

math NEWS

MATHIE FANTASY

Bonus question!!



PM 79/100

GM 83/100

SE 92/100

Fight

Magic

Item

▷ Vote

Volume 115, Issue 2
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lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

February 4	Issue 2 gets political
February 14	Fall in love with production night

MathSoc

Tuesdays	Games night
Thursdays	Movies/Karaoke night
February 12	Ski Trip! Go to mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca for more details

Math Faculty

February 7-12	Class enrollment for Spring 2011
February 14	Open enrollment for Spring 2011

Miscellaneous

February 6	Dump Your Significant Jerk Day
February 13	Madly in Love With Me Day
February 14	Valentine's Day

Prez Sez*And what he says goes*

Hello Fellow Mathies. It's been a busy couple of weeks and it's only going to get busier! We have the budget for the term all settled by now. I have been working extensively with the other societies and FedS on the societies agreement which should be just about wrapping up shortly. I was coloured pink and put into a dumpster for Colour Me Educated and I have been loving to work with all the new faces around MathSoc. Some things I'll be doing in the near future are: possibly changing the policy on the use of the Comfy lounge, getting a prototype up and running for the digital signage project, meeting with the Dean to talk on a number of different issues and of course, continuing my meetings with my amazing directors. Some things for you to take into consideration are: orientation leader applications are ending soon so if you want to be a leader, sign up fast, the Faculty Council on Student Appeals is looking for a new member, the Student Life Endowment Fund is looking for a math representative and finally, class rep nomination forms are due today the 4th of Feb at 4:30 pm for MathSoc Council. Feel free to contact me about any of these things or anything else. And don't forget to come say hi in MathSoc.

Andre Gomes Magalhaes

MathSoc President Winter 2011

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The editor(s): Harrison Gross, Will Hughes, Lucifer and Michael respectively.

mastHEAD*Egypt, UBB, FedS and more!*

Hello there *mathNEWS* readers! A lot has been happening both on campus and around the world. First thing, as those rascals at the Chevron have noted, Egypt has erupted into full out revolution against their President of 30 years. It has been rather intense watching the coverage, especially since many of the protesters and rioters are young and are clamouring for freedom and democracy. This writer (GroovyED) is inspired and hopes that everything goes well for them. (*mathNEWS* has no stance on the issues, other than the "walk like an Egyptian" memes are rather amusing.)

Back here in Canada, Usage Based Billing has recently become an actual political issue, with the NDP and Liberal parties calling for a reversal of the decision made by the CRTC and with the Conservative government making a review of the decision. Teksaavy and other minor players have been affected by the ruling dropping usage caps in Ontario from 200 GB to 25 GB.

Finally, on campus we have the magical FedS elections going on. Teams Real and Rhino, as well as the independent candidates have been attempting to garner our sympathy and support as they put themselves on the podium to be torched by the students. Which leads to this week's *mastHEAD* question: What do you look for in an ideal FedS candidate?

(define this (not cool)) ("Eight Inches"), ieatyourSANDVICH ("Heart, brain, spleen, digestive system..."), Soviet Canadian ("The dream and will to dominate the entire campus"), waldo@<3.LEGASP.ca ("a conscience"), BlueberryMuffin ("the scent of elderberries"), Zethar ("dragons"), The Unfortunate Optimist ("Doesn't matter as long as they have cool posters"), StillDreaming ("Magic"), Anti-life ("The ability to wield large Stompy Robots"), InsideR ("BRAAAAAAAAAAAAAAINS!"), the country convict ("must own guns"), MustardMap ("level 10 gold plated man card"), RedMetal ("What's this about an election?"), Tie Frosh ("A large, white, shiny horn."), theSMURF ("A high APM"), FuzzyED ("Medium rare"), ¬perki ("¬rhino")

GroovyED

Not staying in the Bomber every Wednesday night.

VPA Sez

Hello Mathies! Last week we ran mock interviews for those who dropped in to hone their interview skills. I hope everyone had fun and feel ready to ace your interviews! We also did a survey on our earlier resume workshop, and the results are promising: we're glad you find it helpful! We'll be running another resume workshop for second round job postings and we'll be posting the location and date soon. If you walk by MC Comfy, you will see our TEXTBOOK LIBRARY! Yes, we do lend out these books! Go to MathSoc Office for details. Did you know 80% of companies use social media (LinkedIn, Twitter, etc) to recruit? Give your profile a professional polish with a FREE professional photo shoot session at SLC 2143, from 11am to 1pm next Wednesday (Feb 9th). Come dressed to impress! As always, if you have any concerns/suggestions, feel free to email me at vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca, or come and talk to me.

Hellen Hou

VPA MathSoc Winter 2011

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WatSFic Sez

Hey there mathies, the Waterloo Science Fiction Club wants you to come out to our events! We've got a board games day on Saturday February 5th in MC 3001, the Comfy lounge, from noon until we all want to go home.

We also have a meeting next week on Wednesday February 9th at 6:00 PM in MC 2017, where we talk about books and games and often will go and chill out afterwards. The week after that, on Wednesday February 16th, we will be watching The Astronaut Farmer and Contact in conjunction with the UW Space Society.

Besides this, we are running a book club this term, reading Anthem by Neal Stephenson. The dates are still being fully worked out, if you are interested, please email us at watsfic@gmail.com. We are also running a D&D 3.5 tournament on March 12th for teams of players and individuals. If you are interested, please check out the website located here: <http://www.watsfic.uwaterloo.ca/dnd/>.

There are also weekly Magic the Gathering events, described here: <http://groups.google.com/group/uwaterloo-fnm?pli=1>. As well, there are weekly D&D 4.0 events going on through Living Forgotten Realms, and a Vampire: the Masquerade LARP going by the name Waterloo By Night. For information about these are more, go to the WatSFic website at <http://www.watsfic.uwaterloo.ca> or email us at watsfic@gmail.com

Harrison Gross

VPF Sez

WatSFic Prez W2011

Hey everyone! This is Anna on behalf of Selin for VPF.

Selin has been EXTREMELY busy preparing budgets for the term, and is excited to announce they are ready! SO your awesome events are now funded!!!

She hopes the next two weeks are FABULOUS for everyone, and hopes people email her because she LOVES emails.

Anna out.

Selin Erkaya

VPF MathSoc Winter 2011

vpf@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca



VPAS Sez

Hey Mathies!! Hope you guys are all doing well on your midterms.

Our weekly MathSoc events are underway. We've been holding our very popular Games Nights on Tuesdays in the Comfy. We also have been holding Bi-weekly Movie Nights on Thursdays. A couple weeks ago we played Inception and Scott Pilgrim. Wicked right? Come out next Thursday to see two more very awesome movies! We also just bought a brand new Karaoke Machine (with a light show) and lots of amazing new songs. Yesterday was our first EVER Karaoke Night in the Comfy. Tons of people came out to show off their singing. If you missed it, we will be holding another night on February 17th at 7PM, so come out then!

MathSoc is holding a Ski/Snowboard Trip to Blue Mountain on Feb 12th. If you'd like to buy tickets, they will be on sale on Wednesday and Thursday on the 3rd floor. There are a limited number, so make sure you buy them soon! We are also selling Valentine's Day Roses and Candy Grams that you can send out to your friends and loved ones Pretty AWESOME as well! They will be on sale on the third floor next week.

The office has been cleaned up and is looking AMAZING! Make sure you stop by and have a peek. We've also ordered some new locks, so if you signed up for a locker, you can purchase a lock in the office!

The Novelties Board has been busy planning out some new stuff for the term. Math Girls, soon we will have some wonderful new girl T-shirts! GET EXCITED.

Finally, the exec office hours are now posted on the door. We LOVE having visitors, so make sure you drop by then.

Have a fantastic couple of weeks!!

Anna Merkoullovitch

VPAS MathSoc Winter 2011

vpas@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

MathFOC Sez

Hey there awesome students,

MathFOC here asking you "Have you ever wanted to be more awesome than you currently are? Do you want to meet new people? Gain leadership skills? Be a part of something phenomenal?"

If the answer to any of those questions were yes (or even if they were no), you should apply to be an orientation leader for Math Orientation Week 2011. You can apply at: <http://orientation.math.uwaterloo.ca/applications>. Head Pink Tie and Head Black Tie applications will close at February 4th @ 6 pm (which is tonight, so get on that!). Also, priority consideration will be given to Pink Ties and Black Ties who apply by February 4th @ 6 pm (also tonight).

There is also a special event called Orientation Goes Varsity happening on February 4th @ 5 pm in the PAC (tonight as well... see the pattern?). This is a great opportunity to meet other orientation leaders, other FOC and get psyched about Orientation Week. So come cheer on our Men's and Women's Basketball Team as they battle Lakehead!

Finally, like our Facebook page: <http://facebook.com/MathOrientation2011> to get all the happenings and fun stuff surrounding Math Orientation Week 2011

Gee, Heather, Jesse, Kumar

FedS Voter Analysis

Doing what no one has done in recent memory

On one fine Tuesday afternoon, two lowly mathematicians decided to venture across campus to decide what people actually think about the current Federation election. Veering away from standard Imprint protocol to only care about people within shouting distance of their office doors, we have tried to question about 10 people per building that was visited.

