky number is negative expected value.

### OR

Hardship has left you feeling all alone in the world. You have to realize that it isn't the hardship, but the lack of people in your program. Invent some people and enroll them in your classes and do all assignments as group projects. Don't get mad when their marks are better than yours.

Your lucky number is a 10 percentile difference in average.

### PMATH

Luck will smile upon you when you accidentally use a theorem to rip a hole in space and time. It may not seem like a blessing at first glance, but a new and wonderful world will await you on the other side. Stay away from White Witches.

Your lucky number is one evil, frosty bitch.

### SE

When the going gets tough, the tough get Super Saiyan. Crazy, albino monkeys going insanely fast and blowing up everything are telltale signs of the going getting tough.

Your lucky number is infinitely-many family-related questions.

### STAT

You have been invited to step up and show the world what you can do. You have to do your best, which means that your errors must be minimized and your ass kicking must, on average, kick ass. Use your Least Suck Estimation to your advantage.

Your lucky number is  $n - 1$  degrees of ass-kicking.

### TEACHING OPTION

You may be pleasantly surprised when a herd of sheep come charging in from the horizon. You will be less pleasantly surprised to find out that they are mutants that are out to kill you and mate with you. In that order.

Your lucky number is six New Zealand horror flicks that describe your life.

### UNDECLARED

The realization that people have been playing more pranks on you becomes apparent when you find yourself sitting on a nerve gas whoopee cushion. Don't let anger get the better half of you, bottle up your feelings and emotions in a safe place where they may break out in an uncontrollable bout of rage.

Your lucky number is seven limit breaks.

### AHS

The light you see at the end of the tunnel is a switch train. Now is the time to renew your credit and tell a loved one that you've had better.

Your lucky number is 0 regrets.

### ARTS

Go after what you want and don't let anyone stand in your way. Even if there is a maximum drinking limit, you can handle your liquor from all of that homework that you don't have to do. You bastards.

Your lucky number is every day of the term.

### ENG

You have a lot to gain by helping others. Every person you help is another commission for you to collect. If the ones you help do not carry cash, then souls are also an acceptable currency on the open market.

Your lucky number is one good deed a day.

### ES

Your precious planet earth will be destroyed by the sun in as little as 8 million years. You and all of your hippie friends can utilize the power of your love to build a protect barrier around the world. Flower power!

Your lucky number is 8 millenia of defensive drum circles.

### SCI

The horizon seems cloudy, but it's not that something bad is going to happen, it's just that something bad is going to happen to you. Don't be bitter about the situation, just relax and let life take it up the... never mind.

Your lucky number is one sore... never mind.

## Dating Advice from the Single Gal

Dear Single Gal,

My girlfriend goes to York and will be moving up to Waterloo for work during the summer. She wants us to live together. It would only be for four months, but I'm really freaked out. We've done the long distance thing for 3 years and I don't know if I could take her up in my personal business every day. How can I tell her I don't want her to live with me?

Justin

Dear Justin:

Hmm, this is a tough one. Try opening your mouth and making noises. Moving your lips may help too. If this girl's into you and you've been dating for a while, I'm sure she won't be uber-pissed if you tell her you don't want to allow her to become a freeloader. If honesty isn't your style, tell her your roommates aren't cool with it or something. If you want to be a super nice and accommodating boyfriend, you could try helping her find a place. She may not be too enthused about having you up in her personal business either, but feels that there is no alternative. Summer sublets in Waterloo are ridiculously cheap. Plus, now you'll have your girlfriend in the same city as you and not living with you. Benefits: no nagging about taking out the garbage, but lots of ultra-convenient frequent sex. Win-win.

Single Gal

Dear Single Gal:

There's this guy friend I have who calls me at 2am every Friday night when he's drunk. He says he just wants to "talk". But when he comes over he tries to make things all physical and he doesn't want to do any talking at all! I tell him I'm not into him like that and he gets all pissed and leaves. But the next week, he does it again. How do I make him stop?

Allison

Dear Allison:

Really? Every week! It's like he's just not getting the hint. How dense do you have to be to not notice such an obvious pattern like that? Right, he's the dummy. Here's a thought. Try turning your phone off? Or ignoring his call. Or answer the phone and tell him he can come over and have a lovely conversation with you and your new boyfriend, the football player. By allowing him to come over, you're just encouraging his behaviour. Besides, with friends like that, who needs drunken dumbass roommates?

