

math NEWS



fig.

Back to basics. Or not.



Volume 121, Issue 1
Friday, January 18th, 2013

lookAHEAD**MathSoc**

Jan. 24, 25 MathSOC Elections

mathNEWSJan. 28 Production night #2 Non-Sequits
Feb. 1 Issue #2 Rides the Llama**University**Jan. 25 Drop, no penalty period ends
Jan. 25 Deadline to drop with 100% tuition refund
Jan. 26 Drop, penalty 1 period begins WD**Misc**Jan. 22 Reunion Day
Jan. 25 Criminon Day

A Completely Innocuous Article About Clubs Day.

By the time you read this it will be Friday. Yay! It will also be Clubs Day. The joyous time at the beginning of the term where all the clubs pack into the SLC pleading desperately at every passerby to join their club. In a totally non-biased way devoid of ulterior motives I would recommend enlisting in the newly formed club called WHIMSICAL. An acronym for Whimsical Hats Illustrious Monikers Swanky Individuals Completely Anachronistic Livery. Its mandate is sophisticated silliness. Its focus is fancy titles and silly costumes. If you wish to discover my secret identity and have fun, come to Clubs Day and join WHIMSICAL!

Beyond Meta

I'm told whitespace is bad, so I'm writing in title font, which I think is worse. ObjectED

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Robot Roll Call: !ED(Cambot), GingerbrED(Gypsy), ScruffyED(Tom Servo), ObjectED(CROOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOW!)

mastHEAD

So we Editors aren't good at much. Especially being responsible. If we were, you'd probably get hard-hitting news and no filler. Or more filler, since that's what we actually write. I'm not entirely sure what I'm doing, really. So it came as no surprise (ok, that's a horrible lie, it was terrifyingly surprising [and terrifying]) when *mathNEWS* found itself in financial peril that rivaled — well, I can't give you an analogy; that would imply you were up to date on current events. Which I know you aren't, because that would imply that you read another newspaper, and I know you wouldn't do that to me, right honey? Not after all we've been through. I fill you up every fortnight with wordy goodness; you don't need anyone else. Only me. I won't let anyone else have you. Especially not that naughty Imprint.

Ahem. Sorry. This is why they don't normally let me write these things. Something about not taking my pills. Or taking too many caffeine pills. They all look the same.

Being the intelligent, responsible Editors we are, we asked our writers for advice. What could go wrong? Maybe we even listened to some of it. I'm told there's now a seven-point plan for making us money, but then I phased out. Thus, dear writers, how would you save *mathNEWS* from a financial crisis?

Shay Blair ("Branch out into ventures, some of which may not be legal (unless the police ask)."), DumbestPersonInMath ("Cut funding from Imprint"), stubbs ("Take out life insurance on ObjectED"), theSMURF("Increase defense budget and cut taxes"), k! ("sell rabbit poop as fertiliser"), ScruffyED ("Interest-free bank loans to myself."), moment ("Slowly move editorial staff to Imprint as sleeper agents"), (define this (not cool)) ("Sell penis-shaped candygrams on Valentine's"), Beyond Meta ("Start a ponzi scheme"), maplebaconburgr ("Dynamically synergise our collaborative profiles to manage our financial components."), Element118 ("Sell our ununocium reserves at Chinese market price."), because_its_hard ("Lower **MATHnews** standerds, stop usin fllr"), Mustardmap ("Making money out of the failure of a *mathNEWS* brothel featuring the editors."), IceNine ("Have Insided commit Libor:Electric Boogaloo"), unit ("print on news-print"), waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca ("Find the Wizard because he's probably an accountant"), CottonCandy ("print money instead"), Buzzy McWord ("Hire a creative mobile business strategist."), GingerBrED ("tax the filler"), Soviet Canadian ("Install cameras in Imprint/FEDS, demand the excess of student fees that they have or we expose their true activities."), !ED ("GOTO step 6: ???"), Zethar ("O'er my dominion here I stand with wings wide spread; Fiery eyes guard this sanctum of erudite thought. Greedy vultures unceasingly attack in vain — Into the system they were merely adopted, No match for one who dreams of matters financial; their red inky blood stains the battlefield in death.").

ObjectED

("Place it soundly within a Somebody Else's Problem Field, wrap a towel around my eyes so I can't see it and it can't see me, and make Zethar do it.")

Prez Sez

Hello igloo dwellers,

I know you got excited there for a moment with the teasing of warm weather that happened earlier in the week, but sadly, it looks like we are back to the snowy, chilly usual form of winter.

Welcome to Winter 2013! I'm Elizabeth McFaul, the President of Mathsoc again this term. We have an exciting term planned for you, so be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page and the emails we send out.

A couple of notes for now:

- Director Applications are still open—make sure to get yours in today! You can find them outside the Mathsoc Office.
- Not ready to take on a director role, or don't find that your interest is quite listed? Email mathsoc@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca with the subject line "Special Project" and we'll see what we can find for you.
- It's almost election season for the Federation of Students. Forms for exec, councillor, and senate are due today (Friday the 18th), so fill one out if you are interested, and stay tuned for more elections coverage in the coming months.
- MathSoc runs a Capital Improvement Fund during the winter. If you have a project you would like to see completed around the math buildings (projector in the comfy, adding chairs/tables to the 3rd floor hallway, etc.), the funding request forms will be available in the next few weeks.
- CnD furniture has arrived in Waterloo (check out my other article for more about that) [Page 5 — *ObjectED*]

Be sure to bundle up and stay warm!

Elizabeth McFaul
MathSoc President, Winter 2013
prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

MathFOC Sez

Hey there mathies!

Have you ever thought about being more awesome than you currently are? Have you ever wanted to meet new people, gain leadership skills, or just generally be a part of something phenomenal? If you answered any of the above questions, you should apply to be a Leader for Orientation Week 2013!

Orientation Leader applications open soon - for now, keep an eye on our website, orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca, where lots of juicy info will soon be posted! Don't forget to like us on facebook and follow us on twitter!

Once applications open, if you have any questions, just send an e-mail to mathfoc@gmail.com.

We hope to meet you soon!

Andrew, Jenny, Sacha, and Tappy
MathFOC 2013

Statistics Contest 2012-2013

Develop a new approach to presenting a concept in our courses STAT 230 and 231. Submit a video, animation, game or simulation designed to present a concept underlying basic probability and statistics courses. Winning entries will combine creativity with academic/technical skill. Explore innovative ways to master the concepts and practice of statistics.

Examples & Tools

Visit www.watstat.ca to see some rudimentary examples of video and Powerpoint presentations and other demos that may act as inspiration.

Rules & Guidelines

- Teams of up to 5 University of Waterloo undergraduates.
- Prizes are awarded to a winning submission from a team or an individual.
- Multiple submissions by individuals and teams are allowed.
- A submission must cover a single concept from the probability and statistics course curriculum.
- Applicants agree to allow their names and submitted material to be used for educational and promotional purposes. Applicants retain copyright of their material.

Deadline is Friday, March 1, 2013. Prizes: \$1000, \$700, \$500, \$300. More information: www.watstat.ca/contest.html

Games Sez

Everybody loves board games, right? Yes, I'm asking you specifically if you like board games. If you do, show up to the Math C&D* on Tuesday nights after 6:30 PM, and play games. Also, there will be snacks and drinks, freely available to participants. So show up, play games, and snag some free food. It's also a great way to socialize and have fun with other people, for those who enjoy that sort of thing.

* Third floor of the MC, one of the two big rooms along the south corridor

DanInTheHat

VPE Sez

Hello Mathies,

MathSoc Frost Week and the Resume Critiques were great successes. We will be submitting our budget next week and we will continue planning great events for the rest of term once it is approved. Stay tuned for PI day, Math Symposium, Rubik's Cube competition, and Ski Trip among other events.

Have a great two weeks.

Stephane Hamade
Vice President Events

WatSFic Sez

Hello Mathies,

WatSFic (the Waterloo Science Fiction and Fantasy Club) has had its first meeting of the term. We decided on our new exec, our Clubs Day schedule, our movie and games night schedule, and our library schedule. In case you didn't know, Clubs Day is happening today (Friday Jan 18) from 9AM to 3PM, so if you're reading this in that time interval, come have a chat with us. We'll be the nerdy-looking ones with the giant WatSFic sign in the SLC great hall.