The questions were carefully selected to give us the most amount of information given the least amount of words. No names or programs were requested to protect the impeccant. We asked our faithful subjects about their opinions concerning the election and the party candidates.

We were surprised to find that 96% of the people we questioned knew about the election. We were less surprised to learn that when 74% said they don't care at all about the election. Another 20% cringed and gave us a "we're sorry" look and eventually settled with "kind of care" about the election. Only 6% actually said that they indeed care about the election.

More important however, was our last question which had to do with whether the individual was actually going to vote. Our results were highly optimistic with 17% of students saying that they will vote, 6% were undecided whether they would vote, and 77% who admitted to us with no remorse that they would not be voting in the Federation election. Now these results look pretty good considering previous voter turnout (last year about 10%) but these are highly optimistic as we shall soon see. First of all out of the people who were planning to vote only half knew the dates that the polls were open. Additionally 75% of the people who were planning to vote knew one of the candidates in the running personally.

What does this tell us about this whole election process? While the candidates do an excellent job of keeping a wide circle of friends, the average student voter is still completely uninvolved and uninformed. Most who knew about the election, only figured it out because of the large number of posters. They, however, did not know who was running, what positions they were running for and why they should even care.

Naturally I'm not quite sure who to blame for this? Do we blame the students for not trying to get informed? No, that's not really fair, I mean students have assignments, tests, midterms, co-op applications, and personal lives. It is kind of difficult to get informed about something you know nothing about while being busy with school.

Do we blame the candidates? Well here is the issue with that. The candidates are somewhat limited in what they can do to engage more students to vote. Now this doesn't mean that they are doing everything they can. Most candidates do nothing more than the minimum that they are required. They do not speak to voters or attempt to engage voters outside of the debates. Candidates should be out there kissing hands and shaking babies.

So were left with one group, one that should most logically be encouraging students to vote. Yes I am of course talking about FedS. While the video of Dave McDougall is pretty awesome it doesn't inform those people who have no idea what is going on. FedS job in this election should be to reach as large number of students as possible. This should probably include people who don't regularly visit FedS on Facebook or the SLC in general. In this FedS has been failing miserably.

NaFinkz



C S C F L A S H

Greetings, denizens of the MC! The Computer Science Club salutes you this fine Winter, and would like to inform you of many of our exciting upcoming events. This evening, join us in Comfy at 7PM for an evening of code, snacks, code, music, code until the sun rises! Work on your own projects, your homework, or any software that might need development. If you have ever desired to contribute to open source projects, this could be your much-needed introduction. Just ask and CSC members will be sure to guide you in the right direction. As well, look forward to the final installment of our Unix tutorials, Unix 103, taking place in MC 3003 next Thursday, February 9. Head out to the Mac Lab to learn about version control and any other relevant topics we might lecture on. We are open to direction, and if these topics don't interest you but you have questions concerning Unix and the math faculty computing environment, come out anyways and ask away! Hope to see you there.

Calum T. Dalek
Chairbeing Extraordinaire

March of the Mathies

In the far northern reaches of Canada, brethren of penguins have been discovered making a living in the harsh backwaters of Waterloo. Huddled with downy coats and the occasional tuxedo suit, the Boreas throws his fury against these diligent beings in attempt to hinder them and them halting would be devastating to the family which they leave behind, sheltered and warm, caught between the meagre residence and the gaping jaws of social expectation.

These miraculous beings make the journey across the frozen wastelands huddled, heads low in vain attempt to protect themselves from the biting needles of winter's wrath. Travelling in groups, they converge to generate warmth, leading to long torrents of people which snake and trudge along the well worn ice floes, all thinking of pleasant thoughts far away from their frigid surroundings.

After intense study and observation, it has been determined the shuffling specimens are of similar age range, usually between 18 and 20 years of age. The elders of the species seem to view the privilege of being able to freeze and die of hypothermia in high esteem since the terminus of the journey, being able to feed on the knowledge of others is regarded highly in the greater society and thus is a key to social movement. However, the social structure of the species is not privy to the researchers' eyes as they have continually baffled all scientific explanations.

In the world filled with doom and gloom of global warming and natural habitat loss, it is heartening to animal activists that penguins, one of the most vulnerable animals in the forces of climate change, are able to adapt and thrive in new environments. More observation and study is required to see if this phenomena can be replicated in other endangered species, such as the polar bear of Canada.

Zethar

Response to the Letter From the BLACK BOX

To Unsigned

Thank you for your response. Out of respect for you, I am going to assume that you knew the article was meant to be humorous. But you did respond to it in a way that said some important things about math and students at UW in general.

Being around others and still feeling extremely alone is terrifying and upsetting. I feel that people who I consider friends are just around to stab me in the back often, as I am worried I have done to them.

As the writer of Rainbow Mathies would certainly assert, mathematics isn't really a place where homosexuals and allies feel at home any more than anywhere else. I worry that without talking about it, loneliness will never go away. But many math students seem to be emotionally blank slates, including myself. We don't seem to want to talk to each other about emotions. Of course I am making generalizations about students in the faculty. I'm sure there are a lot of emotionally satisfied people as well, but from my experience they are few and far between.

I guess I'm writing this not just in response to your email, but I want to remind everyone that they're not alone, and they shouldn't feel bad if they need to talk to someone about it. People will be open to talking. There are friends around.

Lonely in Waterloo

Your Biweekly Dose of Bad Math Jokes

Part 2: Electric Bugaloo

Because the number of death threats resulting from my previous article was bounded, I have returned yet again to inspire groans in my fellow mathies. Yes, the punishment I dish out is more continuous than a differentiable function, and with any luck this function will return next issue, else we've gone infinite.

- Wanna hear an interesting anagram of Banach-Tarski? Banach-Tarski Banach-Tarski.
- Yo mama's curves are so smooth, but she's still just as kinky.
- How does a mathematician dry his laundry? He exponentiates it.
- What maps does Optimus Prime like to take on road trips? Automorphisms.
- How does a Computer Scientist find the blockage in his muffler? An exhaustive search.
- Y'arr, why be pirates so good at integration? They never forget the C.

Tie Frosh

Federation of Students Election

Thoughts from an old geezer

I've been covering these Federation of Students elections for a few years now, and have been watching them ever since my first year here. Every year, without fail, I've seen candidate after candidate pledge to increase student engagement, become the student voice, blah blah blah. And every year, it appears that FedS fails miserably at accomplishing any of these pledges.

So you can understand why I was met with such skepticism when the election period rolled around this year. Many people have approached me requesting nominations and endorsements, and the majority of them I have declined simply because they come off as being no different than the status quo that is the Federation of Students, an organization which many believe do not make enough of an effort to represent student interests.

That said, with only two days left in the nomination period, a group of individuals came to me with their plans for this election. They were very clear to me that they planned to run as a joke, but hearing the likelihood of at least one position becoming acclaimed if not for these guys (and anyone who knows me knows I hate acclamations), I supported the nomination of what is now the Rhino Party for no other reason than to start a discussion.

I did not anticipate the amount of discussion I have seen since. I have seen a number of prominent individuals within FedS argue that they shouldn't be running because their entire premise (that students don't care) is wrong. However, in my conversations with students both in reality and online, I've learned that a lot of students plan on voting for the Rhino Party simply to send an F-U to those who consider themselves to be the "ruling class" of FedS.

In fact, I see the Rhino Party as a strong parallel to the TEA Party of the United States. One of the biggest views of the TEA Party is that the American Government has lost touch with the American People, and that they must be reminded that government is supposed to be their servant, not their master. Many who support the Rhino Party feel the same way about FedS.

As far as I see it, this has become the biggest test of legitimacy that the Federation of Students has had to face in many years. I think it's safe to say that if Team Rhino is completely shut out of this election (or at the very least the executive positions), this will be considered acceptance by the students of their Federation. If even one Rhino gets elected, or even if they come close, then it shall serve as a message that the Federation is responsible to the students, and they have to do a better job at doing so. If the unlikely event that a majority of the executive positions should be taken by Rhinos, it will be seen as nothing more than a failure on the part of the Federation of Students.

To conclude, I can't say I know which of these is more sad: the fact that I can't rule out any of these possibilities, or the fact that Rhino was the only thing preventing a 50% executive acclamation (75% if you include Rob Fry's departure from the race).

InsideR
mathNEWS Political Correspondent

PS In response to Jesse v.A.'s tweet, no, I was not "wearing khaki shorts, a button-up, and a fedora" at the debate on Monday.

Ten Mac OSX Applications I couldn't live without

It's basically impossible for me to imagine living today with any operating system other than Mac OSX. It has, at this point, become an extension of my body. The way I work on OSX is probably possible to replicate under a Windows or UNIX environment, but it would be a mammoth task. I often run into people who are new to the world of OSX and who are trying to learn their way around it. I find myself showing them cool applications in a piecemeal manner. It's occurred to me, though, that I should probably just write a blog post describing how I work, and then refer people to it in the future. Not all of these things will be applicable to you, but it's definitely worth your time to consider adding them to your tool set. Without further ado, then, here are the OSX applications I could never live without.

