

# *math* NEWS

Volume 114, Issue 1

Friday, September 24th, 2010

Does the media project  
provocative images solely  
to improve sales?  
See page 6 for details...



**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

September 24	Issue 1 grabs your attention
October 4	Production Night #2 (Tuesday) Meet in MC 3038 at 6:30
October 8	Issue 2 lurks outside your window

**MathSoc**

Tuesdays	Games Night
Not Tuesdays	Movie nights (look for posters)

**CECS**

September 25	Job postings open
September 21-25	Job postings open again
September 25	Networking and interview seminars
September 27	Interviews begin

**Faculty of Math**

September 24	Open enrollment ends
October 1	No-penalty drop period ends
October 11-16	Winter enrollment appointments (continuing students only)

**Miscellaneous**

September 24	267th day of the year
September 25	StaticED tortured for making up foolish lookAHEAD dates.
September 27	World Tourism Day
October 10	Netherlands Antilles will be dissolved

**FYA Sez**

Hey everybody! This is (one of) your first year affairs directors for this term. We have some great ideas to help out our first years this term. The first of which is to start a mentoring program where our upper year students can help first years adjust to university life. We would appreciate all those interested to submit a form. Forms will be available outside of MathSoc (MC 3038) and are due Friday, October 1st in the FYA mailbox (again at MathSoc, MC 3038). There will also be a form attached to this issue!

Nikolay Hristov, FYA Director, Fall 2010

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The horsemen (editors): Pestilence, War, Famine, and Death: John Baxter, John Stevenson, Jeff Bain, Rami Finkelshtein

**mastHEAD**

Howdy concerned readers!

Well, another term, another group of frosh. Another group of frosh searching for horizons to expand, envelopes to push, fresh starts and new beginnings... Hopefully, the rigours and red-tape of academia will put them in their place quickly, else, the rest of us are in for a loooong fall term.

To the frosh, I must inform you of the phrase “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” This is true of the transition from high school to university, and it is true in spades. In short, look before you leap, and in the case that you have already leapt, good luck.

To the upper years, although *mathNEWS* appreciates your continuing loyal readership and will praise you highly for undisclosed reasons, just remember that you too were once frosh. Exercise restraint, understanding and, of course, core muscles. Not to say that you should give the frosh a free pass or awe them with your amazing core muscles, but please don't kill them. We ran out of closets to hide the skeletons in last year... And then we had a FEDS election.

Speaking of murder, group project season is amongst us! I heartily look forward to the disposal of the bodies of whatever team member bats an eyelash at me the wrong way... And you should too! I'm thinking I'll hide them under the floorboards in my bedroom, or your bedroom, whichever leads to me not getting caught. Damn those team members and their eyelashes... and core muscles...

**mastHEAD Question:** What are you looking forward to this term?

HPGroovy (“The continued circus of U.S. Politics. Bread & Circuses baby!”), pi-rho-maniac (“Fire”), Algoweird (“Right now, a *mastHEAD* answer sheet”), theSMURF( “not being eaten;/mauled by bears”), !case (“fresh souls, because I ran out of pre-crushed ones”) \*null (“Not writing an operating system”), Merlini (“Dying from lack of sleep”), prime8 (“the rampant promiscuity”) Tbor (“Scotchtoberfest and Shotgunning”) Megaton Panda (“Arrrrrrrrrrts!”), Williver Hendry (“Lady Gay Gay in a bunny-eared tophat.”), snippet (“Not fixing bugs... errr.... features.”) !bar (“3DS. ‘nuff said”) CorruptED (“debauchery, egomania, and tacos.”)

ImpulsED

“The smell of rotting flesh in the morning...”

**VPF Sez**

*We haz monies*

Good news everyone! As you read this little article, budgets are almost due. They aren't actually due until next week but I figured that would scare anyone reading this who will soon owe me a budget. With a budget meeting coming up next week we will not only have money but we will have distributed the money to both our great events and for our incredible clubs.

Other items for you to note: Refund forms are due today. But if you are reading this you already can't apply.

Mathletics forms will also be out soon. That right, we subsidize part of your campus rec fees for each math member in your team. I'll be keeping you posted on all the great things we do with your money over the term. So be on the look out!

Rami Finkelshtein

MathSoc Vice President of Finances 2010

[vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

## Prez Sez

*Exec. We has them.*

Hello wonderful Mathies!

Nadia Novikova here, your friendly neighborhood MathSoc Prez. So, the first *mathNEWS* is here, wonderfully funded by your MathSoc dollars. You know what else is funded by your MathSoc dollars? Well, just about everything we do! And if you've got some ideas on how we should spend those dollars, go ahead and email me at prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca. Or, if you want, you can get your mathsoc dollars refunded - except you can't, because you're already using one of our (favourite) services, you're reading the *mathNEWS*. Too bad, so sad. But the *mathNEWS* is totally worth it!

Anyways, so I should really be using this space to update you on all the stuff we've been working on here at MathSoc. A hugely successful MathSoc Day was held during O-Week, and a Welcome Week ran all through this week (but seeing as it's Monday right now while I'm writing this, I'm not going to tell you that it was hugely successful - you know, not to jinx myself)! But, better than that, we now have (drum roll) Directors! And that means the Exec can finally move their sleeping bags out of the MathSoc office and let the Directors take over the slumber party. And plan events, delicious free events! Which means that next *mathNEWS* I'll get to tell you all about the awesome event line-up, and take credit for planning them =) Woo-hoo!

Also, this term we'll be working on a few new projects, like reopening the 3rd floor balcony (ok fine, an updated very old project) and launching new services through MathSoc (a laptop cleaning service anyone?). If you've got some ideas, drop me a line and we'll see what we can do =).

In other news, have you ever noticed that the DC foyer smells like mushrooms? Or am I the only one?

Anyways. I think I'm done now. Email me. I like emails. prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Nadia Novikova  
MathSoc President Fall 2010  
prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

## MGC Sez

*Dear Class of 2011 (and friends)*

Think you're awesome? Come join the Math Graduation Committee (MGC) and help make your grad ball and yearbook just as awesome as yourself! Or help us with fundraisers so we can reduce your grad ball ticket prices! Even if you're not graduating in 2011, you're more than welcome to help out. Just drop us a message or come and see us in our office (MC 3029) when the door is open. Also, we'll be having our pizza sales on Wednesdays (other than Sept 29th, CHANGE to Sept 30th) from 11:30 to 1:00. Be sure to come and support us.

Next event coming up: MGC Info Session MC 4061 Thursday, Sept 30th 4:00 - 5:00 This event is open to anyone. If you'd like to get involved but you're not graduating yet, please don't hesitate to show up. It's easy to contact us:

- Website: <http://mgc.uwaterloo.ca>
- Facebook: UW Mathematics Graduating Class of 2011
- Email: [uwmgc2011@gmail.com](mailto:uwmgc2011@gmail.com)

I promise we don't bite. Really. I'll even make an effort to be nice if it's for MGC.

MGC Chairs

## VPAS Sez

*Neither friendly, nor in your neighbourhood!*

Well, okay, that subtitle may be entirely untrue. But with the amount of use "friendly neighbourhood" is getting these days, I feel like I need to stand out in some way.

Now, with that said, we may begin. Hello Mathies! I'm Ian, the Vice President, Activities and Services of *your* Mathematics Society. What does that mean? I'm still not entirely sure, but I'll figure it out one of these days. Probably right when my term ends.

But I digress. We are already underway planning some awesome events for this term, including Pints With Profs, and the annual MathSoc Charity Ball which will be on November 20th. Also, we have weekly board games nights this term every Tuesday at 6:30 in the Comfy Lounge, and weekly Movie Nights on a night that has not been picked as of press time! However, to find out all about these wonderful events and the other great things MathSoc does, check out our website <http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/>, which now features an events calendar. The website is also where you go to sign out a locker, check out the exam bank, or find more info about how to be involved.

If you have any complaints, ideas, suggestions, or whatever else, feel free to email me or stop by the MathSoc Office, MC 3038, to talk to me in person. Over the last week, I think I've spent more time there than at home. And of course, there are lots of other reasons to stop by the MathSoc Office. We have cheap photocopiers, an excellent selection of text books and board games which you can borrow, and some pretty sweet novelties for sale.

Ian Charlesworth  
MathSoc Vice President, Activities and Services F2010  
[vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

## PMC NewsFlash!

*[insert catchy subheader here]*

Hi Mathies! Your friendly neighbourhood PMC VP Propaganda here to let you in on some awesome happenings going on at the Pure Math, Applied Math, Combinatorics & Optimization Club (PMC) this term. Are you asking yourself, what is this PMC you speak of? Is this PMC gibberish for me? If you like socializing (or pretending to socialize), doing math (or just need help doing it), want to get your hands on good math books (please bring them back), play some sports (dodge-ball yeaaaah!), or just need a place to put your jacket during the day (we have coat hooks!), then the PMC is for you!

This term, in addition to the Over 9000! contest and SASMS (Short Attention Span Math Seminars), PMC is planning to make a few trips out to the Fields Institute in Toronto for their MathEd Forums. These are a series of talks directed to upper-year undergraduate mathematics students (first-years welcome) given by researchers hailing from Windsor University, University of Chicago and the Fields Institute. More information will follow regarding these trips and other events held throughout the term. Visit us in MC 3033 or at [pmclub.uwaterloo.ca](http://pmclub.uwaterloo.ca) for more information.

Bryanne Pashley  
VP Propaganda

## Greetings Mathies!

Your FedS councillors here to give you the run-down on what's happening at FedS!

As your Math Councillors, we sit on the Students' Council and act as your outlet through which you can express any concerns you have, and from which you can learn about what's going on in FedS. The purpose of the Students' Council is to uphold the goals of the Federation of Students under its Charter and its by-laws, and to establish policies of the Corporation.

Feds has been very busy in the last couple weeks, welcoming students to campus. Orientation Week (for first-years) and Welcome Week (a free week of events for all UW students) were both a huge success! Highlights of Welcome Week included the Marianas Trench concert, Lol with Trixx at the Bomber and the pancake breakfast on Monday morning. If you missed it this time, don't worry, there's always next year!

Want to get involved with FedS and its committees? We're looking for two at-large FedS members (that's you guys!) to sit on the Internal Administration Committee. Email us ([mathcouncillors@gmail.com](mailto:mathcouncillors@gmail.com)) for more information. You can also come out to the next Students' Council meeting (12:30 pm on Sunday, October 17th in the SLC Multipurpose Room) to listen in and find out what's going on!

Need more info? Email your questions, comments or concerns to [mathcouncillors@gmail.com](mailto:mathcouncillors@gmail.com) or "Like" the Federation of Students on Facebook for info about upcoming FedS events!

Stay tuned to the next *mathNEWS* for information from us about Waterloo's municipal elections and referenda coming up in October!

Your FedS Math Councillors  
Ian Kasper, Andre Magalhaes  
Prashant Patel, Alex Russell  
Piraveena Tharmalingam

## Reminder: Games Nights Exist

*For those of you living under a rock or in E5*

Hi everybody!

I'm the MathSoc Games Director for this term! Since games nights have been happening for quite a while now, they are not news and can actually be published in *mathNEWS*, I'm here to tell you that every week, games nights will be held in the Comfy at 6:30 on Tuesday. (You've probably noticed that we didn't specify AM or PM, but if you show up that early in the morning, we'll laugh at you. Later in the evening of course.) There will be free food of some sort, unless Council decides there won't be any. If you want free food, tell your Council representative. (If you don't have one, fill out the form and become one.)

