

# math NEWS

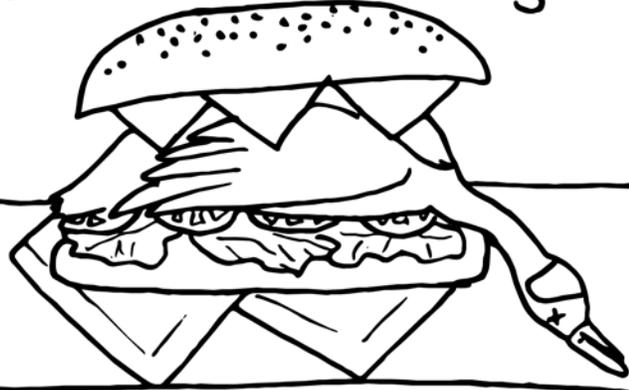
Volume 101, Issue 4

Friday, June 30th, 2006

Stuffed Squirrel



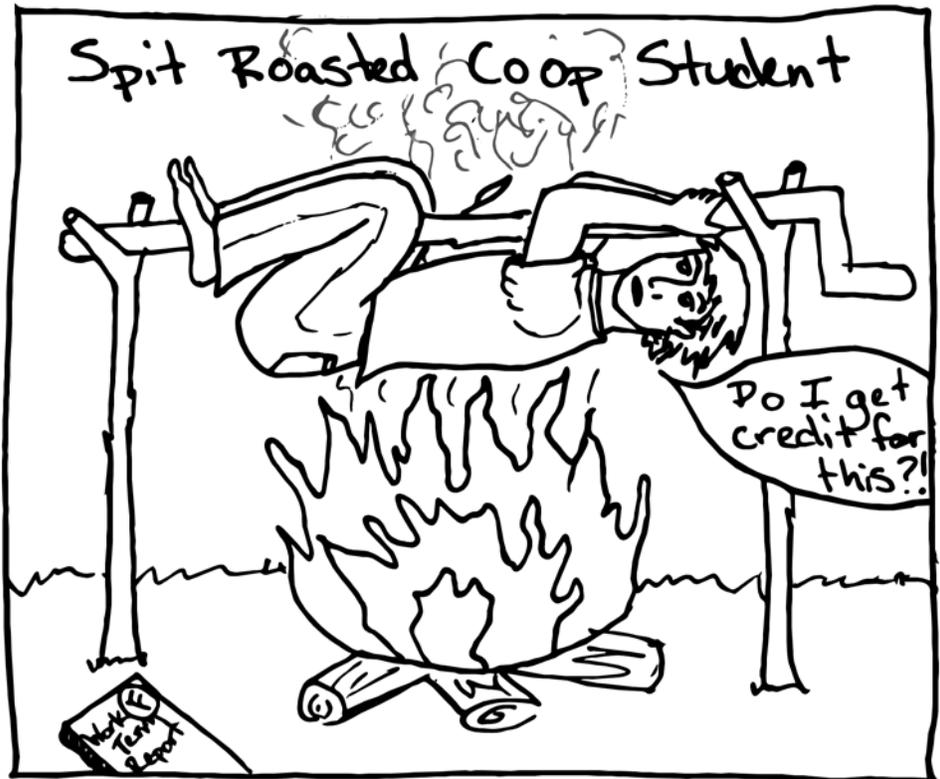
Canada Goose Hoagie



Snapping Turtle Soup



Spit Roasted Coop Student



Cover art by  
Math.random()



B-List Food Choices on Campus

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

June 30	Issue #4 kicks back to relax
June 30	SheepNinEd is born again
July 10	Production Night #4 6:30PM, MathSoc (MC3038) All welcome!
July 14	Issue #4 ignores exam prep

**Math Faculty**

July 3	University holiday
July 25	Lectures end
July 31	Exams begin
August 12	Exams end
August 13	Unofficial grades released

**MathSoc**

July	C&D BBQs, T/Th
Thursdays	Movie Nights

**CECS**

Daily	Job postings available
July	Workshops
August 4	Last day of on-campus interviews

**Student Awards & Financial Aid**

July 12	Confirmation of Enrollment deadline
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**Misc**

July 1	Canada Day
August 7	Civic Holiday

**mastHEAD***The creamy center of mathNEWS*

Normally in a *mastHEAD*, the editor(s) need to write some sort of blurb or whatnot about the state of the world. However, since we had so many writers out this week, I can just type out their answers to the question “Whatcha doooooooin’ for the long weekend?” and still reach my word count! Excelsior!

lost-luck (stretching my drinking muscle); Sieve Gee (going to, uhh, Toronto?); Quazi (your mom); D1zzle.Ownsz (not studying for midterms. BOO-YEAH!); Peter\_Win (volunteering for UW Canada Day); 42 (oh Ottawa!); aLemma (New York); Mike (hee ho); Pippy (doing a barrel roll); vb::sheep() (is that what they call them now?); HWT (don’t listen to RainWater. Battlestar Galactica rules and cheese pizza is lame. Wait, what was the question?); Math.random() (watching my boyfriend blow himself up with fireworks smuggled into the country illegally); RainWater (drinkin’); Angelo (not getting laid, that’s for damn sure); GreatBigSiege (the cute girl to my left); DanS (I’m unemployed and not in classes, I’ve been on a long weekend since April); FadedPink (standing to the left of GreatBigSiege).

