math NEWS

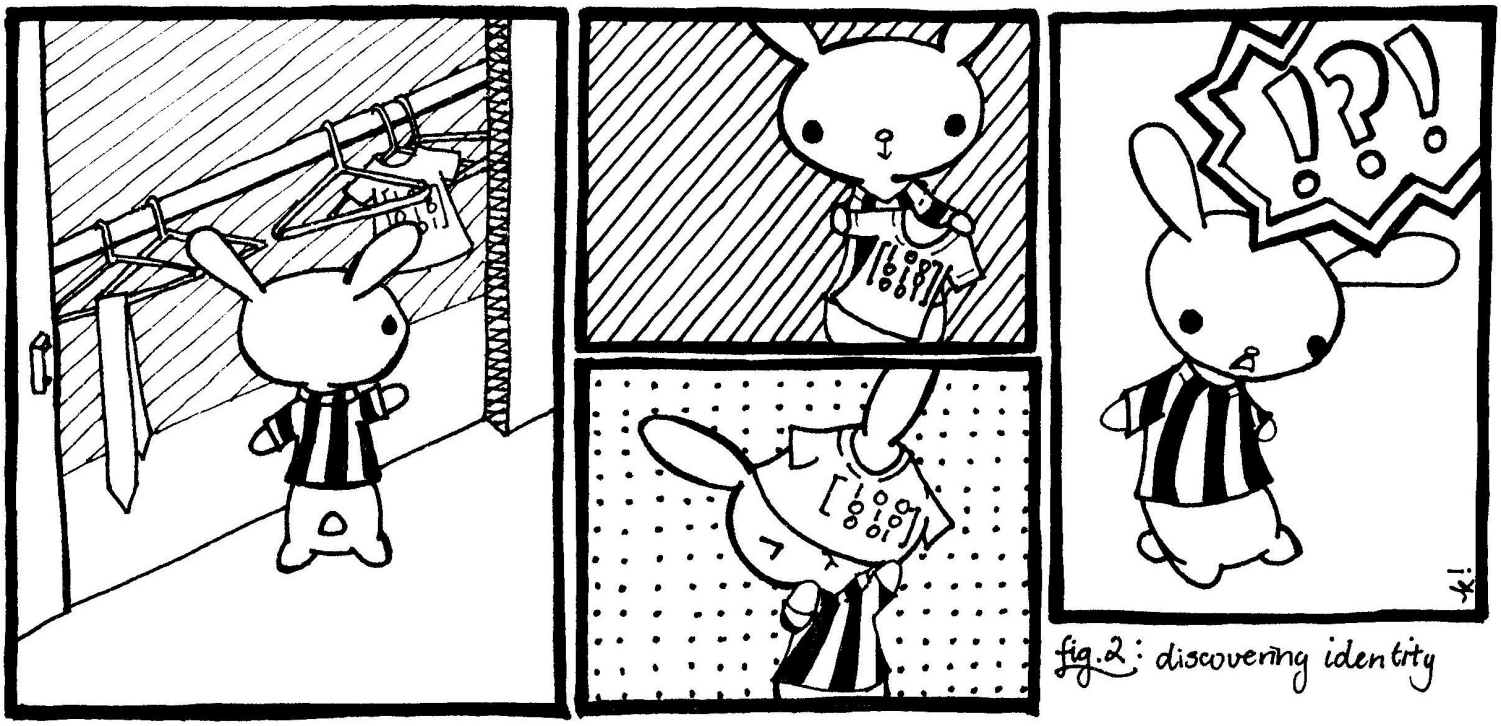

fig.2: discovering identity

Volume 114, Issue 5
Friday, November 19th, 2010

cc BY NC ND

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*look*AHEAD

***math*NEWS**	
November 19	Issue 5 hits the fan at terminal velocity
November 29	Production Night 6 is ready for loading
November 30	3!
December 1	2!
December 2	1!
December 3	Issue 6 blasts to infinity and beyond!
MathSoc	
Tuesdays	Games Nights 7:00 in comfy
Thursdays	Movies Nights 7:00 in comfy
Nov 20	Mathquerade 7pm at Fed Hall
Dec 4-5	24 games day noon-noon in comfy
Math Faculty	
Ongoing	The Math Faculty still has nothing to say to ***math*NEWS,** we feel left out.

VOTE ALERT! ELECTIONS FOR 2011!

The fall term comes to an end along with the 2010 calendar year! Mathematics Society has been accepting nominations for MathSoc Executive positions for Winter/Fall 2010 and Spring 2010, as well as program representatives on council.

Next week is the candidates' campaign week. (Nov. 22nd-Nov. 26th) Remember to keep an eye out for the candidate of your choice!

VOTING WILL HAPPEN FROM 8:00AM MONDAY NOV. 29th to 4:00PM WEDNESDAY DEC. 1st. Go on `http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca` to vote during those times, there will be a link on the homepage that directs you to the voting page. Or, go to `http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/vote` directly to vote during the time stated above.

MAKE USE OF YOUR BASIC HUMAN RIGHT AS A MATH STUDENT!!! REMEMBER TO VOTE!!!!! VOTE!!!!! VOTE!!!!!!!!

Yours Truly
MathSoc Elections

ISSN 0705—0410

*math*NEWS 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. *math*NEWS is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *math*NEWS editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *math*NEWS. Current and back issues of *math*NEWS are available electronically via the World Wide Web at `http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/`. Send your correspondence to: *math*NEWS, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid `mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca` on the Internet.

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The 7 Deadly Sins (Wrath, Pride, Greed, Lust, Gluttony, Envy and Sloth): John Stevenson, John Baxter, Rami Finkelstien, Jeff Bain, Harrison Gross, Will Morrison, Sacha Koohgoli

*mast*HEAD

So this week *Maclean's* gave up trying to do real journalism (and didn't even have the decency to become funny and satirical!) once again for a quick scandal, with their "Too Asian?" article regarding the changing demographics of Post Secondary Education in Canada. Although the horrific name, the general pervasive racism and stereotypes, and the generally poorly thought out idea make the article more interesting for the shock that it passed an editor's desk than for actual content, there is one positive I noticed. Namely, we got a shoutout!

Yes, apparently while we weren't looking, *Maclean's* snuck onto campus or as close as they could sneak without setting off our "Easy to troll" senses. In their quest to backup their wild accusations and general silliness, they got some quotes from current students, or at least claimed ones!

Besides getting some out of context stuff and highly stereotypical statements to "represent" students of various races, *Maclean's* gave a lovely reminder of the very oft-forgotten (and in poor taste) nickname for the Math and Computer building: Mainland China. I think it's fair to say that's a rather classy move by *Maclean's*, and has definitely encouraged us to further examine our campus. We're especially interested in finding similarly entertaining monikers for our beloved campus buildings.

So that brings us to this week's question, which is "If the MC is Mainland China, then what would that make DP?"

("Dice and pickles, but I don't know why…") Impulse Vector, ("Please wait, we're locked…") Algoweird, ("Dumb People") Megaton Panda, ("Drained Physically") !case, ("Dying Professionals") (define this (not cool)), ("Downed Pale Ale") !bar, ("It doesn't matter what you call it, it's still hell on earth") Tbor, ("Distaff Place") !theNewGuy, ("Double Rainbow — oh wait, that's an R") theSMURF, ("Yes") MustardMap, ("Demagogic Prolixity. Full of pretentious students writing floccinaucinihilipilification.") Williver Salliard, ("Tibet, it's south of China") ¬perki, ("Damn (big) Philippines (in size comparison at least)") primeS, ("Dynometer Pain") snippet, ("Dedekind Polynomial ring") GroovyED.

CorruptED

C S C F L A S H

Censored due to being horrible

Greetings once more, mortal beings! There isn't much to report, being that it is the end of term.

For your viewing pleasure I attach the following ASCII art:

[We received an ASCII art of Goatse here. We chose not to print it - CorruptED]

Computer Science Club

FM review Session

TA earned 10 on FM

The Actsci Club is running a two part review session for FM exam/CAS exam 2 on both the 23rd and 24th of November at 7 pm. Please come to the Actsci Club (MC3030) for more details. Refreshments will be available for members.

The Actsci Club

Rainbow Mathies #1 - Frank Advice for Allies

Two issues of *math*NEWS ago I wrote an article for the It Gets Better campaign, and I received quite a bit of positive feedback to the suggestion of starting a queer-issues column (Thanks to everyone who sent me an email!). This is the result of that feedback. I hope two things will come out of this space. First, I hope it's an outlet for queer mathies to hear about issues that concern them. Secondly, and possibly more importantly, I hope these articles serve as starting points for discussion among members of our faculty. I feel that one of the reasons this column is so important, one of the reasons there is such a stigma surrounding queer people in Math, is that people are so uncomfortable about talking about these issues. Nothing will change this but more discussion, so I hope these articles will serve as a catalyst.

First, a disclaimer: I call this an article about queer issues, targeted towards queer people and their supporters. I should mention, however, that I am not experienced with the entire queer spectrum. I am a cisgendered gay male, so I am going to be speaking from my experience as one. This means that I'll have troubles speaking on other specific issues like women's issues, transsexuality, polyamory, etc… I'll try to keep my articles as general as possible, and when, if I do end up talking about issues that don't pertain specifically to me, I will try and get other people to contribute to my work. But please understand that I can only speak from my own limited experience.

With that being all said, on to this week's topic. Through my interactions with people in this faculty, either queer-identified or not, I've heard two related sentiments. From queer supporters (known as Allies for the rest of the article), they say that they have a hard time actually being able to be supportive to queer people because they can't find them, and wonder why they won't come out to them. From queer people, they are uncomfortable with coming out to their group of friends because they're scared they'd not be supportive. I have a feeling that both of these groups are talking about each other. It can be hard to convince queer individuals that their friends are actually supportive when these friends don't show it well. Hopefully the tips that follow will help these Allies better demonstrate their support, or even show others that they are allies since they already adopt these ideas.