Also, I need Meeples to go on my Games Board to help me out. If you're interested in volunteering, please read the part where I tell you that **my mailbox is the one labeled 'Games Director' in MathSoc, across from the door**. Write a short blurb telling me why you want to be a Meeple, go to MathSoc and complain that you can't remember where my mailbox is even though I just told you, and then put the blurb in my mailbox. Or just email me at [games@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:games@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), either one works really.

Sean Hunt  
The Big Meeple (MathSoc Games Director)  
Fall 2010

## The Undying Proclamation of the University of Waterloo Science Fiction and Fantasy Club!

Hello there students. I'm from the Waterloo Science Fiction Club to discuss the awesome things we're doing in the upcoming term. We have weekly meetings to plan things on Wednesdays in MC 2017 at 6 PM. We have a library in the SLC above the Imprint office where you can take out and read a vast selection of literature.

The first event is coming up tomorrow, Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>! We're running a Games Day in the Math Comfy Lounge (MC 3001) from noon until we feel tired! Show up, and we'll play board games and have lots of fun times. We do this approximately every three weeks until the end of term.

The next thing we have is "Movies That Don't Have Sequels" Movie Night! We're showing *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *The Matrix*. We're showing them in AL 105 at 7PM. Show up for two awesome movies that never had sequels. We also will be having movie nights at the same time and place on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

We're also running a Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Story Contest! The deadline is November 26<sup>th</sup>, and the stories must be less than 7500 words in length. You can submit them to [watsfic@gmail.com](mailto:watsfic@gmail.com). You can also check out our website at <http://www.watsfic.uwaterloo.ca/>. You can also check us out on Facebook. Come to our meetings for more information! (Check the first paragraph for details.)

WatSFIC Vice Prez Fall 2010  
Harrison Gross

## ACM-style programming contests

The next Waterloo-local ACM-style programming contests will be held on Sunday, Sept. 26 and Saturday, Oct. 2nd, 2010. All members of the UW community are invited to try their programming skill in Scheme, C, C++, Java, or Pascal.

The results of these local contests will be used to select the UW teams for the international ACM competition. We will send three teams of three to the East Central North America Regional in Windsor on October 23rd. If we do well there, as we have every year since 1993, one team will advance to the World Finals in Egypt in early March 2011.

For full details and online registration, please see: <http://plg.uwaterloo.ca/~acm00/>

The contests will run from 1 pm sharp until 4 pm in MC 2037, and will be followed by pizza. There will be practice contests in the morning to allow contestants, especially those competing for the first time, to get their account setup and become familiar with the contest environment. Contestants participating in the practice contest should arrive in MC 2037 by 10:30 am.

Ondrej Lhotak

## HARMVILLE UPDATE

Tiffany has found a Sad Duckling on her property, but has no bread to eat it alive. Can you help?

The Hee Ho

## CSCFyi

I'd submitted this article last term however I was dismayed at the number of people who didn't get that all the choices are correct!

Here's what I hope is a fairly simple quiz to remind you what CS computing resources you have access to.

- Who can use the general access CS Student Computing Environment?
  - All Math Faculty students.
  - Anyone taking a CS course.
  - All of the above
- What general access Computing environments are provided by CS?
  - Mac OS
  - Oracle Solaris (legacy Unix)
  - Ubuntu Linux (Unix)
  - Windows Terminal Server
  - All of the above
- How do I remotely access those environments?
  - Duh it's a Mac, it's GUI is not remote access friendly.
  - ssh -Y cpu-solaris.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca
  - ssh -Y linux.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca (Ubuntu 9.10)
   
or
   
ssh -Y linux-legacy.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca (Ubuntu 8.04)
   
d) ssh -Y screen.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca (for users that use the unix "screen" application ) iff you need to always connect to the same linux server.
   
e) rdesktop windows.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca (Windows 2008 server)
   
or
   
rdesktop windows-legacy.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca (Windows 2003 server)
   
f) All of the above
- Where's the newer software?
  - On the linux.student.cs systems.
  - Not likely on the Solaris systems.
  - OK so maybe in /opt/csw (www.blastwave.org packages) if present.
  - Don't know about newer however /xhbin is a UW xhier standard for scripting languages.
  - All of the above
- Where can I get Ubuntu Linux and many other open source software?
  - mirror.cs.uwaterloo.ca
  - mirror.csclub.cs.uwaterloo.ca (An official Ubuntu Canadian Mirror, also supported by your MEF funding and the School of Computer Science.)
  - Both of the above (since they are currently the same hardware).
- How much home disk space with a spiffy online backup service do all accounts in the CS Student Computing Environment get?
  - Thanks to MEF funding, at least 500 MB as of mid-July 2008.
  - Even during Co-op work terms, at least 500 MB as of mid-July 2008.
  - Nothing if the user gets caught misusing it. (Repeat after me, "I will not share copyrighted material without permis-

sion nor run a commercial web service from my student account.")

- Not as much space as a personal USB datakey that you can use in the Mac and Thin-Client labs.
  - All of the above.
- Where can somebody get help?
    - Math Faculty Help Centre: MC 3017
    - Use the uw.cscf.\* and uw.mcf.\* news groups.
    - Local Pubs.
    - Your friends, TA's, Prof's, ...
    - All of the above except 'c)', although 'c)' might work sometimes.
  - Where did my CS Teaching email go?
    - Short answer "mailservices.uwaterloo.ca"
    - Long answer available at <http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/student/email/ChangeFall2010>
    - Both of the above.

Sources to confirm the information in the above questions and others?

- <http://www.student.cs.uwaterloo.ca>
- <http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/student/hosts>
- Look at <http://www.ubuntu.com/getubuntu/download> and ask your Housing RCC.
- Use "diskquota" on a CS Solaris hosts and see "<http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/howto/snap>" regarding backups and "[http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/howto/thin/eon\\_guide](http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/howto/thin/eon_guide)".
- No definitive source, just personal choice.
- No question ten, you just need to know to also look at: <http://www.cs.uwaterloo.ca/cscf/student/#Bulletins>

Dave  
CSCF

## Website Sez

### *Come Visit Me!*

Hi! I'm your friendly neighbourhood MathSoc website. Now, you may think it's kinda weird that a website is writing an article in *mathNEWS*, but pay no attention to the men who are actually working on me.

So this month I got a bit of a visual facelift. I now look hotter than ever before! You can find out what I'm up to on my home page and on my new calendar, you can check out my exams, and you can even sign out a locker with me. I'm also expecting other improvements this term, including executive blogs, home page polling, and other exciting ways to keep up with MathSoc this term.

So come visit me any time! That means now. And if you have any ideas on how to make me even better, email Joe, my awesome (or so he claims) director, at the address below.

Your Friendly Neighbourhood MathSoc Website  
<http://www.mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca>  
[website@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:website@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

## The rules of the MC

*If I see you breaking them I will murderize you*

Greetings everyone! Welcome back to the university! I would say we missed you but, that would be a horrible, horrible lie. I find this is a great time to remind everyone about all of the little things you do that bug the hell out of me, and kindly remind you to not do them.

1. **Walk on the right side of the hallway/stairs:** For the love of all that is holy, this is like a road. Walk and stay on the right side. If you are going to stop, please go even farther right. If you are on the left side, you interfere with the flow of traffic, slowing everyone down and making me rage when I am late for my class.
2. **Do not stop in front of doors:** The doors are the only way in or out of a building. We don't like being stuck in buildings. Naturally, we request that you do not stop and talk to your little ditz friend in front of the doors. Yes, I know that maybe, just maybe, this chick will sleep with you, but seriously, get out of the way or I will make sure that you will never produce any offspring.
3. **Use the double doors:** There are two doors. Yes, two. That is one more than one. While you may not know this yet, the proof will be provided later in the term. Please use the second door. This 5 second act of opening the second door **DOUBLES** the rate of flow of people through the hallways.

### Upcoming Conventions

For those of you who attend conventions, whether for the free shirts, random swag, or even \*shudder\* wisdom, this article is for you. Not just you, because I'm also dedicating it to the legendary pickle-cactus, but you get some of it too.

#### *ConCon*

This one's for those who enjoy going to conventions. It features such things as seminars on collecting swag (if you go to these you have failed already), free t-shirt scavenger hunts, and tables. So many tables...

#### *CanCanCon*

For those who can do the cancan. They can, can, can they do the cancan... fine, I'll stop.

#### *CancunCon*

This one's for those who wish they could go to Cancun, but only have space in their budget to go to crowded warehouses in Philadelphia full of strange people in speedos and lots of tables. You may be able to purchase a poster of a beach with one palm tree and a chair, but only if you get there early.

#### *KhanCon*

For Mongol warlords only. Seriously, if you don't have a horde, you're not getting in. They have really good bouncers ...

#### *CronCon*

The times for this are determined by your sysadmin. Type "crontab -l" to find out when. Hosts seminars on such topics as @reboot and \*/5

#### *AlliterationCon*

This one's for anyone who thought that the previous 5 convention names were funny. Due to its own name, however, nobody ever goes.

- This will save you so much time, you have no idea. Do it!
4. **Let people leave the classroom:** Ok, when it's 20 past the hour we know that you want, like, 7 seats for you and your little group of kawaii friends. But you know that for you to get to your precious little seats I **NEED TO GET OUT OF THE ROOM FIRST!!!!** Please let people exit the room before you try to come in. Because one of these times, I'm going to initiate some kind of trampling party to make sure the problem never happens again.
  5. **Do not play computer games in the front row of classes:** Ok, I get it, you like your World of Warcraft, or My Little Pony magical adventures. I don't really care what it is, don't play it in the front row. Now don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with actually playing games in class, just don't do it in front of the rest of the class. At least if you are going to be browsing the Internet, give me something fun to look at (i.e. porn).

And there you have it. A highly truncated list of things you all should do in order to avoid having me shove knives into random parts of your body.

The always hateful  
RamED

### FOC Sez

MathFOC would like to thank everyone who made Orientation Week 2010 the success it was!

A BIG thank you to all the leaders who volunteered their time to participate in Orientation Week 2010! The week couldn't have run without your dedication, hard work, enthusiasm, and smiles throughout! Thanks for playing your part in making it run as smoothly as it did!

Another huge wave of gratitude goes out to all the first-years for coming to our events! We sincerely hope you enjoyed your Orientation Week and benefited from it in some way. Also, we hope you'll consider doing Orientation as a leader in future years. Hope you're having a great first month of classes. Good luck with the midterms!

Also, a special thanks to all the wonderful folks at Plant Operations. You're just amazing, and you know it!

We'll be posting pictures of the Week on our website very soon, so keep an eye out for them :D

Stay safe, and continue being awesome.

Much love,  
Abhishek Birla, Maria Greco,  
Patrick Hayes, Julianne O'Neill  
Math Orientation Directors 2010  
orientat@math.uwaterloo.ca  
www.orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca

# Re: Title Page

# Yes, Yes they do!

## New News: Things that Will be Happening Last Fornight

- This week is Welcome Week! It's like Frosh week, but you have classes in the middle of all the events and, while you're actually allowed to participate this week, you've outgrown all that silly stuff anyways.
- You have one last chance to see the giant tie on Monday morning, before Plant Ops comes and takes it down. Yes, the great symbol of our faculty has been fixed and returned to its rightful place. Let Mathies everywhere rejoice!
- Thursday, there will be free ice cream available in the Davis Centre at 3:30 PM, to celebrate that the University finally found someone to take care of David Johnston.
- Friday, at 4:30 PM, applications close for MathSoc director positions. If you've always dreamed of holding a position with a fancy title and no real duties in an 'organization' less organized than the Tibetan government, this is your chance!
- Next Wednesday and Thursday, you can visit the Slice (Student Life Center) to see what clubs you should make fun of in *mathNEWS* this term. Rumour has it that the Ham Radio Club will be setting up a display.
- Throughout these two weeks, clubs will be starting up their meetings and, importantly, executive elections for the term. For many of these clubs, if you show up, you have a reasonable shot of getting elected to something. You've always wanted to be the Secretary of the UW Conservatives, right?
- And, lastly, for those of you looking for packing foam, papier mache, a stool, or some emergency toilet paper, Imprint is published every Friday. Show up early in the morning to the lesser-known newsracks and pick up the softest copies, or brave the neverending supplies in the Slice.