Thanks as always to the people over at Graphics who put our issue to paper, and to the folks at Campus Pizza who have yet to balk at our weird and wonderful topping combinations.

StatsEd (KH2 marathon)  
SheepNinEd (what, or who?)

**“Eigen-” is the new Pig Latin**

Osay, ememberray ackbay enwhay ouyay ereway inay elementaryy oolschay enwhay ouyay earnedlay igpay atinlay? Iway ememberray itay eingbay unfay, exceptay itay asway ootay uchmay orkway otay useway inay everydayay onversationcay. Orfay away ilewhay Iway avehay antedway otay indfay any alternativeway atthay asway easieray otay useway. Enthay Iway oundfay ethay answeray ilewhay ittingsay inay ATHMAY 235ay; “Eigenay-” isay ethay ewnay igpay atinlay.

Inay isthay ariationvay ofay igpay atinlay, ordsway areway implysay ependedpray ithway “eigenay-”, asay ashay eenbay oneday ithway “eigenvectoray”, “eigenvalueway” anday “eigenspaceay”. Osay insteaday ofay ayingsay ustjay “atypusplay,” orfay exampleway, ouyay ouldway ombinecay “eigenay” anday “atypusplay” otay etgay “eigenplatypusay”. Otay etterbay emonstrateday, Iway illway itewray ethay extnay aragraphpay usingay isthay echniquetay.

Eigenunder eigenthis eigennew eigenscheme, eigenreading eigenand eigencomprehension eigenare eigenimproved eigenover eigenpig eigenlatin, eigenwith eigenan eigencorresponding eigensimplification eigenof eigenpronunciation. Eigenalso, eigenthe eigenrules eigenfor eigenthis eigenso-eigencalled “eigeneigen eigenlatin” eigenhave eigenfewer eigenexceptions, eigensince eigenwords eigenbeginning eigenwith eigenvowels eigenare eigentreated eigenin eigenthe eigensame eigenway eigenas eigenwords eigenbeginning eigenwith eigenconsonants. Eigeneigen eigenlatin eigenmay eigenbe eigenless eigenuseful eigenfor eigensecurity eigenand eigenprivacy eigenapplications, eigenbut eigenin eigentthose eigensituations, eigeneigenay eigenatinlay eigenanday eigenigpay eigenatinlay eigenancay eigenbay eigenombinedcay eigenotay eigenimproveay eigenoverallay eigenencryptionay eigenactorfay.

Eigenasay eigenithway eigenallay eigenieldsfay, eigenoremay eigensearchray eigenisay eigenrequiredway eigenotay eigenullyfay eigenolvesay eigenethay eigenopenay eigenoblempay eigenofay eigenetardedray eigenipherscay. Eigeniway eigenimploreway eigenallay eigenoungyay eigenisionariesvay eigenotay eigenembraceway eigenisthay eigenexcitingay eigenisciplineday. Eigenuntilay eigenenthay, eigenenjoyay eigenalkingtay eigenikelay eigenaway eigenotaltay eigenimpgay!

HWT

**ISSN 0705—0410**

*mathNEWS* is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to [userid.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:userid.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca) on the Internet.

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The editor(s): SheepNinEd and StatsEd

## VPAS says...

*worst. week. ever.*

These words will magically travel through time and appear at Friday without having to endure the week. I wish I could say the same for me. I have three midterms in three days, and two assignments in there that are being “shifted” to final exam review material instead of cumulative learning materials.

Meanwhile, MathSoc is awesome. We’ve got social events happening nearly every week, the office is bustling, and the whiteboard is still being kept up-to-date (I know my priorities). In fact, since the whiteboard is updated more frequently than MathSoc, it’s your better chance for catching all our fun activities.

Social events currently appearing on the near-future scope:

- Every week we are showing **two movies on the big screen for free** in MC 2066, usually at 7pm and 9pm. To learn which titles will be showing for a given week, you can check the MathSoc whiteboard or the movies bulletin board, across from the C&D and the Comfy Lounge, respectively, after Monday at lunch. We also sell cheap concessions, so bring cash, not food.
- Wednesday, July 5, we will be having a bonfire with marshmallows and hotdogs to cook at the Columbia Lake fire pit, from 8:30pm until we all drag ourselves home, filled with charred sugar and meat-products. Yum! Bring your friends for some clean-natured good **fun with fire, food, and mathjokes**.
- I can’t stop talking about Canada Day! Even if you’re not interested in coming out to volunteer, the day offers enough fun for you to attend yourself. There’s **free admission to see Revival Dear and Knock Knock Ginger on stage, and fireworks at 10pm**. The full list of events can be found at [www.canadaday.uwaterloo.ca](http://www.canadaday.uwaterloo.ca)

Current volunteer opportunities:

- See the article concerning **Canada Day** elsewhere in this issue!
- MathSoc will be helping run the Society BBQ at the Student Life 101 orientation day for future-UW students and their parents. They come to learn, and they stay for the food. **We need help serving!** Sign up on the door of MC 3038 to let us know you can come to help out on July 22.