Our various schedules are:

We will be hosting our annual D&D tournament again this term, on Saturday March 23. It's a lot of fun, with many folks from out of town showing up to play D&D and compete for prizes.

We will be running a book club this term, on "The Long Earth", by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter. Discussion of how to participate will happen at next week's meeting, and then opting in to a bulk-order will happen the next week.

WatSFic will be hosting another HvZ event this term, with details as yet undecided.

Movies on every other Wednesday night from Jan 18, at around 19:00, in PHYS 150. Reading week does not affect this schedule.

Games Days on these Saturdays: Jan 14, Feb 4, Mar 3, Mar 24, in the MC Comfy Lounge (MC 3001), starting from around noon. RPGA (for roleplaying games like D&D) and FNM (Friday Night Magic, for those interested in Magic the Gathering) happen every Friday, at 7PM and 6PM respectively. Unfortunately the room is still TBA.

Meetings every Wednesday at 6PM in MC 2017. Fun times and important topics are had.

We hope to see you at some of our events,

Daniel Resnick

WatSFic VP/Minister of Propaganda, W13

A Cheesy Article (for Cheese Club)

It's a gouda idea to join the Campus Crusade for Cheese!

You cheddar come to our meetings, in MC 4046 on Fridays at 4:30.

It's gonna be a dairy good time.

It's a brie-ze to join; you're a member once you pay for your cheese.

It'll drive you crackers how cheap it is! Only \$2 for cheese.

Come parmed and ready; bring a plate, or pay \$0.25 for a disposable one.

Then you'll edam up all the cheese you'd like!

If you have a cheese feta-ish, or you just want to join a really weird club, come to our meetings!

Don't be forever provolone; you'll meet lots of people!

You just ricotta come, or you'll make us bleu!

If you don't, we'll Swiss you.

You'll Havarti a good time and we'll love you for chevre!

Make emmental the puns!
GingerbrED

Distinguished Teaching Awards

Do you know a really good teacher? Here's your chance to recognize them through the Distinguished Teacher Awards! Pick up your nomination sheet at DC, DP, or SLC's TurnKey (Drop boxes are also available at these locations).

Nominations are due Friday February 1. An individual may only win the award once so check the list of past winners on our website! Questions? E-mail: cte-award@uwaterloo.ca or Call: 519-888-4567 ext. 33857

Tips on writing your nominations: <http://cte-blog.uwaterloo.ca/?p=9>

If you know an exceptional TA, here's your chance to recognize them through the Amit & Meena Chakma Awards for Exceptional Teaching by a Student! Email your online nomination forms to cte-award@uwaterloo.ca by Friday, February 8, 2013

Nomination forms online: http://cte.uwaterloo.ca/teaching_awards_and_grants/documents/ETSAnom-form.doc

FAQs

Who can submit nominations?

- Undergraduates, graduates, alumni, and faculty members/colleagues.

Whom can you nominate?

- All those who teach students at the University of Waterloo and its federated and affiliated universities/colleges (Renison, St. Jerome's, St. Paul's, and Conrad Grebel).
- These include lab instructors and clinical associates, as well as professors and lecturers at all ranks (part/full-time).

Can an instructor win the DTA more than once?

- Unfortunately an individual can receive only one Distinguished Teacher Award from the University of Waterloo. Check out other awards you could nominate them for on the CTE Awards and Grants website.

Can teachers nominate themselves?

- No. In addition, teachers should not be informed when a nomination is made on their behalf, since the nomination process is confidential and impartial. It is important that candidates not be perceived as having had any involvement in their own nominations.

How many nominations are required to be considered?

- Nominees require a minimum of 10 nominations (these include nominations that may or may not have accumulated from the past) to be considered for the award, so spread the word!

Upcoming FedS Opportunities

The Federation of Students is holding an election for Students' Council, and the Executive. Think you'd make a good President? VP Internal? All you have to do is visit feds.ca and click on elections to learn more.

Council has multiple seats specifically for math students. It will allow you to build your public and interpersonal communication skills, as well as be able to make a big impact on so many decisions that effect the lives of students here at uWaterloo. Just in the last 2 months, council has taken a stance on tuition fees and ancillary fees which the executive bring forward to the Government and the University Administration in order to ensure our University reflects our desires. That 30% off tuition grant? That was actually a success of previous FedS Council and Feds exec.

So be the voice of students, build your skills, and make University of Waterloo even better than it is now. Perhaps you can even push forward a stance on geese! Just check out feds.ca to learn more. You'll need to get some of your peers to nominate you. And the nomination period closes on January 18th, so don't delay!

Andrew Noble
President, Federation of Students

A Guide to New Year's Resolutions

So it's the beginning of the year, you've just passed the wave of mindless mass consumerism, and now it's time for the next arbitrary practice followed by society: the New Year's resolution. Now let's be perfectly honest: you're not going to meet your New Year's resolution, no matter how much you believe you will. So, since failure is already guaranteed, why not make your new year's resolution something interesting, like:

- trying to raise the dead
- catching them all and by all I do mean them all, including the latest generation
- proving or disproving that P is equal to NP
- becoming President of the United States [*Bonus points if you aren't American —ObjectED*]
- getting accepted to Hogwarts
- becoming the Doctor's companion
- inventing faster-than-light technology
- promising to do better on your New Year's resolution next year

At least this way, when you fail your New Year's resolution, you will have the excuse that it was impossible.

Beyond Meta

mineCRAFT

Drop your Minecraft username in the BLACK BOX to be whitelisted on our server. (129.97.134.134)

CnD Furniture has Arrived

It's been an extremely long process, but the new CnD furniture has finally arrived.

My apologies for being without furniture for such a long time—we've had challenges with our order, with delays, shipping, and customs, but now it has finally arrived, and is being constructed as we speak.

Once it is built, it will need to be installed, so the CnD will be closed for a couple of days in the next two weeks (we will post signs once we have confirmation on the dates).

What is there to look forward to? Brand new wood tables, comfortable chairs, and a series of booths to go alongside the window. Hey, anything has to be better than the exam tables and chairs that we are currently borrowing, right? I like to say that they promote "hard work," but I'll be glad to see them go.

Once they are all installed, we will be looking into renovations of the Comfy Lounge (which won't take nearly as long as the CnD renovations, I swear), so if you have any suggestions on things you'd like to see or not see in the Comfy, or what you'd like to be able to use the space for, please email us at exec@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Dem Geese

Come spring, geese will be off to pairing up and reproducing mini versions of themselves. This proliferation might not be an obvious problem now, but projecting into the future in tandem with a few degrees of overreaction, these pooping machines have to be stopped before our campus grounds and fellow inmates are completely covered in gross green gunk.

Plan A. Kill them and make some roast geese with the yummy goodness of butter, pepper, salt and stuffing. But as scrumptious as they might be, unless you have a permit, the consequences are not worth it.

Plan B. Douse their eggs in oil. However, the geese will lay more eggs than they did initially. Just as plucking a grey hair will cause five more to grow in its place, the same logic applies. So, there's a probability that this will backfire.

Plan C. Potty train them. This could be a difficult feat to pull off considering the low level of intelligence of the geese. Plus, getting volunteers is just another time-consuming chore.

Plan D. Introduce their natural predators into the equation. Maybe coyotes? Side effect: even though the number of geese will decrease substantially, you may also notice some missing students.

CottonCandy

Russian Reviews: The Hidden

Where Hanging Bloody Corpses in Doorways is Fun!

A warning to the faint of heart: do not play this game. This game contains building-leaping, body-exploding, and invisible murder machines that will sneak up on you, splatter you across walls, and then hang the pieces up to dry. The game is violent.

In *The Hidden* (or *Hidden: Source*), you can play as either one of the IRIS soldiers, with various equipment and weapons deployed in a small enclosed area, who find and eliminate the Hidden, a killer made by IRIS that is on the loose, or you can play as the Hidden. The Hidden player only has a shiv, some pipebomb grenades, and his great speed, strength, and invisibility to face the squad of gun-toting soldiers hunting him in an old warehouse. However the game usually turns quickly into the Hidden hunting the IRIS troops as they fail to isolate it while it runs about freely killing individuals before it can be found. The Hidden is merciless as it leaps across rooms, sticks to walls and ceilings, and hits troops with such force that they explode into little bits.