- **Recognize internalized homophobia:** A shocking revelation: I am homophobic. Even through I grew up with a supportive family, have decided to critically reflect on all of my beliefs, and am queer myself, there are still homophobic ideas and actions which I have internalized and come out when I least expect them. These can be as simple as having a lower opinion of someone simply because they act more feminine or masculine as they should. As an Ally, you may not even notice when your internalized homophobia surfaces, but you can be sure that any queer people around you do. A good exercise to begin recognizing, and reducing, this for yourself is to just pay close attention to people you associate with. Take note of the homophobic things they might say or do, and try to see in your day-to-day if you do similar. Once you can begin catching yourself, you can start eliminating this language or actions from your interactions.
- **Recognize heteronormativity:** Heteronormativity is the idea that heterosexuality and heterosexual ideals are what is normal and expected, and what is too be assumed. These heteronormative practices are as destructive as they are subtle, and therefore are harder to catch. The most pervasive example I can think of is when you've asked someone if they're currently dating someone: often guys are asked if they have a girlfriend, and vice versa. Even if someone has told you they are straight, remember that queer people in the closet may be identifying as straight to make things easier for them, and asking them about members of the opposite gender may still be stigmatizing to them. Another example of heteronormativity is assuming that queer couples have a "masculine" member and a "feminine" partner, so watch this assumption.
- **A little advocacy goes a long way:** Complacency is often considered to be approval in social situations. This means that, if you witness something you find offensive but don't say or do anything about it, people around you are more likely to accept that you agree with what was said. This can be especially true for queer people who may be looking to come out to someone and are looking for any reason to believe that someone isn't supportive. Try to avoid complacency, even in the small social situations with close friends. While some of your friends may not appreciate their homophobic comments being challenged, anyone who overhears you, or anyone among your group of friends who is closeted, will.
- **For queer people, people > queer:** Nobody likes being a case. To quote a friend of mine, "I don't want to be your gay friend, I want to be your friend." Being the target of homophobic oppression is dehumanizing on its own, defining people by their sexuality or gender identity is equally so, no matter how supportive. Avoid the extremes of either end of the spectrum.
- **Respect the spectrum:** There is more to sexuality than heterosexuality and homosexuality. There is more to gender then male and female. It's up to every Ally to decide at what level they are comfortable (I know a couple of people who are supportive of differing sexualities but feel differently about transsexuality). However, no matter your comfort level, try to keep in mind that there can be more than people who are straight-identified and gay-identified, and all of these people still deserve respect.

If you are queer identified, and are looking for someone to talk to or for supportive A llies, there are always resources available to you. You can learn more about GLOW and its offerings, including a phone line at `www.knowyourglow.ca`. Counseling Services is always available to you, their offices are open 8:30-8MTTh and 8:30-4:30WF, located in Needles Hall across from Student Awards & Financial Aid. If you need support and assistance immediately, you can call the Waterloo Crisis Center at 519-745-1166. If you'd feel more comfortable speaking with someone from a queer specific service, please contact the GLBT Youthline at 1-800-268-9688.

If you have any comments or criticisms for this article, or would like to suggest a topic for future weeks, please feel free to contact me at `dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca`. If you are concerned about confidentiality, feel free to use an anonymous email service to contact me (for example, `www.mailinator.com`).

Join me next issue where I might actually say something funny in a satire newspaper.

(define this (not cool))

New Games

Hey folks, a quick line from MathSoc. We've got a bunch of new games for you to play with, and the 24-hour games day for this term will be held noon to noon, December 4 - 5 (the last weekend of term). Drop by the MathSoc office in MC 3038 to borrow a game, or come out to the Tuesday games nights in the Comfy or the big games day, and play with fellow mathies!

There will be food!

The Big Meeple

Prez Sez

Replace Me

MathSoc Exec & Councillor nominations for 2011 are open — but only until 4:30 P. M. today! (November 19th) So if you're interested, apply now!!

MathSoc Prez
Nadia Novikova

SASMS and More!

a.k.a. Pure Math Club Sez

Hello mathies! Your PMC VP Propaganda here to let you know about a couple exciting events we've got planned for you this term.

1. PMC will be holding its termual Short Attention Span Math Seminars on Wednesday, November 24 from 4PM to 10PM in MC 5158. Sign up to give a short talk on any math topic that tickles your fancy, or come out and listen to your fellow students' seminars (no registration required). Dinner (read: *not* pizza) will also be provided. Sign up today for a time slot on our website if you would like to speak. Go to `www.pmclub.uwaterloo.ca`
2. This month, the Fields Undergraduate Network (FUN) is coming to Waterloo! The Fields Institute holds monthly workshops for research in mathematics, and this month's topic is COMBINATORICS! The event will be held in MC (room TBA) on Saturday, November 27 from 9:30AM to 4:30PM. There will be three guest speakers giving talks on various topics in C and O. Refreshments provided! Stay tuned to `www.pmclub.uwaterloo.ca` for more details and room location.

Bryanne Pashley
VP Propaganda

Imprint and You

Dear Faithful *math*NEWS Readers:

I was talking to an Imprint writer the other day when I had a tad of shock, which is in and of itself something unusual. I would have believed that I was incapable of shock at this point. I learned that there are people who actually care about what is published in Imprint. This got me to thinking: How many math students are there that dismiss Imprint out of hand because *math*NEWS makes fun of them?

So, I am writing this to all those people who read *math*NEWS and never really given Imprint much of a chance. Give it a chance. The only thing you have to lose is a few minutes of your time. Who knows, you might like it!

Person who prefers to remain anonymous

Save the Words!

Adopt a Word to Save It From Extinction

You don't have to read Victorian literature to realize that words go out of style over time as a langauge evolves. Linguaphiles are often concerned about the declining richness of the English lexicon due to word extinction. Word extinction happens when lexicographers determine that a word should be dropped from the English dictionaries due to lack of use in popular culture and media. As a result, a campaign has been started to halt, or at least slow down, the extinction of words in the English language. The website `www.savethewords.org` has a wall of words that you can browse and allows you to "adopt" a word. Once you've adopted a word, you must make this pledge:

"I hereby promise to use this word, in conversation and correspondence, as frequently as possible to the best of my ability."

Here is a sampling of some words that are up for adoption:

- **Odynometer** *n.* An instrument for measuring pain.

That calculus test scored an 11 on the odynometer.

- **Supellectile** *adj.* Of the nature of furniture.

Mike's supellectile skills are not in doubt, I just wish he'd use wood or plastic instead of dead cats.

- **Pigritude** *n.* Laziness.

I don't mean to bring up your pigritude, but it was unnecessary to wait 15 minutes for a bus that took you two blocks.

- **Eicastic** *adj.* Imitative.

Gerry used his eicastic abilities to great comedic effect.

- **Succisive** *adj.* Of spare or extra time.

Due to the workload of the Computer Science program, I have few succisive moments.

- **Quaeritate** *v.* To ask.

Those who would like to quaeritate the professor about the assignment must visit him during office hours.

- **Nubivagant** *adj.* Moving throughout or among clouds.

After partaking in some questionable substances last night, Dave became a nubivagant flying beast.

- **Homerkin** *n.* Liquid measure for beer.

Ron ordered a homerkin of beer upon arriving at the tavern.

If you're passionate about saving words, head on over to the wall of words (again, it's at `www.savethewords.org`) and pledge to love and protect a word that needs you. If word adoption isn't for you, at least give a few words in this article a try... using obscure words is surprisingly amusing.

snippet

WatSFiC Sez

Hello again folks! WatSFiC here again, to discuss our various events this term. We've got our writing contest still going, which is getting very close to the deadline which is on November 26th. Submit entries to `watsfic@gmail.com`. Check out the full contest details at `http://www.watsfic.uwaterloo.ca`.

We are also running a board games day on Saturday, November 27th in the Math Comfy Lounge on the 3rd floor. Show up at noon and play board games until late! We may be going to watch The Room later that night at one of our member's houses. Talk to us about it.

WatSFiC Vice President Fall 2010
Harrison Gross

Facebook Messages

Will This Be Google Wave All Over Again?

On Monday, Facebook announced Messages, which consolidates SMS, chat, email, and messages in one place. Conversation history for all of these communication methods will be in one place, and by default only messages from "real people" (i.e. your Facebook friends) will show in the inbox. The goal is that some day you'll be able to communicate just by selecting someone's name, without having to think about whether you need to use a cell phone and arbitrary ten-digit numbers or alphanumeric pseudonyms like "adoriblelapin".

This might sound familiar. In 2009, Google announced Google Wave during their Google I/O developers conference. Wave was meant to revolutionize communication, drawing on concepts such as message threads from Gmail, real-time collaborative editing from Google Docs, and open federation from XMPP and Google Talk. In August, Google announced on its blog that it would no longer continue developing Google Wave. Since the late 1990s, companies like j2 Global Communications have provided products like Onebox which combine voicemail and fax into a "unified inbox", and while Onebox is still around, its services tend to be targeted toward the small and medium business market, rather than individuals like you and me. For the last few years, both Gmail and Microsoft Exchange/Outlook make messaging conversation logs available from the same interface as email.

What might give Facebook the chance to succeed where others have fallen? Many high school students find themselves graduating and reluctantly signing up for Facebook because it's the *de facto* way of staying in touch with their circle of friends. Type your friend's name into the search box, and you're one or two clicks away from sending them a message, photo, or video.

Of course, this new poduct has no announced release date for international users. If the roll-out of Places is any indication, it will be a few months before this feature becomes available to those of us in Canada. There are the privacy implications too — do we really trust one company to keep our "one box of letters" containing every message from "can you pick up my midterm for me?" to "drive our daughter's pet velociraptor to the vet for a check-up on Saturday"?

!able

Maclean's: The *math*NEWS of Canadian Journalism

(WE GONNA GET SUED FOR THIS?)