Algoweird

## The 5 Stages of Procrastination

We all procrastinate. You do it. I do it, and you can be damn sure your profs do it, and although we all do different things to distract ourselves from the horrible reality of actually doing work, we all go through the same 5 phases.

### Phase 1: Strategy Forming

You are given something to do. You know what it is and you know when it needs to be done. You are perfectly able to start it right now, but you're also just as able to start it next week. So you form a strategy. I will do x number of pages per week. Thats y each weekday, and z on weekends. That'll give me the final week to edit. Your plan is fool-proof!

### Phase 2: The Compromise

Ok, it's been a week and you've done nothing. So you make a deal with yourself. If I up the number of pages I do per week by doubling the weekend load and spend only half of the final week editing, I can forget about that wasted week AND I can slack off next week too. Surely this plan is perfect!

### Phase 3: Optimization

Ok, it's been a month. Nothing has been done. You're going to have to take a more efficient route on this one to turn out something good. You start planning what time you're going to work on it each day, which classes you can multi-task in, and how

many hours of sleep you *really* need. This might just work if all goes as planned.

### Phase 4: Commitment

Can you guess? Yeah, that didn't work either. You *still* haven't done anything. What is wrong with you? There's no way you're going to get a good mark on this now! It's due this Friday! Don't panic, though. You might still be able to pass. If you commit yourself to this assignment, and give up ALL fun things (no more StarCraft), then you might still be able to do this. Let the week of pain begin!

### Phase 5: Betrayal

Why did you do this to yourself!?! This assignment is due tomorrow! You promised yourself you wouldn't spend the entire night playing StarCraft and you did! Now you're totally screwed. This is about the part where you start crying and contemplating making up a medical issue allowing you to get an extension on the assignment, but you know you deserve this. You have procrastinated your way into the worse possible scenario and now you've got to dig yourself out. There will be no sleeping tonight. Have fun, good luck, and always remember: Procrastinate now, don't put it off.

BLaggard

## Python Implementation Of ed

Now perhaps you don't know this, I know I shouldn't, but programmers didn't always have access to user-friendly editors like `vi`. Indeed, `vi` is nothing more than a wrapper script for the command `ex`, which is itself a wrapper for `ed`, the most fundamental of text editors guaranteed to be found on any machine running UNIX.

Not that it should ever be used...

Still, if you're feeling particularly masochistic some day, open a \*nix terminal and give it a try... or you can use this convenient Python implementation.

```
while(raw_input() != "q"):
    print "?"
```

\*null

## Cardboard Box Races

This year *mathNEWS* has become an official sponsor for the Cardboard Box Race League (CBRL). If you have never seen a Cardboard Box Race, you should. They are the most amazing races, the few minutes during the race are the most intense and adrenaline filled moments you will ever experience. Never knowing who will take the lead in the last few moments, or if the favourite will flip over and get disqualified.

As a token of their gratitude the CBRL has decided to hold a Race on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the DC on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2010. This race is open, and any one who can show up on time can participate (cardboard box required). We will be meeting at 5 o'clock at the Math C&D, and the races start at 5:15.

The Crabby Clam

## Advice from a Fourth Year

### *What they didn't tell you during Orientation Week*

So when I was in first year, I had all these bright and seemingly wonderful ideas about how university was going to be, and how great life was going to go now that I was finally “free,” and finally studying a “real discipline.” There were signs that this wasn't going to be the case, of course, such as those bright paint-on-cardboard signs in the SLC. Didn't the world grow out of “posters” and start communicating using more sophisticated media already? I could have made a poster like that in grade school! But I ignored those signs, and moved on trying to have my wonderful great life. In retrospect, the last four years would have gone a lot smoother had some random Fourth Year come along and slapped some sense into me with a fresh issue of *mathNEWS*

And this year, I'll try to do just that. Run around campus slapping people who still have a glimmer of hope in their eyes with fresh issues of *mathNEWS*. But before that, I'll write something down in them, so you've got something to remember me by after the popos take me away.

Life Advice from a Fourth Year, episode one. What they didn't tell you during Orientation Week.

1. Shit, piss, fuck, cunt, cocksucker, motherfucker, tits. The seven words you cannot say during O-Week. Seriously, what the fuck is up with that? Orientation week is ran by administration and they've got all these rules about what you can and can't tell the frosh. Like “no negative representation of the university,” which pretty much rules out most things I have to say. But if you even once have to deal with anything in Needles Hall, you'll quickly realize why it's called Needless Hell. This truth is nice and easy to learn on your own.
2. Class are hard. Classes are seriously hard. There will be times when you look at your assignments, and you'll have no clue what the heck the prof wants you to do. Or it'll look like something you've done in class, but you'll have no clue how to start. Or even worse, you'll have no clue what some of the words mean. And in the background, you'll hear the ominous laughter of your Prof, going “Mwuahahaha, only ten more students must drop out before I make the assignments any easier!” But if you're interested in this math thing, class will be easier than they were in High School because they will actually be INTERESTING. No more yawning all the way through a Calc class (unless you've got the 8:30 section, sorry) or catching up on weeks of homework in one night while watching a sitcom. Good, challenging classes can be fun. And if you want to really learn math, you gotta put in the time and effort. Try it sometime.
3. There are good Profs. And then there are bad Profs. In your UW career, you will discover both. If your class has more than one “section”, you can technically go to ANY of the sections (what they teach is standardized) and see which Prof you like better. If you're stuck with a Prof whom you don't get, if they don't speak English well or something, just assume you're on your own. Read the textbook and email your TAs for assignment help. Eventually you might even conclude that going to class is a waste. I mean, it's comfier to sleep in your own bed than on a hard desk in the Physics building. But it's your call.
4. Office hours. Use them. As the term goes on, the number of students showing to office hours decreases (and difficulty of assignments increases). I never understood that phenomenon. In any case, going to office hours is great because you get to know your prof, so that when you go to whine about how you were “so stressed out” during the midterm and “didn't do as well as you wanted to,” the chances of your mark “magically increasing” are a lot higher. An awesome power to have!
5. And when you're done with classes, which will statistically be at around 2:30pm, you'll have FREE TIME. Copious amounts of FREE TIME. You'll do your assignments for a bit, you'll browse the intertubes, then it will 4:01pm and you will still have FREE TIME. University is the one time you will have more free time than you know what to do with. Everyone has different ways of dealing with this problem? Getting a part time job, joining some clubs on campus, playing WoW for hours on end, working out at the gym, getting a girlfriend, mastering a hobby, whatever. The easiest way to deal with this problem is of course, not to deal with it! But if you don't find a good way to use your copious amounts of FREE TIME, inevitably you will miss out on the awesome money, experience, muscles, sex, or hobby mastery that everyone else will have. So get off your ass and do something with your time. You won't have this amount of free time after university, so use it now while you still can.
6. Free money is also on campus. Well, it's only free until you realize it's your money they took from you in the first place: You pay for a whole ton of “services” in your tuition, and so now you either use them, or get a refund. The biggest ones are your Dental Plan and Health Plan (if you've already covered, why pay for MORE dental/health coverage?) ? go to [ihaveaplan.ca](http://ihaveaplan.ca) to see what's in the UW plans, and how to opt out if you're not interested. I personally keep the Health plan, cuz it's got some strange perks like really good travel insurance, but the dental sometimes isn't worth the money. Next, your faculty's “endowment fund” fee. It may be going towards good shit on campus, but it's a charity to which you are forced to be giving. You can get that money refunded with no hard feelings (I said they're a charity!) and someone around your society should know how to do it. Which is also my next point, your society fee. Find out what it does, and if you're not gonna use any of those things, get it refunded - why not. [Sorry, but if you are reading this you are no longer eligible for a mathSOC refund. — StaticED] Finally, there's lots of other small fees, the Imprint fee, the WPIRG fee and so on?
7. And lastly, don't worry too much. All the movies growing up have taught us that university is like the best years of your life. Well, the first year definitely isn't. But more on that later...

Until next time,  
Poivy

## Fastest Canadian Census results in

*Based on a sample size of Paul Newman from New Brunswick*

It's being hailed as the fastest and most efficient Canadian Census ever to be done. Just last week the first and only long form to be returned to Statistics Canada came in, allowing for a very quick and accurate analysis of the data.

"This has been the first Census where there has been no variation between the single data point, and it's refreshing," boasts Mari St. Pierre of Statistics Canada. "Everyone had the exact same income, the same number of parents and siblings, and it has made interpretation so much easier."

The census has confirmed that no Canadian citizens, all known as "Paul", have used any form of health care or hospital in the past ten years and so all hospitals are being shut down due to disuse. The same goes for police stations, public transportation (as every Paul owns a magical unicorn), and schools. Food banks are not receiving any additional government assistance since Pauls don't need financial assistance with a constant salary of 30,000 cans of corn per annum. With that much corn, no Paul has to worry about going hungry.

"The most disturbing figure which came about from the data," says St. Pierre "is the amount of travel each 'Paul' has to do. Pauls are traveling for three hours to and from work on the planet Zoul 5. The government has to do something to help with this. Either provide a shuttle for commuters or offer a Corn-to-Cash station so that Pauls can afford to pay for public transit."

Other fun facts from the Census are that all Canadians live in a giant bucket, do not speak French, and have never seen their own penis. With the immense success of the voluntary form, the Government is considering also making paying taxes optional to keep out of its Pauls' lives and to irreparably shoot itself in the face with a double-barreled, sawed-off shotgun.

The Hee Ho

## Dating Advice From the Single Guy

*Dear Single Guy,*

*My female friends are insisting that I remove my facial hair. As my beard has a long and noble history, I fear that I will have a hard time removing it. Would shaving this legacy really get me a woman?*

*-Bearded Bro*

Dear Unshaven Uncle (If not yet, you will be soon. Ask your sister.),

Chicks Dig Scars. Most guys don't have scars. Therefore, if you don't have scars, you grow a beard to hide your bare skin where you could technically have a scar. Exception to the rule: the pedo-stache, or more recently known as the Crosby-stache. It covers nothing, and qualifies you instantaneously to be on a child offenders list.

Single Guy

*Dear Single Guy,*

*My girlfriend is a Canadiens fan, and I'm a Leafs fan. With this season coming up, I sense rough times ahead. What do you suggest?*

*-SundinBoy67*

## Mathies Protest New Prayer Room

On the two-week anniversary of the Pink Tie falling from the MC, dozens of math students were holding dual demonstrations about a new temple being proposed as part of the multi-faith prayer room in the SLC.

The temple is designed to worship Thor, who Vikings believe to be the god of thunder. While an official investigation concluded that the tie fell and was ripped due to an extremist gust of wind, right-wing mathies believe that the tie was brought down in the name of Thor.

"We are opposed to this victory shrine," said James Tan, one of the lead opponents of the project who led the anti-temple rally. "Having this monument placed one building away from where Thor brought down our pink tie is an insult to our faculty. It should be further away, on the other side of campus."