Playing as the IRIS soldiers is also fun though, as you work with your dwindling teammates to corner the menace, firing bursts of death down hallways and into likely locations of the Hidden. Placing a few good trip lasers to track movement is something that I enjoy doing, because although it does nothing to stop the Hidden, it lets me know when it enters or exits certain areas, so my team can converge on it. Although the trail of dead bodies in its wake also does help us track it...

If you are interested in getting your fleshy bits handed to you, check out hidden-source.com and make sure you have the Source engine installed [*easily gotten from Alien Swarm or Team Fortress 2 available for free on Steam —ObjectED*], and maybe I'll see you online.

Soviet Canadian

The Tortoise and the Hare

This is a really super special awesome paradox: There is going to be a race between a tortoise (named Human) and a hare (named Zombie). Zombie can run faster and starts a distance behind Human. Both Human and Zombie run at a constant speed. After a finite time, Zombie has travelled the distance to where Human was. Of course, Human has moved ahead some more in this finite time. Zombie must then run some more to get to Human's new location, and again Human has moved forward some more. Every time Zombie reaches the point where Human was, it still needs to go farther to reach Human. Thus, because there are an infinite number of points Zombie must reach where Human has already been, Zombie can never overtake the human.

The moral of the story is that you don't need to run away from zombies because, as shown above, they will NEVER catch you.

Stubbs

Crusader Kings II: The Republic

A Review

Paradox Interactive recently released a new DLC for *Crusader Kings II* called *The Republic* in which you can now play patricians for coastal merchant republics. The default ones are Genoa, Gottland, the Hanseatic League, Pisa, and Venice. The focus of the game has changed to taking coastal trade forts, and competing with the other republics, rather than caring only about feudal politics.

Each republic has five houses, and they fight over who has control at any one time. There's a lot of internal politics between families, but while all this is fun, it overlooks some glaring problems.

For one, pressing standard claims can lead to nine houses in a republic, and merchant republic vassals of kings or emperors can expand these areas quickly, making things very strange on coasts and detracting from the semi-historical nature of the game. One other major thing that is unfortunate is that non-coastal republics remain completely unplayable.

Overall, this expands the game, and gives more flavour, but I would wait until some good mods such as *CK2+* or *The Prince and The Thane* come out with adaptations for this mod. I would give this a 3/5 because I know that many bugs are likely going to have hotfixes, and the ideas were good, but it needs work.

Ice Nine

So Long, Old Friend

Sometimes it's hard to let go. Last month, I believe, I read some sad news. I shouldn't be too sad, since I stopped paying attention to my old friend a long time ago. However, when I was younger, my friend played a huge influence in my life. It was something I took for granted back then; eventually ending the friendship. What was once at least a monthly visit gradually became distant. I disagreed, got angry, and even mocked my old friend from time to time, believing there was no credibility. But alas, now that my friend is gone, I realize that I might have been too harsh. So long Nintendo Power, you shall be missed.

An Old Reader

Arguing about arguments

I had an interesting argument about how to win arguments with my friend today. I postulated that the strength of an argument is subjective, as there is no inherent ranking algorithm in the universe that assigns points and declares one argument stronger than another. At least not the way it assigns 0 degrees Celsius as the temperature at which water freezes. Thus, one only really wins an argument when one impresses oneself upon the minds of the other parties and subjects them to one's will. He agreed with me. I think I won. I'm not quite sure.

moment

Minecraft: Feed the Beast

In Summary: Minecraft is Lego for Adults

I recently picked up the FTB (Feed the Beast) mod launcher for *Minecraft*. It is a free launcher and probably the easiest mass mod distribution and management system for the game to date. I was perfectly happy creating epic things in Creative or Survival modes, but the need for something new was an itch I needed to scratch; and oh did I scratch it.

The launcher comes with several mod-packs pre-installed. That is right, mod-packs. What the FTB team has done is taken mods with similar themes and grouped them together. It is not a simple cut-and-paste operation. Many mods introduce new elements that conflict with each other, like multiple types of the same named block or different things that don't interact with each other by default, but should. Their work and dedication have paid off, as Feed the Beast is an amazing *Minecraft* experience. I relish the feeling of discovering everything all over again.

I did what anyone new to a game with no manual would do: watched YouTube videos, read wikis, toyed in creative mode, and eventually started a new world. The first tough choice was what modpack to play. I always enjoyed designing, building, and optimizing systems for doing tasks, so I chose the default pack as it had all the machines and none of the magic stuff in it. It was an incredible amount of fun, building awesome machines, automating simple tasks, learning how everything worked. It satisfied my cravings for a couple of weeks, and my presence on *mathNEWS Minecraft* server dwindled as I built myself a fantastic world with portal guns and mining lasers. It did have humble beginnings with hours of endless caving, getting lost underground, realizing I had a minimap, building simple machines, having my first machines blow up, caving some more, forgetting I had a minimap, and praying that the lava didn't kill me because I did something stupid. Never mine down, not even if you have a jetpack.

Deep in my vast network of man-made caves, I sought to appreciate the beauty of *Minecraft's* algorithms for generating landscapes and caves. Then I thought those 10 words that define every *Minecraft* experience: Do you know what would look really cool over there? The construction began, and it was good, and on the seventh day I rested. (By resting I mean I had an exam to write. I regret nothing.) I let pools of lava pour over their edges into stone troughs like my very own forges of Asgard. I built a Death Star of water mills to generate power for my laser-based operations. I put a nuclear reactor in the middle of nowhere and returned to find some ill-programmed villagers had decided to live in it and had promptly died of radiation poisoning. I became bored. Building an extremely complex and resource-intensive machine just so I could use it once didn't make sense. It was time to leave my world and seek an online community, a server, to share in the adventures and creativity of others.

Happy spelunking,
SmurfUnunoctium

An Analysis of the Human Body as a Computer System

If God was real and really created humans, then he certainly wouldn't have done it while wearing an Iron Ring. One would not have to look hard to find all the problems with us. If the human body was a computer system, these would be some of its issues:

Security, Detection, and Recovery

With multiple security holes, HUMAN is extremely prone to malicious agents such as viruses. Furthermore, the native security does not do a very good job of detecting and dealing with security intrusions in a timely manner, and often requires extensive external support to recover.

Redundancy

While there is some redundancy in subsystems such as KIDNEY, the most critical subsystems such as HEART and BRAIN do not have any backups to fall onto in the event of failure. As such, in the event of a hardware failure, the entire system will shut down.

Scheduling

HUMAN's scheduling algorithm is essentially non-functional. High priority, time critical processes will often be ignored, and instead a low priority task called "SYSTEM_PROCRASTINATION_PROCESS" will be executed. In fact, this process takes up a surprising 93% of the processor time and does nothing more than idle.

Interrupt Handling

Nested interrupts with priority are supported. However, priority is once again ignored, and a high priority interrupt handler will often be interrupted by one of lower priority. Furthermore, the original interrupt handler may never be resumed. For example, "the oven is on fire" may be interrupted by something of lower priority, such as "wow the kitten in this picture is so cute".

Unused Subsystems

There are several subsystems that provide no functionality whatsoever, yet still consume resources. For example, APPENDIX and TONSILS have nothing to do with the functionality of the system, yet still exist for unknown reasons.

theSMURF

Participants Needed

Participants needed for a psychological study on identifying phishing scams. Please arrive to the PAS with ID (Government Issue only), SIN card, and one or more credit cards. Study will take approximately one hour to complete. Participants will receive \$20 and a cookie for their time.

So your first term didn't go too well, eh?

The first term in your university life can be an intimidating one. You're in a new place, you're studying new material, and you're maybe a little overwhelmed by all the new things thrown at you. Many people have said that once you make it through first term the rest is easy enough, but more often than not, the first term can throw you for a loop. It happened to me, and it'll definitely keep happening in the future.