And here’s a friendly reminder on the “services” side of things: if you have requested a refund of your MathSoc fee and we notice you using a MathSoc service (all of which were outlined on the refund request form), you will be unable to retrieve your refund cheque at the end of the term. If you use it, we’ll make you pay for it.

And now to tackle some midterms. See you all on the flip side...

Kaitlyn Holman

MathSoc VP, Activities and Services, Spring 2006

## Got a Favourite Game?

Can you think of a game you love to play that you think others would enjoy too? MathSoc will soon be purchasing games (available for loan from the MathSoc office — come on by to see our current selection), and would like input from you. So if you have a suggestion, e-mail it to [reffinge@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:reffinge@uwaterloo.ca)

Robb

## MGC Sez

*We want YOU! To take your grad photos*

Well, more like the graduating class of 2007. If you intend to graduate next year, be it summer or fall, and you would like to be on the composite, go register for a sitting to get your grad photo taken! This goes double for those who are on a work term in Fall!

The composites are prepared sometime in the middle of December, so chances are, if you wait until January, you will be out of luck and you won’t get to see your face in the composite. Sure, you might not care, but what about your parents? That’s right, the people who have taken care of you for the last twenty years or so. What do you think they would do if they find out that you didn’t get your grad photos taken? They’d probably be very upset. And you probably don’t want that to happen. So get your grad photos taken now! Before it’s too late! Besides, I’m sure that your parents will be more than happy to pay for the sitting. They’ve paid for everything else up to now.

Not only do you get a composite with your sitting fee, you also get a copy of a group photo of all the grads outside the MC steps free! This event takes place July 10 at 5:15pm **SHARP!** So sign up now at [www.waterloo.jostens.com](http://www.waterloo.jostens.com) because the photographer wants to go on his vacation soon. And the last I heard, it will be sometime next month!

If you have any concerns or questions about getting your grad photos taken, please let me know. I will do my best to help you sort things out.

Ivan Chin

Math Grad Committee Chair 2007

PS. Buy Pizza!

PPS. Volunteer!

PPPS. If you are interested in signing up on our mailing list to get up to date information, send an email to [mgc@student.math](mailto:mgc@student.math) with subject “2007 Grad Mailing List

## Free Movies!

*You like movies, don’t you?*

Heyo, fellow mathies!

This your MathSoc Movies directors telling you what’s up and what’s coming. Yesterday, in case you missed them, we showed Men With Brooms and Canadian Bacon to warm every one up for this weekend. At the time of this writing the showing went off without a hitch!

This coming Thursday is Pirate night! With Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest being released on July 7<sup>th</sup>, we are playing two movies that are related to pirates! First, at 7pm or so, is Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl, followed at 9:30pm by Pirates of Silicon Valley. Ok, so the second one isn’t the swashbuckling pirate variety, but hey, pirates are pirates.

Tentatively, on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>, we’re showing the The Wedding Crashers and Major Payne.

Think you can come up with better movie idea but don’t want to have our job? Then I have great news for you! Just email us at [movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:movies@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca) with your ideas, suggestions or comments.

The Movies Directors

## Canada Day!

*What else were you planning on doing?*

As some of you may already know, the University of Waterloo plans and throws a Canada Day celebration at Columbia Lake that's open to the entire city of Waterloo. Last year, we had 60,000 people, mostly young families, hanging out at *our* celebration.

Needless to say, we need a lot of volunteers to pull this off.

FYI, for any new Canadians: we celebrate Canada Day every year on July 1. On July 1, 1867 the British North America Act declared us a self-governing dominion (under British Parliament). (The Statute of Westminster gave us legislative sovereignty in 1931, and in 1982 Canada gained its own constitution and near-total governing independence from England, leaving us where we are now, with the Queen as the figurehead-of-state.) (That's an approximate history.)

If you are interested in helping out, you have (basically) two options.

1. If you like kids, you can help MathSoc run Children's Fun Fest, where we offer free activities for the littlest of the little. We'd ask that you show up between 12 and 2pm, with your WatCard.
2. If you'd rather not be a little one's hero for a day, you can show up and help the "grown ups" run the stages and/or sell food. For heavy lifting/random help, you can arrive at any time after 7am. To help sell food, you can show up between 11 and noon. Again, please be sure to bring your WatCard.

Regardless of where you help out, you'll get a **free meal for every four hours you are there to help, unlimited sunscreen and water, and a free t-shirt**. So drop in with your bored friends (and your WatCards!) and make a difference in your community this Saturday!

Kaitlyn "Half-pint"  
MathSoc VPAS

## MATLAB

*Sung to the tune 'Milkshake' by Kelis*

My MATLAB brings all the geeks to the lab,  
And they're like, it's more accurate than yours.  
Damn right, it compiles faster than yours.  
I can teach you, but I have to charge. [x2]

I know you want it,  
Those non-singular matrices,  
In row-reduced echelon... form.  
They lose their minds,  
In linear time.  
The function's prime.