Firefox 4 + Pentadactyl

As far as I can tell, every other person in the world has abandoned Firefox for Chrome. I can certainly understand this, Chrome's a great browser. I use it myself as my secondary browser. However, Firefox has something Chrome won't have any time soon: Pentadactyl, a fork of another extension called Vimperator. This is a Firefox extension to give the browser a keyboard navigation system that's similar to what's possible in the vim text editor. A major theme of this blog post is going to be that you absolutely need to know how to get around your computer without the mouse, and being able to browse the web using only the keyboard is invaluable. I won't claim that it's always the way I browse the internet (see the section on Better Touch Tool), but it's great in plenty of situations. It's my opinion that switching between keyboard and mouse is what really slows you down. I'm aware that there are a few efforts to bring this functionality to Chrome, and I've tried them all. None of them compare. Fundamentally, the Chrome API is just too limited to allow anything of equivalent quality to exist. Learn how to use Pentadactyl to browse the web and many parts of your life will become incomparably better. Furthermore, Firefox 4 (the current beta) is very competitive in the performance category, so you don't lose too much that the Chrome users have. You need to download a nightly build of Pentadactyl to use it with Firefox 4, but it's worth it.

Aquamacs

I'm a recent Aquamacs convert. It's only really in the last year that I've switched to it as my primary text editor. Prior to that, I was a dyed-in-the-wool vim user. Realistically, I think there's a lot of value to both editors, and I still use vim occasionally, especially for editing over an SSH connection. Emacs is my tool of choice for most things, though (and I've come to feel that syncing things locally is almost always better than editing over SSH). Emacs' limitless customizability ensures that you can replicate basically any feature of another text editor in it. I'm also a big "emerging languages" fanboy, and Emacs is where you're most likely to find good editor support for the newer programming languages. Clojure, especially, is a big part of my life right now, and of course Emacs has by far the best support for it. If you've never developed software interactively using a tool like SLIME, you have no idea what you're missing. I could probably write another twenty paragraphs about Emacs here, but frankly, you're probably already an Emacs user or are happy with your existing text editor. Either way, you've heard it all before. There's a competing OSX version of Emacs called Carbon Emacs, but Aquamacs works a lot more like a native OSX app, and I love the command-line tool it bundles.

iTerm 2

iTerm 2 is a fork of the popular iTerm terminal emulator. It's only very recently become a usable alternative, which is great. The veteran Emacs user is probably at this point thinking "Wait, you use iTerm? Why not use one of the shells built into Emacs, like `*eshell*`, `*shell*`, or `*term*`?" In point of fact, I've used all three of those extensively, and the issue of shell selection has been a tricky one for me. It's far from a closed issue in my mind. Right now I'm mostly using iTerm instead of one of the Emacs native shells because it performs well and can drop easily into interactive applications like bpython or even vim as needed. Aquamacs comes with an awesome command line tool that lets me type "aquamacs filename.txt" to open it in my running Aquamacs instance seamlessly... just like I used to do with vim. So far, this really is the best of both worlds. The built-in OSX terminal is pretty great, but iTerm will get you some things that it doesn't support. My original reason for seeking it out was for 256-color support, which I use for pretty vim color schemes. It also has full-screen mode which I use a lot (fullscreen is great for my small 11-inch Macbook Air screen).

Quicksilver

Quicksilver is absolutely necessary for the serious keyboard enthusiast. You can use it as an application launcher, of course, which I do often. It's also equally valuable as an application-switcher. Suppose while writing this post, I decided I needed to IM my friend about something. Obviously I'm not about to switch from keyboard mode to mousing mode for something like that, that would be slow! Instead, I hit `Cmd-4`. This is a Quicksilver trigger that I've set up which opens Adium. I highly suggest setting up triggers to switch to applications you commonly use. This is the best method for application switching that I've found, it usually beats hunting around for the right application with `Cmd-Tab` (the sole exception, I think, is for going back to the previous application). Quicksilver is also how I pull up specific folders in Finder when I want to use Finder instead of the terminal... and you can use it to do things like unzip a downloaded file or mount a .dmg, all of which speed up your life. I'm aware that Quicksilver is not actively maintained any more, and that many of its former devotees are moving to competitors like LaunchBar. I haven't personally been convinced to put up the \$35 for a LaunchBar license, but it may become necessary in time.

LyX

LyX is a document editor that I'm a big fan of. It's basically a GUI for writing LaTeX, the typesetting language of choice for most papers in computer science and mathematics. I've taken notes with LyX for a long time, and it's come to the point where I typeset basically everything with it. It's usually a better choice than Word, as long you don't have very specific formatting requirements in mind. LaTeX is a good tool for making professional looking documents quickly, and it's easy to drop into mathematical equations for times when that's necessary. Now that I've got some experience with it, I can take notes with LyX in a mathematics lecture just as quickly as I could with a pencil or pen. Writing math is a bit slower, but the fact that I type about five times as fast as I write gives me a chance to catch up. LyX also integrates with the clipboard pretty well. For example, you

can select a diagram in OmniGraffle and paste it straight into LyX as an image.. the OSX clipboard is unquestionably one of the best parts of the Mac experience.

SizeUp

SizeUp is not free, but it's only \$13 and worth every cent. It adds keyboard shortcuts to OSX to move windows around. This is amazingly useful for configuring two windows to show up side-by-side or for maximizing a window. The impossibility of replicating the "maximize" behavior in Windows is pretty much my least favorite OSX design decision, so SizeUp is a godsend. Incidentally, the runner up for my least favorite OSX design decision is the inability to cut files with Cmd-X in Finder, and you can buy a program called PathFinder to rectify that. That annoyance doesn't even come close to the lack of maximize, though. The green "zoom" button basically always does the wrong thing.

KeyRemap4MacBook

KeyRemap4MacBook is incredible, and virtually unknown. Basically, it lets you arbitrarily remap keys in the operating system, either system-wide or at the individual application level. It's also pretty easy to customize if you're not afraid of getting your hands dirty. One thing it does that I love is remap my Caps Lock key. Basically, I have Caps Lock set to send Ctrl in System Preferences, and then I can set it up with this program so that Caps Lock when pressed alone sends Esc and when pressed with another key sends Ctrl. It's actually like having two keys in one... totally awesome. I also frequently use it to add stuff to applications that are otherwise lacking. For example, I've got it set up so I can scroll up and down in Preview using J and K. Pretty sweet. It comes with many useful default keyboard shortcuts, such as the ability to set up more Emacs-style keybindings system-wide, so you can, for example, set up C-x C-s to save a file. Excellent.

Better Touch Tool

As I've indicated, I'm a big fan of the keyboard. I also think, however, that you use a computer in either "keyboard mode" or "mouse mode". The thing that really slows you down is having to switch between these modes. When I'm in "mouse mode", I don't want to have to type if at all possible. This is where Better Touch Tool comes in. It's basically like KeyRemap4MacBook, except for the trackpad. You can use it to define arbitrary trackpad gestures, either system-wide or for specific applications. For ex-

ample, when I'm in Firefox, I use a bunch of trackpad gestures all the time. 3 finger swipes up and down take me to the top or the bottom of the page. A 3 finger tap opens a link in a new tab. I've got gestures for closing tabs, opening the most recently closed tab, even a few for navigating to sites I read all the time. Don't underestimate the usefulness of trackpad gestures, they can improve your life almost as much as keyboard shortcuts.

Fluid+Gmail Notifier

Fluid and Gmail Notifier both work together in my email strategy. Gmail Notifier is kind of an easy one. I like to know about new emails right away. I tried the whole "not obsessive-compulsively checking your email" thing, and it didn't work for me. Gmail Notifier gives me Growl notifications when I get a new email. It's cool like that, and my only wish is that it would check more often. Fluid is another useful program. It allows you to make what it calls a "Site-Specific Browser". This lets you treat a web page like an application. It gets its own dock icon and everything. Fluid also does a great job with Gmail notifications, pushing a dock badge when you get a new email. I used Fluid exclusively without Gmail Notifier for more than a year, but when I started working on smaller screens, I started to realize that the OSX dock just takes up too much room for the amount of information it provides. So now I auto-hide the dock, and find myself almost never missing it. Fluid is still great, though, especially for Gmail and Google Reader. I can be in Gmail in one second with Quicksilver. Incidentally, you should learn the basic Gmail keyboard shortcuts now if you don't already know them.

Dropbox

I hesitate to even mention Dropbox, because I feel like everyone in the world already knows about it. Dropbox is the best piece of software written in the past five years, hands-down. If you don't have Dropbox, get it. If you do have it, you probably aren't using it enough. Every single thing you do needs to be in Dropbox by default. End of story. Dropbox handles backup, it handles syncing, and it handles versioning. It's saved my life so many times that they all blur together into one perpetual wave of gratitude. The idea of creating content that's not in Dropbox is terrifying to me.

Thor

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Landing Top Tier Co-ops: A Critical Response

I read import this 'How to Land a Co-op at a Top Tier Software Company' from the January 21 issue of *mathNEWS* with some trepidation. Though the article was very well-written and offered some useful advice, I feel it much of it is misguided.

Instead, I present a more modest alternative. To 'land' a so-called 'top tier' job, be qualified and show you are qualified in the interview. Also, it helps to not lie.