Many things can happen to cause you to do poorly in first term. Inexperience with final exams and university academia is one of the most common causes. This, coupled with how you potentially studied in high school (including, but not limited to: slacking off, not going to class, not studying, only studying the night before), can be a recipe for disaster. Personal issues and health can also be a serious and sometimes unexpected thing to deal with (in any term, really). No matter what happened in first term, there are things that you can do right now to get back on your feet, depending on your situation.

Before we get any further, if you have any concerns at any time about your academics, SEE AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR! They are there for all your concerns and are ready to help.

I didn't get the grades I hoped for: If you achieved above, or exactly the minimum average you need for your program and/or faculty and you passed, then you're doing OK, no real need to freak out. You should be a bit wary of future performances if you want to do better, but see an academic advisor anyway. They may just be the reassurance you need.

I didn't get the grades I hoped for, but at least I passed: Depending on the number of courses you merely passed, your average may not have put you in the best standing. You may be fine or you may be put on "probation" to get your average up to

the minimum. Talk to your academic advisor to see what you can do to do better.

I failed a couple of courses: Depending on the exact number of courses you failed and how your average is calculated within your faculty, you may be OK. Your standing may not be where you want it to be, but talk to your academic advisor and see what you can do to bring yourself up. In general, if you failed fewer than 50% of courses you took in the term, you are likely still fine, but you'll need to make sure to bring everything up again to not be in danger of being "Required to Withdraw". You may also be put on "probation" to make sure you get your grades up.

I failed most/all of my courses: If this happened to you, then it is also very likely you were asked to withdraw from your program. Things happen and it's always sad when things don't go the way you wanted them to. You now have to think about what you'll be doing in the future, be it taking some time off to work, switching programs, or even transferring to another institution to complete your studies. It depends on you and what you really want to do, of course, but talk to an academic advisor and they'll help you get started on whatever process you need to undertake.

Taking time off is also an option to you if you just need a break from all the craziness of university life. Anyone may need a little bit of time to truly think about what's going to happen in the future. We're all making it as of right now, so there's no reason not to take a step back and weigh all our options. No matter what you choose, there's always a path waiting for you to take.

A Mediocre Kitty

N Ways Arts Courses are Better than Math Courses

- When the previous class is exiting the room, the next class actually waits for everyone to come out.
- The prof is not scared of the class.
- You don't have assignments constantly.
- You are engaged in the class through discussion (not the kind of discussion where the prof asks a question and receives blank looks).
- There are more social people in the class. Thus when you say, "Hey, I don't know anyone in this class, I can make some new friends!" you can actually do so!
- If you're a Mathie in an Arts course, it's likely to be an elective, therefore likely to be something you're interested in.
- It forces you to have social interaction, something Mathies don't often get.
- It forces you to learn and write proper English, something Mathies don't often get.

Yours in controversy,
Shay Blair.

N Things to Use as Space-Occupying Content

- Lists about filler
- Comics
- Math puns
- Puzzles
- The ramblings of angry editors
- Lists about lists
- Old *mathNEWS* articles
- Bad math puns
- Obscure references
- Lists of lists that do not contain themselves
- Koch curves
- Worse math puns
- Redundancy
- Math puns that will get us killed
- Dark matter

ScruffyED

PD 1.1 – How to Actually Apply for Jobs

Due to some bizarre twist of fate, the Mayans have screwed up their calendar and the Winter term has arrived. Among the many consequences of this, including my new-found debt, is the fact that a whole new batch of first-year co-op students will be led completely astray by PD1's advice. Don't worry, though! If you start to actually think that employers care about what courses you took in high school, just follow these guidelines to set yourself right:

- Take the résumé you wrote for PD1, submit it to D2L, and write a new one.
- PD1 teaches you two important things about how to write résumés: they should be about 2 pages each, and they should generally go in reverse-chronological order. The rest of PD1 is just on how to pretend you have experience when you don't, and even then, "relevant courses" is the last thing that will separate you from other students! Instead, write about some activities you have done outside of school, or write for *mathNEWS* and fill your résumé with mentions of that!
- Apply to every job you are interested in.
- PD1 seems intent to dissuade you from applying to jobs. While CECA may not like students applying to every job available, why would they provide the limit of 50 applications if they did not expect you to reach it? My recommendation is to apply to 40 jobs in the first round of postings, and as many as you can afterwards, but it is completely up to how many jobs actually interest you. Do not apply to jobs that you have absolutely no interest in. There are many companies out there that offer large amounts of uninteresting jobs to take advantage of students' desperation and cheap labour. If you apply to one of these jobs and get ranked only for them, you are stuck. Wait until the second round of interviews before applying to backup jobs.
- You should be under-qualified for the job you get.
- Co-op, besides a great opportunity to get money, is valuable as a learning experience. If you know everything a job's description says you should, you should probably apply to a better job. If it is a job that sounds cool, apply to it anyways, but think of it as a backup job! One of the wondrous aspects of co-op is the fact that everyone applies to jobs they are overqualified for, and as such getting an offer probably also means you are overqualified for the job. There are countless exceptions, but when you are allowed 50 applications at a time, you should remember to be ambitious!

Overall, although it is impossible to completely disregard PD1's advice, I'd recommend doing so whenever possible. Co-op is all about standing out from the crowd, and if your resumé follows the same rigid structure as everyone else's, you are putting yourself at a disadvantage. If you follow these simple tips, applying to a ton of jobs you are under-qualified for, you may not get your dream job, but you won't be disappointed either!

maplebaconburger

Tales From My Travels

A Stupid Decision in Diyarbakir

I am quite fond of my travel companion Icarus, but common sense seems to evade him sometimes. That is why, when we arrived in Diyarbakir, a south-eastern city in Turkey, he insisted on doing something very foolish. Some background first: Diyarbakir is city with a large Kurdish population famous for the ancient wall that surrounds the city. On the inside of the wall, the wealthier families live. On the outside, the lower class families live. The Tigris river also runs just outside the wall.

On arrival, we found our hostel, dropped off our stuff, and went for a walk around the wall. We didn't know it, but we were in a poorer district (but still inside the wall) and were browsing the guidebook on Icarus' tablet. It was pretty obvious that we were foreigners, me with purple hair and Icarus with a blond afro. At one point, a man who was completely covered in scars and tattoos* came over and talked to us in broken English and showed us a picture of his female "cousin" on his cell phone. We didn't really know what was going on. Eventually, this man asked us to follow him up a deserted section of the wall. I said no. It was pretty obvious this guy was trying to rob/kill us and make off with our stuff/harvest our organs. Icarus insisted that I was just being closed-minded and I needed to live more freely. We argued about it for a while, and after several personal attacks, I gave in and we followed the man up the wall.

On the inside of the wall, it was disgusting. There was garbage everywhere. Part way up, a few other people show up, also covered in scars and tattoos. They took us up to the second-to-last level inside the wall, before the final staircase. At this point, I was terrified; I told Icarus I didn't want to continue, because the men were beginning to behave strangely. After another argument, we began to descend and one of the men grabbed at our backpack. Luckily, we had sealed the zippers, and he couldn't figure out how to open it. So we quickly got to the bottom and put as much distance between us and the criminals as we could.

The ironic thing is just before we had initially been approached by the first criminal, we had almost reached the section in the guidebook that warned of meth-addicted gangsters offering "free tours" up the wall, only to rob you at the very top when you were out of sight of other civilians below. HA! Take that Icarus!

*Note: I like tattoos and don't think they are an indicator of being a bad person or anything so ... naïve. But if you saw this this person's tattoos, you would understand why it was alarming.

*Sidenote: If you ever find yourself needing a public telephone in Diyarbakir, you should go find the waiting room in the main hospital's emergency room. Then, behind a large stack of gurneys (which you will have to move, while guards are questioning you in a language you don't understand (so ... just ignore them?)), the only public telephone can be found.

Aesop

Rainbow Mathies 25

Should We Expect Queer Public Figures to Come Out?