Single Gal

## For my MATH137 Professor

*Who was utterly disappointed at our failure to appreciate the poetry of mathematics.*

I trudge through piles of problem sheets  
 Until my mind, so numb, so sore,  
 So tired of acrobatic feats,  
 Declares this math a useless bore.  
 And yet, I still cannot ignore  
 The thought that these same symbols curled  
 Which guide my work, might answer for  
 The ample beauty of this world.

HZ

## Wanted: The Big Three

*Passed or failed*

The Notorious Big Three have struck again, this time wounding a poor defenseless CS student who took them on unprepared. Lheat Mauron was struck down in one of the labs today, reportedly by the Big Three, who have been terrorizing students in the MC for many years. Lheat was found gibbering about "being finally finished" and was declaring himself the "Duke of Train" in the Comfy Lounge early last week.

From the curl of his hands and the twitching of his fingers he was apparently up late the night before, and the week previous, coding. This is a common affliction to those who encounter these dastardly bandits. By putting Lheat's hands on a keyboard with Vim running, O(1) code was typed out. Forensics was able to determine he had run into the head of the gang, Course Number CS452: Real Time Programming AKA "Trains". While generally Real Time takes a small group of students, Lheat was an unlucky one who thought he could take on the leader alone.

For the unaware, the Big Three are a trio of CS courses that have made a name for themselves by being particularly programming intensive. Often students enroll in them foolishly thinking they won't spend much time on them, until it's too late. Sheriff Calum T. Dalek, of the Computer Science Corral, has faced each of them and lived, and has this to say about them:

**CS444:** Compiler Construction is the brains of the bunch. She's so confident that if you go up against her, she'll let you and your posse use whatever you have in your arsenal, C, C++, Python, even Haskell.

**CS488:** Known only as "Graphics", he prefers to take students out alone, after luring them into his lair on the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor with promises of valuable art and the secrets of OpenGL.

**CS452:** "Trains" attracts students with his impressive toys and snares them in his lab, putting them on display a straight shot from the Right Angle Saloon.

Although these notorious outlaws remain at large, students who have encountered them and lived are considered valuable assets to any employer's posse.

Lesser but equally dangerous bandits also roam the curriculum, such as Communications Couple, CS454: Distributed and CS456: Networks. Where you find one, the other isn't too far behind. Not far behind on the wanted list is CS343: Concurrent and Parallel, a former trick shooter who knows many different techniques, and CS349: User Interfaces, a pretty lass with eyes like a hawk and aim to follow.

If you come across any of these known miscreants and survive, please update your transcript. Any information would greatly assist in their apprehension.

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## More profQUOTES

It's very refreshing... We are in university and we don't know the square root of 4.

Oancea MATH137

Well, as long as three people know what's going on, that's great!

Bishop SE141

## Conversations with Idiots

### *Unequal equality*

I have personally been a big fan of equality as it is logical. Believing that people of certain ethnicities, genders or otherwise distinguishing characteristics are incapable of certain tasks because of those traits is not generally smart. However, I have met many people who have difficulty realizing that the “door swings both ways” in a manner of speaking. One individual I held in particularly low esteem, named Dr. Braindead, had some rather bass-ackwards opinions relating to men and women.

Fortunately, I managed to suppress most of the conversation with the good doctor; however, some of the mind-numbingly stupid comments he made still linger in my mind. The subject of discussion was women’s current role in society. His opinion was (basically) women were incapable of doing harm, were always placed second to men, and men were incapable at doing things right. First off, I was tempted to look between his legs and tell me what me if something was missing there because his limp-dicked theories were not only insulting, but also very unintelligent conclusions.

- **Women were incapable of doing harm** — this was a predominant theme of the conversation, and the doctor had made some very stupid statements. One of which was “... a wom[a]n can’t sexually harass a man because she’s a wom[a]n!” Besides being incredibly insulting to women, his idea was almost infinitely stupid. By definition **any** woman can sexually harass a man. And the same goes the other way around too. Having a penis doesn’t automatically make you a perpetrator of sexual assault or harassment. A friend of mine has told me something (and I’m not sure how true it is, but it sounded amusing in an asinine sort of way): if a man leaves his wife, it’s his fault for being a bad husband and if a woman leaves her husband then it’s his fault for not being able to keep her happy.
- **Women are always second to men** — I can think of a couple examples to counter this one. Look at homeless shelters: there exist shelters, which are designed to help people in need, that give priority to women and children. How is this bad? First of all, it says that the plight of women is worse than the plight of men and hence there exists inequality. Also, imagine a mother with a male and female child. Once the male child reaches a certain age, that child is not given a priority access and is separated from his mother. Furthermore, if there is a father, he is already separated. Real fair. Secondly: have you ever tried being a straight, white, male trying to get special financial aid and awards for school? Good