My Credentials

I am a 4B Computer Science student. Yes, I have interviewed with, received offers from, and worked at some of the 'top tier' companies. My intent is not to flaunt my record. Many of my fellow students have much more experience than me. In fact, I did not apply to/was not qualified for any 'top tier' companies until my fifth term. Instead, I mean to offer some hopefully self-evident counters to the tactics advocated in 'How to Land a Co-op at a Top Tier Software Company'.

On "Landing" Interviews

I am only one point of data, but in my experience, my grades have mattered and side-projects have been unimportant. Neither approach is superior or guaranteed to work. Neither is a replacement for the other: they complement each other. In general, one should emphasize their strengths on a resume. Every CECS advisor, professional recruiter, or What Color is Your Parachute?-esque career guide would agree. Note that import this himself lists his work experience above his personal projects. Because of hard work and excellent ability on his part, 'Google' and 'Amazon' are now the two most valuable words on his resumé and receive proper billing. Play up your strengths.

I feel the same way about the inclusion of 'hip' technologies. If you got it, great. But it's not a guarantee. (One wonders how many reading this claim to 'know', say, Haskell and how many actually do.)

Lying is not okay. I found the promotion of exaggeration as a viable resumé technique to be particularly egregious. 'Everybody does it' is not an excuse. Sprinkling some exaggerations through your resumé always runs the risk that one will pique an interviewer's curiosity. Worse, you may be asked to reproduce one of your embellished feats on the job. I'd prefer to avoid the possibility of such uncomfortable situations.

Still, I concede that a few lies will go unquestioned. I strongly feel that this is no justification. Perhaps I have no basis on which to make such a moral statement; I stand by it nevertheless. In hacker culture, many things (Facebook, Microsoft, 'goto') are bandied about as 'evil'. Apply this same standard to yourself: don't be evil.

Finally, the author states that careful embellishments will pass without note. Yet, the conclusion that an embellished resumé is more attractive to recruiters undercuts this presumption. If no one will pay close attention, why bother? Even on its own terms, the argument doesn't stand.

On Technical Interviews

Firstly, I suggest the genuinely interested reader ignore this article as well as 'How to Land'. Instead, take the latter's advice and read Joel Spolsky's 'The Guerilla Guide to Interviewing'. The goal, Mr. Spolsky writes, is to have the candidate 'prove they can write code'. If you can, show it. If you can't, you should learn how before worrying about getting a job.

I object to the characterization of interview problems as being disjoint from day-to-day-work. In my experience, the ability to 'think in highly stressful situations' and 'communicate [my] ideas effectively' has been exercised daily.

The best way to succeed in interviews is to be qualified for the job. If you find you are not well-studied in the core computer science concepts listed in 'How to Land', perhaps you will not be able to adequately perform the job in question. Many, myself included, were not ready for prime-time in 1A. I did not expect a 'top tier' company to hire me to do a job I simply could not do. To think otherwise is, frankly, painfully delusional and narcissistic. So, I learned the things I was supposed to learn. (Incidentally, two terms at 'stodgy, old' Sybase taught me a tremendous amount.) Our industry is, fortunately, very merit-based. Recognize your skills, apply to appropriate jobs, always keep learning.

A sub-optimal or incomplete solution is not a death knell. There is more being tested than the ability to find the one true solution. Your approach, your dead-end solutions, and your actual code are all important. Mr. Spolsky states an interview's 'real goal is to have a conversation about [your code]'. If you recognize you have not found an optimal solution and are unable to find it, state it. Talk it out. The interviewer will be interested to know where you might go with more time. They may give you a simple hint that clarifies the entire problem. Engage the interviewer; let them in on your thoughts. (Yes, it's hard and weird and some interviewers will only care about the final solution.)

If you've heard a question before, say so. If you recognize a particular problem as belonging to class of problems you know how to solve, say so. And, if your solution is revealed to be sub-optimal, don't pretend to have done it on purpose.

On Interview Behaviour

I agree with 'How to Land' in many respects regarding the social aspect of the interview. Be personable. Be confident. Ask questions. It's okay to be a little relaxed and laid-back.

Confidence is important; over-confidence is off-putting. The dating analogy applies here as well. Certainly, a first date that asks if he is 'doing it right' will not be successful. In the same vein, if your date were to ask 'Why should I go on a second date with you?', you would likely walk out. 'Acting like you're interviewing the company' is arrogance. There are any number of equally skilled but more modest, respectful, and agreeable candidates waiting to take your job.

Dress nice. You may luck out and have a hip, young interviewer that appreciates your flavour-of-the-week tee-shirt. You may not. I tend to wear a shirt and tie, without a jacket. For women, my female friends suggest a nice top, dress shoes, dark pants/skirt. In either case, dress up a bit. For me, it's about showing an elevated level of respect for the social ritual and the importance thereof.

In Closing

Neither import this nor I are experts. Our advice should not be followed unconditionally. We are both only students and so are you. My overarching suggestion is that you recognize this fact when going through the job search process. Act appropriately and with respect. And please don't lie.

Colton Pauderis

Rainbow Mathies #4

The Importance of Coming Out

Hello again, mathies of all walks of life. With term becoming serious, as midterms and deadlines come up, I return with the second article in this term's series on coming out. Today, I want to talk about the meaning of coming out. By that, I don't mean the literal or dictionary definition of the term (which is, to those who missed out last week, the process in which queer-identified people begin revealing their respective status to others). Instead, I am talking about the significance behind the process: what it stands for, what impact it may have on a queer-identified individual, and what lies behind the scenes. In coming weeks I will further explore what it means to be ready to come out (something I'll hint on a bit today), what to expect when doing so, things to consider and avoid when coming out, etc... First, though, a disclaimer: I do not pretend to be a definitive source of answers on this or any other subjects. This column is best considered an opinion column, with maybe a bit of advice thrown in. What I am about to share is primarily my own perspective, and while I have done a fair amount of research in the area, info which I feel did not reflect my worldview was quickly tossed aside. I share this in the interest of sparking discussion and possibly providing some help to those who seek it and to whom it applies, but no more than that. Let's begin, shall we?

To grasp a better understanding of what coming out means, lets try to take a look at what some people may be thinking as they consider such a decision. Personally, when I was considering coming out, there were quite a few fears and questions running through my head. Thoughts like: I'm going to lose the friends I have. I'm unsure if this is right. Can I still be religious? What will I do if my parents don't approve? How will I tell people? I don't know if I'm ready. Can I ever know if I'm ready? It wasn't all worries and fears though, quite a few hopes and exciting and liberating thoughts were meshed in there too. I'll finally have to stop lying. Maybe now I can meet a boyfriend. Maybe now I'll be able to get laid. Will I be happier? Will I inspire others? If things go bad, I can always leave. I will find people who love me. Things will get better.

Take a hard look at those. If you have, or are, struggling with coming out, also think about your personal concerns and hopes. Notice anything in common? Something which initially jumps out at me is that the most of them involve other people. Will my decision please or upset them, will I find other people, how to tell them, etc... For quite a few people, thoughts of others' reactions may be the most paralyzing thought that coming out involves. They're also the most misleading. What do I mean by that? Well, take a harder look at them. Notice that they all involve one's own feelings, reactions, and potential problems. It's less about if someone responds negatively, but more about how one is going to feel or what they're going to do if another rejects them. All of these concerns, fears, hopes, and excitements are inherently selfish, because coming out itself is a "selfish" process.

Wait, hold the phone. Coming out is selfish? Well, yes. And it's supposed to be. The whole purpose of coming out is to allow a queer-identified person to help them openly flesh out their place in the world. Figuring out where one fits is something that everyone needs to do, and that can be a competitive prospect. Coming out essentially tells the world that you're not going to allow it to use your sexual orientation to affect you, which is at its core a selfish idea. In addition to all that, the majority of the benefits of coming out are self-centered in nature. An out queer

person no longer has to lie about their identity, or worry about being found out. They are in a better position to reject homophobic or heteronormative situations. They are able to feel more liberated, happier, more appreciated. Most of these benefits, while they can be framed in respect to other people, don't actually directly involve them, but rather your own perspective or your own interest in the relationship.

With all that said, coming out is not a bad process. Selfish may be a poor word, it does have a negative connotation after all. The purpose of this article isn't to point out how inconsiderate all queer people are, in fact it's quite the opposite. One of the biggest struggles that queer people who come out deal with is satisfying the conflict between their own interests and the pressures that other people put on them, especially as it related to sexual orientation. This isn't necessary, because other people don't actually fit anywhere in the coming out "equation." In my opinion, if it makes coming out easier for you to isolate and emphasize your own considerations (more on this next week), I say go for it. Coming out is selfish, but not wrong for being so, so play that to your advantage if you need to.

Just like last week, I'd like to end today with a coming out story. Those interested in submitting theirs couldn't get it in for this week, so for today I go to the trusty internet. If you feel comfortable sharing your coming out story for this series, have any comments for this column, or to suggest future topics, please email them to me at dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca. I will respect your confidentiality, and no names will be published.

I'm 21 and a lesbian. I came all out about 4 months ago. Coming out for me was extremely difficult, I had always been interested in girls but never faced the truth. Eventually I met someone and things just fell right into place. I was on top of the world and finally felt like myself. The only problem was that I couldn't share my happiness with the people I loved. I was ashamed to be myself. And afraid of rejection and my friends distancing themselves from me. But I went all out and told my best friend, which then led to my parents, brothers, other friends. I am now closer to everyone. I have developed bonds with my friends and family that is stronger than its ever been. Go for it. Don't be afraid. If people decide they don't want to be your friend anymore they were never your friend in the first place. Life is entirely too short to stay hidden in a closet. Embrace life, and learn to love. I never knew love was such an amazing feeling until I let myself do it. Life is perfect.