Sigma, Sig-ma, Sig...  
S.V.D.  
Sigma, Sig-ma, Sig...  
The geeks are coding. [x2]

D1Zzle.OWNZ  
SeiveGee

## Signs You've Been in Europe Too Long

- After meeting so many in hostels, you can actually tell the difference between an Aussie and a New Zealander by accent
- You think of countries that don't use the Euro as isolationist bastards and refuse to visit there on principle
- Your opinion of the French is no longer based on commentary from US media
- You have personally experienced why Absinthe is illegal in most jurisdictions
- You've met more Americans with Canadian flags on their bags than Canadians with Canadian flags on their bags
- You've read all the books you brought with you and realize it's not that easy to get an English copy of "The Da Vinci code" in Italy
- You consider any building made after the confederation of Canada to be "new"
- You realize that accent or not, he's still just a guy trying to get laid
- You no longer think it's weird to eat pizza with a fork and knife
- "Hangover" doesn't scare you anymore, it now takes "hangover", "jetlag", "sleep-deprivation", and "hookup remorse"

Quazi

## Academic Spam

*A new and lucrative spam-marketing opportunity*

Spam. We all know it and... 'love' it. Probably the same sort of way that we love Canadian geese, and assignments, and 8:30 lectures (especially when all three occur at the same time). As it was determined somewhere in the past year or two, a large majority of spam comes from botnets, or compromised computers that are controlled centrally. These machines tend to be people's home computers connected to the Net via a high-speed connections that have somehow been taken over. Given that spam is attempting to appeal to the general public, this is the reason we are treated to penile enlargements, donations of money from rich foreigners, almost-free software, medicines, and solutions to our perpetual loneliness (ie Brides.ru and co.).

But what if spam was directed towards academic audiences? We might see such subjects lines as:

- Amaze her with your PhD prowess
- She laugh at the size of your BA? Get a BMath today and wow her in lectures
- Earn degrees while you sleep — Master's, Bachelor's, and more!
- Get a degree that will make employers crave you — BmN (Bachelor's of *mathNEWS*)
- Attend classes while you sleep, and learn something!
- Online tenure — click to apply, no questions asked, granted immediately
- Virtual job fairs — we hire based on your resume alone
- Get a BSE in three weeks!

aLemma

## The Debate

### *The Advantages of Dice over Spinners*

In the history of games, publishers have often had the choice between supplying Dice or Spinners to produce randomness. Spinners have the properties of hurting your thumb when you use them, are more likely to break, and aren't actually random. The dice, by contrast, come in a smaller options for sides, but actually provide randomness, are durable, and are more fun to use. As the goal is to provide randomness, and dice are the only option that meet this goal, dice are the better option.

Pippy

### *The Poor Neglected Spinners*

Many people tend to favor dice as their random-number choosing devices of choice. However, this is almost entirely due to systematic neglect and discrimination against spinners. Yes, dice may be fancier, come in a wide variety of builds and styles, and enjoy iconic status in the gaming community. Of course they are; just look at how much more research and development has gone into their production. Millions and millions of dollars have been spent by corporations and shady backroom figures to position the die as the pop culture icon of chance. Meanwhile, spinners, having been marginalized by the media and the common taxpayer, can't scrape together enough public support to even assure people it still exists. If we had put as much money into spinner development as into dice development, not only would we have spinners that don't break or hurt, but we'd have all sorts of cool 3D laser spinners and digital/discrete spinners and other cool shit like that. Think about that the next time you pick up a spoiled translucent d6.

HWT

### *Survival of the Fittest: The Die*

Apparently, HWT does not understand that the die still exists while the spinner is quietly making its way into history is for the same reason that humans are ruling the Earth: Survival of the Fittest. It doesn't take shady backroom deals and government grants to turn a die into the random marvel that it is, no more than it took political maneuvering to have humans triumph over apes. We should not force ourselves to use the weaker technology of spinners no more than we should do math with an abacus. The neglect of spinners stems from the inherent poor design causing its genes to be weeded out of the gene pool, not a conspiracy theory. Cool 3D laser spinners have no place in a gaming environment - and even if they did, they won't compare to the 4D-d4's. You spinner advocates have no idea of what is feasible or worthwhile - just trust the rest of us and leave the spinner where it belongs: a museum.

Pippy

### *What are you smoking?*

Ah, the Darwinian argument. The favorite swiss-army knife of

people who think the homeless should starve to death and mom-and-pop businesses should evaporate off the urban landscape. We live in an enlightened age, where people have a love and mutual respect for the less fortunate, you inbred fat-mouthed clodpole. Survival of the fittest doesn't count when the fittest got there by cheating. Look at American cars. Look at airlines. They *suck!* But they survive because they beg and whine that they're going to die and then the government honchos step in and let everything that would have overtaken them die out. That's just plain unfair. If you let the spinner die, it's because you let the dice get away with its underhanded ways. Also, what the heck is the use of a 4D-d4? At least 3D laser spinners have a use in a little game we call "Lightspeed". A 4D-d4 is just a d4 you have for more than one moment in time. God, you're stupid. And ugly.