Like discourse in most other groups, media targeted towards queer communities often follow certain topics *du jour*. Same-sex marriage has been a popular one for the past few years, especially down south. STD prevention and spread has been another topic going strong since the HIV/AIDS scare. The issue I want to elaborate on, though, seems to have been growing in popularity; but I don't think it has reached its pinnacle. The question of whether or not queer figures with a strong public image should come out is a sensitive one, exploring an uncommon intersection between personal agency and social benefit. This is particularly topical in the sports world, where a number of recent sports stars (most straight-identified) have stated that the culture of homophobia in sports is inappropriate, and more of their fellow players should be coming out to help "break the silence". There are strong voices on each side of the issue, and I want to take this opportunity to explain where I feel the line should be drawn.

Something that needs to be made clear, though, is that this question is not about whether or not public figures who are queer-identified should come out. All things being equal, with no other consequences, having more out public figures will help make sexual orientation more common, weakening the culture of silence, and hopefully shoving talk of acceptance into the limelight. I would argue that this is not the most important result of key figures in society coming out. Rather, I would say that, relativistically speaking, queer individuals are lacking in good and influential role models and idols to connect and reconcile with. These sorts of role models help shape a young person's values and ideals, as well as providing insight, motivation, and inspiration. Many young queer people deal with issues such as low self-esteem, identity confusion/repulsion, unrealistic expectations, and oppressive environments. The more idols or role models available for these young queer individuals to choose from, the more likely it is that these issues will impact them less.

That all sounds fine and dandy, sure, but we need to recognize that we began with one very faulty assumption: that coming out holds no other consequence. Frankly, that couldn't be farther from the truth. To be fair, I am not a celebrity, nor am I a sports star. I don't understand the environment these individuals find themselves in. Nor do I understand the effect that coming out has on their professional, social, family, or personal lives. Herein lies the crux of our problem: high-profile people are people all the same, with problems and stress and unfortunate circumstances just like the rest of us. I've been told that, to use sports teams as an example, in order for a team to succeed they need to be close and connected like a family, with days spent together working, practicing, playing, and socializing. Trust is very important among teammates, and the locker room isn't necessarily the most accepting place for non-normative sexuality. If coming out means deteriorating the relationship someone has with their teammates, causing rifts in the team and ultimately being considered responsible for any future failures, I don't think it's reasonable to place this kind of burden on someone.

We also began with one other assumption: that only people in the public eye can make good role models. This, of course, isn't the case. Oftentimes the best people to model ourselves after are ones close to us personally. Friends, family, neighbors, teachers... people in similar situations or locations as you, who better understand your situations and perspectives. Since people you have a personal connection with act as better role models, I would argue that it's an equal responsibility for all queer individuals. Beyond that, people tend to be more willing to change and reconsider their ideas and beliefs when they know that someone they care for personally is being negatively affected by their decisions. Anyone who watched Milk or heard of his story may recognize this idea. This is why I personally, and many other queer advocates, feel it's important that, no matter what we are doing, we do it under the guise of a queer individual. However, we do need to recognize that life circumstances sometimes make it difficult or dangerous for someone to come out, which I believe is reasonable. Perhaps most important of all is for anyone in a position to do so to "come out" in support of free expression of sexuality. Ultimately, I don't agree that celebrities or people in the public eye carry any more responsibility to be a good advocate or ally than any one of us.

If you are queer-identified, and are looking for someone to talk to or for supportive allies, there are always resources available to you. You can learn more about the GLOW centre and its offerings, including a phone line at www.knowyourglow.ca. Counselling Services is always available to you; their offices are open 8:30-8MTWTh and 8:30-5F, located in Needles Hall across from Student Awards and Financial Aid. If you need support and assistance immediately, you can call the KW Distress Line at 519-745-1166. If you'd feel more comfortable speaking with someone from a queer specific service, please contact the LGBT Youthline at 1-800-268-9688. Finally, if you have any comments and concerns about this column, including ideas on topics you'd would like to see, you can contact me at dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca.

Until next week,

(define this (not cool))

Mathie Shades of Grey

[illegible]

A Story in n Parts

The frigid rain is heavy enough to quench any fire, but the normally sleepy valley village is blazing with activity this night; groups of men with lanterns and practically anything they could get their hands on are stomping up and down the muddy streets, looking in every nook and cranny while barking orders to other men who rush by. The women in the village are trying to keep their children asleep in the din or otherwise prevent inquisitive children from interfering with the men's task, all the while worrying about the safety of their husbands on this wild night. In the middle of this tempest, is a merchant's daughter, hidden in a stable, clutching a glowing silver pendant.

Her father is a traveling merchant to the farmer, the tanner, and the blacksmith, but to the finer gentry of the land he deals with exotic goods, and to his most trusted patrons, wares of magical nature. Yet, he tries to be a pious man; a little madness in the head surely is an affordable price to pay for the security and happiness of his only daughter, he reasons, and no magic-using scoundrel should be stealing the heart of his beloved rose and corrupting her mind. And today is the manifestation of the logical conclusion of her actions.

If she was ever in trouble, the pair should meet in the cave they first met, on a night not unlike this one, where the rain was oppressive. Against his warnings, she fell for him, leaving social stigma to the winds; he was cold at first, but under her persistence, he warmed up a little, showed her why he was so reserved, and eventually asked of her a favour and gave her the silver pendant for the quest. With the angry voices in the background and sounds of heavy boots in the mud, surely she is in trouble now, and to take flight she will do once the opening comes.

Despite her best efforts not to be seen or tracked, she left footprints in the mud and tore a bit of her dress in bramble as she ran by. Even though she can't see them, the short reprieve of the sounds' absence is shattered by the incoming thunder of the mob. Stone stairs carved in the valley sides lead up to the cave, but the slick stone and dress threaten her to tumble down, away from her goal – she stumbles, and in the brief moment when she is airborne despair flashes by her eyes, only to land in reality as her hands grasp the mossy rocks which dot the sides of the steps, the rumblings of anger behind her. Eventually, after several painful minutes, she reaches the cave, warm and hospitable compared to the maw of wrath which no doubt followed.

**Your mom follows us on
Facebook (mathNEWS), and your
grandma follows us on Twitter
(@UWmathNEWS). Don't forget
to follow us in person
(MC 3030 ☺).**

"Zyl," she wheezes, "you should leave! They're coming after you!"

"Did you accomplish the task?" Zyl calmly asked.

"Dad caught a fairy, nothing like what you described," the girl responded, catching her breath while looking out the cave for angry people.

Zyl's blue eyes now bear an expression of sorrow, and he looks at the ground and says, "I would like to apologize to have included you in my quest."

"What do you mean? Can't you just whisk some portal and we can go wherever we—"

"No," Zyl softly interrupted, "the price for that is too high. I would never forgive myself if I have another cursed the way I am."

"It doesn't seem so bad! A few scales here and there, sharp teeth, and wicked magic isn't so hard to hide. We should move to a city which tolerates magic, and live together—"

Zyl put his gloved hand up, and carefully removed his leather glove, revealing a gnarled scaled hand with claws and a golden eye staring right back at the girl, leaving her speechless.

"Your fantasies are amusing, but unfounded in reality; there are many other aspects of this wretched curse and why I am trying to complete my quest with utmost haste. If only you had taken my advice and forgotten about me..." Zyl said.

"I don't care. I will do anything—"

This time, it was the barking of dogs and the raised voices followed by sounds of metal on metal which stopped the girl's words. Zyl is paying no heed to the girl, busy scrawling a circle in the stone floor with blood and chanting in some arcane language. The men came upon the cave chamber, blocking the exit – at least it was only the town guard and not the whole raging town – and stopped to survey the scene. Zyl finished chanting and gesticulating and started to dematerialize.

"No!"

So I ought to do more fiction...
Zethar

Stooge Sort

```
stoogesort(L[], i=0, j=len(L)-1):
    if L[j] < L[i] then swap L[i] and L[j]
    if j-i+1 >= 3 then:
        t = (j-i+1)/3
        stoogesort(L, i, j-t)
        stoogesort(L, i+t, j)
        stoogesort(L, i, j-t)
    return L
```


Embrace the Straw Man Fallacy

Logical fallacies are often employed in arguments and discussions because they are really awesome, fun to use and add a lot to the discussion. The straw man fallacy is when you misrepresent someone's argument, usually by greatly exaggerating it, in order to make it easier to attack. A prime example of this is the gun control debate in our eccentric neighbour to the south, 'Murica. The left is saying, "Let's not give guns to criminals and nutjobs." The right is saying, "THEY WANT TO TAKE ALL YOUR GUNS AWAY!!! ALL PRAISE JESUS!!!" As you can see, a slight exaggeration.