If you are queer identified, and are looking for someone to talk to or for supportive allies, there are always resources available to you. You can learn more about GLOW and its offerings, including a phone line at www.knowyourglow.ca.

Counseling Services is always available to you, their offices are open 8:30-8MTTh and 8:30-4:30WF, located in Needles Hall across from Student Awards and Financial Aid. If you need support and assistance immediately, you can call the Waterloo Crisis Center at 519-745-1166. If you'd feel more comfortable speaking with someone from a queer specific service, please contact the GLBT Youthline at 1-800-268-9688.

Join me next issue when I explore what it means to be "ready" to come out. This may interest you pure mathies out there, since it deals with impossibilities.

(define this (not cool))

HorrorScopes

Now 130% more likely to cause death

Actsci: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. Naturally you choose to vote for the person who is least likely to die. With their dangerous eating habits mathies will not be getting your vote.

Your lucky number is: 6 people who are definitely not getting elected.

AHS: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You proceed to perform volume analysis of their cranial cavity to determine the potentially smartest candidate.

Your lucky number is: 1700 cm^3 .

Applied Math: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You have managed to model the election with a third order non linear differential equation. You are wondering whether to solve it or publish an academic paper instead.

Your lucky number is: An unsolvable differential equation. Sorry.

Arts: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical are contradictory. Naturally you are left confused and drink for another fortnight to get that thought out of your head.

Your lucky number is: 7 million missing braincells.

C&O: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. Finally you decide to calculate every possible way that there will be another FedS election following this one.

Your lucky number is: Exercise left to the reader.

CS: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You try to express it as a series of truth tables only to find that your original assumptions had a contradiction thus disproving your own existence.

Your lucky number is: \perp years to live.

Environment: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You put it all behind you, to instead be outraged at the large number of trees killed, particularly of Yellow and Red colouring.

Your lucky number is: 3 missing REDwoods.

Eng: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you

with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. Wait... no, you probably aren't even aware that the election is even going. Screw it, you get your ring on Saturday.

Your lucky number is: 6 days missing from your memory.

PMath: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You decide not to vote for team Real since they are sidestepping past an uncountable number of complex points.

Your lucky number is: $|C \setminus R|$.

Sci: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You decide to select the best team by who would fit together best based on their bonds.

Your lucky number is: Jo-Ma-Ma-Na (John, Matt, Marc, Natalie).

Soft Eng: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You begin to investigate the private methods used by the candidates to get votes, but find them inaccessible from your child class.

Your lucky number is: 13 compilation errors.

Stats: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. With the large number of unknowns you decide to set this up as a Arima model only to find that differencing is never required between each of the candidates.

Your lucky number is: 10 candidates whose differences are statistically insignificant.

Teaching Option: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. You attempt to explain elections to your students during a co-op term only to realize that they understand the concepts better than you do. Naturally you return to your hole to drink yourself into bliss.

Your lucky number is: 1 shot per student.

Undeclared: The looming election of FedS frightens and confuses you with many promises that are both illogical and contradictory. The scariest part about this is that you have to make a decision at the end of this election. Or you can be like the other 90% of this university and just not vote.

Your lucky number is: 21643 students who don't care about anything.

J Alan George Award

Make your or your friends' contributions to Math student life recognized! Nominate yourself or a friend for the J. Alan George award, or apply to sit on the selection committee. Applications are due on Friday February 11, 2011, and forms are available on the MGC website under the tab "Misc".

Math Grad Committee
<http://mgc.uwaterloo.ca>
uwmgc2011@gmail.com

E is for

Former President of Imprint Publications Iyinoluwa E Aboyeji has suggested on his Twitter account that *mathNEWS* should participate in libel against Rhinoceros Party Presidential Candidate Ian Charlesworth such that he can pay for the paper's legal defense. This writer finds Mr. Aboyeji's comment hypocritical and unethical, as it is a waste of the public good that is the court system, as well as a waste of far too many people's money. Bragging that you have money to burn is not something I would like to see from an aspiring future business leader.

Ice Nine

Good Idea, Awful Idea

This time on: Winter

Good idea: Having safe winter fun and dressing up in lots of layers.

Awful idea: Having a snow-ball fight in your underwear. (Unless you're hot and I'm there to watch).

Good idea: Booking a ski-trip or maybe a trip to a nice warm beach for reading week.

Awful idea: Returning from your awesome reading-week vacation to have 5 assignments due in 3 days and 2 midterms on top of that, and you've done **nothing**.

Good idea: Working on your assignments indoors to stay warm.

Awful idea: Sitting outside without a coat on and seeing whether you can finish Q3 before you freeze to death.

Good idea: Drinking to stay warm.

Awful idea: Over-drinking to stay warm, and waking up naked in the middle of the football field the next morning. Although since we don't even have a football team anymore maybe it's not as awful as it used to be.

Good idea: Walking behind a fat guy, who can be used as a shield against incoming wind and snow.

Awful idea: Walking behind a fat guy who just ate a whole lot of beans.

Good idea: Watching a good ice-related movie, like March of the Penguins.

Awful idea: Watching a bad ice-related movie, like Batman & Robin (with memorable quotes like "My name is Freeze. Learn it well. For it's the chilling sound of your doom.", or "In this universe, there's only one absolute... everything freezes!", and my

personal favourite- "Ice to see you!")

Good idea: Getting a hot chocolate from Tim Hortons. And maybe one for your friend too.

Awful idea: Standing in line at Tim Hortons for so long you miss half your classes. Then spilling the hot chocolate. On your friend.

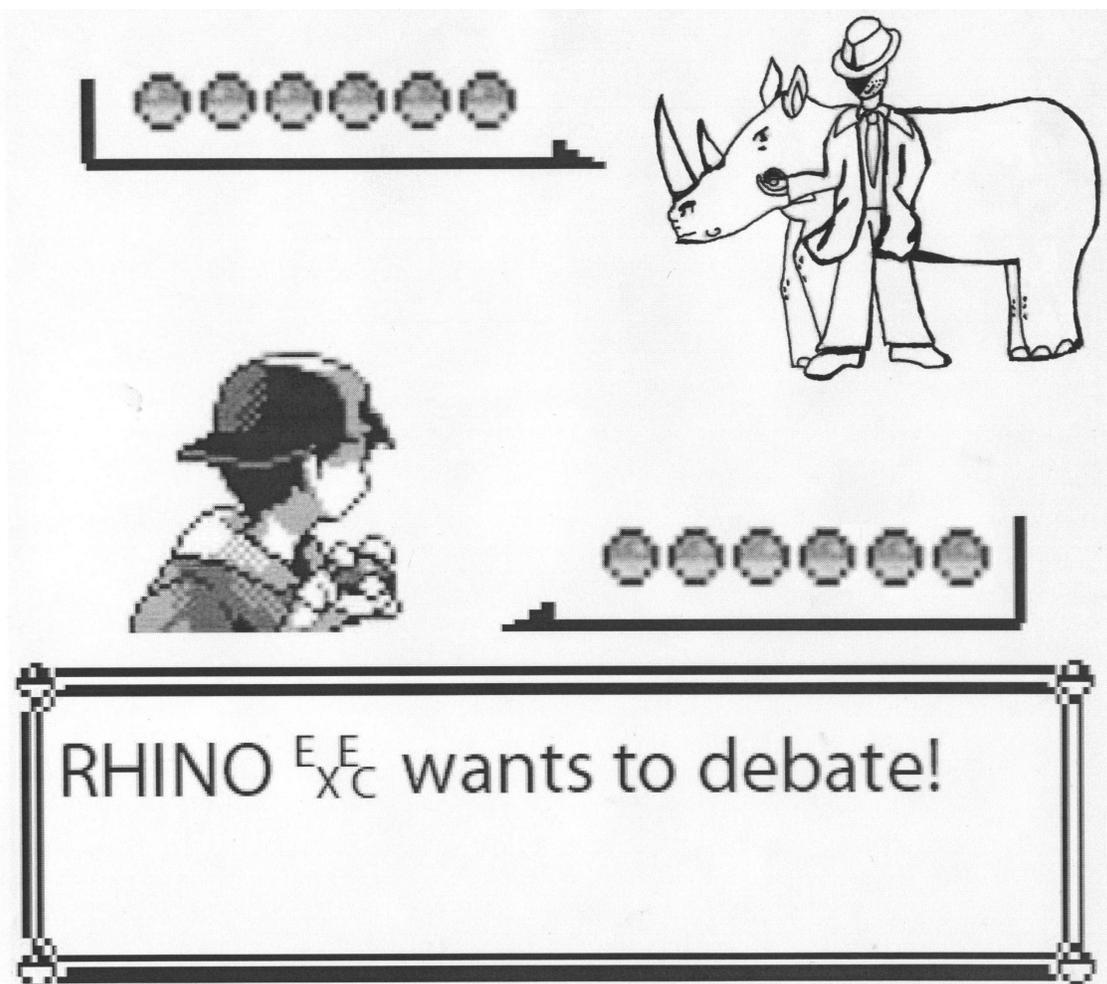
Good idea: Watching your step as you walk through the slush.