HWT

### *I'm smoking progress*

Love and respect for the less fortunate is what's wrong with society today! Let the useless appendages die, cut off the slack and fat, and we could be a lean, trim, functional and productive society. Mom-and-pop should go back to working real jobs at McDonalds like the rest of us. You can't cheat in the game of life — and those that cry foul play just suck too much to play well. Think about this — if the government you love so much couldn't even find any justification to save the spinner, maybe you should take the hint. Asking what a 4D-d4 is just proves your head is in the sand — have you heard that the Earth revolves around the sun? Consider using that brain of your which evolution has provided you with before discrediting evolution! Trust your instincts!

Pippy

### *Do you agree with McNazi?*

Well, finally Pippy the dice-pusher has revealed himself for the uncompassionate blowhard that he really is. Would you leave your children in this man's hands? No! Because he clearly doesn't care about people, and I'm pretty sure you don't want to know where his hands would end up. People like this who think the inferior should die are not the future of humanity. They cause wars! They persecute minorities! They eat babies! Twice! No one of good conscience should support these people in any way, shape or form. That's why you should support spinners.

HWT

### *Pistols at Dawn*

Pippy

### *Bring it on*

HWT

## A question to ponder

If you had to give up one of the four basic dimensions, which one would you choose?

HWT

## Living with Lino

Since Half-Pint isn't around this week, I have decided to write the traditional weekly article which is best summarized by the byline, "Living with Lino". Since I only know Lino through the little I've gleaned from my biology textbook and the back of my cereal box ("Fruity Hoops", for the curious), I will have to draw some reasonable extrapolations.

This week the theme will be "Hunters and Gatherers - examining traditional roles in a university relationship". Historically, a man is responsible for hunting down animals and bring the meat home for consuming, while a women is responsible for gathering fruits and berries and preparing the food. Since we consider ourselves to be educated, high class members of civilization, we no longer feel bound by these social definitions. This allows the man to expand his duties past that of gathering meat into also gathering fruits, preparing meals, and when he has free time, building shelves. The woman, as well, may alter her role into complaining about the lack of variety in meat, complaining about the gathered food, and complaining about the prepared meals. Eventually, she may despair that her man will ever learn to cook and buy the Magic Bullet. We can only assume that Lino will continue to spend his time preparing food, until he finds out that Fruity Hoops are a major component in a Balanced Breakfast, and he finds more time to build shelves.

Substitued with Water

## How Stephen Harper is "Keeping his Promises"

*Or "How to make people think you're doing a good job 101"*

In the last election campaign, Stephen Harper made several promises, which in recent propaganda, he claims to have fully met. Here is my interpretation of how he is "keeping his promises": 1. **Give tax relief to everyone:** By increasing the minimum exception rate, Stephen Harper has essentially raised taxes to a select group of people — that of the poorest group in Canada.

2. **Give \$1,200 for each child under 6 [...]**to deliver new child care spaces: What Harper is not stating is that he is rolling back funding earmarked for creating child care space.
3. **Restore accountability:** Is this not the same government that decided that it was treasonous when Belinda Stronach crossed the floors based on personal disagreements with the party philosophy? Did they not bribe David Emerson with nothing more than a cabinet seat? Did Emerson have any disagreements with Martin or the Liberal platform? I don't remember hearing anything about it.

The only item I could not really argue with is the fact that Harper is supporting our military. Unfortunately, this is an area where not all Canadians will agree with his stance.

Why did we not vote NDP?

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

## Play This Game

*Osu! Tatakae! Ouendan!*

Like music games? Own a Nintendo DS/Dslite? Wish that games these days were like those of the past, where they were measured not by length, but by increasing difficulty? Want a game that will spank you on one level until you figure out its mechanics, then find another way to kick you where it counts on the next level? Play this game.

You play as the leader of a street gang cheerleader squad; your mission is to assist anyone (or anything) who needs help. Anyone? The first level has you cheering for a student who cannot study and risks failing an upcoming entrance exam. Anything? The last level has you cheering for the entire planet to stop a giant meteor from impacting. Yes, saving the world is certainly no exaggeration.

Incomprehensible as the plot may be (at least the game's not trying to take itself seriously, unlike many RPGs I could mention), the gameplay is addictive and fun. A series of numbered circles appear on the touch screen, and you have to hit them just as the outer circle marker touches each number's border. The closer you are, the more points you earn. If you miss, the energy bar (which represents the will of the thing that you're cheering for) will deplete. There are a few gameplay videos on YouTube if you don't understand why the game can be so much fun.

Unfortunately, the game is not in English (although its spiritual sequel, *Elite Beat Agents*, is coming here by the end of the year), but they say that music is the universal language; you can still enjoy the game without understanding it—and that may be for the best. If you get the game from YesAsia, you'll get free shipping and it'll cost the same as most DS games *before* tax.

Play this game, and discover that pyramids were used as a part of Cleopatra's weight loss programme.

vb::sheep()

## Does Your Course Suck?

We know we have all experience it. Those courses that you just don't want to take, but you have to. Either degree required, or a pre-requisite for a better course later on, we have all had these courses we just don't like. Experiencing many myself I decided to compile a list a reason why these courses were so bad.