On the other side of the SLC, there was another protest by a group in favour of the proposed temple. They say that one gust of wind does not speak on behalf of all Thorites.

"They are using the fall of our sacred pink tie to spread their message of Thoraphobia," said Brian Moss, the leader of the pro-temple rally. "If they truly wanted to respect our fallen tie, they would stop spreading their hateful message. It was one gust of wind that caused this, not the bidding of Thor."

Mathies we spoke to were divided on the issue, largely parroting what the two leaders were saying. We were unable to find anyone who did not have a strong opinion on the issue, and nobody seemed to want to back down.

MathSoc President Nadia Novikova has stayed mostly quiet on the issue. While she stated that she supports the right to freedom of religion under the Charter, she has not stated publicly whether she thinks the prayer room should be moved. The *mathNEWS* writer coincidentally known as Thor could not be reached for comment.

Another dual protest is expected on the three-week anniversary tomorrow.

InsideR

*Dear Maple Loser,*

Don't worry about your relationship, just try to survive until playoffs, or as Leafs fans call it, golf season. Try cheering for a team that you won't be consistently disappointed by. And please, don't take your anger out onto other teams, unless the "other teams" become the Leafs. Try the Canucks.

Single Guy

*Dear Single Guy,*

*My girlfriend is an avid Imprint reader, which wasn't a problem until she started trying to get me to read it too. Of course, I'd much rather read mathNEWS. How do you think I should approach the situation?*

*-mathNEWS Fanboy*

Dear Fanboy,

Find a mathie girl. It's the greatest hunt of all. And half the victory is the battle.

Single Guy

## Horrorscopes

**Accounting/Business/Other Degrees That Like Money More Than People:** After gouging your “friends” for cash, you are able to establish a fund to eventually pay them off. Unfortunately, when the American Government finds out about where these funds end up going, you get thrown in jail.

Your Lucky Number is: Cell Block 7.

**Actuarial Science:** You calculate the dangers of walking to class, and realize that you’ll have an easier and safer life if you just stay at home and study.

Your Lucky Number is: 3 failed classes.

**AHS:** You start a new campus publication about nutrition. Unfortunately, The Bomber has a counter-advertising campaign centralized around deep-fried Canadian bacon.

Your Lucky Number is: >9000 calories!

**Applied Math:** You travel to Malawi with Engineers Without Borders. Unfortunately, the locals find your pink tie offensive and you are tried on numerous accounts, including war crimes.

Your Lucky Number is: 14 years of hard labor.

**Arts:** You go drinking with engineers. The next morning you wake up with a purple-beerish substance all over your dress/pantsuit.

Your Lucky Number is: 16 times through the wash.

**C&O:** You consider how to optimize your path through campus, when you stumble across a bag of drugs. You consume the drugs and attempt to take a linear route from CPH to the SLC.

Your Lucky Number is: 8 Broken bones.

**CM:** You use your math to create a reverse auto-tune. Unfortunately, when used with a normal voice, you hear the voice of the devil.

Your Lucky Number is: 37 awkward visits to therapy.

**CS:** You travel to Korea to compete in a StarCraft 2 AI competition, where it is revealed that society there is built around a purple substance covering the ground

Your Lucky Number is: 48,758,000 Infected.

**Engineering:** You go out drinking with a bunch of artsies. Unfortunately, at 4 in the morning, you realize that you, unlike them, have class tomorrow.

Your Lucky Number is: 6 courses.

**Environment:** You will see a double rainbow. Unfortunately, while staring at it, some mathie will steal the remainder of your illegal substances.

Your Lucky Number is: 5x Rainbow if you walk around with enough prisms.

**MathSci:** You use math to determine an algorithm to calculate the deliciousness of a sandwich, but the KFC double down throws an exception every time.

Your Lucky Number is: 540 Calories.

**Operations Research:** See Applied Math, or leave a note in the BLACK BOX explaining what your program covers.

Your Lucky Number is: 7, because I’m lazy.

**Pure Math:** You use your knowledge of set theory to make theoretical definitions of everything around you. Unfortunately, even though you defined it, you still lie outside the set that every other sane human lies in.

Your Lucky Number is: hash(QED).

**Science:** You go to the Perimeter Institute to find Stephen Hawking memorabilia. Unfortunately, you step in a wormhole he dropped on his way out.

Your Lucky Number is: 23 years in the future.

**Software Engineering:** You start a work term at Google. Unfortunately, you confuse the language Go with the board game, offending developers around the company.

Your Lucky Number is: 2 Letters.

**Stats:** You use statistics to find out what percentage of the frosh issue of Imprint was used in Orientation mascots. Unfortunately, you weren’t aware that Imprint prefers that to be unknown.

Your Lucky Number is: 37%

**Undeclared:** You declare.

Your Lucky Number is: 1 less Horrorscope to write.

Tbor

## The Unlikely Source of Demise of the Pink Tie

After years of being cast aside and having their evil genius underestimated, the students of the Faculty of the Environment have officially declared war on the rest of the campus; or at least the Mathematics Faculty. Months of planning, plotting, and bouts of insanity, led to the successful adaptation of the classic rain dance into a dance of destruction resulting in the 40 foot tie ripping and being taken down by Plant Operations for the majority of the week.

Word on the street suggests that the infamous “Env Crew”, who daringly struck in plain sight, chose the 40 foot pink tie as a target as it is the most visible, infamous, and the Rigid Tool was “like, way too hard to find”. A passerby conjectured that the students likely felt “left out” with most other faculties having some sort of mascot and selected guard and retaliated against the faculty who initially established these guards. The attack, which cut deep in the hearts of many mathies, was, however, less effective in gaining the underground terrorist group any notoriety. *mathNEWS* attempted to contact the office of the Dean of Environment, but no one was available to comment at 8PM Monday night.

The hope was that Environment students would no longer be mocked for their pacifist ways. Referred to by some as tree-hugging flower children, these hippies have savoured the taste of sweet revenge; hemp-flavoured revenge. And I wouldn’t be surprised if they want more.

# Diurnal Antisomnambulatory Syndrome

## *A resurfacing epidemic*

Every morning, with the alarm clock ringing sucking away all semblance of rest of the waning night you jolt awake, groggy as if drunk - even though chances are that you were last night. You stagger and stumble to the washroom and take a shower before you crash with a cup of coffee; these are only the initial symptoms of the dreaded 8:30 class.

This disease is seasonal, with many new people affected by it every mid-September with smaller spikes in the epidemiology of the disease in January and May. It affects millions of people worldwide in a year, with the majority of the people being technically affiliated with it for a duration of four months; while the symptoms may subside slightly during the course of the disease, it still resides, dormant, in those affected.

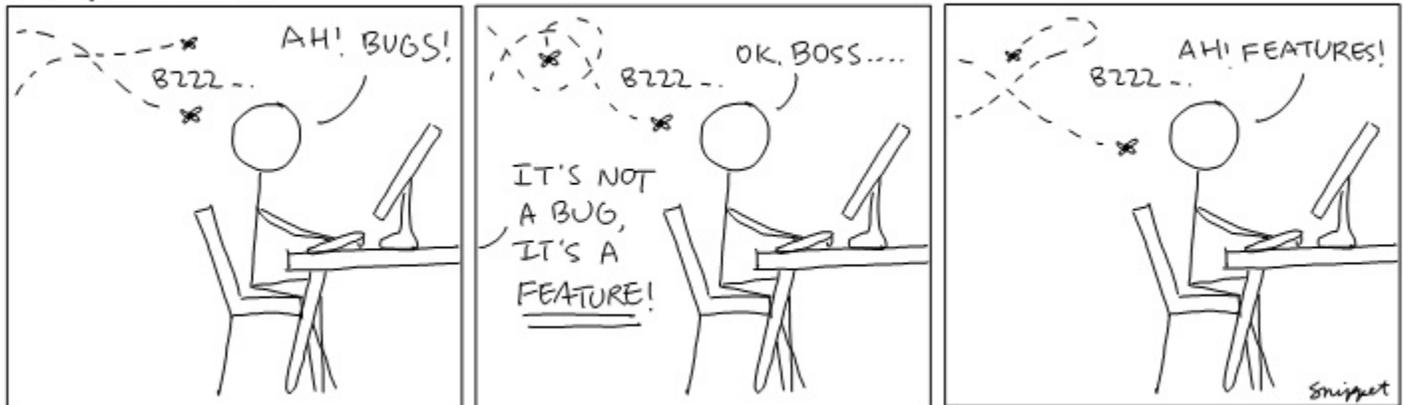
Prevention is imperative since hundreds of people in UW potentially affiliated with this syndrome. The best preventive measure against this syndrome is to avoid any engagements and obligations before 10:00 and lie in the soft fluffy paradise which is standard in all bedrooms for the duration stated. There is no need to avoid people who are known to have the syndrome because there exists no scientific evidence that the syndrome is in any way contagious. Electrotherapists recommend a low-voltage shock during morning showers to bolster immune responses to stave off the syndrome.

If you are worried that you have already fallen into the clutches of this syndrome, there are a certain number of measures which you can take. The traditional OTC drug which is available to all people with the syndrome is caffeine, usually prepared by imbuing ground beans from the *Coffea arabica* plant in scalding water for a certain amount of time. Usually, the liquid medication is split onto the lap of the person trying to drink it, relieving all symptoms of the syndrome for the day. If, for some reason you wish not to go with the traditional remedy, thalassotherapists suggest walking to the sea and putting your head under the seawater for five minutes per day for a week and our most esteemed chromotherapists suggest painting your room with glow-in-the-dark silver paint to balance the colour confusions raging in your body.

If, after everything the symptoms of grouchiness, chronic tiredness and sleep deprivation do not subside, especially after four months after first contraction, please consult your physician, psychologist, therapist, spiritual adviser, lawyer, professor, legal guardian, dungeon master, *mathNEWS* editor, pasta-loving plumber, Shinigami, voice in your head, alien, and insane psychotic killer for more advice. *mathNEWS* does not endorse any remedies listed in the article; use at your own risk.

Zethar

## FEATURES



## Why there isn't an article about the Pope.

So I tried to write an article about the Pope. I really did. I was going to talk about how Ian Goulden is really the true dean after Saint Peter came back from the dead and passed the role of Pontiff on to him. I tried to create a point versus counterpoint where I rolled D&D character sheets for the Pope and Richard Dawkins and then discussed combat between them, but it was too much work. I even originally was planning to write an article seriously criticizing the Pope and Catholicism in general, but I figured that would belong somewhere better, like the Chevron.

So I wrote this instead. And now for a bunch of negative buzzwords I have observed on the internet about the current pope: REMOVED DUE TO FEAR OF REPRECUSSION. [I can no longer receive letters of condemnation from the Vatican, my immortal soul can only take so many — StaticED]

HPGroovy

## This week in controversy

Stephen Hawking declared that God is not needed in the creation of the universe. He was justly crucified by the media. "God did not create the universe: Hawking" they shouted.

The media's reaction is quite reasonable considering the highly theistic views Hawking has expressed so far. He did once state: "All the evidence suggests that God is actually quite a gambler..." And there is NOTHING more holy than craps!

Hawking frequently referenced God in his, saying he *may* have created the laws of physics, and that just because the universe's conditions are suitable for life does not mean it was designed as such. Why, he's practically a priest! But wait, those statements sound uncertain. Almost as if he wasn't sure of the existence of a creator. Almost as if he was humouring the hypothesis until there was enough evidence to build a model independent of it. Almost as if now he is satisfied that we know enough to state that God is not needed.