Awful idea: Not really looking at where you're going, and then slipping just as you reach the intersection of Phillip and University, and realizing that cute girl from your CO class is standing just there and totally laughing at you falling down hard in slush, and then as you start to get up a bus comes by and sprays more slush at you, and you're totally embarrassed, so you realize "damn, I'm going to be alone and dateless for yet another Valentine's Day".

And now, Orange Crush and the *mathNEWS* team would like to announce the **Good Idea, Awful Idea Contest**. Yay. Submit your own best Good Idea, Awful idea entries on any topic you feel like (particularly topics that relate to math students at UW) to the BLACK BOX or to orange.crush.uw@gmail.com. The best submissions will be featured in *mathNEWS*. One top submission as chosen by me will win the grand prize of a lunch with Orange Crush. Meet him in person! He'll buy you lunch! Why are you not sending us your submissions already?

Until next time!

Orange Crush



Dead Space 2 Review

Vidya Reviews

Dead Space 2 is a game about, as the name implies, the story of a **d**early **e**ndearing and **d**elightful **s**quirrel **p**erforming **a**dventurousome **c**hivalrous **e**xtraction. (the last part was a stretch). That's the basic idea. Except the squirrel's name is Isaac Clarke and hes not a squirrel (and hes not endearing at all), and everything is dead and trying to kill you. Enter Dead Space 2.

It is in my sincere opinion that 'scariness' of a scary game should be scored based on the amount of underwear soiled during gameplay. For example, Resident Evil 4 was only slightly scary. I only soiled about 3 pairs of underwear the entire game. In comparison, I #*\$*# my pants over 10 times when playing Barbie Horse Adventures 3. Although Resident Evil 4 was a scary game, Barbie Horse Adventures 3 is a downright horrifying experience that should not be viewed by anyone, anywhere at anytime. We'll get back to this at the end of the review.

Back to Dead Space 2. Dead Space 2 is an intensely atmospheric third-person survival horror. It borrows a lot from other games, for example, evil cults and parasites that control the dead ala RE4, dynamically upgradeable weapons, guns like the rivet gun and the javelin gun, audio logs ala Bioshock 2, and zero gravity space sequences that actually work (not like Dark Void). You follow the story of Isaac Clarke, kicking ass and chewing bubble gum as he struggles with his sanity in his quest to destroy the ominous Marker. As an action game, Dead Space 2 will thrill you from start to finish with tight controls and engaging gameplay. As a survival horror game, Dead Space 2 will have you conserving ammo like nobody's business. Although I can't personally say that I was scared, I imagine that a few of you little girls out there might be quite terrified by necromorphs impaling you with spikes, eating your flesh, and decapitating you (not necessarily in that order). I love hearing that sweet, sweet clicking noise when you OH GOD IM OUT OF AMMO, OH GOSH IT'S EATING MY LEG, NOW IT'S EATING MY ARM, OH JEEZ I NEED THAT PLEASE STOP..

Dead Space 2 is a thrilling experience that will leave you on the edge of your seat for the entire 10+ hour experience, and keep you coming back for more dead baby killing fun. Overall, I shat in 9 out of a possible 10 pairs of underwear. Needless to say I will be doing laundry this weekend.

The Unfortunate Optimist

Letter to the Editor

Hello, I am emailing regarding the article published in *mathNEWS* last issue, by Import_this, regarding getting a job at Google.

After reading it I was taken aback by how arrogant and snobby it was. I discussed it with my friends and the universal word used was 'douche', and its variants, i.e. 'douchebag', 'douchey', 'superdouche', and 'retarded'. Not only does it give the wrong idea regarding interview strategies to people who might actually need it, it also proliferates the stereotype that Mathies are a bunch of socially inept fools.

I, and several others, would appreciate it if your paper was no longer wasted as a vehicle for this douchebaggery.

Cheers,
David

Letter From the BLACK BOX

[This is a letter we received in response to the letter we received in response to the article "Every Math Personal Ever" in volumn 114 Issue 4. The response was published in volumn 115 Issue 1]

Dear... you didn't leave your name...

There's no need for you to be lonely at all! Because... Orange Crush is here! And he's single!

That's right, ladies of the Math Faculty of UW, if your stats assignment won't cuddle you at night, if the guys in your classes are "really antisocial/hate girls", or if you got rejected by your calculator, it's time to stop the sadness and loneliness. I'm right here, and there's enough of me for everyone.

Yeah baby! Orange Crush!

Note: The *mathNEWS* team would like to warn anyone and everyone against contacting Orange Crush. He's a freak. Besides, there are other smarter, funnier, and more attractive single writers at *mathNEWS*. Come out to our next production night!

Have a happy happy Valentine's Day everybody!

Orange Crush

Once Upon A Time

Yes this game includes a "in bed" card

While searching through the games in MathSoc earlier this month a few innocent students stumbled on a card game called "Once Upon A Time". The object of the game is to make a story. Each card is a word and you must play a card from your hand during your turn by using it in a sentence. Once all your cards are used you may play your ending card to win the game... as long as the ending makes sense. Here is one of our favourite stories that we have created.

Once upon a time there was a chapel in an ancient kingdom next to an ancient forest so that it was well hidden from any intruders. Too bad it was eventually revealed. A beggar lived at this chapel for he was too poor to stay at the palace. He had tried to become a thief but was not stealthy enough for the job. He dreamed of becoming rich and of owning a mighty tower. A tower that was so giant it would be able to satisfy his love, the princess, who was actually a prince because of an awful curse. So the princess was imprisoned in a prince's body and because of this the princess was kept from her favourite room, the kitchen (Note: this was played by a woman) but because she was a man she was able to escape the grasps of the mighty kitchen and the cook. She was very brave to do it. The beggar was certain he could get over this barrier of the relationship, it was an empty relationship. One day the beggar went to the princess' village because he thought he could rescue her but he fell into a large hole and fainted from a concussion. Although he was lucky not to break his skull he made a grave mistake heading headlong into the problem. As he looked around he discovered he was in a place of ruin. Luckily there was a market nearby as trade was common on this island. He proceeded to the cottage building at the far end of the market and from there he saw the tower. Time passed and he found a ring to break the princess' enchantment. It was all going well and according to plan until he fell into a well. He could not believe his misfortune. He poked an eye out and he realised he had fallen into yet another trap. His wound caused him to remain stuck in a trap however he escaped and he went down the road to find the princess and he found her in the home in bed and true love had broken the enchantment.

the country convict

The Game Anonymous

An excerpt from the first meeting

You just lost the game. I know, you want to kill me. I used to have this problem, but now I've found my solution: *The Game Anonymous*, a public support group founded to help those addicted to *The Game* and want to get better. *The Game* is an illness, it is not your fault. There is always hope, as there was for me. To show you this, I have included a transcript from my first meeting with the group.

Guy with Beard: Hello everyone, and welcome to the first meeting of *The Game Anonymous*.

Anon1: I lost the game.

Anon2: I lost the game.

Anon3: I lost the game.

Anon4: I lost the—

Guy with Beard: No! You do not need to succumb to *The Game*! We will help you wi—

Anon4: ...game.

Anon5: I lost the game.

Guy with Beard: GUYS! YOU DON'T HAVE TO—

Anon6: I lost the game.

[Time Passes]

Anon41: I lost the game.

Anon42: I lost the game.

[Cricket Chirps]

Guy with Beard: [wakes up] Huh? Oh good you guys are done. I really should have thought this through. Anyways, we got about 20 minutes left on the grace period, so lets talk about this. For starters, my name is Jacob,—

All: Hi Jacob!

Jacob: ...and yes, I have an awesome beard. I was named Jacob so the author of this article can stop making fun of my beard. It appears he has. Now we can talk about the Rhino in the room: *The Game*. There are 12 crucial steps to your recovery. The journey will be long and hard—

Anon69: That's what she said!

Jacob: Thank you for that insightful input. Now, it won't be an easy journey, but you will make it if you believe in yourself. Today, we will talk about the first step: admitting that you have a problem.

All: Yeah. We've got a problem.

Jacob: Well... that was... easy. I guess our meeting is... adjourned. See you next week guys.

Ok. After reading this I realized that this probably lost you the game again. If you're not playing with the grace period rule, then well... shit. My bad. Anyhow, this group is really helping me, and I think you should give it a try. I hope to see you there.

theSMURF

MGC Grad Ball

A sharp collar, the rustle of a gown, the glint of jewelry, the smell of perfume. The chink of glasses, the suffling of cards, the betting of chips, the collection of winnings.

That's right. It's

Casino Royale

March 5, 2011

St. George's Hall

Math Grad Ball is doing things a little differently this year. Dinner and a dance will also be accompanied by Casino favorites like blackjack, poker, roulette, slot machines, and craps, while

Is Mathematics on the brink of war?

On January 26th EngSoc proposed the purchase of a laser tank*, and although the plan did not pass as the official budget for EngSoc, they have clearly made their point. At any semester this plan could be taken into action (OMG MathSoc should get one)! If Engineers get their laser tank, this could be a server threat to Mathematics and her citizens.