- Your prof can take one month off and still be ahead in the course material
- You can show up 10 minutes late and you prof has not even started teaching yet
- You sit down to do the assignment to realize that you have not learned any of this in class, even though you have been to every lecture
- Your prof spends the whole lecture writing out one proof, only to realize he made a mistake on the second line. Then spends the whole next lecture re-writing the proof
- When the prof makes a joke the only laughter is the strained sounds of those students too afraid to incur the prof's anger
- Your prof takes a 15 minute break to check out a classmate's computer

Remember we have all had classes like these. Like all unpleasant things, we just got to grit our teeth and bear them.

RainWater

## Carolina wins Cup

*Awards recipients largely predictable*

In this new era of the NHL, the Carolina Hurricanes are the first team to hoist Lord Stanley's Cup. Ironically, they were the 30<sup>th</sup> place team the last time hockey was played. What changed? Payroll, certainty. The lockout did provide all NHL teams with cost certainty in regards to their payroll and the ability to compete, salary wise, with all other 29 teams.

*Luongo, Bertuzzi traded*

Florida Panthers GM Mike Keenan decided that he didn't want to deal with the Luongo camp anymore and traded his rights to Vancouver, essentially for Todd Bertuzzi. We all know that Luongo has the highest goaltending upside in the NHL these days, the question is whether or not the change of environment will have a similar effect on Todd Bertuzzi as it did to Dany Heatley this past season.

*Pronger requests trade*

Less than two weeks after losing game 7 of the Stanley Cup to the Carolina Hurricanes, Chris Pronger requested a trade from the Edmonton Oilers with whom he still has 4 years on contract. Early going suitors include the Toronto Maple Leafs, the New York Rangers and the Ottawa Senators. All three teams have the ability to outbid each other and give Edmonton a terrific return.

Mark "Beatlemaniac"

## A Plea to the Internet Nerds

This is addressed to those of you who sit around on the internet posting on websites like slashdot, digg and fark about how much you want a Wii, and about how Sony is screwed and the PS3 is going to fail miserably and then they're going to go bankrupt afterward. I hate to break this to you, but you are all completely wrong: the PS3 is not going to fail like you seem to think it will.

The blu-ray thing isn't even what is going to sell the PS3. Sure it's going to help, but the PS3 is going to have more going for it than just that. You know those bad games out there, the Japanese style RPGs, the ones that've used the same gameplay for 20 years? Those won't go on the Xbox; it's a console that doesn't appeal to people who buy those games, so why release them on it? So why not put them all on Wii instead of the PS3 you may ask, and that has two simple answers.

Let's look at Final Fantasy, probably the most popular franchise in the genre. Ever since VII, the games have been about how pretty the graphics were. Say what you will, the PS3 **will** have much prettier graphics than the Wii. So the best ones will be on PS3, since, because the gameplay will be the same menued set up either way, it will be the graphics that make the difference. Second, the Wii is really too innovative for that genre; FFXII is getting complaints for being too different from earlier ones. Innovation and Japanese RPGs don't mix, and so they don't belong on the Wii — therefore the PS3 is the place for these games, and since they're so popular, so will the PS3 be. Now please be quiet about this, or, at least, please wait until both have been released to make your judgements.

DanS

## Mutant Powers

*That should have been in X-Men 3*

The third installment of the X-Men movies has been in theaters for a little bit over a month now (I believe), and with the disappointing absence of Gambit topped off with a boring battle between the Brotherhood and X-Men, fans of the series must be beginning to wonder just what type of cool mutant powers they are missing out on. Come on, more than five of the Brotherhood had to have had interesting mutant powers! These powers are:

- the power to require a lot of words to describe your mutant power (cough, cough, Juggernaut, BITCH)
- nightmarish diarrhea
- just looking different (i.e. wings, getting the shitty end of the stick, etc.)
- implosive capabilities
- superhuman allergic reaction to everything
- the ability to disappear from terrible movies (cough, cough, Nightcrawler)
- the power of song
- Sex-Ray vision (seeing everything as if it were from a porno)
- superior gastro-intestinal expulsion powers
- engineering (if they aren't mutant aberrations, then I don't know what is)
- the ability to watch Pauly Shore movies (not to be confused with finding them funny; that's actually a disease curable only by euthanasia)
- the power of wading in one's own filth for prolonged periods of time (actual people having this power were going to appear in the movie, but the director couldn't get them to leave the comfy for filming)
- superhuman power rivalled only by Chuck Norris

Well, if they make a fourth movie, then it proves there is no god of any type in this world. That notwithstanding, let's hope they include some of the cooler mutant powers in it.

Angelo

## Black Markets for Marks Exposed

A midterm last Thursday night was disrupted by the Waterloo campus police. News had reached the police that the professor (who will remain unnamed) had been tempting students to sell marks for things they need during the exam. He was selling marks for anything like need formulas and instructions. Even if these formulas were not needed he would gladly sell it to you anyway. Though many formulas had been provided free, he sold so many others to these helpless students. Laughing joyfully as he misused marks from their papers, some students failed before the tests were even marked.