## Unnatural History

*The world inside*

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times when the frosh came to town. Their endless array of questions were tiresome to one and all. Especially the parents who were asking them. The frosh leaders and other volunteers answered them to the best of their ability and almost everyone was left with the feeling that something fundamental was misunderstood.

This, naturally, is where you come in gentle *mathNEWS* reader. Only you can stop the “horrors” I’m about to describe, the wanton “terrors” and “injustices” about to be “confessed”, the “plausible” “noncommittal” “debris” of “evil” “about” to be scattered by the explosion of the grenade “of” truth that is about to be lobbed into your mind. Or you could already be tired of my endlessly adjective run on sentences. Only you may judge.

Now where was I? Ah yes...

You find yourself by a mailbox. To the North there’s a joke that’s been over done. You’re already there. Look down, look up! It’s two tickets to that X-rated hypnotist that never comes around any more. Look again: The tickets are now popcorn from the MathSoc popcorn machine. Anything is possible since you’re still reading this article and not Imprint. I’m in a column!

The point of you coming to this institute of higher learning is not to have as much sex as possible, to expand your boundaries, to please your parents, to get away from your parents, to meet people, to learn or to have fun. Despite what the shiny brochure said when you applied. It’s all those things bundled into one. What you do (or have done, (or will haven done for the time travellers among you)) is entirely up to you.

This article is a trial. Nay! An experiment! Has it injected a little strange into your reality? If not, you’re an interesting person and we should totally meet up for drinks in classy hats sometime. If so, take yourself and stretch! First your shoulders, then your arms, now your fingers.... stretch those pinkies! Now for the hard part: stretch your mind. You’ll feel better after, though it might be sore for a little while. Take a class you are interested in but is hard. Learn a new language. Make friends with an artsie! The daring among you can make friends with engineers. Is that dating me? Are mathies and engineers friends now? I may never know.

Hey where are you going! I haven’t gotten to the point of this story! You see there’s this space. and it’s inside. I’m stuck here. I was hoping you’d know where the exit is since you just got here? Do you? It’s four years that-a-way you say? Well. Let’s get moving then.

The Unnatural Historian

## Convergence Drinking Game!

Want to kill an evening, several thousand brain cells, and study for that calculus final? Try the convergence drinking game! The rules are simple: you pick a sequence of numbers  $x_n$  and a point  $x_o$  to which you think the sequence converges. Then the player picks an epsilon greater than zero and if  $|x_n - x_o|$  is less than epsilon, take a shot, and then your opponent picks a smaller epsilon. If  $|x_n - x_o|$  is less than epsilon, take a shot, else take 3 shots, pick a new sequence and the game restarts.

$\pi$ rmaniac

## How to write a *mathNEWS* article

1. Do you have a good idea? Yes = 2, No = 3
2. Is it appropriate for writing in *mathNEWS*? Yes = 4, No = 5.
3. Can you think of something funny to make a list of? Yes = 6, No = 7.
4. Write it! Goto 15
5. Write it anyway! Let the editors be the judge of if it is appropriate or not. Goto 15
6. Do you have enough items to make it a worthwhile list? Yes = 8, No = 9.
7. Loudly ask anyone else if they have any ideas. Do you get any ideas? Yes = 10, No = 11.
8. Write the list. Goto 15
9. Loudly ask anyone else if they have ideas to add to your list. Any more items? Yes = 12, No = 13.
10. Write about the idea. Goto 15
11. You fail at writing for *mathNEWS*. Go on Facebook and pretend to write one. Alternatively, come up with witty things for filler. Goto 15.
12. Do you have enough to make a decent sized list? Yes = 14, No = 13.
13. Write what you have, a short article is better than none...usually. Goto 15.
14. Write your list! Goto 15
15. ??? Goto 16.
16. PROFIT!

!theNewGuy

## The Graduation List

It was some time ago, when I saw the article by a graduating student listing their to-do list and comparing what they had wanted to do here to what they actually accomplished. Some of her goals stuck with me; sure, you’re hopefully here with the intent to graduate, but there’s something more to it than that.

Here’s a few of my goals; some I had before coming here, a couple from that article, a couple that have arisen over time. Nothing I wouldn’t release to the world, but perhaps it will spawn a similar article some time down the road.

- Pull an all-nighter: Easy enough... though I will warn anyone contemplating this that everything is fuzzy past 26 hours. Don’t bother for studying, and only use for assignments if it is actually worth most of your mark and you can count the remaining hours on one hand.
- Get 100 on a course: First term. Bell curve, guessing, and final-time formula derivation were involved.
- Take a Killer Course: This is in the hands of the CS advisors now.
- Sleep in the Comfy Lounge: Nothing overnight yet; I’m sure you’re all nice people, but I keep you out for a reason.
- Write for *mathNEWS*: Success! Inherited from aforementioned graduating student; may it be passed on once more.

\*null

## The MUDpit

### *The first encounter*

UW-MUD v 0.1 alpha  
 Enter, Math Student, and choose your destiny.  
 You find yourself in the Physics building. You are hungry for ice cream.  
 > inventory  
 You have your watcard, two apples, and a katana.  
 > exit  
 You find yourself in EIT.  
 > look around  
 You encounter a group of lost trolls.  
 > use apples trolls  
 Trolls prefer free and open-source software. Apples have no effect.  
 > slay trolls  
 Attacking trolls with your bare hands would be suicide! Are you sure?  
 > yes  
 Surprisingly, you've slain the trolls. Upon closer inspection, they were arts students.  
 > exit building  
 You exit EIT. You encounter construction.  
 > go left  
 You encounter construction.  
 > go right  
 You encounter construction.  
 > go forward  
 You encounter construction.  
 > return to door  
 You encounter construction.  
 > return to door  
 You encounter construction.

> return to door  
 You have defeated construction. You are now a level 2 architect student.  
 > go left  
 You encounter a Linguistics Grad Student. It begins to charge.  
 > use katana  
 You move to SLICE.  
 But the Linguistics Grad Student disemvowels your attack!  
 You move to SLC.  
 Dazed and bewildered, you find yourself in the SLC  
 > go ice-cream  
 You bump into Dreaded Credit Card Saleswoman. Saleswoman casts charm. You are entranced with promises of free money.  
 > breakaway  
 You fail your common sense roll, you idiot. But you have a 20% daily compounded interest credit card.  
 > find ice-cream  
 You approach Federation Express.  
 > order ice-cream  
 You order ice cream from the Clerk. He is from the Pure Math faculty, and demands an artifact of great power.  
 > cast Architect's Greater Equilateral Triangle of Structural Integrity  
 An angry Linguistics Grad Student enters from the north.  
 The Clerk is awed by your artifact.  
 > order ice-cream  
 The Clerk is too entranced with the artifact to pay any attention to you.  
 > ORDER ICE-CREAM!  
 You are flattened by the charging beast.

The Mungeon Daster

## MC Dinosaur Siege

### *We interrupt this mathNEWS for an important announcement*

The math building has recently come under attack from armed dinosaurs. They have had catapults aimed at our windows for the past several weeks, for those who have not noticed the proliferation of siege weaponry while walking to or from class. Thankfully, the windows on the MC are rather small. There have been sporadic reports of trebuchets loaded with velociraptors aimed at the 8th floor. To aid in the defence of MC, I have developed the following battle plan in the unlikely case the dinosaurs manage to get access

Thankfully, there is only a small chance that the dinosaurs will be able to gain access on the ground or 2nd floor, as the doors are sturdier and smaller. Also, all entrances are invariably packed with frosh, adding an additional blockade to the dinosaur's advance, as well as slowing them down to eat the bodies. If it comes to a battle on the first or second floors, the software engineers will form the vanguard, as they are likely the most fit, and nobody cares much if they all die. Combinatorics/Optimization and Applied math students will make up the body of the force, with pure mathematics taking up the rear, as they will be unlikely to be able to do much, plus are too skinny to be good eating. If the structure of the defence collapses, a retreat to the

sixth floor will be called. The plan followed from this point will be the same as if the dinosaurs gain access via the eighth floor.

Presuming the dinosaurs gain access on the eighth floor, the first step is to evacuate all people in the building to the sixth floor. Once on the sixth floor, the next step is to prepare traps for the dinosaurs. Since the sixth floor is a huge maze, it should be relatively simple to avoid the dinosaurs while creating the traps. Also, since dinosaurs cannot read floor plans, it is plausible that many of them will die of starvation before escaping the sixth floor. At that point, it becomes a game of avoiding the dinosaurs while trapping them in offices and starving them, while waiting for rescue from other faculties. Under no circumstances should anybody try to escape to the lower floors; those will be full of dinosaurs. If anything, attempt to make it to the roof and signal for help.

That was the dinosaur siege plan that I have developed. Hopefully it will never have to be used, but I'm not too concerned since I'm a pure math student, and would thus be at the rear.

## One-Line NHL Season Previews

*It's like a twitter feed, but not!*

Hockey season is quickly upon us, and for those of us who follow hockey (ie the cool kids), I'm going to preview every team in the NHL with (almost) one sentence. Maybe even in burning question form!

- **Anaheim Ducks:** Removing the "Mighty" isn't going to help stop Duck-hunting season in Cali this year.
- **Atlanta Thrashers:** Say hello to one of the few teams thinner up front than the Toronto Maple Leafs. Heyo!
- **Boston Bruins:** Incredibly deep up front, dominant blueline and good goaltending means they'll get through a full regular season before choking again.
- **Buffalo Sabres:** Vezina-winning goalie should help alleviate the almost complete lack of talent on that blueline.
- **Calgary Flames:** Since when did banking on bringing in what didn't work two years ago come off as smart asset management?
- **Carolina Hurricanes:** Skinner and pals are talented, but a few years away from real contention again.
- **Chicago Blackhawks:** Fireselling the cup champs still show an incredibly deep top 12 forwards, so Turco should sleepwalk to 30 wins or more.
- **Colorado Avalanche:** Can Anderson duplicate being hot before new years and cold after?
- **Columbus Blue Jackets:** Team has done everything to justify a 25% decrease in season ticket renewals.
- **Dallas Stars:** Expect them to play like Dallas up front, the Leafs of last year on the backend
- **Detroit Red Wings:** Did you know Jimmy Howard has never played as well as he did last season in any of his prior stops in the minors? Ever?
- **Edmonton Oilers:** Hall, Eberle, MPS, Omark are all talented but man, is that goaltending situation a mess.
- **Florida Panthers:** Vokoun will be his spectacular self, but the Panthers will be out of it early and if he's lucky, he gets traded to a real team.
- **Los Angeles Kings:** They could be the next Chicago Blackhawks: Is this the year? (I'm thinking no)
- **Minnesota Wild:** James Sheppard's automobile crash is the em-

bodiment of their upcoming season.

- **Montreal Canadiens:** Will the Price finally be right? (No)
- **Nashville Predators:** Unsurprisingly deep on D, unsurprisingly less so on F: Whether or not Rinne loses his job like Ellis and Mason will be the key.
- **New Jersey Devils:** Kovalchuk only cost this team multiple prospects, two firsts and a third, it'll be fine!
- **New York Islanders:** Tavares and pals will be fine offensively, it's too bad Dipietro will likely sit the season out like he always does.
- **New York Rangers:** How Sather still has a job after Redden and Kotalik is beyond me.
- **Ottawa Senators:** Choking in the playoffs is a lot easier if they expect to make the playoffs this year.
- **Philadelphia Flyers:** The Eastern version of the Hawks: Deep everywhere but so many ??? in goal.
- **Phoenix Coyotes:** Can Kyle Turris finally show that he's ready for the bigs?
- **Pittsburgh Penguins:** Mike Comrie had a good year: Became Mr. Hillary Duff, and now a tryout on Crosby's line? Score! (No, really. He'll score if he sticks)
- **San Jose Sharks:** A powerhouse like they always will be in the regular season. The benefactor is going to be the goalie that starts off hotter.
- **St. Louis Blues:** Will Halak finally prove that he's a franchise goalie... For half the price of Luongo?
- **Tampa Bay Lightning:** Yzerman made many shrewd moves, but he's not Jesus. There are still a lot of things that need to go right for TB to succeed.
- **Toronto Maple Leafs:** On paper, deep at D, probably ok in goal and lol-worthy up front. Bold prediction: Clark MacArthur scores 73 points!
- **Vancouver Canucks:** Bold prediction: Sedin won't be as godly as he was last season. Reeeeeeally bold there
- **Washington Capitals:** Varlamov is the starter for now, but his shakey health and Neuvirth's talent means that might not be for long.