When in a discussion that I don't particularly want to be in, I like to use the straw man fallacy on my own argument. It makes things interesting and usually brings everything to a close quickly. For example:

I accidentally walked into a room where the pro-choice, pro-life discussion was taking place. Now, I'm pro-choice since I'm male and as a male do not believe that I should have any say on what females do with their bodies. However, I was asked, "Do you think it's okay for a woman to get an abortion?" I looked her straight in the eyes and said, "Up to 6 months... after birth." I have never seen her so horrified before or since. Even though this is far from my position, I stuck to my guns for the rest of the night.

Stubbs

(In hindsight, I shouldn't have said that because she was wearing really big heels and it hurt a lot when she kicked me.)



Found: Production Night Journal

During a recent solo expedition across the 7th floor of MC, I stumbled across a curiosity that has haunted me ever since. In a formerly unexplored hallway, my dying candelight revealed something strange. Although my supplies were running low and the howls of late-night grad students were getting progressively closer, I stopped to investigate. Scrawled across several chunks of greasy cardboard, apparently from a pizza box, was written a harrowing account, reprinted below.

6:15 pm: 15 minutes early for production night. Hallway is dark. I rattle the doorknob of the office. No use. locked [*sic*]. A distant chatter of keystrokes echoes through the hallway.

6:16 pm: A short man opens the door. He eyes me silently. Something is wrong. I am frozen in place. Unable to run. Fear? Exhaustion? Curiosity?

6:19 pm: HELP! THIS IS A TRAP.

6:21 pm: I'm being held here forcibly. I will not be given food or drink until I work in their forced labour scheme. 500 words per slice of pizza.

6:32 pm: My captors, the "editors," have unlocked the holding cell. I watch, helpless, as they charge the MathSoc office. Like rabid rottweilers, they herd the poor souls hiding within. Chaos. Laggards are quick to receive a sharp nip to their ankles. Resistance is futile.

6:37 pm: We have been trapped in a basement computer lab and are told to write. None of the computers work.

6:49 pm: Motivated by hunger, a few brave souls construct makeshift cardboard shelters under desks and start carving their words into anything they can find.

7:44 pm: The chaos around me has settled into a dull roar. My words are flowing. The zone. My life depends on this.

8:18 pm: I heard the word "drinks".

9:10 pm: THE CAKE IS A LIE

DumbestPersonInMath

*dis*sed CONNECTIONS

Lost: production night journal. Written on pizza box and hastily abandoned on 7th floor of MC. Great sentimental value. Little centimental value (est. one cent). If found, do not lick grease stain. Insert pizza and return to *mathNEWS* office.

Found: self-respect. Dropped in MC3018 along with some pants (destroyed due to health code violation). Known not to belong to *mathNEWS* editors. Certificate of ownership must be presented upon claim.

Markovian Bogosity

Perhapersonally.

Your would likely belies 25

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Manacled_Marcov

Complicated Concepts in a Single Sentence

Do you ever get confused by complicated things? Does your
brain start spinning whenever you encounter anything more
complex than the word onomatopoeia? Then this is the article
for you!

In this article, you will be provided with simple explanations
for complicated concepts. Everything you've never realized
you needed to know, all together in one convenient place. And
all for the cheap price of \$59.99! But wait! Call now, and you'll
receive a free Snuggie with a complimentary puppy.

What are you waiting for? Contact us now at 555-LOLS (555-
5657). Here are some sample explanations:

- Quantum Computing: Doing things that aren't possible with computers that you don't have.
- Hilbert System: You have three rules, and now you can prove everything in the world.
- General Relativity: The only three people who ever understood it are now dead.
- Schrödinger's Cat: There's a cat and maybe it's alive, maybe it's dead, but it's for SCIENCE!
- Paradoxes: Weird things happen that contradict each other and the universe might explode.

...And much more!

Why are you still reading? CALL!

Yours in simplicity,
Shay Blair.

Lap Dances, A Need for More

I love lap dances. Not getting them, giving them. In fact, I don't really consider someone a friend until we've shared the sweet, sweet experience. I leap on every opportunity (and exposed lap) because it helps build fun and intimate relationships.

I first discovered my love of the sensual dance during Frosh Week 2011 where giving one to a teamster was on the scavenger hunt list. Then I showed him my special sausage before letting him ride me, but that's a story for another time. Throughout the rest of frosh week, many a lap was danced on. Unfortunately, school started and people stared whenever I danced in class...

As the term progressed, I had less and less time to practice my art. Soon I was having withdrawal symptoms and looked for a fast substitute for the thrill of the dance. Coffee was that substitute.

Of course, I still let my hair down on occasion. For example, at Math Ball I gave my girlfriend's roommate a lap dance.

My suggestion to you as you read this is to find the person nearest to you and try to make their day slightly better. Yes, you should give them a lap dance. You should give them a lap dance right now.

Stubbs

Words: Insult, Compliment, or Food

I have passed my *gridMASTER* mantle on to Unit, but I really like the free pizza and cookies that I receive as a **mathNEWS** writer. The desperate search for an article idea has culminated in this: A vocabulary quiz. Don't worry. It's multiple choice.

Each issue, I will choose a list of English words with the same language as a root and I will divide them into three categories. Simply place each word back into its category. Today, divide this list of Yiddish words into (Insult, Compliment, Food).

- latke (I / C / F)
- momzer (I / C / F)
- schlub (I / C / F)
- nudnik (I / C / F)
- schmuck (I / C / F)
- maven (I / C / F)
- shiksa (I / C / F)
- schlemiel (I / C / F)
- blintz (I / C / F)
- mensch (I / C / F)
- schlemazel (I / C / F)
- pastrami (I / C / F)

For a prize, submit your responses to the **BLACK BOX**.

moment

profQUOTES

“I seem to not have my lecture notes, so I’ll just wing it.”

Akash, MATH 135

[making up a scenario for a question] “Let’s say the Bombshelter wants to host a Kegger party, oh wait, you guys are not 19... then let’s say they want to host a juice party.”

Akash, MATH 135

[whiteboard lights turn off, turns them back on] “Let there be light.”

Akash, MATH 135

[talking about his thesis that he has to defend] “If I come to class with candy and looking happy, then you know I passed. But if I come in angry and drunk, then you know I didn’t.”

Fraser, CS 135

[makes a mistake on the board, a student shows him] “It’s Friday, come on.”

Hewitt, Math 137

“So, you think chemical engineering is all about making dirty stuff?”

Croiset, Che 100

“Have you ever noticed that examples look like exam-please? Coincidence? I think not!!”

Marcoux, MATH 228

“If you have a Ph.D. in music theory, or MUSIC 270, that’s your prerequisite.”

Paynter, MUSIC 271

“I hate having to lecture on the first day of classes. It would be nicer if we could just *thinks a moment* have pizza.”

Paynter, MUSIC 271

“Nobody likes integration by parts.”

Zhu, STAT 241

“You don’t have to do all of them. There’s always someone who takes it on themselves as a challenge to do all of them, and I’m trying to think of some way to stop it.”

Godsil, CO 444

“I make the same threat every time I teach this course, and I’ve never had to act on it.”

Godsil, CO 444

“I’m perfectly happy if you go and pick out the easy ones first. That’s what I would do.”

Godsil, CO 444

“You’ll be tempted to assume that the faces are preserved by the automorphism. Well, they are. But I don’t think any of you can prove it.”

Godsil, CO 444

“Well this is the quantum building, so maybe the erasers exist only when you are not looking for them.”

Shallitt, CS 365

“I started out in medical school; that’s where I learned my penmanship.”

Paynter, MUSIC 271

“I agree with you, but there’s a **reason** I agree.”

Paynter, MUSIC 271

“You have to be careful what you call things. Most of the good words are gone.”

Paynter, MUSIC 271

“My name is Konstantinos Georgiu, and learning to say my name correctly will be one of the hardest things in this course.”