In the aftermath of this startling revelation the university has decided to take up this professor's idea. Now they will be allowing students to sell their marks for work term report passes, and course over-rides. Be careful what you spend these precious marks on, it could be hard to get a co-op job with a negative average.

RainWater

## Legion of Memory

At the Former Legion (located on Ontario street in Kitchener), the production of the — well, it wasn't really a play, more a strange amalgamation of... words, I guess — anyway, A Legion of Memory was performed from the 16th to the 25th of June. An amalgamation of words of little sense and impact, A Legion of Memory was a theater piece dedicated to WWI veterans, refugees from the former Yugoslavia, and a necrophiliac.

The performance was experimental theater, or so we were told. It was actually an experiment in the human torture by means of confusion, boredom and making people think that they had something better to be doing with their time.

I'll admit I made it late to the beginning of the performance so I probably missed nothing, but when I got there, there was some guy with fake TNT strapped to his chest rambling about stuff and occasionally swearing. Meanwhile the actors were... well, there was one guy spinning and wooden pole, and I'm fairly certain I saw him kissing it at one point. Another guy, a pyromaniac I would imagine, was standing while opening and closing a zippo lighter. Then two female characters jumped on randomly placed tiles. I had no idea what was going on. That was basically the entire performance. There was a lot of random vignettes that were uninterestingly written, and fairly predictable, and seemingly random.

The writing style definitely left something to be desired. There are two main points I would like to give to the playwright: using 'In Flander's Fields' as part of your play is no longer effective. Yes, it is a beautifully written poem about a horrible event, but it's not effective in a non-sensical script, said by characters who are given little introduction or definition. Secondly, having your characters say things with illogical metaphors doesn't make the audience feel anything other than confused.

Now, I'm not sure if it was the director or the writer, but there was a lot of random stuff thrown in, like when the actors were not involved in the scenes they could still be seen, and were doing very random stuff of questionable nature. And what was with the checkers board made out of tiles (it was a 9 x 9 checkers board, too)?

The entire thing seemed very half-assed and underdeveloped. From the props, to the space, and most especially the script. Every so often, the performance called for participation from the audience. One event even had a reward. Much to the disappointment of everyone (including the winner) the reward wasn't a full refund for the event. There was one person who was working on the play, or in it, it was impossible to tell, really, dressed as a nurse who was blaring music on headphones during the entire performance. Not that I was missing much, but it was irritating.

It's hard to give any really comments on the acting, given that the writing of the script was so incredibly terrible. Great actors can sometimes save an okay or even a bad script, but great actors seldom can do anything for crap scripts.

In a nutshell, I would rather be in a nutshell than see this again. Let's try actually putting actors' talent to good use and avoid plays that are vague and uninspired.

Angelo

## To the Class of '09 Software

### Drop Out

It's around the time of year that tons of soon-to-be frosh will be flocking the campus. They will be confident in their abilities, because they have only experienced high school. Their spirits will be unbroken. Their bodies, still adequately nourished from their mother's home cooking. I cannot reasonably hope to convince these poor souls to switch from Software to CS, or better still, Rec & Leasure, but perhaps I will have more luck with the '09 class of Software Engineers.

You're in your 2B term. You're probably all trading stories about how, for many classes, this is the 2B || !2B term. And this holds for SE as well. Because once you've started 3A, it's going to be really annoying for you to switch programs. And once you've gotten through 3B, you'll imagine that it cannot possibly get worse. Because, despite the fact that you spent every waking moment for the last two months either in class, in the OS lab, or in front of Visio (cursing its very existence) — except for the one Friday evening after your week of midterms with a major deliverable — you'll naively assume that they won't do that again to you. And maybe you're right. The workload does decrease. But you'll still have days where you wake up and go to the Nortel Phones lab. You'll still deal with changing specifications, and the TAs who claim that the change they just introduced that will cost you 5 hours of changing code, documentation, and diagrams is trivial. And you'll still not be able to remember why you thought it was worth it.

Sigh. And for those of you that don't switch: don't use Visio, for the love of all that is holy, use MagicDraw instead, and save your souls.

!Bitter



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## SUPER SMASH BROS.™ Melee TOURNAMENT

### MONEY!

- THERE'S MONEY TO BE WON!

### SIGN-UPS!

- ONLINE
- IN PERSON @ TBA!
- LAST-MINUTE SIGN-UPS

@ THE EVENT!

### EVENT TIME:

MONDAY, JULY 10, 2006  
SLC AT 5 PM.