As the new director of Math's Homeland Security** I propose that a preemptive strike against the Engineers is our best (and possibly only) option. With an all out war becoming an almost certainty, it is important that all Math students know the alliances in Waterloo, and where students stand.

Obviously, Math and Engineering stand on opposite ends, but do you know where other faculties stand and how they can shift the balance in the war? If not, luckily this *mathNEWS* article will inform you!

Science: The Science faculty applies math, and this is like Engineers, however Engineers apply Science, so it is hard to tell where they would stand. No one likes it when someone else applies them and calls it something else! Science students will likely launch attacks against both the Engineers and the Mathies! They clearly are in the middle of this war and will make a third side.

Arts: Although this may surprise you, the arts students may stand on our side (or at least join us against the Engineers). A long time ago (1978) the mascot of arts was donated by a pure mathie. They have not likely forgotten this. In addition, Engineers kidnapped their mascot in 1991! With this in mind, Arts students can be trusted in joint operations against the Engineers. On the other hand it is important that Math secrets still not be sent to them, as they have been known to drink with Engineers...

Environment: The faculty of Environment would likely take an alliance with the Engineers, if not only in spite against us! Let's all face it the faculty of Environment would love to get its hands on one of math's most prized treasures, ln, the natural log!

Applied Health and Science: Applied Health and Science... the name says it all they are close allies of Science, and hence they are to be treated like them.

*This happened slide 7 of the proposal and pics on pgs 10 and 11. They would even SAVE money

** Recently promoted from The Chief of Math Police, and in such a short period of time

Yours truly,

The Director of Math's Homeland Security

various board games will also be available for your enjoyment throughout the evening.

Not graduating? Doesn't matter—come party with your friends who are. Many prizes are up for grabs, including gift certificates and subscription to *mathNEWS*.

\$55 a ticket

\$105 pair of tickets

\$400 table of 8

To buy your tickets, please visit MathSoc (3rd floor of MC)!

Math Grad Committee

Orange News

Now with more pulp. Get it? Pulp?

A lot is going on in our Faculty and campus. For instance, the FedS election is in full swing. However, your favourite source of news, Orange News, is choosing to focus on a much more vital piece of information that has just been uncovered.

The geese are gone.

Yes, that's correct. The geese, a common sight on campus in the Spring and Fall terms, have disappeared. A goose is defined by noted experts as a bird of the family Anatidea. I have no idea what that means. Canadian geese are very common throughout our entire nation. In particular, the animals are an integral part of the Waterloo community. Some suspect the geese arrived at Waterloo to receive an education in engineering and got so drunk they all dropped out. Others hypothesize that geese are in fact aliens, sent here to spy on Waterloo students, who are likely to be instrumental in mankind's abilities to achieve interstellar travel, since UW students are known worldwide as the brightest computer science students and biggest space-themed science-fiction geeks in the whole wide world.

Regardless of why they came here, the geese are now gone. Your faithful Orange News reporter went out to investigate the question of the whereabouts of the Waterloo geese.

One professor in the Science faculty told me, "What? Don't interrupt me while I'm... oh crap". The professor is currently recovering from serious burns at the Grand River Hospital.

A mysterious expert on birds' behaviour, whose name will not be revealed here, had this to say: "I've been trying to find out where the birds go in winter for years. That's almost all I do in

life, other than order prostitutes up to my hotel room and then not have sex with them. I almost found out where the ducks go, but then I got arrested for trying to catch kids who ran around in a field of rye".

Strong words indeed.

I attempted to find out what YOU, the students of Waterloo, felt about the situation.

Michael, a 3B Act-Sci student, said "Everybody hates the geese anyway. They crap everywhere. But they're soooo delicious." It is my firm belief that Michael is crazy.

Diane, a 2B CS student, said, "Stop bugging me about your articles already! And no, I will not go out with you."

So there you have it.

Will the geese be back? Many suspect that they will be. However, we may never know. Or maybe we will know if the geese do come back, because if they're back then obviously we know that they're back.

The Orange News team would like to point out that the previous sentence made little to no sense.

In the meantime, Waterloo survives, though goose-less. You can trust Orange News to keep you updated regarding the Waterloo geese.

Join us next time, when we will reveal the results of a shocking journalistic investigation of a problem that has impacted mathies for years—it's so damn hard to find places to sit in the DC library.

Orange Crush

The Marthsie Chronicles: Train of Thought

Could someone like this REALLY exist? No, seriously.

After the discovery of the existence of something not thought to exist, the girl couldn't help but ponder how ANYONE could be a Marthsie.

"Maybe someone who's already doing two different subjects in the Math faculty will be able to give me some insight. Then again, who'd be able to?"

It was then that the most common Math Subject + Other Subject combinations came to mind like pop-ups. The most promising of them, was the general pair of Math + Science. The others seemed too much alike... especially Math Finance and FARM.

"I guess it's off to find someone like that then."

In navigating the maze of offices that is the 5th and 6th floor of the MC building, one particular person proved quite helpful.

"Ah, Miss Richmond. Back again to get more solutions from me?"

Now she remembered why she hated coming to this T.A. If mockery was a form of flattery, his words would be the Holy Grail.

"No. I have something else I want to ask you. Can a Mathie be a Mathie AND an Artsie?"

He paused for a moment, considering his words carefully. You could just tell as he was staring at the dictionary on the shelf.

"Isn't Math in itself just a subset of Art? I mean, there's the Golden Ratio and all those fractals you see over in the Physics

building. Not to mention the engineering disaster that somehow involved math and art at the Royal Ontario Museum. Even Euclid's greatest work with the cylinder, cone and sphere. That seems artistic to me."

"Maybe, but can someone really study BOTH of them?"

"Challenging AND freeing yourself, intriguing. Well in my experience, works well with science. You can apply math to science to help you better understand it. As for studying both math and art, I'm not sure. I see no reason why not though."

His thoughts were certainly something to ponder. What would be more beneficial would be to find that Marthsie and ask him his opinion. Not to mention return his notebook.

"If that'll be all then, I need to get back to marking these assignments. Oh, and you might want to have a bathroom break more often. It's more beneficial to your health that way."

Dashing to the bathroom, she stared in horror at her reflection. The fall in the snow she had as she came to the MC building had left a big wet patch in the wrong place. No wonder her T.A. had made that comment. This patch could easily be mistaken as her own incontinence.

As she scurried back to her residence in slight humiliation, she thought about her friends and fellow Mathies. What would THEY say about this Marthsie?

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

profQUOTES

You believe everything you see on Facebook but then you think I'm lying!

Smith, ECON 102

I do not have major disasters without my spies present.

Smith, ECON 102

Let me have my fantasies for the moment.

Smith, ECON 102

Unlike you, not all of my fantasies end in grunting.

Smith, ECON 102

I need to have a drink. America stresses me out so badly.

Smith, ECON 102

Mathies cringe at the squishy subject of psychology.

[student mumbles inaudibly]

Because you can use geometry to describe the peculiarity of human behaviour.

Smith, ECON 102

Don't be scared, artsies. That's not calculus.

Smith, ECON 102

You're at the Bomber, you have a conversation with someone about Keynes, and then you have sex with them.

Smith, ECON 102

Fine, have sex with fools! It doesn't work very well!

Smith, ECON 102

There are parts of economics that nobody likes. Like the reality part.

Smith, ECON 102

I like the fact that so many of you know CPR so someone could revive me so I can resume my lecture.

Smith, ECON 102

I and my fluid have been seperated. There will be a slight inter-ruption.

Smith, ECON 102

I know there are men in the room [...] but the reason you're in the room is because you're girly men.

Smith, ECON 102

The reason China grew so quickly is because they took my course notes and applied them heavily.

Smith, ECON 102

We send [Japan] rocks and they send us a Lexus.

Smith, ECON 102

Sir, you ask so intelligent questions and it's so annoying that I can't answer them.

Smith, ECON 102

If this is a Hollywood horror film, where lights go off and so on... the good news is that if Hollywood thought of anything, the brown guy dies first, so you guys don't have to worry about anything.

Banerjee, STAT 231

[after explaining a study where students reading bad font did better than those reading clear font] So now I have an excuse for my bad handwriting - it's for YOUR benefit, not for mine. I just want you guys to do better; that's why I write terribly.

Banerjee, STAT 231

This is a completely unrealistic example. If we already know what the population averages are, why the hell are we doing statistical analysis.

Banerjee, STAT 231

What's Maple? It's basically a computer program that does everything that you do in this course... but much, much better.

Knoll, MATH 127

If some kind of person knew how Windows DLLs and Internet Explorer worked, CONGRATULATIONS! You just got a virus! Use Ubuntu!

Vasiga, CS 241

This 'blob' here contains assignment 5, assignment 6... it's kind of like your colon! - although I don't know what that says about assignment 10.

Vasiga, CS 241

[Alternatively explaining Dynamically Linked Lists] Ooh! It's the cult of the DLL!

Vasiga, CS 241

Professor: Is this better?

Student: Worse!

Professor: Worse? That's good.

Banerjee, STAT 231

Guys, don't pretend you don't know this, or you'll kill me

Banerjee, STAT 231

How high is too high? It's the same question your pot-smoking friends ask, I'm sure.

Banerjee, STAT 231

Even if you don't know you know, you know!