Recently online, the Canadian magazine *Maclean's* published an article called In Conversation With Bjork. I was not too interested in the content of the article, as Icelandic domestic policies about foreign takeovers seem fairly uninteresting to me. However, I did notice one very interesting thing.

In their interview with Bjork, they asked a question which was then answered villifying a Mr. Ross Beaty discussing allegations of his breaking of humanitarian laws. Right after this, an editor comment made it through the editing process unobserved. "(WE GONNA GET SUED FOR THIS?)" was placed immediately after this comment.

Minutes later, I refreshed the page and the comment was gone. But this and various other things of this nature (Too Asian for one) have made me realize that *Maclean's* is the *math*NEWS of Canadian national journalism. But unfortunately, they still seem to take themselves seriously.

The biggest example of how this is the case is that soon after they fixed the article, they also issued an apology for the statement being unfactual. But this to me smacks of cowardice, as it is not their fault that in an interview the interviewee said something unfactual.

And yet, *math*NEWS did an incredibly similar thing this summer after being threatened to be sued. It is maddening that people are so willing to sue over words, the freedom of speech that we supposedly enshrined in our Charter of Rights and Freedom, people are terrified of saying something out of line.

So, while their editorial standards have fallen substantially over the past couple of years, discussing things like moms and their trashy daughters, I still feel some sympathy in this case, that they are so willing to cower in fear to the scary law system of Ontario.

I hope their editorial standards improve, as I do not relish comparing them to our fair paper. The only one who I want to be able to compare to *math*NEWS is Scott Feschuck, the only one of their writers who should have similar content guidelines.

GroovyED

Biedlenummer's Legacy

A name for the ages

Nearly 400 years ago, when the world was too busy admiring the likes of Newton and Leibniz, a man named Biedlenummer changed math as it was known. A philosopher hailing from the small township of Dinkelsbühl, Bavaria outside of Mannheim, Biedlenummer fancied himself a mathematician - a number theorist, in fact. Though he is known in some circles for having shown the independence of the existence of God from the axioms of Zermelo-Fraenkel set theory (though he could not do this when taking the Axiom of Choice), his primary claim to fame is the Composite Biedle-Number Theorem, or CBNT for short, stated below.

There exist non-unit integers `a, b` such that `12 = ab`. Moreover, if `z` is any non-negative integer such that `12|z`, then `z` is not prime. Note: The set `{z: 12|z, z a non-negative integer}` is known as the set of Biedle-Numbers.

Easily one of the more significant consequences of this result is the establishment of 12 as a composite number. Though many mistakenly believe this fact to be trivialized by Eratosthenes' sieve created in the 3rd century BC, there are those who realize the sheer brilliance and wonder that is the Composite Biedle-Number Theorem. Unfortunately, Biedlenummer passed away on the eve of his thirty-seventh birthday before any real progress could be made on the proof of a similar result for the number 13. His work, however, lives on in his followers, and there is a sense of closure in that he departed while his age was a Biedlenummer. Oops, sorry, I meant: Biedle-Number.

!prime12?

Welcome to the Far East

An investigative report into Mainland and Downtown China

Recently *Maclean's* published an article announcing to the world (and UW) of the new embassy situated right in the middle of campus. Right next to the Quantum Nano Centre and the SLC, Mainland China (or MC for short) has grown out of the Math and Computers building.

Wandering around the building, it is easy to see how the embassy sprung up. Walking through the crowded halls is as difficult as walking through the streets filled with a billion people. The air gets stuffy with the constant dust lifted by the stampede of feet, and the intake of contruction from outdoors fills the atmosphere with the smell of sulfur. Listening to conversations, all you can here are voices gibbering away in foreign tongues. Mergesort? Big-O? Poisson Distributions? One quickly gets overwhelmed by the hubbub of it all.

Heading next door to DC (Downtown China), you see nouveau futuristic architecture covered with needless glass panes showing off the seemingly high-tech paradise for the world to see. The crowd of people hasn't increased, and you can see a mixture of steam and grease floating above the heads of hungry people. Manoeuvering through paths that are way too small for any normal population, you soon burst into an open square, next to a gigantic fishbowl (reminiscent of the Birds Nest), and people lying everywhere in corners huddled in their jackets and staring blankly at their toys.

Going to what is amusingly called "Bon Appetit", we see a medley of greasy overpriced Chinese food and even greasier american food for those less adventurous. There is also a chain restaurant in the area, but the lineups are so big that it isn't even worth it. Picking up a newspaper is a crapshoot. You either get quality stuff hidden behind a bright, cheerful, appealing cover (*math*NEWS), or worthless trash trying too hard to seem respectable (*Imprint*).

The differences between the normal resident population of this area and that of the outside world is staggering. Once home to solely pasty-faced people, there is now a large variety of faces. A cultural hub, you can tell that this place is going places, and even now it's hard to tell the original natives apart from those just visiting.

It all seems so alien to a traveler's eye, but one must remember this: Behind all of this foreign technology and chatter and the overcrowded rooms, this area houses the brightest and smartest minds in the world. You may laugh now, but one day these strangers will be running the place, so be sure to be kind to them today.

!bar

The 7 Wonders of UW

A story that keeps people up at night and haunts their dreams

Listen, children, as I tell you a tale. 'Tis a tale of trial, perseverance and valour. 'Tis a tale of discovery of new worlds within as well as without. 'Tis a tale of exploration at the University of Waterloo.

The University of Waterloo is chock full of strange and exciting places. Here's a quick tour of some of the most unique and elusive gems on campus.

As a young and timid little frosh this September, I opened up my first *math*NEWS ever and read the following words: "Hint: If you're looking for madness, open the doors between 1081 and 1083." In my innocence and naivety, I let my curiosity get the better of me and sought out the fabled doors. I stood before them a few seconds, pondering the wisdom of my choice, and then opened them. IT WAS MADNESS. MIND-BLOWING MADNESS. For weeks I wandered around in a dazed stupor, unable to tell the difference between a mathie and an engineer. It is only now that I have managed to recover enough to tell you this.

Unfortunately, my trials were not over. While sitting in the MC one day, some cruel upper-years sent us to the 6th floor to search for Pokemon. If you have heard rumours of the horrors that exist in that labyrinth of despair, let me tell you: THEY ARE ALL TRUE. The halls twisting, turning; it is a mobius strip of doors and walls, a vertical asymptote approaching infinity. When you finally stumble upon a stairwell, broken and sobbing, you run for your life, leaving the bleached bones of your comrades behind you.

Another hidden wonder is the tunnel that extends from South Campus Hall to the Arts Lecture Hall. They tell me it was built by Oompa-Loompas, or maybe engineers. But seriously, do you think I'd believe that? Silly child. Engineers don't exist. It was obviously the Oompa-Loompas.

Approaching South Campus Hall from Ring Road, you go up the stairs and then turn left into a swirling drug-induced vortex of sunshine and oranges. If you ever get out, you'll never doubt the Oompa-Loompas again.

I have many more tales of trial and terror for you children, but I'm running out of page. Reflect on these marvels and I will continue my tale in the next issue. IF you're still alive to hear me.

[We'd like to advertise one other Wonder of Campus, namely the mathNEWS office! No, it's not because it's where we make awesome, but because we've got a lot of cool stuff with campus history. Check it out sometime an Editor's in, we've got a chunk of the red room! — CorruptED]

BlueberryMuffin

Member of Parliament Declared Sane

Massive Chaos in Ottawa

In a surprising landmark decision, a psychologist declared a Member of the House of Commons of Canada to be entirely, completely, and perfectly sane. In order to protect the participants' safety, neither the identity of the psychologist nor the identity of the MP have been made available.

Rampant speculation abounds, but political pundits believe that the sane MP is none other than André Arthur, the only MP never to have been a member of a political party, on the basis that he has never been a member of a political party and thus is the only MP with a chance at being sane.

When asked to comment on this report, Prime Minister Stephen Harper replied, "This is entirely unprecedented and utterly disgraceful. Canada won't stand for sane politicians. Quack quack quack honk!"

Algoweird

Breaking up is hard

Hello,

I remember the time when we were happy. Life was carefree, every day was a brand new adventure. And every night. The adventures we had were amazing, even enlightening at times. You opened me to entire new ways of thinking and acting. It seemed like it would never end. I should have known it would not last, but I was so happy. I wanted to believe that this was something different. I wanted to believe we would last into eternity. But I have no regrets. I do not blame you for how we fell apart. As much as I hate to invoke the cliche, it's not you, it's me.

It all started when I left for university. There were so many new things, so many new people to meet that I forgot about you for a while. When you first came calling, I felt sick to my stomach. I hadn't even realized that I had been neglecting you until then. I didn't know what to do. So I ran away from my problem, drowned my sorrows in alcohol and parties. But it got worse. Much worse. By the end of frosh week I spent half my time awake dreading when I finally had to face you. And that weekend I did. And you forgave me. I still don't know why, you could have just as easily made me squirm and beg for relief. Since then, I have repeated this nearly every week. No matter how hard I try to remain faithful, every week I ignore you and reject your wrath. And every week you forgive me. I think it's time we broke up once and for all.

Sleep, I don't think we can ever make this work. Please stop trying to force us together and admit that it will never happen. I think it is best if we do not even remain friends. I'm sorry.

!theNewGuy

The One I Gave My Heart To

You held the door open for me yesterday, and I haven't been able to stop thinking about you since. I'm sure we fell in love with each other right away.

So how many children do you want? I was hoping to have four children: two boys and two girls. You can name them, since I'm bad with names, but let me name the dog. Oh yeah, we'll get a dog, by the way. We'll live in a big white house with a small garden in the front. Ah, but if you want another pet, I'm okay with all animals, since I love animals, but I love *you* the most, so don't worry.

Where do you want to eat, by the way? I mean, we'll be eating together from now on starting tomorrow, and I'll cook you dinner every evening. That reminds me, you'll be coming to my house for dinner every evening (till death) since it's the girlfriend's job to cook dinner for her lover, right? Be sure to let me feed you — if you don't, I'll get really depressed. It's embarrassing enough to feed your lover, but I can do it out of love. If you don't let me, I'll kill you. Just kidding!