Georgiu, CO 250

“Don’t ask me how three assignments will add up to 20%. It will.”

Ramezan, STAT 443

“I think I have the best sense of humour in the universe, and I’m humble.”

Metzger, STAT 340

“My friends in Engineering – I know it’s scandalous to say that in the Math faculty”

Metzger, STAT 340

“I can’t go out there, create a zombie virus and infect a bunch of people. Apparently there are some ethical problems with doing that.”

Metzger, STAT 340

“Integration by parts scares me, like Rebecca Black singing.”

Metzger, STAT 340

“I will slowly take over the world, one student at a time.”

Metzger, STAT 340

“[Technical difficulties] I’m going to hypnotize you with my name, because that’s all you can see right now.”

Konda, STAT 330

“My email address is wang@uwaterloo.ca. Do you know how many Wang’s are out there? It takes real effort to get this email address.”

Wang, ACTSC 446

“Man, by the end of the semester, I’m going to get arthritis”

Ramezan, STAT 443

“No, we don’t care about that because the company will become bankrupt after a year.”

Könemann, CO 250

profQUOTES

"There's a seat over there on the other side, there's one over here [at end of first row]. Oh you're going to choose a seat in the middle. Well okay then. I hate it when people do that in movie theatres. I just want to strangle them. Sit next to me with their crinkly bag of popcorn and I just want to say go sit somewhere else!"

Stewart, STAT 230

"Now I'm going to massage this a little bit to make it look like this."

Stewart, STAT 230

"If you're violently ill don't come to my office! Then I have to disappear and cancel classes and reschedule. I have a sign on my door saying wash your hands and I carry hand sanitizer."

Stewart, STAT 230

"I've traumatized my children. They carry hand sanitizer everywhere. When they lose it they think 'oh god I need more hand sanitizer or dad'll get mad.'"

Stewart, STAT 230

"I wish I'd phrased this differently. I sound like a right piece of work. I'm not by the way. Okay, so success is getting someone sick."

Stewart, STAT 230

"I'm going to do stuff from the midterm. I looked at the notes and thought I don't want to do this crap."

Stewart, STAT 230

"We'll skip question two cause I don't like it. And it's my exam! I can do that!"

Stewart, STAT 230

"We've got three TV stations in... Where has got three TV stations? Estonia? Sure, Estonia. Is anybody from Estonia? No? Good."

Stewart, STAT 230

"In the real world we'd have to worry about all that but we don't have to worry about that until STAT 231. Thank god we don't have to do that today."

Stewart, STAT 230

"Do you know this function is invertible? Oh my goodness, does this make sense?"

Stewart, STAT 230

"What is an MMU? Is it a cake? A boat? Or a computer component that manages memory?"

Fischmeister, SE 350

"Everyone thinks their process is the highest priority. They're all wrong, because mine is the highest."

Fischmeister, SE 350

"[Processor] idle time is bad, especially in Canada because then the CPU can't warm the room."

Fischmeister, SE 350

"How hard is it to animate for this game? They're just rectangles! They're not even filled rectangles. For bonus marks you can fill in the rectangles."

Lank, CS 349

"If the warlike nature of the assignment bothers you, pretend you are dropping food [instead of bombs] for them and they are shooting containers [instead of missiles] up at you to fill with food."

Lank, CS 349

"We don't usually lick our computers. If you do, stop."

Lank, CS 349

"I've got a few slides after this but they're just fluff."

Lank, CS 349

"I am the center of the universe when I'm programming."

Lank, CS 349

"This has to be a very simple algorithm since an engineer has to implement it."

McCormack, CS 241

"WE don't like this plot. There's nothing wrong with them though. Some of my best friends are plots like this."

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

"Let's do what I said first, because I'm the one with the chalk."

Childs, MATH 239

[Student sprints out and down the hall] "I guess she's really excited about testing special relativity."

Emerson, AMATH 271

[Exam is on the Tuesday] "Presumably by Monday I'll have written the exam."

Emerson, AMATH 271

"That's just from some trigonometric magic."

Ingalls, AMATH 351

"Wow that is really cold on the board."

Ingalls, AMATH 351

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



*grid*WORD Clues

Across

1. *Seabird aft
3. Versus
7. You and I
9. *Angled quotation mark takes flight
13. *"Nevermore," quoth he.
15. Sheltered side
16. Fuss
17. Made possible
19. *You're in trouble if it's cooked
21. Golf bunker
24. The hand fate dealt you
25. Embrace
26. Stag
29. Hamlet pondered whether to do this
30. The determinant is the product of these
34. Infinitive marker
35. Speed contest
36. Sleeved cloak
37. Egyptian Sun god
38. *Philomela's fate
40. Preposition of place
42. Views
43. Mother
46. Nick (a crook)
48. Bad society
52. *To daunt and to be daunted
55. Midafternoon meal
56. Heat league
57. Mirror-and-prism camera
58. *White wader
59. *Somateria spectabilis
61. Behold!
62. Schutzstaffel
63. *And when for its abode it seeks an opportune recess, no hermit has a finer eye for shadowy quietness.

Down

1. *Stand by the grey stone when he knocks and the setting sun with the last light of Durin's day will shine upon the keyhole.
2. Sought and exacted
3. Luxurious country house
4. Slumber
5. Third person
6. *Extinct and flightless
8. &c.
9. Summer swarmer
10. Showed the way
11. Zine
12. Handheld device
14. Always nigh
18. Knickerbockers
20. Weep
22. Gold
23. Commends the dead
26. Farm building
27. Havana rules it
28. Topple (with "over")
31. Coloured eye-ring
32. A glove thrown down
33. Bug-catchers
34. Calm, quiet
39. Butterfly or penguin
41. τ
44. Cockney interjection
45. *A bird, a Paul, a Luther
47. Riverside
48. Delicatessens
49. Nine of these is everything
50. Rank
51. Abbreviation of surprise
53. *Sacred wader
54. Local area network
55. II
60. Green light

Submit your *grid*WORD solutions to the BLACK BOX and don't forget to answer the *grid*QUESTION!

***grid*WORD is on the last page, at the back. Look for it there! And then solve it!**

horrorSCOPES

Your unlucky number is: 1.62 BAC, a new record!

ActSci: You just got off another carefree co-op term, and you're having a hard time adjusting back to the daily grind of assignments, studying, and sleepless nights. You wonder if anyone could keep up this lifestyle for their entire life, and you calculate the expected lifespan.

Your unlucky number is: 30.7 years; better take out a large loan.

AHS: First week of classes, and it's time to hit the books. You needed to burn off those Christmas calories anyways.

Your unlucky number is: 300 pages bench pressed.

AMATH: It's your first day working at McDonald's, and already a customer is complaining about how their morning McMuffin fell apart in their hands. It turns out that you served them an ordinary separable english muffin.

Your unlucky number is: $m(d/dt) = \emptyset$ bonus to your paycheque.

ARTS: You get the list of books that you need for this term's classes. It's a tough term; you have to read through *Les Misérables*, *War and Peace*, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *In Search of Lost Time*, *Shogun*, and *Ponniyin Selvan*. Time to hit the books!

Your unlucky number is: 14 319 pages until finals.

C&O: In a cruel ironic twist, scheduling won't be offered until the Spring term. If you had taken the course, maybe you would have been able to graduate on time.

Your unlucky number is: 454 reasons to be mad at the registrar's office.

CM: You're the last of a dying breed. Your program is being phased out, and there aren't even courses with your program's code in it anymore. Odds are that your parents will be confused about your major come commencement day.

Your unlucky number is: 4 years on a mistaken degree.

CS: You like trains. In fact, you absolutely love them. You think that spending the next 4 months working with trains is going to be the best 4 months of your life. Sunlight is overrated anyway, right?

Your unlucky number is: 2 servings of milk per day should help stave off the oncoming vitamin D proficiency.

Double Degree: To make commuting between your classes easier, you have decided to live right between the two campuses. Unfortunately, you're now kept up at all hours of the night by passing traffic, partiers, sirens, drunks, hobos, and Laurier students. You show up late to class the next day dishevelled.

Your unlucky number is: 43 minutes of rest.