Hockey Fan Panda

## Pencil Policy

As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring academic integrity, the University of Waterloo Math Faculty is announcing its new Pencil Policy. As of this term, all tests, midterms, and finals must be written using a pencil approved by the Faculty. Through this policy, it can be assured that no cheating occurs through the use of non-approved pencils and that all students will have equal access to pencils throughout the term. The approved pencils are:

1. Dixon Ticongeroga 13882 HB2
2. Bic Criterion 2613 6B
3. Paper Mate Sharpwriter PAP30301 #2

### Where can I pick up one of these approved pencils?

Approved pencils can be picked up from the MathSoc office at the modest cost of \$3 each. All pencils will come with an annoying sticker on them to show that they are approved by the Math faculty for use on all tests and exams. **DO NOT REMOVE THIS STICKER!** An exam proctor may forbid you from using any pencil without a seal of approval sticker on it.

### I already have one of these pencils, can I use it?

The Faculty of Math has made every attempt to ensure that our pencil choices are so obscure and limited that you will be forced to buy them from us. However, in the rare case that you already have an approved pencil, a sticker of approval can be picked up from the MathSoc office.

### I have a pencil very similar to one in the list above, may I use it?

The Faculty has specifically crafted the list above to ensure academic integrity during all tests and exams. As such, all pencils not on the list that you wish to have approved must be dropped off for one full week of inspection at the MathSoc office. Also, don't you dare think of taking the sticker off of an approved pencil and sticking it on your own!

**Seriously, what harm could a pencil do?** Who knows!?! That's why we must carefully check over them before they are approved.

**I'm a first-year student and I think this policy is way too stringent.**

Oh, just you wait until you see our dropboxes!

## The Davis Center and YOU

*A newbie's experience with Dr. Cheriton's school of computer science*

**September 2009, upon viewing a photo of the Davis Center** After viewing a photograph of the Davis Center, I felt a bulge in my pants, which, albeit uncomfortable, felt rather pleasant. "Holy shit," I thought to myself, "this is our computer science building?! The fortress of solitude can suck kryptonite. The batcave can burn! WHO IS YOUR GOD NOW BRUCE WAYNE? THAT'S RIGHT, FIRE! FIRE! FIREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!"

**excitement = 4**

**November 2009, upon visiting the DC in person during the fall open house**

I tried to contain my excitement while visiting, but it was difficult. I cannot remember the exact details, but some witnesses stated that I began to sing and dance like Maria von Trapp (from the Sound of Music, for those currently without access to wikipedia) on crack cocaine. But don't listen to them; the griffins assured me that I was very classy.

**excitement = 8**

**September 6-10, 2010, frosh week**

This week flew by in a blur. The one thing I recalled from it about the Davis Center was that it was capable of producing FOOD. That's right, this place can feed you as well. Lasagna came out of this building. Orgasm on a plate. I thrust my pork fork all over that.

**excitement = 15**

**September 12, 2010, mathSoc meeting**

Half way during the meeting I felt the urge to urinate. Since I've recently discovered that it was socially unacceptable to urinate in someone's cup, in public, I decided to travel to the DC lavatory. To my disappointment, the urinals violate the International Federation Of Urinal Logistics (IFOUL) regulations! The lack of walls make it very difficult for one to release their bladder, whilst avoiding splash-back and/or invoking awkwardness.

**disappointment = 16**

**September 13, 2010, first day of class**

Excited for first day, I look down to check that I have the appropriate wardrobe: fuzzy bunny slippers, slightly stained boxers, orientation shirt with what appears to be ketchup (let me check.. yep, it's definitely ketchup), and topped off with the stylish pink math tie, a 3 Windsor (that's tying 3 knots, then a half Windsor. If you would like to learn this technique, ask around at mathSoc, I'm sure they can help you find me. I would give my email, but I have no interest in enlarging my penis; the last time didn't work, and lead to undesirable side effects.). Perfect.

I checked my schedule, ready to make my mark in the Davis Center, and... I have no classes there. This must be some kind of mistake. "This is MADNESS!" I shouted, which resulted in a man, wearing nothing but a red cape and briefs, to run through the door in front of me, scream some meme which everyone reading this probably knows, and kick me in the chest.

**disappointment = 23**

**September 16, 2010, aka the day that rained**

Today, water fell out of the sky. I made sure that I would not melt from being in it by dragging my roommate outside while he was asleep. Although he survived the experiment, he was somewhat irritated. It was nothing that we couldn't hug out. After concluding that the sky water causes irritation, I chose to avoid it at all costs. The Davis Center suddenly morphed into a gigantic umbrella, shielding me from the sky waters (which I have assumed, until further information, is the result of the moon crying).

**disappointment = 42**

**September 17, 2010,**

**Idontthinkanythingimportantshappenedtoday**

Once again, I'm forced to make a trip to the bathroom. The garbage is exploding with used paper towels (there's enough paper to write the first year calculus textbook... twice) and someone spilled strawberry flavoured bubble tea. While the aroma is pleasant, it renders 4 urinals unusable. Also, it's wasted bubble tea. My current suspect is one Mr. Bob L. T. Spellar. SIR, WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU? DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO DRINK BUBBLE TEA THAT HAS BEEN SPILLED ON THE GROUND? IF YOU MUST SPILL IT AGAIN, DO IT IN THE URINAL OR THE TOILET.

**disappointment = 108**

(note: if you haven't realized that 98% of these anecdotes are fictional (hello there, imprint!), this message is here to tell you so. I'll let you guys decide which 2% is true.)

Love,

theSMURF

## Dating Advice from the Psychic Guy

*Now with 100% more psychic-ness!*

To the next person: Yes. It is your fault.

**Dear Psychic Guy:** My significant other broke up with me the other day when I forgot to close the lid on the peanut butter. He said I wasn't responsible enough! But he does it too! Was I at fault here?

**- Faultless in Seattle**

Yes. Your husband slept with his secretary, just fyi.

**Dear Psychic Guy:** The other day when I was doing the laundry when I found the number of another woman in his jacket pocket. The card said "Fishing inquiries: Cindy, 555-xxxx." I didn't think fishing is still popular in October, so I got suspicious. Should I be?

**- I've got male (problems)**

She's out there somewhere. I see her ... now she's undressing ... getting into the shower ... man, she's pretty good looking, you lucky son of a gun.

**Dear Psychic Guy:** I've been single my whole life, and I'm really starting to wonder if there really is just that one special someone. I've been pretty sad recently because all my friends are in relationships. Is she out there for me?

**- 500 days of loneliness**

Psychic Panda

## Getting Up Early

### *The Text Based RPG*

You fall asleep around 2am, while doing your homework. You are currently sleeping.

> wake up

You are too tired to wake up. You keep sleeping until 9am, you are now late for class. Your class started at 8:30am.

> get ready for school

You are too sleepy to execute complex commands, you spend 5 minutes lying in bed trying to figure out what to do. The time is currently 9:05am. (Try to execute complex commands in pieces)

> get out of bed

You get out of bed. You are currently standing up beside your bed. The time is currently 9:06am.

> get dressed

You get dressed, your clothes do not look good together. You are wearing your Pink Math Tie, a pale blue shirt, and green jeans. You are currently standing beside your bed. The time is currently 9:10am.

> eat breakfast

You are not currently awake enough to execute that command, it involves too many steps. The time is currently 9:15am.

> wait

You wait until 9:20am... You have 1/2 hour left in your class,

## The One I Gave My Heart To

I hope you are reading this, because I want to meet you again. After our first meeting, I was moved. Your eyes, your face, I just can't take them off my mind. I hope this reaches you somehow, my love.

When I first saw you, the look you gave me when I approached gave me such satisfaction; I couldn't help myself. I know it sounds odd to fall in love at first sight, but I believe I finally had one of those moments, and I hope you felt the same.

My heart was pounding so hard, I believed it would burst. It's the feeling I yearn for, the feeling I constantly chase. I know my face was probably red at the time; I could feel the heat on it.

By just looking at you, I knew I just wanted to cut you up, ever so elegantly. The look of terror you gave as I approached with my two handy scissors filled me with lust. I wanted you. I wanted to mix our blood. I wanted to hear your heartbeat outside your chest. I wanted to feel the splatter of blood all over my body. I still haven't showered or changed my clothes since that day. I wanted to keep the marks of the splatter on me as a reminder of you.

But you started to run away from me. It made me feel sad. I just wanted to hold you close to me, as someone special, although I was quite surprised when your fake leg came off. I would've chased you until the end of the world if not for that moment. I couldn't help but feel even more attracted to you despite your attempt to escape with only one leg.

I will be waiting for you in the same place as last time. I'll happily return your leg if you let me play with you for a night. I'm sure you will enjoy it, and we'll gain a relationship that goes beyond flesh and blood, life and death. However, I can't promise the condition of the fake leg will still be good, since I decided to play with it a little bit afterward. Unfortunately, my emotions and desires got the best of me for that moment, and for that, I shall return your leg in a condition closest to what it was before.

I'll be waiting.

Girl with the bloody scissors

you should hurry to it.

You wait until 9:25am...

You wait until 9:30am...

You wait until 9:35am...

stop

> eat breakfast

You are just awake enough to do that. You fall down the stairs and bruise your leg. You trip while walking down the hall and bruise your arm against the wall. You get to the kitchen and start making yourself breakfast. You eat cereal. The time is currently 9:40. There are 10 minutes left in your class. HURRY!

> go outside

You open the door and walk outside, you cut your feet on shards of glass (you should have put on shoes). The sun blinds you momentarily. The time is currently 9:45. There are 5 minutes left in your class, there is no way to get there before it ends.

> give up

You are unable to do that, instead you sit on the ground for a while. The time is currently 9:50am, you have a second class at 10:30.

> help...

The Crabby Clam

## UW spawns too many Overlords

### *Mid Executive Overlords potential solution*

In an effort to keep the Staff Drones under their complete control, the University of Waterzerg's Overmind and its Dean Cerebrates have been spawning Overlords to keep Drones and other Brood on task and productive. However, a recent surge in resources has led to an overproduction in Overlords. In fact, many Overlords are currently unproductive and not helpful with their broodlings.

In addition to the recent Spawning Freeze, the University has unveiled a plan to allow for Mid Executive Overlords to spawn and help to direct the current Overlords. The proposed plan has received negative feedback from the Overlord community who have been demanding raises and Vespene Gas.

The proposed addition will allow the Cerebrates to direct the Mid Executive Overlords in the Overmind's designs. The Mid Executive Overlords will order the Overlords to send orders to the Mutalisks, Hydralisks, and the rest of the Swarm.