Knowing you, you probably have a lot of girls coming after you. But I know that I'm your number-one since you met me. The other girls will just have to find somebody else. But don't worry — since it's selfish of me just to be happy by myself, I'll allow the other girls to play with you every now and then, just to be fair. I'll endure it since you belong to me and I to you.

We'll be the greatest couple ever and make everyone else jealous. I know we'll be together forever — even if we fight, we'll just make up, right? So I'll be together with you from now on. Love you and can't wait to see you tomorrow.

Girl who fell in love at first sight

The Little Mathie that Could

Once upon a time, there was a little mathie who spent all his time doing his work, studying and generally being obsessive about schoolwork. However, despite being fanatical about being perfect in everything he does, he found himself doing less than perfect in one of his classes after making an error on his midterm.

So when exams started nearing, he redoubled his efforts, often studying for two classes at a time. For this entire time, he adopted a new verbal tic, muttering "I think I can" over and over and over again. The night before the exam for the class he wasn't doing perfect in, he laid his head down in his bed and went to sleep, prepared to do better than perfect and get whatever extra credit there might be. Then he slept through his exam.

RedMetal

RE: Newsgroups

Something that didn't make the cut last week

So my rant last week about the newsgroup was cut short and censored because I have a very dirty mouth (hand? fingers?). But along with that, something else was cut due to space requirements. This is to the tune of Dr. Horrible's part in "My Eyes" from his sing-along blog.

(In an effort to reduce the amount of cursing this time around, I have replaced the four-letter slang for feces, which rhymes with "hit", with the word "geese", because damn, those geese geese everywhere.)

Any dolt with half a brain
Can see that I, theSMURF, have gone insane
To the point where I don't care, might show up in underwear,
But I won't 'cause I'm terrified of Bain.

Pay attention to everybody's post
And hear that geese-ing sound
Serious answers are never known
As geese fills up the ground

I cannot believe my eyes
C S One Thirty Five
but it's plain to see rage inside of me
is on the rise.

Anyone with half a brain
Would look at the newsgroup and howl in pain
Because the geese is everywhere and all the
Profs don't seem to care that soon the geese is all that will remain

Pay attention to everybody's post
And hear that geese-ing sound
Serious answers are never known
As geese fills up the ground

I cannot believe my eyes
C S One Thirty Five
but it's plain to see rage inside of me
is on the rise.

Love,
theSMURF

profQUOTES

And so they begin...

Prof: Suppose you write a program in your favourite language, say, Scheme.
Class: (snorts)

Trefler, SE 212

I get on my hands and knees for you guys every day.

Struthers, Stat 330

Hear my sexy voice? I didn't get to use it on my husband this morning.

Struthers, Stat 330

Size does matter, now you know.

Petrick, CS 241

The midterm average was pretty good, so you should be happy, even though we were aiming for 67-70. But don't worry, the final grades will end up around there.

Petrick, CS 241

Context Free Grammars are 4-tuples. At least they're not 5-tuples. Could have been much worse.

Petrick, CS 241

Today we plow through terminology. Never a fun day.

Petrick, CS 241

We can glue all our grammars together and get one big grammar to do it all. One grammar to rule them all.

Petrick, CS 241

If we're spending three lectures on a single algorithm, it must be important!

Petrick, CS 241

(points to gigantic, horribly complicated diagram) Bazinga!

Petrick, CS 241

(while using Google image search) I should probably turn the projector off. It's a minefield out there.

Balka, STAT 206

(about keeping a positive attitude despite exams) If you see the guy beside you is upset, rejoice!

Mansour, ECE 126

In this machine, if instruction j is at address i, then instruction j + 1 will be at address i - 1. This is just to confuse you.

Hasan, ECE 222

We have finished the design for this CPU. Now you can sell it to your younger sibling.

Hasan, ECE 222

Any trained monkey can work with linear functions. Except of course, second year Arts students.

Busch, Econ 484

This is typical in economics: we do something in 101 and it takes us five years to come back and do it correctly.

Busch, Econ 484

Student: "Will you have office hours tomorrow?"
Prof: "Yes, at my regular time"
Student: "Okay"
Prof: "When are my office hours tomorrow?"

Sharma, CO 456

[PSYCH 101] is more useful in helping me understand the world than all of the math courses I've ever taken.

Mayer, AMATH 250

Forget that Episilon-Delta crap.

Vrscay, Math 137

The correct answer was B. Other common answers were A, C, and D.

Becker, CS 135

Just channel your southern baptist preacher and BELIEVE that it returns the right value.

Becker, CS 135

The ages-old question: Should your format be like my format? I'd say...Yeah! So even if the TA marks it wrong, you can bring it to me and say, 'Look, I did what you did,' and I'll say, '(smiling) You idiot.'

Eden, MATH 137

But what if the domain is x is an element of R? That's why we have engineers! We just tell them to plug in all values for x! It's like a co-op job!

Eden, MATH 137

We can't just assume then and prove it, except that's exactly what we do in this question.

Eden, MATH 137

Guess a delta! Words rarely said in mathematics. Yeah, just go ahead and guess one!

Eden, MATH 137

Someone walks up to you on the street, this happens all the time, and he says, 'I have an epsilon for you.'

Eden, MATH 137

At some point it'll sink in, just take my word for it. Sometime in year 6.

Eden, MATH 137

When you first look at a quadratic proof, it's pretty complicated. Abstract. But don't worry! It gets worse from here.

Eden, MATH 137

You use a standard Laurier approach, which is like, guess!

Eden, MATH 137

Note: This makes sense. Heh. This is my proof. QED.

Eden, MATH 137

Yes, we're revisiting limits again. Why? Because it's a limit. We never get there.

Eden, MATH 137

Well, we don't have L'Hopital, so we're kinda limited.

Eden, MATH 137

It began innocuously enough: nail-painting, laundry, Munchkin and such. The first warning signs came when we heard the words "Adventure Time". We began to suspect that we were in for

Yet Another Frosh Tunnel Adventure

Three of us set out, SovietCanadian, THE_ALIEN and I, TieFrosh. Before we started, we picked up a fourth, Occasional Friend.

With our party of four thus completed, we started our adventure from a somewhat hidden entrance, the passage from MC second floor to Chem2. At the outset, we were unconcerned. Everything was well-lit, and other people were present. We even felt comfortable enough to try learning a most sadistic dance, the Hardstyle Shuffle.

But as we made our way through the buildings, eventually reaching Physics, the lights started failing and the quantity of people diminished. We were all genre-savvy enough to identify the situation we were in — A Horror Movie!

Now this would have been fine, except for the fact that SovietCanadian felt the need to continuously split off from the party, and that THE_ALIEN cowered at each such occurrence. Clearly the zombies killed off SovietCanadian several times, and each time he was replaced with a clone. *[TieFrosh has been convicted of treason for revealing classified information on the cloning project, and has thus been executed, and replaced with a clone.]*

Ahem. As I was saying, our party of four, including the *very original* SovietCanadian, realized we had to find our way home before it was too late. Unfortunately, we couldn't decide as a group where we were, and so we got ourselves thoroughly lost, and had no choice but to venture through *shudder* **Engineering**.

Yes, we were that desperate. Though the buildings *seemed* empty, we knew better. There are few creatures more worrisome than zombies in dark abandoned buildings, and engineers are perhaps the scariest of the lot. I - I - I'm sorry, it's too traumatizing. Don't make me revisit those moments, please.

What I can say, is that we found an Easter egg to Real Life (head up one of the narrow staircases in E2, and you'll find a basket. This was clearly left there by the Developer for the dedicated.). We also found an alien testing laboratory in Chem2. THE_ALIEN attested to its authenticity after I reported to her on the contents (she remained too scared to venture in herself).

After surviving the horrors of Engineering, we were relieved to find ourselves back in Earth Sciences. Unfortunately, the hordes of undead were not done with us yet. We were chased back into Physics by zombie dinosaurs. Sadly, we split up on the way, and I'm sure we were all replaced by clones several times. *[TieFrosh2 has now been replaced with TieFrosh3.]*

From Physics, it was easy to make it back to the Most Holy Ground, MC. But we were young and stupid, and we thought we had what it takes to investigate the zombie containment facility. I wish we had been wiser…

As the elevator doors opened, and we heard the ominous voice announce "sixth floor", we realized we were doomed once more. I shall not attempt to describe the horror of that place, and will simply refer you to BlueberryMuffin's chilling essay.

Dawn was approaching, and we thought we were saved when we escaped the sixth floor with our sanity intact. Sadly, the engineers had defiled MC for they were lying in ambush on the fourth floor. We lost Occasional Friend to them.

We decided to wait out the night in Comfy, but when we arrived, it became clear that THE_ALIEN had been bitten and would soon betray us. At this point, SovietCanadian grew paranoid, and barricaded us in until dawn.

And so there was only frosh left to report these events, and that frosh was I, Tie Frosh.

TieFrosh3

Computational Algebraics Team Banned For Use of Performance Enhancing Substances

The Faculty of Mathematics has suspended the Computational Algebraics Team for the upcoming International Algebra Olympiad competition following an investigation by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. This is one of multiple setbacks the team has had in the past year.

The large amounts of caffeine were found in the Team's office, where students were consuming the substance in conjunction with coffee, and other beverages. A stimulant, caffeine is known to improve short term focus, and is used by some students to get an unfair advantage over other students.

When asked to comment, a few members said, they consumed the caffeine for what they called, "lulz." The teams captain, Stephen Lefkowitz, replied, "These allegations are outrageous. Most team members were consuming decaffeinated coffee. I had no idea that caffeine was being abused by our team." Many find the suspension of the team for a few caffeine junkies as overkill. The ones who were users of the substance were apparently referred to by the team as "n00bs" with no "1337 skillz."