luck. Third: there are quotas that force employers to hold either a certain number or percentage of female employees. Now, I agree that women should have a place in the work force, but we now have a system in place that can potentially hire an employee with less experience or less competency based on their gender. Funny. Isn’t that what we were trying to avoid?

- **Men are incapable of doing things right** — although, the good doctor didn’t outright say this, but he made several comments to the effect. He did say that the people in power (i.e. prime ministers) never seemed to get it right and always screwed up. His explanation seemed to be that it was because they had penises. I theorized it was because they were complete scum regardless of their gender. If you expect me to assume that not having a penis isn’t supposed to have a noticeable effect on your professional performance, then it’s not that much of a stretch to say that having a penis will also not effect your professional performance.
- If you thought those were bad: here’s the kicker. Apparently, if a female is raped by a male, then the doctor believes that the female in question should be isolated from the men in her life so that she can “begin” the healing process. That’s just unbelievably insulting. So one male does something terrible and all of a sudden, I’m just as bad as him because I have a penis? That’s pure bullshit. Equating every man to the one that did the raping is pretty similar to saying that women shouldn’t be in the work place. Why? Because I bet you that given enough time I could find one woman who wouldn’t do a good job and so by the same logic, all women should be removed from the work place so that the professional healing process can begin. But let’s assume I’m wrong! Why stop at men? What if the guy was black? Maybe all black men should be taken from her life! Isn’t that discrimination? Who cares? It’s the ‘healing’ process. Personally, if I was in the situation, I would feel a lot better and get over it a lot faster, if the people in my life were still with me afterwards. Male or female. That would help the healing process. Not isolation.

I’m sure that Dr. Braindead’s heart was in the right place, but it’s a pity that his brain was removed because it’s attitudes like his that keep misogyny alive. Men bashing isn’t going to fix people’s opinions. It’s not a quick fix, and oddly enough hating people (although, fun) is not the solution. Dr. Braindead should expect to get charged with malpractice and being an overall douche.

AngelED

## Hello Kitty Online

### *Move over, World of Warcraft!*

MMO players beware! There is a new MMO in town that stakes the claim to be the game that will supplant World of Warcraft as the next great thing. Yes, you read right, **Hello Kitty Online** is coming!

The game is based on the Hello Kitty franchise, a collection of adorable animals dressed up in cutesy fashions that cater to the children’s market. Bringing this franchise online, users will be able to live in the towns that these cute characters live in as well as interact with the characters and other users through guilds,

money making, farming for crops, and even building their dream houses! Think Neopets, but much better!

While the game is not completely finished, it is already in its closed beta testing stage, with a staggering 40,000 beta testers already signed up. Want to be one of them? Check it out!

Fans of the franchise, or people who are just curious can check out this wonderful creation here: <http://www.hellokittyonline.com/us/>.

Megaton Panda — Who doesn’t actually like Hello Kitty

## Dying for your entertainment

### *Making movies isn't all fun and games*

In the past month, no piece of entertainment news topped the bombshell of Heath Ledger's untimely death. His accidental drug overdose (6 separate prescriptions!) has been the source of mourning, memorials, and long discussion over the implications it will have on the movie he was filming, *The Imaginarium of Dr. Parnassus*. They have since decided to cast no less than *three* replacement Hollywood 'hunks' in Ledger's place for the unshot scenes; the three being Johnny Depp, Jude Law, and Colin Farrell.

However, this is hardly the first time that major film stars have gone to the big trailer in the sky in the midst of filming a movie. There have been drug overdoses, accidents, and plain old heart attacks, but Hollywood knows that even though their main character is dead, that's no reason to stop making a movie! Here're a few examples of some of these killer movies.