ENG: Saddled with a ludicrous amount of cash after your last co-op job, you decide to splurge and buy a barrel of rum. You invite all of your friends over for a massive party that night, and wake up the next morning at the hospital. Turns out that you got so tipsy that you fell into the rum.

ENV: Concerned by the effects of global warming, you give up on using technology to curb your environmental footprint. All goes well until you realize that you can't tweet about how green you're being.

Your unlucky number is: -32 followers, and the ice caps melt anyway.

Math Bus: The NHL is back, albeit much shorter than normal. Taking into account that the Leafs normally start strong before fizzling out midway through the season, you figure that they might actually be able to make the playoffs. You buy round 1 tickets while they're cheap, and plan to sell them off later.

Your unlucky number is: \$750 investment for yet another disappointing season.

Math Phys: Astronomers announce that they have discovered a planetary binary star system deep in the Kasterborous constellation 250 million light years away. Your friend with the bow tie gives a sudden look of shock, and goes back to eating his fish fingers and custard.

Your unlucky number is: You think that you've seen 11 versions of him by now....

PMATH: Your classes have already started to dive into the Complex plane, and it's only the second week of classes. Welcome to being an upper year; shit just got real.

Your unlucky number is: i assignments to complete.

SCI: The strange weather patterns have really been messing with your Earth Sciences experiments. The soil makeup is completely off-kilter. You begin to worry that the rain will soon wash everything away, and turn the ground to mud.

Your unlucky number is: 1 pair of muddy galoshes.

Soft Eng: You're stuck taking OS and UI this term. If you're lucky, maybe you'll create a game console. If you're not, you'll just be spending 20 hours per week in a lab fretting over assignments.

Your unlucky number is: 3 more classes on top of that.

Stats: You hypothesize that there is an $\alpha=0\%$ chance that you will be asked out on a date. You fail to reject this null hypothesis.

Your unlucky number is: 12 lonely Friday nights.

Teaching Option: To earn extra cash on the side, you start tutoring elementary students. Parents get worried when you start talking about how you want hands-on experience.

Your unlucky number is: 16 seconds of awkward silence before you clear things up.

Undeclared: You still haven't decided which classes you want to take this term. You spend the next little while begging the advisors to let you take anything.

Your unlucky number is: SMF 205, the dark side of sexuality. Don't worry, there's a practical exam.



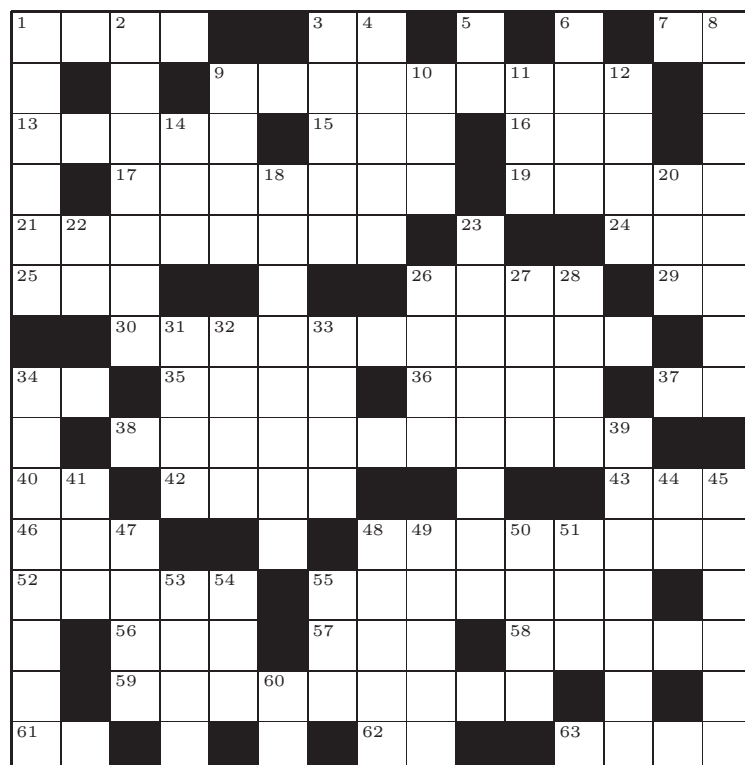
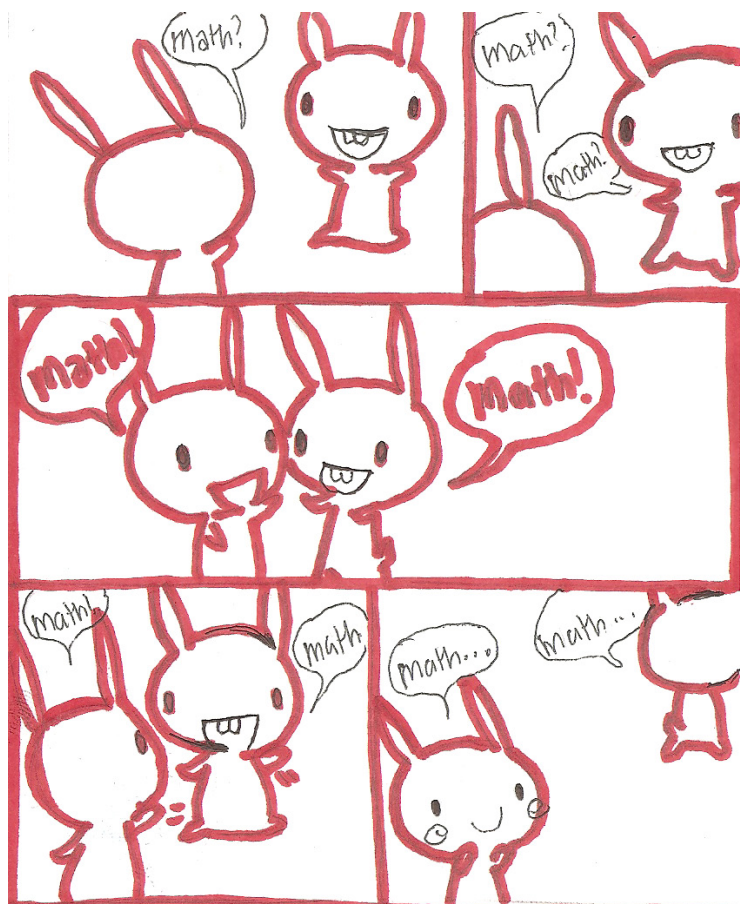
gridCOMMENTS

For the Birds

Hello. I like words, so they made me the new Gridmaster. I'd like to thank the former *gridMASTER*, moment, for his help and his advice, and, above all, for stepping down, thereby permitting me to exercise my cruciverbalism upon a darling audience.

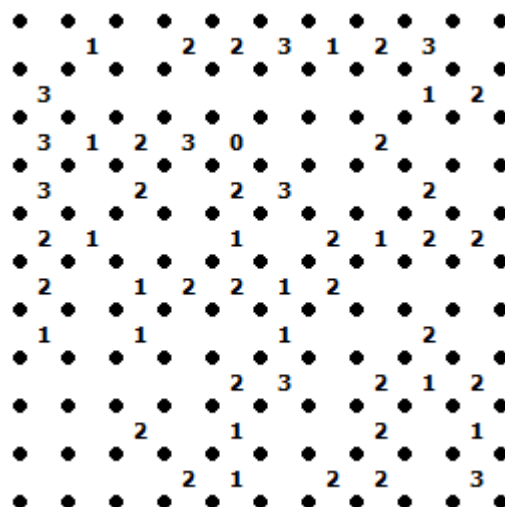
When you complete as much of the *gridWORD* as you can, submit your work to the **BLACK BOX** (outside the Comfy Lounge on the third floor of MC) by 18:30 on Monday the 28th of January. Include your name and your answer to this issue's *grid-QUESTION*—the wittiest answer decides the winner (of a \$5 C&D gift certificate) in the event of a tie: "How do I stop my bedroom floor from squeaking?"

Cheers,
-unit



Slitherlink Puzzle

Each number indicated how many lines are drawn around it. Blank cells have no restrictions. Draw one continuous closed loop. You do not have to use every point.



Puzzle courtesy of puzzle-loop.com