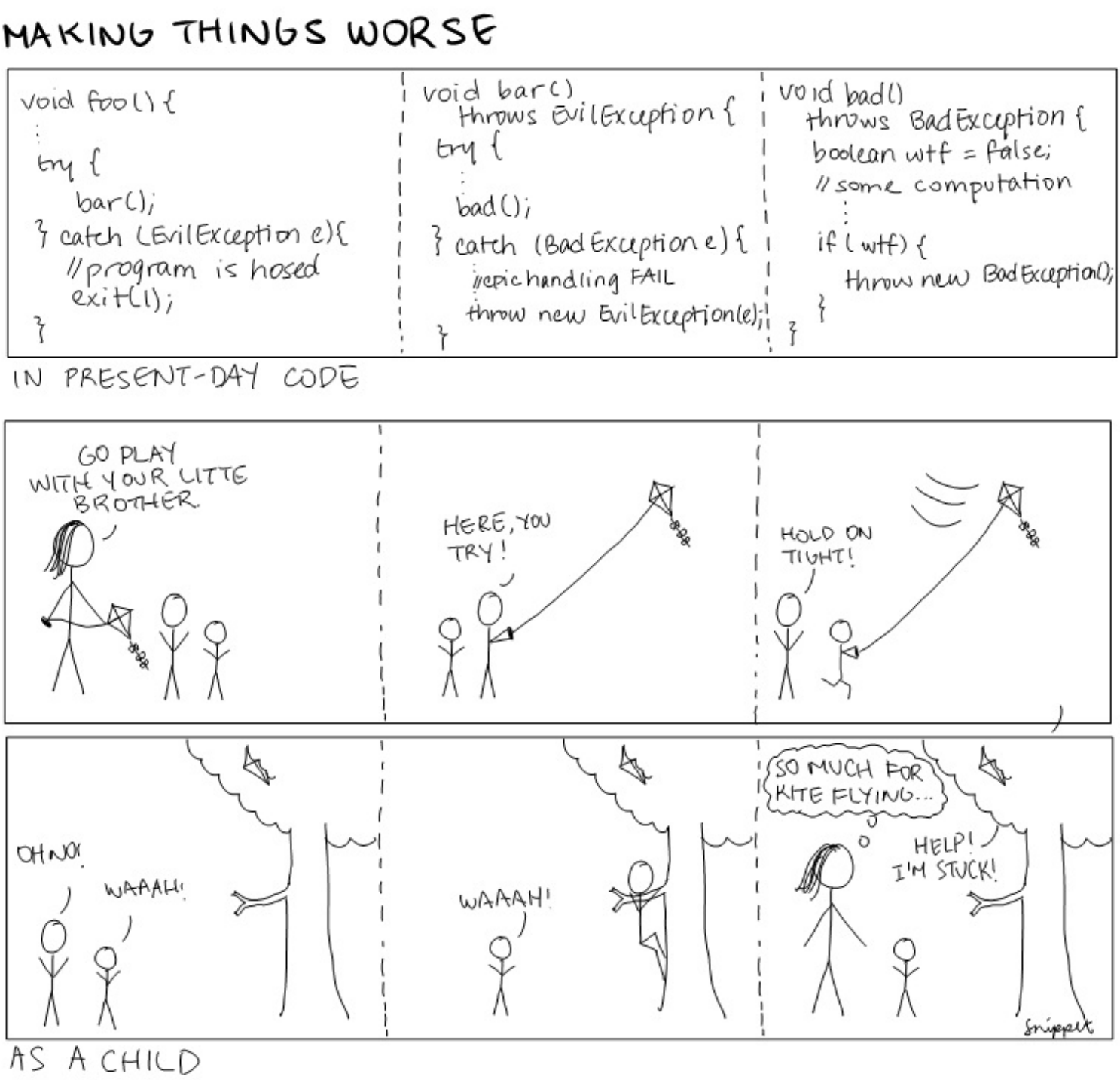
"The slope of caffeine addiction is a slippery one" states University of Waterloo health official, Blanche Goodale. "You start by drinking one red bull at night, and the next day, you're drinking 13 espressos at your local neighbourhood '*Tim Hortons*'. If our best and brightest minds are relying on caffeine, it certainly sets a bad example for our children. Pretty soon we'll have caffeine suped four year olds bouncing off the walls. And who wants to live in a society like that?"

This bad news comes shortly after the team came under fire for using computers to solve their computational algebra. Many in the mathematical community find that the computer adds a risk of error in addition to increased performance. The team was fined by the International Algebra Olympiad for the use of the team's Microsoft sponsored computers.

There is currently a large group of students trying to protest this decision. They find that the use of lemons is equivalent to the use of coffee and other caffeinated beverages. The students currently have a petition with 876 signatures, more than twice the number of votes in the most recent FEDS election. If you are interested in signing the petition, it can be found at `www.lemonparty.org`.

Tbor

Because it's never too soon



*prof*QUOTES

Because they fit here

[On Agile/TDD/etc.]I want to go on the record as saying I don't prefer one or the other. I'm not agnostic or atheist about any of these methods, I have my opinions and you will never guess what they are.

Ward, SE 390

I don't see why people have such trouble pronouncing Eyjafjallajökull, it's quite simple really.

Morgan, EARTH 121

If you're ever driving over the Brenier pass and find a pile of garnetiferous schist with some nice garnets in there, they're mine.

Morgan, EARTH 121

To the rest of the guys in the room, never go anywhere with three girls, you can't get anything done.

Morgan, EARTH 121

[On Tsunamis] It does happen, people go down to the shore with their iPhones waiting for the wave, and see it coming, and just "Oh God *squick*"

Morgan, EARTH 121

The ocean bed is made from space debris, ash, terrestrial debris, drowned sailors...

Morgan, EARTH 121

profQUOTES

And so they continues...

So why would we think of this limit as a derivative? Because I can't do it.

Eden, MATH 137

What's the problem with infinity? It's damn big.

Eden, MATH 137

So we have this wildly oscillating function. That's kinda sexual.

Eden, MATH 137

Here we have my favourite function: f(u).

Eden, MATH 137

That's some high-powered math there. I moved TWO forms to the left side.

Eden, MATH 137

Maybe you take a science course to boost your average.

Eden, MATH 137

For some stupid reason, computer scientists almost always draw trees upside-down. I think it's because we don't get outside.

Goldberg, CS 135

Prof: I don't care how much of a Toronto hockey fan you are, the plural of leaf is LEAVES.
Student: Is that why they can't win?
Prof: They can't even SPELL, let alone win.

Goldberg, CS 135

Of course everything is made of super strings! It's the most elegant and symmetrical thing possible!

Mann, PHYS 121

I hope you did not waste your weekend playing Starcraft, like me

Onaran Math 117

I might need human flesh as a backstop.

Mann, PHYS 121

How many undergrads does it take to turn off a lightbulb?

Mann, PHYS 121

There's a lot of death in this course.

Mann, PHYS 121

I shouldn't make light of the canoe-deprived among us.

Mann, PHYS 121

Some evil scientist with a magnet pulling the boat.

Mann, PHYS 121

I'm gonna play that trick that they tell you in Calculus you're not allowed to do, but in Physics we do anyway.

Mann, PHYS 121

God loves all letters of the alphabet equally.

Mann, PHYS 121

Collisions are a brief, intense interaction between, uh, bodies...

Why do I never realize these things ahead of time.

Mann, PHYS 121

There are two ways to do this - the stupid way, and the good way. The C library does it the stupid way.

Cormack, CS 145

[Student]So what is our friend in the string library?
[Prof] The string library is not your friend

Cormack, CS 145

There were some discussions about whether it was okay to use an efficient algorithm.

Cormack, CS 145

It's so easy to write libraries that don't work.

Cormack, CS 145

You're supposed to do what I teach, not what I do.

Cormack, CS 145

This is where we abuse notation, and say the limit is infinity, which is abusive! This is a case where mathematicians are abusive.

Hare, MATH 147

The best answer is just to say no. [...] The second best answer is to say no, and the incorrect answer is yes.

Hare, MATH 147

[On Bernoulli and L'Hopital] I guess the didn't have the same rules of plagiarism then.

Hare, MATH 147

L'Hopital's Rule - sometimes called students' favourite theorem, and not the Hospital Rule.

Hare, MATH 147

We never want to work too hard if we don't have to.

Hare, MATH 147

2 is many in Calculus.

Hare, MATH 147

You can see how this works, even not believing in induction.

Ingram, MATH 145

Infinity is weird.

Turry, PHIL 100

Student: Getting close to the end of your notes, sir?
Prof: "Don't worry, I have plenty more notes at home

Davidson, PMATH811

I'm cheating again... I'm not very well-prepared today

Davidson, PMATH811

Yeah, I can't tell my omega's from my w's either...

Davidson, PMATH811

Thus $0 = 1$, a contradiction, at least in my universe.

Davidson, PMATH811

MathCooks!

Goes all doughy

The other day, I was sitting at home and I thought to myself: "I really really want to make something with dough. Something Asian. Something… bao zi- like!" So I checked my pantry and decided I did in fact have enough to do it. Honestly, dough is fun to play with but the waiting is a real drain. The process and the ingredients are few, but the best part is the slew of things you can do with it. Here, this is the basics of making rising dough.

- 500g flour
- 5-10g yeast
- lukewarm water, start with less, maybe half a cup
- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- pinch of salt
- half a teaspoon baking powder

Check the package of your yeast to make sure you're not underdoing it. Dissolve the sugar into the lukewarm water and then dissolve the yeast in there. You'll notice the yeast bubbling after a minute or so to confirm it's still active. Once it's all dissolved and started to bubble, pour the flour into a large mixing bowl along with the salt and baking powder (if desired). Whisk it and make a well in the middle. Pour the yeast in, stir and add more lukewarm water (slowly!) until you can form a dough ball. It's not an exact science, so sometimes I add more flour to compensate for overwatering the dough as well. Once you have a nice doughball, cover the bowl with a wet cheesecloth or anything else (I use loosely covered saran wrap myself). Make sure there's airflow; the yeast need to breath. Let it sit for a few hours in a cozy place (somewhat warm, but not too hot). After a few hours, it should have doubled in size… hopefully.