- **The Crow:** The quintessential killer movie. *Brandon Lee*, following in his father's (Bruce Lee) footsteps, performed many of his own stunts for this film. Unfortunately for him, in a scene where his character gets shot, Brandon suffered the same fate. The gun used for the scene, in its previous use, had accidentally gotten a real bullet lodged in its barrel. When it was reloaded with blanks for Brandon's scene, the blanks provided enough force to fire the real bullet. The movie was ultimately finished through computer effects and clever use of stand-ins.
- **"Manos" The Hands of Fate:** Arguably the worst movie ever made. Actor *Tom Neyman*, playing the character of Torgo, a satyr (half man, half goat), spent much of the production of the movie in extreme pain due to his prosthetic legs. This was partly due to filming some initial scenes having had the legs put on backwards. A directorial decision was made to continue shooting scenes with the legs on reverse, despite the pain it caused Neyman. Neyman took to the habit of taking painkillers during filming. Upon completion of the film, Neyman had developed an addiction and fell into depression, ultimately killing himself.
- **Wagons East!:** Wagons East was a terrible comedy starring *John Candy*. In this film, Candy's character, James Harlow leads a wagon train full of fed up would-be settlers back east to New York. Sadly, Harlow dies halfway through the film. But miraculously, and inexplicably, he returns for the final shootout. It's almost as if Candy had died during filming, and the movie was hastily rewritten to compensate for the unshot scenes! Indeed, Candy died from a heart attack in the hot Mexican night after a long day of filming.
- **Almost Heroes:** This movie was filmed during *Chris Farley's* height of post-SNL fame. And with that extreme stardom, came extreme partying! Having wrapped up filming for the movie, Farley went on a multi-day bender of drugs and alcohol, finishing it all off by shooting up a "speedball", a combination of heroin and cocaine in the same needle. A massive drug overdose and his obesity as a complicating factor left him dead in hours.
- **Twilight Zone: The Movie:** In perhaps the most greusome of film accident deaths, *Vic Morrow* plays a bigot who is transported into the position of several oppressed minorities. In what was intended to be the last sequence, he finds himself in the Vietnam War, and overcomes his bigotry to save some

Vietnamese children from a firefight. Morrow and two children were being filmed running away from a low flying helicopter when pyrotechnic explosions caused the helicopter to spin out of control. The rotor blades decapitated Morrow and one of the children, and the second child was crushed under the helicopter's skid. The scene had to be rewritten, and instead of overcoming his bigotry, Morrow's character finds himself being marched into a Nazi death camp, with no rescue or redemption in sight.

The undeniable conclusion: Movies are dangerous business! If any of you dear *mathNEWS* readers out there are planning to go into show biz, please heed those who have come before you. Don't be fat. Don't take drugs. Don't do your own stunts. Or, ignore all that advice, live fast, play hard, and die young!

MJB

## What if life were more like Dead Rising?

- If you happen to save someone's life, they will be so grateful that they call you a jerk and yell at you while you go off to clear a safe path for them.
- The moment that you are more than three feet away from any of them they will scream your name constantly.
- While trying to get your friends to do simple things like avoid the oncoming car they will refuse your assistance, and stand there. Like idiots.
- Your friends have the combined IQ of a rock. The shortest distant between points A and B is through points C, D and E where no set of four or more points is co-planar.
- Furthermore, if both of your friends need to get to the same general area, they will fight each other endlessly in an effort to stand wherever it is they need to stand.
- Your friends will always call you in the most inappropriate times. In the middle of an exam, police interrogation or while you are being eaten alive by zombies. Should you hang up on them for whatever reason, when they phone back, they will be pissed off at you for not giving them your attention.
- All wounds, ailments and pains can be easily remedied by drinking or eating. Even a gun shot to the face can be mended by downing some orange juice. Even if the food has been lying around for days, it's still good!
- You cannot rely on anyone. If there are five people watching a security monitor and someone suspicious walks by, absolutely no one feels it necessary to call and tell you about them. You have to be there.

The Hee Ho

## Dissed Connections

I couldn't help but notice that you've started hanging around my house after I kidnapped you and chained you to the sturdiest wall. You were trying to claw your way through the wall and gnaw off your arms. It was so cute!

Remember when I came to your class in high school and asked you out? It was only a week ago, and I know that you're jail bait, but please! No one in university will talk to me!

Watching you sleep in the SLC great hall was nice. You also look very handsome and dignified when you leave your classes. And the way you try and look for me to see if I'm following you home. You're so dream :D

## What I did today.

*Code reviews are fun!*

Some comments from my recent code review. This was a review of about 30 different classes which I've been developing for over a month.