## profQUOTES

To be honest, I'd rather be in front of a TV right now.  
Mu Zhu STAT 231

If I were a student, I would have skipped class.  
Mu Zhu STAT 231

... but this is Math so we don't need reality.  
Stebila MATH 136

PROF: What mark did you get in ACTSCI231?  
STUDENT: 94.  
PROF: 94, and you gave me an answer like that?  
Panjer ACTSCI 232

UW Ace may be on the retarded side, but...  
Karsten CS 456

I have friends who don't understand soccer. So I just don't talk to them.  
Wood MUSIC 140

Phil Spector's kind of an odd-looking guy, like Yoda with a bad 80's haircut.  
Wood MUSIC 140

I don't know if it was the heat, the World Cup or whatever... my wife has a theory, she says that I'm an idiot.  
Wood MUSIC 140

This theorem is not examinable ever because if I wrote the exam with you, I'd probably either fail or get bored.  
Verstraete CO 342

I don't think PowerPoint likes human beings.  
Verstraete CO 342

When I get a really bad paper I get mad because the person is so stupid.  
Mackay STAT 330

I like making money, you know. You can rub it all over you, sit beside it, and talk to it.  
Wagner BUS 440

Oh my god! A chalk that's an inch long. They should give these chalks some testosterone.  
Hoffman MATH 136

Can't you get it through your dense heads that there is more to the Internet than alt.sex.weird.reallyweird?  
Smith ECON 102

No, the answer to every question is not "Google".  
Smith ECON 102

When you get home, tell your friend that you have more animal spirits than him. Prove it by hitting him.  
Smith ECON 102

Why do we have so much nickel? Millions of years ago, a big meteor full of nickel fell from heaven and killed everyone in Sudbury.  
Smith ECON 102

*Has your prof said something quotable? Type it up and send it to mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca, or write it down and drop it in the BLACK BOX (located on the MC 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, between the Comfy and the C&D).*

## gridWORD

### *The Grid Master's Bitch Appears*

Hee ho, with the mysterious disappearance of the GridMaster, I have been forced to surface with more than just doing profQUOTES to get a free meal every other week. So, it is I, the Grid Master's Bitch, hee ho. Also, in lieu of having anything for our Sudoku puzzles, I am also the Grid Master's Sudoku Bitch. Seriously, what the hee ho. Anyway, the successful winner from the previous GridWord is Math.random() who created her own answer to the Grid Question, which didn't exist. Also, successful submissions came from ERIC, Adam Weatherhead, Catherine & Leander; and some chap named IO MAN or LO MAN, it wasn't clear if it was an "L" or an "I". You have prizes, visit the MathSoc office and tell the person behind the desk to get your ticket. They will have no idea what's going on. *[If they actually have no idea, ask them to get the certificate out of the mathNEWS mail slot. — StatsEd]*

Now, the new GridQuestion, hee ho: How much wood would a wood chuck chop if a wood chuck was hit by a freight train?

And the SudokuQuestion, hee ho: How do you know the Muffin Man?

Mike

9				2	4			
1	6		5		7	4		
		2					9	
6			3					4
		1		4		5		
8					1			9
	8					3		
		4	1		9		5	6
			4	3				7



*Across*

- 1. Cease
- 5. Irritable person
- 9. Opaque barriers
- 14. African lake
- 15. Buckeye state
- 16. Desirable result
- 17. Remainder
- 18. \_\_\_ contende
- 19. Sri \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Consumed
- 21. Company abbr.
- 22. Distant (prefix)
- 24. Tennis round
- 25. Lash cosmetic
- 27. Voiced
- 29. School group (abbr.)
- 30. Not sinuous
- 34. Isolate
- 38. Tooth
- 39. Flightless bird
- 40. Walk along
- 42. Western (abbr.)
- 43. Ammonia derivatives
- 46. Antsy
- 49. Plan, scheme and aim, goal
- 51. Region (abbr.)
- 52. Carefree joy
- 53. Warcraft staple
- 57. Legacy (slang)
- 60. \_\_\_ and outs
- 61. (Speak) badly
- 62. Suffering
- 63. Nickname
- 65. New York staple
- 67. Handheld company
- 68. Rested
- 69. Mythical garden
- 70. Stuff (slang)
- 71. Underworld deity
- 72. Part
- 73. Confined

- 9. First Norman king of Eng-land
- 10. DoD programming language
- 11. Glasses part
- 12. Baikal or the Great Bear
- 13. Wood strip
- 21. Eleventh hour
- 23. Play it by \_\_\_
- 26. Motherboard component (abbr.)
- 28. Ronnie James band
- 30. So it \_\_\_
- 31. Sticky white substance
- 32. Actor Goldie \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. Hot to \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. Red and Yellow
- 35. Award statue
- 36. Five (prefix)
- 37. Three months
- 41. 180<sup>th</sup> meridian
- 44. Holiday beverage
- 45. Signs up
- 47. Windows 95 desktop color
- 48. US tax agency (abbr.)
- 50. Yearning
- 53. Screen speck
- 54. Watchful
- 55. Pitcher \_\_\_ Ryan
- 56. Lure
- 57. Hasty
- 58. Jazz's \_\_\_ Fitzgerald
- 59. Motley
- 64. Mimick
- 66. Hubbub
- 67. Angel dust (abbr.)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
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25			26					27			28			
			29				30					31	32	33
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43			44	45		46				47	48			
49					50				51					
			52					53				54	55	56
57	58	59		60				61				62		
63			64				65	66				67		
68							69					70		
71							72					73		

*Down*

- 1. \_\_\_ jet (advanced engine)
- 2. Greek letter
- 3. Watering holes
- 4. Vancouver time, in July (abbr.)
- 5. Indicate differences
- 6. 70s sitcom
- 7. Suffer
- 8. Jury-rig