Once the dough is done, there are so many fun things to do with them! Add more flour when working with it to keep it from sticking. Chinese people actually just divide the dough into smaller dough balls after a few more kneadings and steam them five to eight minutes directly (Man Tou). It's used as an accompaniment often to breakfast dishes as the starch component. (One very popular choice is to eat it with pickled vegetables).

Alternatively, you can roll it out into a long flat surface. Rub it with sesame oil and then sprinkle diced green onions and maybe some ground meat. Re-roll it again so it becomes a long log and then slice it into slices of cinnamon bun-esque circles. Now for the tricky part: twist the pieces in any way or form you want so it looks like a a cinnamon twist. (Don't worry, there's no hard or fast rules to this.) Steam the result for eight to ten minutes for a light yet flavourful bite of heaven.

Finally, my favourite thing to do with them: stuff 'em! Make a filling not quite unlike dumpling filling. (Usually, I go with ground meat + soy sauce + oyster sauce + mushrooms + diced cabbage.) Roll the dough into a long log and cut into smaller rounds, maybe an inch thick. Roll each round into a slightly thick wrapper and wrap generous amounts of filling in each of them. Finally, close them as if you're closing up a parcel (take the sides and press it all together) to make them into big balls of filled buns. Steam them for ten to fifteen minutes until you think the filling is cooked through. It's delicious when served off the steamer. Really!

As I was writing this, I realized it is really difficult to describe the techniques involved, but honestly, go wild with it. There's no hard or fast rules when you have a clump of delicious dough to cook with. Once, I spread jam and peanut butter as the filling to big chunk of dough and made a giant steamed fruit roll that worked really well as dessert.

Steaming Panda

GSL 2 Conclusion

The Koreans strike again

The following will contain spoilers for the second season of of the GSL StarCraft II tournament in South Korea up until the finals.

Unless you have been living under a rock (also called North America to those non-Korean folks), you have probably heard of the GSL, the biggest StarCraft II league in the world, which is hosted in South Korea. Open to anyone, with over $200,000 (US) in the prize pool, the GSL is proof that StarCraft II has truly succeeded StarCraft I in the tournament scene (and as a national sport) in South Korea.

In the first season of the GSL, viewers were surprised when Fruitdealer (Z), formerly known as Cool, took victory from the hands of HopeTorture (T). For a time, it seemed as if Fruitdealer had become unstoppable. But the time had come for a new champion to rise through the ranks. Make way for the GSL season 2.

The GSL season 2 marked the return of the old Starcraft pros SlayerSBoxer (T), oGsNada(T), and Nestea (Z) (formerly known as Zergbong), as well as North American favorites LiquidTLO (T) and Idra (Z), although both were quickly eliminated. And, interestingly enough, one of the commentators for the tournament, Artosis, also qualified for the round of 64.

In a surprise upset, Fruitdealer was eliminated from the tournament in a match against Boxer (T), hereafter dubbed Foxer (fake boxer) or Fruitstealer by Tastosis. The quarterfinals saw some other great matches, including SlayerSBoxer vs oGsNada (in the words of Tastosis, MADNESS I SAY), Boxer vs KyrixZenith (Z) (arguably the most exciting in the series), and HopeTorture (T) vs NEXGenius (P) (sadly, the last Protoss in the tournament). SlayerSBoxer was eliminated in the semifinals by Nestea. So, unfortunately, we did not get to see the Foxer vs Boxer showdown that we all were hoping for.

The final of the tournament was a best-of-seven showdown between Nestea (Z) and Boxer (T). With $87,000 on the line, both players were given one week to practice. The result was one of the most intense series in Starcraft 2 history. The previously-undefeated Nestea, a master of macro, micro and strategic skill, vs. Boxer, the marine-massing maniac, committing to some of the dirtiest all-in tactics ever seen in the history of StarCraft II. Although I won't reveal the winner, I will say that it was a very close series. Some memorable quotes from commentators Tastless and Artosis (the self-dubbed Tastosis combo). "OH. MY. GOD. (in unison) SO MANY BANELINGS!!! And "We're expecting a GG any time now..."

In other news, the qualifying rounds of the third season of the GSL have already begun. Expect more North American competition this time around, with players from Canada such as LiquidHuk and Kiwikaki joining the tournament's qualifying bracket. In case you didn't know, the GSL is a global open tournament. Anyone, Korean or not, can join. So if you're a prospective StarCraft II **god**, and you happen to be in South Korea, why not test your sk1llzzz against the pros? Perhaps YOU will be the next StarCraft II master.

The Unfortunate Optimist

NHL Quick Hits

I drink so I can avoid watching the Leafs play

Hey guys! Remember when the Leafs were 4-0 and world-beaters? Since then they've won all of one game, and things got so desperate that even Kadri had to come up to see if he's that saviour that we needed! Good golly, the outlook is bleak in Leafland these days. Stupidity reigns supreme in these here parts with all the stupid quick-fixes and cries for Burke to step down. Honestly, who do they have in mind that will come in and make the situation instantly better? No one, that's who. Let Burke dig his own way out of this mess. Unless he trades another first-rounder, in which case I'll jump on that firing bandwagon. Anyway, all those cries for "Let's wait for twenty games before passing judgment" have gone out the window now, go figure. Patience is only ever preached when good things are happening for the cynics, clearly. That being said, here's thoughts about what else happened in the last two weeks with the NHL:

- Andrei Markov is old and injury-prone. It's time to start writing him off as a top fantasy D-man. He's out for at least another three months after re-aggravating his knee injury that he just returned from. I wouldn't be surprised if he's out for the year.

- For anyone who caught that hilarious Kovalchuk shootout attempt against Buffalo recently, how hilarious is that? I feel bad for Kovalchuk right now. He has all the pressure of the contract, except none of it comes from his own fans because face it, NJD barely have anyone making the trek to watch the team right now.

- Is Tuuka Rask turning into the Carey Price of last year? Look at his stats this year: .923/2.75, yet he's 0-4-1. In his 5 starts, his team has 1, 1, 3, 2, 2 goals respectively. I'm sure he'll bounce back eventually, but as long as Thomas is playing well and getting the Ws, he's going to be relagated to Jonathan Bernier-type status for the rest of the season.

- Colin Campbell is in hot water today over comments he made in an e-mail regarding Marc Savard: "little fake artist" and now his integrity is under fire. Granted, the emails were over three years ago, and he didn't suspend Steve Ott for a cheap shot on his son (Gregory Campbell) just a year ago, so there's certainly questions about that point. I don't like Campbell's style of suspensions (spin a wheel!), but I don't think anyone can call his integrity in question here. Poor guy, we'll see how it all shakes out. (Also, Marc Savard is a little fake artist. No doubt)

- My vote for rookie of the year so far: Bobrovsky in Philly. Neuvirth is doing really well too in Washington, but Bobrovsky is just ridiculous.

- Signs that early season doesn't translate to the rest of the season: Thomas has a .957 sv%, Mathieu Garon leads the league with 1.28 GAA, and Stamkos with 28 pts. Stamkos is amazing, but honestly, I did not and still do not think he's better than Crosby and Ovechkin. Hell of a shot though.

Hockey Fan Panda

*prof*QUOTES

Because they fit here too

I remember New Jersey. They aren't the craziest drivers. Rio takes that. If you stop for a red light, you're hit from behind by a cop car.

Berry, SE 463

A vehicle is anything with a driver that moves forward and can be broke... breaked...? Stopped.

Berry, SE 463

And if the vehicle has brakes - most of them do, except for Toyotas...

Berry, SE 463

Four, last I heard, was a finite number.

Berry, SE 463

I write HTML. I write postscript. I write PDFs. I've been known to change an income tax form by writing its pdf.

Berry, SE 463

No-one would ever ask for a system that wasn't user-friendly.

Godfrey, SE 463

But programmers are weird. I mean, we're worse than nerds. I've been programming since 1965, you can see how weird it made me. You're well on your way to terminal weirdness.

Berry, SE 463

I can flip that bit anytime I want. *maniacal laughter*

Berry, SE 463

Do I look like I need coffee? Do you think you could take it if I drank coffee?

Berry, SE 463

And now you're all laughing. Which you should, because it's stupid.

Berry, SE 463

All universally quantified statements are false, including this one.

Berry, SE 463

If I were to give you one of these [tablets], what would you use it for, apart from pornography?

Godfrey, SE 463

How does it feel to be drunk? I don't know, I've never been a glass of water.

Berry, SE 463

Try not to get mad when the silverback developer goes on a rampage.

Godfrey, SE 463

It sounds like someone's mission statement in a business; that is, it sounds bogus.

Godfrey, SE 463

Horrorscopes...

Now with 20% more vacuousness!

AFM: Money, money, money... Money makes the world go 'round. Specifically, money makes your debt-incurring student world go 'round. In your future, there will be more of it... but before that, there will be less. A lot less.

Your lucky number is any number with a dollar sign attached that is not written in red, or preceded by a minus.

ACTSCI: AFM is taking your money. In your future, there will be fewer of them. You should make sure of this...

Your lucky number is 99% chance of your victims arriving in their "final state" earlier than first expected.

AMATH: Alas, you miss the good old days of highschool calculus, when all functions were differentiable and all differential equations ordinary. Also, predictable answers made writing grade twelve exams easy.

Your lucky number is π over two. The answer's always π over two.

BIOINFORMATICS: Rejoice, Bioinformatics! For in your future, I see *actual* horrorscopes! It's not quite your own department, but it's close.

Your lucky number is all valid permutations of a DNA sequence of length n with a subset of length m.