1. Getters and Setters should be inlined. Please Correct.
2. Class names that are too generic should be made more specific. Please Correct.
3. Header files should use #pragma once instead of #ifndefs, as this is a Microsoft-only application. Please Correct.
4. Variable names need to be specified with Hungarian Notation, including using the m\_ prefix. Please Correct.
5. Tab characters need to be replaced with four space characters. Please Correct.

The best part? Absolutely all of these errors exist in the current codebase. There is no style documentation to speak of. Apparently, the coding style to follow is: "Guess who your reviewer will be, and use the conventions that they use."

Thor

## From the PMAMC&OC

*Epsilon!*

A few announcements from your friendly PMAMC&OC (Pure Math, Applied Math, Combinatorics & Optimization Club). As with every term, we will be hosting **SASMS** (Short Attention Span Math Seminars). At this memorable event, students give 30 minute seminars on interesting mathematics-related subjects. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 11 in MC 5158 from 4:00PM to 11:30PM, and refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/~amwright/sasms2.htm>, contact us at [pmclub@gmail.com](mailto:pmclub@gmail.com), or drop by the office to ask us in person.

In other event news, PMC also hosted the "Integration Bee" last Winter, to great success. Students and professors compete in a competition testing integration abilities, nerves, and speed. Refreshments are available and prizes are awarded to winners. This term we will host the second annual Integration Bee tentatively scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, so be sure to look for notices about that!

PMC

## Poetry of the bathroom stalls

- "I am Cindy and I luv to suck \*\*\*\*. Call me at ###-####." Don't worry about how I managed to put my personal information in a men's washroom stall. Or even why I wouldn't just advertise in the Imprint. That's for me to know and you to mull with trepidation.
- "I hate math, I'm just here for teh ladies. But there aren't any. So I switched into arts." Despite the fact that I should have been in school for the purpose of pursuing an education, I'm just here to get laid. Somehow I didn't think of Brock when I was choosing schools either. Which also explains why I'm in arts now.
- "Some come here to sit and wonder. I come here to \*\*\*\* and thunder." You know, in case any of you were curious about the general usage of public facilities.
- "Ted is gay! No you are!" The most common question people worry about when trying to expel their excess waste is who is gay. It's very important.

Various artists

## Statistical research assistant wanted

The Statistics and Actuarial Science department of the University of Waterloo is now accepting applications for a new branch of statistical research. Professor Ivana Goodlay has begun what she believes to be research that is critical to the continued existence of the human species. Goodlay's award winning graduate thesis "The correlation to how much I want to sleep with you based on how attractive you are" has garnered attention from around the globe. The University of Windsor's psychology department has been working with Goodlay in an effort to determine the reason behind the correlation.

One of Goodlay's theories relates the overall intelligence of people to their attractiveness. The theory states that people of great physical beauty will attract an intelligent person in an effort to sustain the beautiful person's life. Most beautiful people are incredibly stupid, as proven by Hollywood and most schools' arts departments. The attractive people, who are incapable of taking care of themselves, will effectively prolong their otherwise worthless existences. However, there are mistakes that happen. Like when two attractive people get together.

Goodlay is looking for students with a background in either statistics, computer science or being hot and not crossing their legs.

AngelED

## You call these lyrics?

*Ripping to pieces songs that should never have been created in the first place*

Dashboard Confessional's Vindicated.

Hope dangles on a string, like slow spinning redemption. *I'm sorry, did you say 'hope'? Dangling? Hope doesn't have a physical form, so it's not going to be doing any dangling anytime soon.*

Winding in and winding out. The shine of it has caught my eye. *Hope is a lustrous material, dense and capable of winding in and out.*

And roped me in. So mesmerizing, and so hypnotizing, I am captivated. *You seem to be easily amused, if all you care about is a shiny, invisible substance dangling off of a string.*

I am vindicated, I am selfish, I am wrong *You're damned right, you are! You also aren't that good of a lyricist.*

I am right. *I thought we just agreed that you were wrong.*

I swear I'm right *Make up your fucking mind, asshole!*. Swear I knew it all along and I am flawed, but I am cleaning up so well. I am seeing in me now the things you swore you saw yourself. *So you've realized that you'd be better off sweeping the floors of museums than writing music. It must be refreshing to pull your head out of your ass like that.*

The Hee Ho

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