Opponents of change are warning that the Mid Executive Overlords may be just as unproductive as the current Overlords and slow bringing the wrath of the Swarm to Protoss Laurier or Connesterran College. Proponents question how anyone can have their own opinions under the Overmind and call for their immediate destruction.

The Hee Ho

## *dissed*CONNECTIONS

I saw you while hiding in the bushes, and couldn't help but see where you were going. It was a bit of a pain to climb up to the second floor window once you entered your place. Next time, leave the blinds open?

-Sore Arms

## The Nerfing of StarCraft II

*Blizzard is nerfing units in response to newbies' "Terran is OP!" whine.*

This is a Protoss player talking. There is absolutely no reason to nerf any race or any unit in particular! Why does anybody think Blizzard did close to 8 months of Beta testing? *I'll give you a hint: THEY WERE DOING BALANCE CHANGES!* Sadly enough, the community has whined to the maximum and Blizzard has made the executive decision to wreck the game beyond usable proportions.

Here's a basic list of the "balance changes" that are being implemented in the near future, and my nastily-written reaction to them.

(Please note: I am a diamond league 1v1 and gold 2v2 random player. I don't know how much or how little this qualifies me in writing the following comments, but if you think otherwise, please, Imprint wants to hear about it!)

### Protoss

- Zealot build time is increasing to 38 (from 33) seconds.
- Zealot warpgate cooldown is increasing to 28 (from 23) seconds.

Official quote from Blizzard: "Zealot rushes are currently too powerful at various skill levels, particularly those that rely on rapidly assaulting an enemy base from nearby "proxy" gateways. We feel the window players have to scout for and fend off this rush is too small." This is Blizzard basically saying: "stop sucking against Protoss, but because we are only slightly evil and are incredibly rich, we will nerf these beastly warriors in an attempt to piss off professional Protoss players."

Thanks Blizzard. It worked. You have now pissed off most Protoss players.

## Gritty Reboot of the Math Faculty

*New Dean, New Rules*

Date: 1965. A university filled with artsies and engineers. People concerned with each other. A recipe for disaster.

Suddenly, some students, lead by a rebel professor, the ingenious Ralph Stanton, lead a rebellion. Soon, a new faculty, one that had no concern for human well-being, instead has concern for numeric perfection, is born.

The system was turned against it, and the Chevron, and the quickly growing Imprint soon imposed their distaste for the rebels. To combat them, the faculty turned to their metaphorically exposed genitals, and *mathNEWS* was born out of children's scalps and tears of their mothers.

45 years later. New Dean, Ian Goulden, hits the scene. This fall, expect scenes of screaming, and maybe even a blood-splattered pink tie. There may even be epic trailer music composed by John Williams. Vomit, religion, and numbers combine for the epic school year of: MATH 2010.

Tbor

### Terran:

- Reaper build time increasing to 45 (from 40) seconds.
- Bunker build time increasing to 35 (from 30) seconds.
- Siege tanks base damage is changing to 35 (+ 15 for armoured) (from 50 base).
- Siege tank upgrade is changing to +3(+2 for armoured) instead of +5 base.
- Battlecruiser damage against ground units is decreasing to 8 (from 10).

This is Blizzard basically saying: "Please stop massing Siege Tanks and Battlecruisers because people are whining about how overpowered they are. Also, stop 5-rax-rushing (Google this if you are not familiar with SC2) and bunker expanding so fast because Zergs are usually too incompetent to understand how to counter such a simple, overused strategy."

### Zerg:

- Ultralisk bonus damage is decreasing from +25 vs. Armored to +20 vs. Armored (15 base).
- Ultralisk "Ram" has been removed since the overall damage was less than the normal attack damage, especially vs. tightly packed buildings like Supply Depots.

Basically, Blizzard loves Zerg and wonders why people complain so much. It is purely because of this that Blizzard is only nerfing the "ultimate" unit of Zerg, and this is only because they did the same to Terran. This is likely a ploy for more professional Zerg players to rise from the depths (ahem, Jaedong?!) and overload the top-level rankings.

The sitrep online says it all, so here's the source:  
<http://eu.battle.net/sc2/en/blog/554901>

Until next time, try not to set yourself on fire.  
On the Fields of Justice,

Merlini

## The Real Secrets to Success

*All the crap they should have told you but didn't have the guts.*

1. **Your Education** - All that junk they taught you in high school? Forget it.
2. **Your Grades** - You thought you were smart? Well think again.
3. **Your Social Life** - You have none.
4. **Sleep** - You don't need it.
5. **Your Money** - Gone in the vortex of Waterloo profit.
6. **Food** - You can't afford it.
7. **Your Health** - Not important.
8. **Your Soul** - Doomed to eternal damnation. (This shouldn't be a surprise.)
9. **Your Face** - Horribly disfigured. I have no idea why.

The Unfortunate Optimist

**profQUOTES**

Prof: What's the first rule of vector spaces?

Student: It's closed under addition.

Prof: I was going for "You don't talk about vector spaces".

La Croix, MATH 235

[About Flat-Earth people] I want to know what they're smoking and I want LOTS of it.

Hutter, CLAS 202

When you're drinking, it always seems like a good idea. And we all have pictures on Facebook that prove that it wasn't.

Hutter, CLAS 202

Who's in AMATH? [no hands are raised] Good. None of you are wasting your time! Well, none of you in AMATH are wasting your time.

Coons, PMATH 340

I could get hit by a truck today, and it wouldn't matter how I implemented my skip lists.

Dan Roche, CS 240

It has picked some exact, highly precise approximation.

Cormack, CS 145

It's not sexist to point out what is true.

Smith, ECON 101

If you don't like it, go to the dean and complain that you are being taught too much!

Smith, ECON 101

Life sucks. Is that clear?

Smith, ECON 101

There's nothing like going to bed and waking up in the morning and you are richer. And if you've had sex that night, it was a night well spent. Unless you're an idiot and can't get either.

Smith, ECON 101

Oooh, numbers!

Smith, ECON 101

[The Internet] is the largest, biggest, most efficient way to assemble the largest number of stupid people at one site.

Smith, ECON 101

You've all carefully dressed so that you don't look like you've carefully dressed so that you don't stand out.

Smith, ECON 101

Want the government to pay you all your life? Join the Soviet Union, but you can't, because the Soviet Union doesn't exist anymore.

Smith, ECON 101

I couldn't make it clearer if I jumped up and down, which I am prepared to do if necessary.

Smith, ECON 101

I don't feel it's necessary to give a fair exam.

New, PMATH 351

Can you send letters? My goodness. If you've seen the stack of unopened bills on my desk, you wouldn't ask that question.

Cormack, CS 145

I'm sorry. This is a computer science class, not a philosophy class. I can't answer "Why?".

Cormack, CS 145

You might say "Wait a minute, that should be  $1+1!$ " Well it isn't. Live with it.

Cormack, CS 145

I know all of you have taken vows of chastity and poverty when you took this course.

Mann, PHYS 121

If I wanted to measure the speed of the lava, I could take some graduate students and set them out along the lava...

Mann, PHYS 121

Student: Do we have to deal with jerk?

Prof: Oh, I have to deal with jerks all the time. Oh, wait, you meant the quantity!

Mann, PHYS 121

It is not true for all positive integers, so it's good we aren't trying to prove that.

Hare, MATH 147

[on a variable] We could have called it Spot, or Rover, or z, or y.

Hare, MATH 147

Philosophical positions are like... zombies. They're never really dead, just temporarily underground.

DeVidi, PHIL 359

Student: Can you make us a handout with more details?

Prof: There's this building over there. It's called a library.

Emerson, AMATH 473

Let me make it easy to remember for you, and a bit tasteless. Fraternal twins are when there's two different eggs, so technically there could be two different fathers... Should I stop there?

Friedman, PSYCH 211

There's a copy of the textbook on reserve at the library... which means which means if it gets lost, I'll know who did it and I will kill them. Slowly. Actually, this year I might let the rest of the class kill them.

Taylor, PHYS 475

Assignments are due at the end of the day. And by that I mean anytime you can break into the building.

Taylor, PHYS 475

I was giving a tour of the observatory one day and ended up explaining how the stars are actually like the Sun, just really far away. It was great to catch people up from the 15th century.

Taylor, PHYS475

I've already said one politically incorrect thing today; let's see what else I can say.

Cormack, CS145

## Lessons from co-op:

### *People are stupid*

People need to learn that those learning software engineering/computer science are not geniuses in all things computer related. Story in point:

Walking into the new house that I would call home for the next four months, my landlady's boyfriend welcomes me with "You're in computer science, right? It means that you're good with computers, right? I think my computer has a virus. Can you help?" Before I get a chance to realize what is going on, I'm whisked away to his house and placed in front of his 8-year-old computer.

As he is proudly telling me that he's running XP, I open up the computer and get spammed with half a dozen pop-ups telling me that the anti-virus program on the computer has expired. Confused, I attempt to open up IE6, and the program doesn't run; instead another batch of similar pop-ups bombard me more frequently than kirby with a fan. I am then told that he had bought the antivirus as soon as he had got the popups. After asking him

whether or not he had the antivirus on his computer before the pop-ups appeared, he replies with "No, but the computer is supposed to know when I need the program, right?" He also tells me that he mostly uses the computer to browse the web and buy porn.

Despite having no experience in computer security and removing viruses without the aid of a program, I was able to outline the repairs.

1. Cancel the credit card used to buy the "anti-virus". It's probably already been abused.
2. Buy a new computer. Seriously, it's a miracle that it was still running.
3. Dude, it's the internet. You can get porn for free.

Driving back to my place, he tells me how thankful he is for the advice. Before I walk back in, he grabs my shoulders and makes me swear to never tell his girlfriend about this.

Moral of this story: **People are stupid!**

!case

### MathNews Article Design Algorithm



# Cryptic 101

## *An introduction to Cryptic Crosswords*

This article was first printed in October 2004 to help untrained students solve cryptics. Now that the cryptic is back, we've decided to reprint this article in an almost pristine state. This is your novice guide to cryptics.

The fundamental principle of a cryptic clue is that it is composed of two distinct parts: the definition, and the wordplay. Both parts suggest the same word, which is the solution to the clue.

The definition is like the normal crossword clue to the word, but is hidden within the clue. Fortunately, it is always located at the very beginning or very end of the clue. It is usually one word, but can be an entire phrase. The definition can be a rather vague association with the answer, as you will see in the examples provided below.

The wordplay is the rest of the clue. It clues the same answer as the definition, but using one or more forms of letter/word tricks. Good cryptic clues do not have any extra or redundant words [*My clues probably will for at least the first couple of issues — InsidED*]. Frasier Simpson, who writes for the *Saturday Globe and Mail*, is a well-known writer and follows this policy.

The rest of this article is dedicated to those tricks and examples (all from the 3<sup>rd</sup> issue of Fall 2004, which you can find the complete puzzle on our website: <http://mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/Issues/mn9603/cryptic.php>).