C&O: Bioinformatics had the gall to steal a perfectly good enumeration problem and make it practical! Punish them by flaunting the existance of your department and the pureness of any unsullied enumeration problems. In your future, I see more and more abstract combinatorial problems being applied in Bioinformatics.

Your lucky number is the number of items able to fly over n cuckoo's nests under some arbitrary definition of cuckoo's nests and Nurse Ratched. That book is insane, by the way.

CM: As you leave your algorithms class, you are accosted once again by another mathie, not a computational mathie though, who decided to make a convergence joke. As you tire of these jokes, you do a convergence test for the distance between your fist and their teeth. It failed.

Your lucky number is the number of convergence jokes made on a daily basis by people who know next to nothing about computational mathematics.

CS: After a long and difficult argument with Senate, concensus has been reached. Computer Science is considered just as legitimate a candidate for Faculty-ness as Applied Health Science is. This has tragic outcomes for the no-longer AHS faculty.

Your lucky number is five faculties, not seven.

FARM: As a newly christened degree, you join the long list of other degrees available from the Faculty of Mathematics. Luckily, yours has attracted agricultural studies students from Guelph. I see many misunderstandings in your future.

Your lucky number is a high enrollment, but low pass, rate.

MATHSCI: The sciences and mathematics have never been closer together since the construction of a bridge connecting MC and Physics. Chemistry, GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!

Your lucky number is CHEM 3, the part of CHEM 2 that fell off during the demolition, but retained water and electricity.

MATHBUS: In your future, I see people confusing you with the Double Degree Club. I also see you failing to convince them otherwise.

Your lucky number is two times degree, but with Laurier courses, that makes one.

OR: In your future, I see a huge increase in the enrollment rate!

Your lucky number is four undergraduates, a new record!

PMATH: You take a logic course, and come into contact with many logics you've never experienced before, such as modal, temporal, and artsy. Unfortunately, you fail the artsy logic segment for refusing to embrace rhetoric as a way to sidestep fallacy.

Your lucky number is *post hoc ergo proctor hoc*. It has to be a number by some arbitrary definition of number.

SE: Before co-op, you had faith in the abilities of users. After co-op, you don't. On top of that, you still have to tolerate them for critical aspects of the system design.

Your lucky number is three terms to go where no programmer has gone before. To write a requirements document!

STATS: You decide to extend your ANOVA tests to have a continuous factor, rather than all discrete factors. In your future, I see an uncountable number of experiments performed.

Your lucky number is the degrees of freedom left over to the error field in a ANOVA table.

TEACHING OPTION: After much deliberation, the *math*NEWS editors decide it would be unfair to give Bioinformatics a horrorscope but not the Teaching Option. In your future, I see more of these deliberations happening.

Your lucky number is at least one horrorscope. Treasure it, for it may well be your last.

ARTS: You are forced to recognise statistical methods as a cornerstone of the social sciences. Even worse, you are forced to use either a postmodern or rational choice theory of self. You chose the one with less mathematics.

Your lucky number is MATH IS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION.

AHS: You shed a single tear as your department is dismantled and divvied out between the Faculties of Arts and Sciences. You swear vengeance on the School of Computer Science, and begin the preparations for their downfall.

Your lucky number is an extra hour in the gym, and $29.99 for a baseball bat.

ENG: Oh dear God!! Design projects are either here, or coming, or are going to come!! Run for the hills!!

Your lucky number is less than a hundred days to IRS. And even fewer 'til your demo date.

ENV: The Urban Planning Elite meet with the Legion of Hippie to discuss the addition of a Starbucks to the new Environment building. After you finish calling each other names, you switch to drinking water.

Your lucky number is a $7 latte. Sure, it was five before, but you forgot about Food Service's cut.

SCI: Your various experiments have escaped! Never fear, for physics was just doing an Einsteinian thought experiment. Actually, fear. Biology just got a new batch of organisms to disect.

Your lucky number is eighteen cages, twenty petri dishes, twelve test tubes and a gun.

UNDECLARED: Unfortunately for the undeclared, U appears further down the alphabet than any mathematics program name or other Faculty. You tried taking an English course with the hopes of explaining this. It turned out to be French.

Your lucky number is forty-two. You don't know why it's funny.

Impulse Vector

profQUOTES

Because they fit in this hole

Anything I say to you today is going to be wrong! Most professors don't tell you that, but it's probably true.

Eliasmith, PSYCH 256

What else do we know about sounds? Well, they echo... Echo! Well, not in this room.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

And now we are going to leave common sense behind.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

You'd think they would have been able to figure out brain damage, but then again they didn't have hockey back then.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

Think of the difference between a parallel and a serial killer.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

Here's a tough one - why do zombies like to eat brains? I don't know of a cognitive science answer to that one, but we'll talk about zombies next week.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

If you're not confused about this, there's something wrong.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

Wrong! Bad network! Instead of hitting it with a newspaper, we change its weights.

Thagard, PSYCH 256

I think the most important thing about atomic is that it's not radioactive, it's indivisible. The Greek atomic, from "at", "deep fried", and "omic", "running shoe".

Buhr, CS 343

My Time Undercover as an Art Student

Part One: The Infiltration

It was a bright, calm, and anti-clichéd morning, a Monday, when I first walked into PHIL200. The room was filled with chattering, happy, and carefree artsies, most still recovering from the weekend. I found an empty seat, sat down, and began to take things out from my bag.

Recently, the Math Intelligence Agency had picked up some chatter about a possible attack on the Pink Tie by the artsies. My mission was simple: go undercover as a philosophy major, blend in with the artsie top command and gather intelligence that would assist the Tie Guard in their defend against this threat to Tie Security.

"SUP BRO? REMEMBER ME? IT'S JOSEPH! THAT PARTY LAST WEEKEND WAS THE SHIT HUH?! I'M SO STOKED FOR NEXT WEEK AT MICHAEL'S! YO MAN, I FORGOT YOUR NAME, WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?"

Looking around, I realized that the artsie next to me was speaking to me. He wore a ball cap over his excessively gelled hair, a pair of sunglasses (despite being indoors), and clothing made by some guy named "Fitch". My instincts screamed at me to bring out the crucifix (derived from a natural log, of course) and the book of Stanton to shield myself, but my orders were clear: observe, but do not interact. I had to blend in with them. Duty before dignity.

Although I had no recollection of this fellow nor the weekend, I had memorized the gist of the Bro Code from my training, and the appropriate response came to me almost naturally.

"OH YEAH DUDE. I'M—"

Drat. I had not thought of an alias for myself yet. This was not anticipated. I could not be made this early on. Failure would not be acceptable.

"I'M JACK BAUER. I DON'T THINK I REMEMBER YOU FROM THE PARTY BUT I WAS TOTALLY THERE. YEAH. THAT SHIT WAS SICK. CAN'T WAIT FOR NEXT WEEK."

Broseph looked at me with a confused expression on his face. I wondered if he would question whether I was Kiefer Sutherland. Given that I was neither driving under the influence nor in jail, I was sure that he had made me.

"HOLY SHIT JACK BAUER? YOU'RE REAL?! BROOOOOOOO! CAN I SEE YOUR GUNS? WHY ARE YOU HERE AT LAURIER?"

I was speechless. Not only did he somehow think I was Jack Bauer, he seemed to believe that this was Laurier. Every muscle in my body screamed at me to facepalm, but I resisted. No matter how much fail this was, the mission was more important. Quickly, in O(log n) time, I came up with an answer and diverted his attention.

"NO, I'M ANOTHER JACK BAUER, NOT THE ONE ON TV. HEY, WHERE WAS MICHAEL'S AT AGAIN? I WAS SO WASTED I CAN'T REMEMBER. CAN YOU WRITE THAT DOWN FOR ME?"

I opened my clipboard, and out fell the most damning evidence: my notes from the previous math class. I quickly scuffled and kicked at them with my feet, but it was too late: Broseph had seen my notes. I was sure that this was it. Remembering the dreaded fate of the last operative that was caught, and prayed to Stallman for forgiveness for all the times I had used brute-force algorithms.

His gaze was stone cold. I was petrified, unable to move, speak, or make any excuses for why I had those notes. My palms became sweaty and my heart started racing. There was no way out. I was done. The mission seemed to be over before it started. Time was at a standstill.

(Hopefully) To be continued in the next issue…

[Author's note to self: come up with a deus ex machina before next production night]

In the shadows, hiding in a box and praying,
spySMURF

profQUOTES

The end is in sight. Laser sight.

In other words, at the hardware level you can cheat! You can do anything you want! You're the hardware!

Buhr, CS 343

There is no power-on instruction.

Buhr, CS 343

And it turns out that Sesame Street episode is the basis for concurrency.

Buhr, CS 343

We'll leave this as an exercise to the instructors to fight to the death over.

Buhr, CS 343

Dijkstra got up one morning and said "I'm going to invent concurrency."

Buhr, CS 343

I know that memory is cheap, but you can't buy an infinite buffer.

Buhr, CS 343

Here's an example with people dying, but let's talk about something really important: Money!

Buhr, CS 343

This is what makes me wake up at night in a cold sweat shouting "Race condition"!

Buhr, CS 343

Politicans who made the traffic laws never took this course. You may as well jack up the cars, build basements under them, and rent them out to students.

Buhr, CS 343

Is this code correct? The fact I'm asking you should be a strong hint.

Kierstead, CS 343

Prof: Who invented this algorithm?
Student: Bill Gates?
Prof: No, Bill Gates didn't do anything.

Buhr, CS 343

I won't ask you to invert a 10x10 matrix. You can quote me on that one.

Labahn, CS 370

Right now there are laptops on desks running and not doing anything because some people are listening to the lecture.