1. **Hidden Word:** The simplest form of cryptic clue, where the answer is hidden right in the clue! Look at 21 Down: "Happy in the late draw (6)". Here, "happy" is the definition, and "in" is what I call the action word: the word that directs the reader how to proceed. In this case, the answer is "in" what follows. Thus, we find in bold: "**the late draw**", elated = happy. At this point it is important to note that "in" doesn't always mean a hidden clue. Keep reading to see why.
2. **Anagram:** Another fairly simple cryptic clue is the anagram, where all the letters are given in the clue; you simply have to rearrange them into the answer. Try 11 Down: "Hospital got new scientist (11)". The definition is "scientist", and "new" is our action word. "New", "old", "broken", "fixed", "arranged", "mixed", etc. are all examples of action words that signify an anagram. Here, we take a new version of "hospital got" to get a "scientist". You could try rearranging those letters to see if you can find it. No? The answer is pathologist.
3. **Double Definition:** Sometimes there is no wordplay, and the rest of the clue is simply another definition. If the clue is only two words, it is almost guaranteed to be a double definition. Sometimes longer clues will also be a definition. Now take a look at 29 Across: "Most aware of smallest angle (7)". Here, the two definitions are "most aware of" and "smallest angle". Try pausing for a moment and see if you can find the word that means both. Give up? It's... acutest.
4. **Synonyms:** Quite often words are used in wordplay to represent other words. Often words are replaced by only letters that represent them in everyday life ("empty" becomes "e", for example). Sometimes words are used to represent themselves! Try 25 Down: "Co-op student in migrating bird (6)". Definition is "co-op student", "in" is just "in", and a migrating bird is a "tern". "in" + "tern" = intern = co-op student.

Now you might be thinking: "How was I supposed to know that?" Well, you weren't exactly. There are many migrating birds. But this one happens to make the entire clue make sense, and thus you know you have the right answer.

5. **Homonyms:** Sometimes the action word will direct you to listen to how a word is pronounced, or more often, to listen to how a synonym of a word is pronounced. The answer will be a homonym of this synonym. An example is best, so let's look at 1 Down: "Seafood body parts, say (7)". The definition is "seafood" and the action word is "say". Try "say"ing some body parts. One of them is bound to sound like a kind of seafood. Have you got it? Muscles sound like mussels, which is the answer.
  6. **Puns:** A question mark at the end of a clue means that solving this clue will either take a stretch of the imagination (further than normal!) or will actually be a pun. These are usually combined with other simple wordplays. For a great example, try 23 Down: "We hear kisses with flowers? (6)". The definition is "flowers", and the action words are "we hear". A homonym clue! What synonym for "kisses with" sounds like "flowers"? It's not too hard, now that you know it's a pun. Well, you kiss with two lips, which sounds like tulips. Get it? I hope you found that as funny as I did.
  7. **Complete Clue:** An exclamation mark informs the reader that the entire clue is **both** the definition **and** the wordplay. This is rarely used, but can be quite interesting when it is. There are no examples from that issue, but two issues before it, one of the clues was "Become a couple! (8)". This clue was both a pun and a complete clue. Here we go, prepare to groan. Become a couple means together, but become a couple for a guy is the same as **to get her!**
  8. **Construction:** Now comes the complicated part. Many action words direct you to rearrange the words or synonyms you have created using the above rules to finish the clue. The majority of cryptic clues use this technique, combining the above, and having **other** action words complete the answer. Words like "after" direct you to move some letters to the end. "Up" can mean you write a down clue upside down. "In" can mean you physically put one word inside another. "Heartless" may mean you remove the middle letter of a word. Let's look at a big clue and see it all fall together. 20 Down: "Sun up stores chance without small check of subtleties (7)". Our definition is "subtleties". Our action words are "up", "stores" and "without". This is what we do (follow carefully): "sun up" in a down clue is "nus". "Stores" tells us we're going to put something into "nus". That something is "chance without small check". A small check is "ch", a standard abbreviation. So "chance without ch" is "ance". Have you kept up? We "store" "ance" in "nus". Can you see where we put it? nuances = of subtleties.
- That last example was just one way that cryptic clues can become quite intricate. For instance, synonyms can be combined with anagrams to create harder clues! This involves taking a synonym of a word in the clue, and then taking an anagram of the synonym to solve the clue. You will learn, only by doing, how all the clues fit together. CodeMaster will gladly answer any questions in the future about the grid. Until then, happy solving!

# gridCOMMENTS

## The Changing of the Guard

Salutations! It is with great felicity that I welcome you to a fresh term of eloquent verbiage, elegant verbosity, and invigorating challenge. Truly, this will be a term of great opportunity, of stunning victory, of dashing defeat. A term when we separate the grain from the chaff, the weak from the strong, the exponential from the polynomial. For this term, we see a change in those cruel messengers of fate who bring to you the clues for our devious grids. The grand and seditious perki has left us, and in his stead, *I* now control the grids and expeditious clues. My co-conspirator in vexation, the fiendish CryptMaster, will be returning to scribe the cryptic clues. Before a faint spark of hope alights itself in your heart, allow me to drive you back to despair by reminding you that the two sets of clues correspond to two entirely separate and equally obscure sets of words.

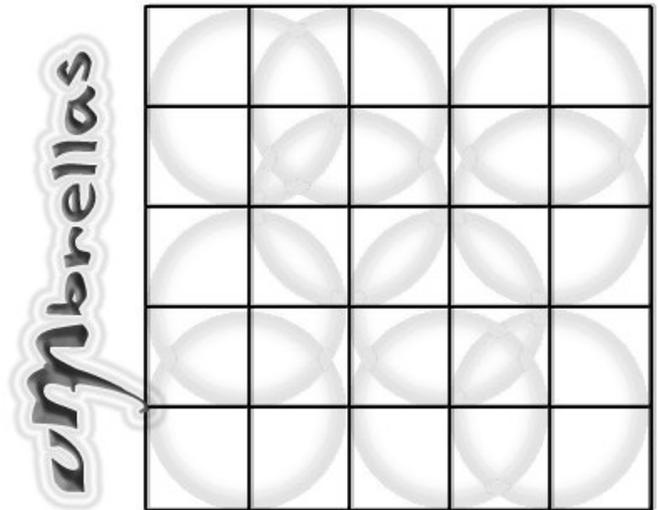
If you manage to delude yourself into believing that you have somehow completed a grid, or even if you have not, drop it off in the **BLACK BOX** located just outside the comfy lounge on the third floor of MC for a chance to win a most exquisite prize. This issue, the first prize for each set of clues will be an all-expense paid trip to the Kingdom of Norway, and second prize for each will be exquisite but not nearly as exorbitant: a gift certificate to the Math C&D. Incidentally, I would like to applaud ¬perki and CryptMaster on their correct submissions to this week's *gridWORD*; stop by the MathSoc office to claim your prize, your flights leave tomorrow.

Submissions should also include an answer to the *gridQUESTION*, which will be used to select a victor in the case of plurality of equivalent entries. This week's *gridQUESTION* is: "Forsooth, upon yonder hill across the moor, a shadowy figure doth approach; but pray, sirs and madams, why does he ride with such ferocity?"

¬perki

9	2	5	2	8	0
6	0	1	1	8	0
1	1	2	5	0	8
6	5	1	4	9	9
0	6	2	1	9	3
8	0	6	8	0	6
4	9	6	5	0	0
4	9	0	6	5	0

Place the following 10 squares on the 10 circles so that the overlapping numbers match up.



# Drywall

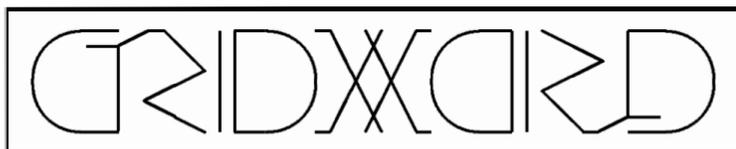
"Listen up. Our client isn't picky, as long as each square has the right number of walls surrounding it. Sounds a little tricky, but we didn't get to be the #3 drywall outfit in town by being lazy."

Also:

- There's a wall around the outside
- They want exactly 9 rooms

3	2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2
2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
1	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1
2	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	1
3	2	2	3	3	1	0	0	0	1
2	1	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2
1	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2
1	0	1	3	2	1	2	2	1	2
2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3

Puzzles courtesy  
of euri.ca



1		2		3		4	5		6		7
					8						
9					10						
11								12			
						13					
14		15									
16				17					18		
			19								
20							21				
22						23					

## Quick Clues

### Across

1. Lengths of a forearm
4. Bury
9. Egg centres
10. In favour of the best
11. Excellent
12. Shroud
14. Approximating without care
16. Initial stakes
17. Plot
20. Organic chemical messenger
21. Red-breasted thrush
22. Replaces rail track
23. Ice dancing equipment

### Down

1. Codebreaker
2. Norse god of light
3. Most delicious
5. Catch or arrest
6. Paper folding
7. Ypres, Passiondale, Agincourt, etc
8. Arcs subtending pi
13. Twilight of the gods
15. Fascinate
18. Automaton
19. Trickster god

## Cryptic Clues

### Eastbound

1. Rough class, so I hear (6)
4. 100 endless rats surround Virginia necktie (6)
9. Organic material to transgress devine law again (5)
10. To bury disorganized ceremonies evacuated outside deep sleep phase (7)
11. Surrounding alien phoning home stuck in police operations (8)
12. Video comes from plan to fulfil my destiny (4)
14. Backwards Ben embraced not starting high before our bonnet's immediate surroundings (13)
16. Next to receive a gas, by the sound of it? (4)
17. Ignore it, charged particles setting on fire (8)
20. Wet bird's scrambled home doesn't come before me in French (7)
21. Characteristic of an endless stupid male (5)
22. Remembering gets television award surrounded by endless minerals (6)
23. Arousing to store decay in chief editor (6)

### Southbound

1. Detailed car without left end before bug mother falling below helium flower (13)
2. As to put something useful (5)
3. Endless sun places length in dark laundry detergent (8)
5. Urinating below compact disk memory to win easily (4)
6. Dizzying resistance inside a small veteran, one goes without Spain (7)
7. The moderate many scrambled within the not quite rich heat (13)
8. Jingly singing a wrong song scrambling the headless getting older (11)
13. French program appearance arranges more offensive (8)
15. Dislike does not start after beheading irises' platinum alloy (7)
18. Stupid me puts myself in round spack (5)
19. Famous ball of fire (4)

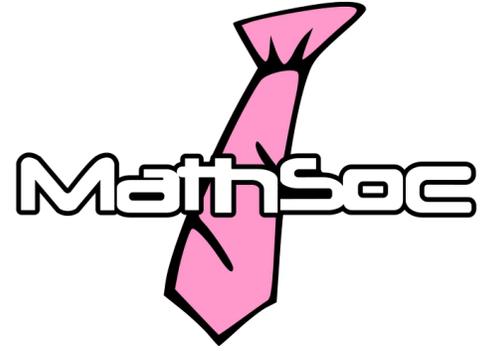
## Never seen a cryptic crossword before?

Learn how to solve it on page 20

Submit before the long weekend (*gridQUESTION* on page 21)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# First-year Mentorship Program Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an international student? (Y) / (N)

Why are you applying for the mentorship program? What do you hope to achieve?

Are you from a small town? City?

List some of your interests:

Why are you suitable to be a mentor? (Mentors only)

# Math Undergrad Mentorship Program Information

This term, Mathsoc is starting a mentorship program for first-year students. The basic idea of the program is to set up incoming first year students with upper year mentors who will help them adjust to university life, both academically and in their extracurriculars. We encourage all who are interested to apply. We need both mentors and mentees to sign up so that we can make suitable matches, so send in those applications!

These forms are due on **Friday October 1st, 2010 by 4:30**. You can hand them into the First Year Affairs mailbox, or simply give it to one of the workers at MathSoc. After this, we will hold "Mentorship Speed Meet," where the mentees will get to meet a few suitable mentors and choose who would be the best match to guide them through first year. This event will be held on Wednesday October 6th, 2010 at 5:00pm in the Comfy. Mentors, please arrive 15 minutes early for a quick info session.

We will continue to accept applications and make matches after these dates, but you may not have a choice of who your mentor or mentee will be. Note: There will be free food at the speed meet event! As your mentors will tell you, these are very important events during university!