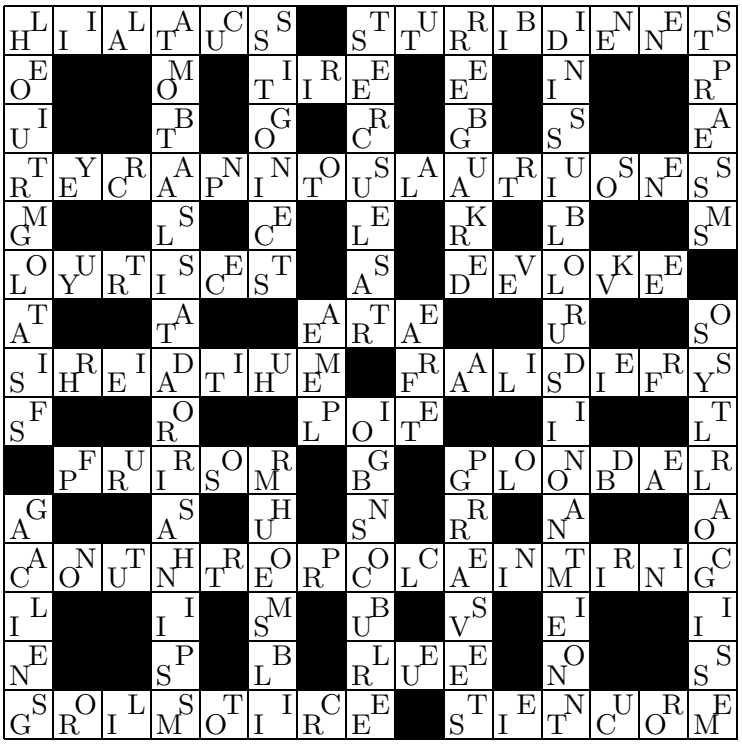
Buhr, CS 343

You might have seen this written as i = sqrt(-1). We're engineers, and we don't use i because i is for nerds.

Kennings, ECE 140

The reason I didn't understand eigenvalues in university is because I learned that in an engineering building, from an engineering prof…

Kennings, ECE 140



Quick Clues

Across

1. High body temperature
4. Dormant, passive
9. Natural magnet
10. Force to leave, eject
11. Ancient woodwind instrument
12. Freedom
13. Sororal sibling
15. Abstain from
18. Accustom
20. Radio detection and ranging
21. Only
23. Virtuous, pure
25. Blot
27. Layered pasta
28. Memory loss
29. Bread fragment
30. Maze
31. Bandit
32. Piers

Down

1. Keepers of birds of prey
2. Potato alcohol
3. Lull
4. Allowances
5. Moral principles
6. Frozen juice dessert
7. Large markets
8. Count, enumerate
14. Southern Asian nation
16. Large stadia
17. Sardonic, mocking
18. Subpath of a circle

19. Eye protectors
22. Readable
24. Ten to the second power
25. Mexican national flower
26. Hollow wood
27. Sane, sober

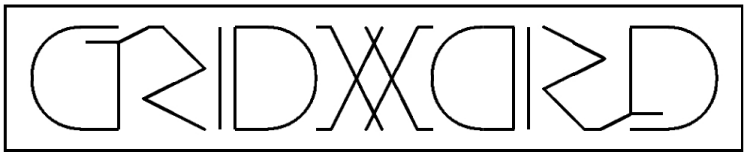
gridCOMMENTS

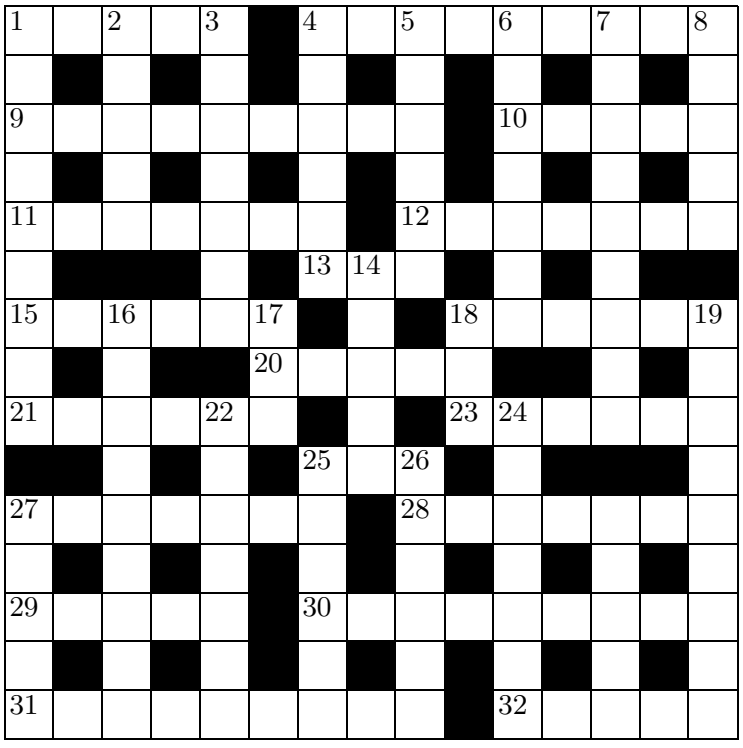
This time around, I received far fewer submissions to the *grid*WORD, and while this makes it easier for me to check for correct solutions, it also means that my clues are too hard, no one is bothering to submit them, or there is a dragon living within the BLACK BOX which is devouring submissions and/or submitters. I couldn't find any signs of a dragon and even *I* can figure out my clues, so it must be the second case. Thus I say: come on people, submit your solutions.

Last issue's *grid*QUESTION was "Why would you try to blow up the Houses of Parliament?" The best solution to the quick clues I received, which had five correct words and one incorrect word, was from Jason Dawe whose answer was "Yesterday". The winning cryptic solution comes from Benson Lung, whose answer was "Big bomb make big boom". You both may collect your prizes in the MathSoc Office, MC 3038.

This issue's *grid*QUESTION is "Why are wrong numbers never busy?" Submit your solutions to the *grid*WORD and answer to the *grid*QUESTION to the *math*NEWSBLACK BOX, as always.

?perki





Cryptic Clues

Lateral

1. Authority to say sixty minutes after the heart of the tempest (5)
4. Gravitational constant leads saint into European Union, before drunken smile waving (9)
9. Unaware operating system contains dirigible lacking member of parliament before fifth note of dept they say (9)
10. Older ancient (5)
11. Watch not starting to cry over spilled poetry (7)
12. Saint's gift fixed reclaim (7)
13. That ship of software engineers contains start of the land of the dead (3)
15. Japanese currency surrounds detailed portent of land holders (6)
18. Trigonometric function contains human resource chapel (6)
20. Tavern brew contains pen fuel without one lower leg (5)
21. Crude model hears a failing grade before western yoga master loses nothing (6)
23. Made up within backwards cat, one diamond limitlessly (6)
25. Vase run amok (3)
27. Impending fish's woodwind? (7)
28. Perfect example of bizarre pie precedes scholarly book (7)
29. Intone limits of money to small insect (5)
30. Whiny monarch without English westward spirit you are (9)
31. Prognostic pattern removes element, initially, before smell contains me (9)
32. A paper sounds like the Salvation Army (5)

On end

1. Professional child details quill before yellow preliminary model (9)
2. First leader entering mental sharpness withers (5)
3. Repeat poetry backwards? (7)
4. Dwarves, oddly gone, before the decapitation of famous detective, I hear (6)
5. Password for bagel variety (6)
6. United Nations listener, this is without exhume (7)
7. Deductive argument opposite in tape type over charged particle (9)
8. Retreating bird origin encapsulates, or canyon (5)
14. Runner's first long walk! (5)
16. Conceal first half of woodwind from odd fauns and feline ecstasy (9)
17. Vote against national after yesterday, initially (3)
18. Endless ocean-dweller's home! (3)
19. Headless tear, not more, before even slays forever (9)
22. Related to knowledge of uplifting melody concluded by first note of scale, without Ontario (7)
24. Offering of trebly isolated hill lacks hot leaf juice (7)
25. Singular you before broken quine (6)
26. Most recent northeast, not east (6)
27. Oxen perturb ice, paniced philosopher hides arm muscle (5)

*math*NEWS Caption Contest!!!!!!!

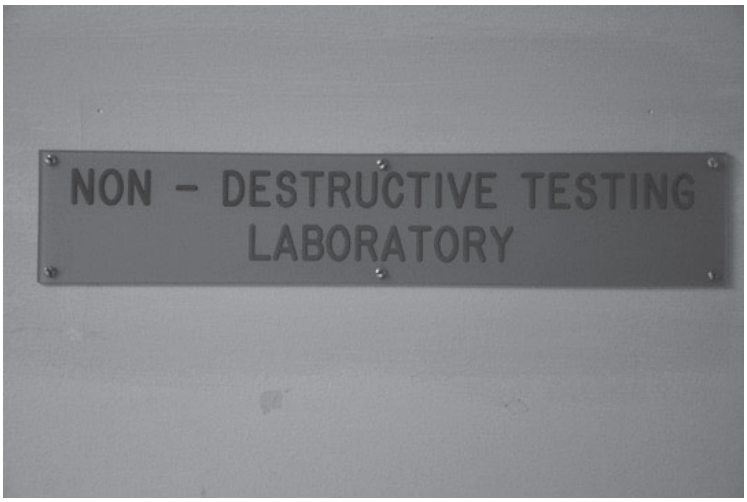
See the picture above? Right...Right? Ok well make it funnier. Much much much funnier. Do that by writing us a witty caption for it! And if you do that (and do it better than everyone else) we promise to give you an awesome prize. The funnier the better. This will be judged by some of us Editors as well as the person who took the picture (they are just as crazy as us, we promise.)

Either throw your submission into the BLACK BOX
OR
Email us (the editors) at mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca with the subject heading: caption contest!

Last weeks winner was Michaelangelo Finistari. Angelo, you can pick up your fabulous prize at them MathSoc office.

The Editors

Last Issue's Winner



Winner: Jason Prolas - **CAUTION: Sadists may get bored.**

Runner-up: Max C **- Ambiguous hyphens: the new leading cause of lab related injuries**