Banerjee, STAT 231

So you wake up on Friday afternoon and you see a pink elephant walking down the street getting a drink...

Banerjee, STAT 231

I'm almost 40 years old, but I still get excited about snow days.

Park, MATH138

You will never have to face a monkey in a physical pendulum, you will have to face other objects.

Scholz, PHYS 122

What the hell is going on over there? Feels like I'm listening to a soap opera through the wall.

Miskovic, AMATH 373

Mathematicians would run around and tear out their hair going [in a high voice] "Oh my God! There's no unique solution!"

Miskovic, AMATH 373

profQUOTES: The Revenge

Brutish, nasty and short; kind of like life in the old days.

Stastna, AMATH 361

The name “Creep” doesn’t mean the test calls you at 2 in the morning and says awful things over the phone.

Stastna, AMATH 361

Shove it in, do it so it works out and then worry about if it’s legal.

Stastna, AMATH 361

This stuff, I can bend it, squish it, shove it in my pocket for a while and it comes back fine. Your brain’s the same.

Stastna, AMATH 361

Your brain’s in a fluid, that’s why you can shake it and not die.

Stastna, AMATH 361

When physicists didn’t have jobs in the 80’s, they went and screwed up things in finance.

Miskovic, AMATH 373

It’s the end of the lecture so I’ve stopped thinking.

Moraru, AMATH 332

You can call me Marek or you can call me “the crazy tall guy who teaches you continuum mechanics,” it’s the same person.

Stastna, AMATH 361

Dear Whoever wrote “Liers” on the Rhino election posters,

Liars is spelled with an “a”, not an “e”. If you’re going to be a jerk and write on other people’s posters, at least do it properly. Idiot.

The mathNEWS Show

Now in Video Format

The inaugural edition of *The mathNEWS Show* is now available on the interwebs! Go to <http://mathnews.uwaterloo.ca> to watch our coverage of the Federation of Students Elections!

Walking Over Hot Coals or Fairies and Unicorns?

I have absolutely no right to complain, but I don’t care

This article was supposed to be written in time for the first issue of mathNEWS. However, I had an assignment due the day after production night. For once, I was seized by good reason (for a counterexample, please read the article) and decided to complete my assignment first.

To take WatPD 20 or PDEng 25? That was the choice I had to make last term.

“It’s a no brainer! Why would you take PDEng? It’s evil! WatPD will be so much better!”

Why indeed? Well, taking WatPD 20 meant I would also have to take WatPD 21, losing a PD elective. That didn’t feel right to me. Nor did this whole “restarting” business. Was my toil against PDEng 15 worth nothing? Also, what about “the devil you know versus the devil you don’t know?” At least I knew what to expect from PDEng.

“Sure, ‘the devil you know versus the devil you don’t know.’ But it’s more like ‘walking over hot coals versus fairies and unicorns.’ Are you sure you want to walk over hot coals? Are you really sure?”

Well, I’ve been told that PDEng 25 is the most practical and useful PDEng there is. And of course, I can always switch later. Besides, a bunch of friends and I decided to go through PDEng together. We’ll all switch together, when/if we switch.

Start of work term.

“Dude. I just read the course outline for WatPD 20. I can finish the entire course this afternoon. WatPD 20 is amazing.”

Well... that’s got to be an exaggeration, right? He’s just trolling us. There’s no way WatPD 20 can be that different from PDEng 25. And PDEng 25 can’t be *that* bad.

One week later.

Well. The PDEng 25 course notes came out. It doesn’t look fun at all. And now it’s too late to switch. And... all my friends ditched me and switched to WatPD. Guess I’m stuck with walking over hot coals.

This is a true story. While some facts were stretched for hyperbole, the “walking over hot coals or fairies and unicorns” is an actual quote from a professor.

!BoB

MathSoc HLM Nominations

The Math Society has opened nominations for Honorary Lifetime Memberships for this term. If you know of someone who has significantly contributed to math and student life in general and is graduating or graduated, then the HLM Committee would like to hear from you.

Nominations can be submitted to internal@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca or handed in to the Internal Director mailbox in the MathSoc office (MC 3038) by 5:00 PM on Thursday, February 19. Nominations should include the name of the nominee as well as a description of how they contributed. Paper forms are available outside the MathSoc office.

Honorary Lifetime Members have their names engraved on the HLM plaque on the 3rd floor of the MC and are permanently granted the rights and privileges of a MathSoc social membership, which normally requires a \$12.50 fee per term (which most math students pay with their student fees).

The HLM Committee will evaluate the nominations and report its recommendations to the MathSoc Council by the end of the term, which will then consider them for HLMs.

Sean Hunt

Math Society Internal Director

TL;DR

There is too much of it in this paper

In the first issue of *mathNEWS* this term, there were two articles, one by “import this” and one by “Thor”, that were simply too long for anyone besides the authors to enjoy. This is not just according to me, but literally everyone to whom I have spoken about it. My intent with this short piece is to simply write what I think everyone else is thinking.

I believe that a good article should be either informative, funny, or sufficiently thought-provoking to the general mathie public. In addition, they should not be sufficiently long that their intents become lost in a tyraid of irrelevancy. For example, if you’re writing an article about how to get a good co-op job, keep the focus on that. Nobody (and I mean *nobody*) cares about how you solved a problem in $O(n+k)$ time, and it only makes your article sound like you’re bragging as opposed to giving advice. (“import this” could have cut his article by a third by simply removing his direct bragging!)

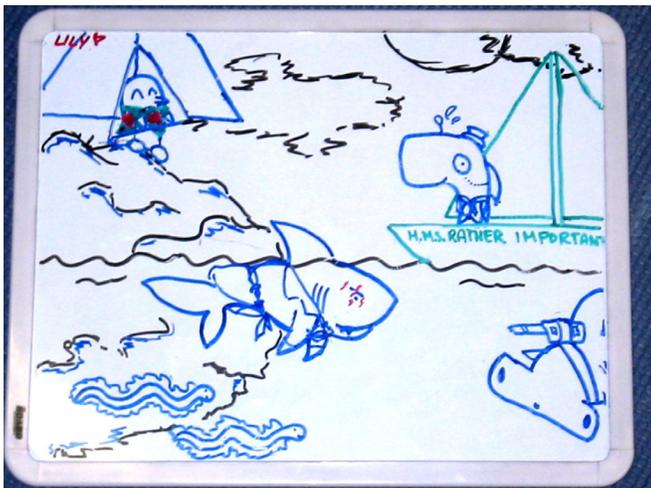
In my view, an example of a longer article that works is the Rainbow Mathies column. While his articles are typically a full page in length, he keeps all of his content relevant to the point he tries to make, and his tone is very supportive and relatable. Contrast this with the co-op job article, which does contain a few valid points, but also several invalid ones. On top of that, half of the two-and-a-half-page article is simply the author tooting his own horn with examples that are not relevant to the point and from which readers will not gain anything.

Yes, during my tenure as editor of this fine paper, I published things that in hindsight I shouldn’t have. However, where I always stood my ground was on article length. A good article is not longer than a page, and is often much shorter. If an article is more than one page, split it into a multi-part series. Even when an article is well-intended and actually written well, a number of people will be turned off by the sheer length of it, making the author’s time in writing it a waste.

In summary, I want to ask all *mathNEWS* writers, on behalf of all *mathNEWS* readers, to keep their articles to a reasonable length, and the editors to enforce the same. This will motivate them to keep their articles relevant and useful to their readers. *mathNEWS* is meant to inform and entertain students, and writers should write with this goal in mind.

InsideR

Ex-editor (W09-S10)



The n Things I Probably Shouldn't Have Done During My Interview

Yeah. I got interviews.

I’m not sure how this happened, but it happened. Despite the insane bullshit I threw on my resume, I got interviews. Hell, I got a LOT of interviews, 12 as of now actually (“Wow, how did this idiot get more interviews than I did?”, you think, “And holy crap... How does he know what I’m thinking?”). Maybe my suggestions last week were flawed. Maybe the employers are totally insane, and for some reason decided my past experiences would work well on the “job” and I would be able to “take care” of some “businesses” for them. Nevertheless, I got interviews, and I tried my best not to get kicked out or arrested this time. I hate it when things don’t go according to plan. As always, don’t follow these.

- **Handshake duration** is divided by a very thin line between courteous and creepy. Not only did I extend the handshake beyond the normal amount, but, according to the court files for sexual harassment I “went over the line by so much that I probably can’t even see it anymore”.
- **Do not bring your lunch.** Especially if it’s good food, and especially if it’s right before the interviewer’s lunch break. (note: I can’t think of any places that sells good food on campus, so you should be fine for this).
- **Taking your shoes off** is considered “disgusting” and “un-professional”. I call it “comfortable,” but whatever. We’ll agree to disagree. Anyways, this will usually lose you the job and probably get you kicked out of the room as well.
- **Putting your feet on the interviewer’s desk** is also disallowed. If you haven’t gotten kicked out by now, you probably will.
- **Winking suggestively** at the interviewer is usually treated with disgusted looks. In one particular case, the interviewer started to reach into her purse. The next moment I found myself squirming on the ground, mace in my eyes. I think she likes me.
- **You are not Rammus.** You can say other things besides “Ok”.*

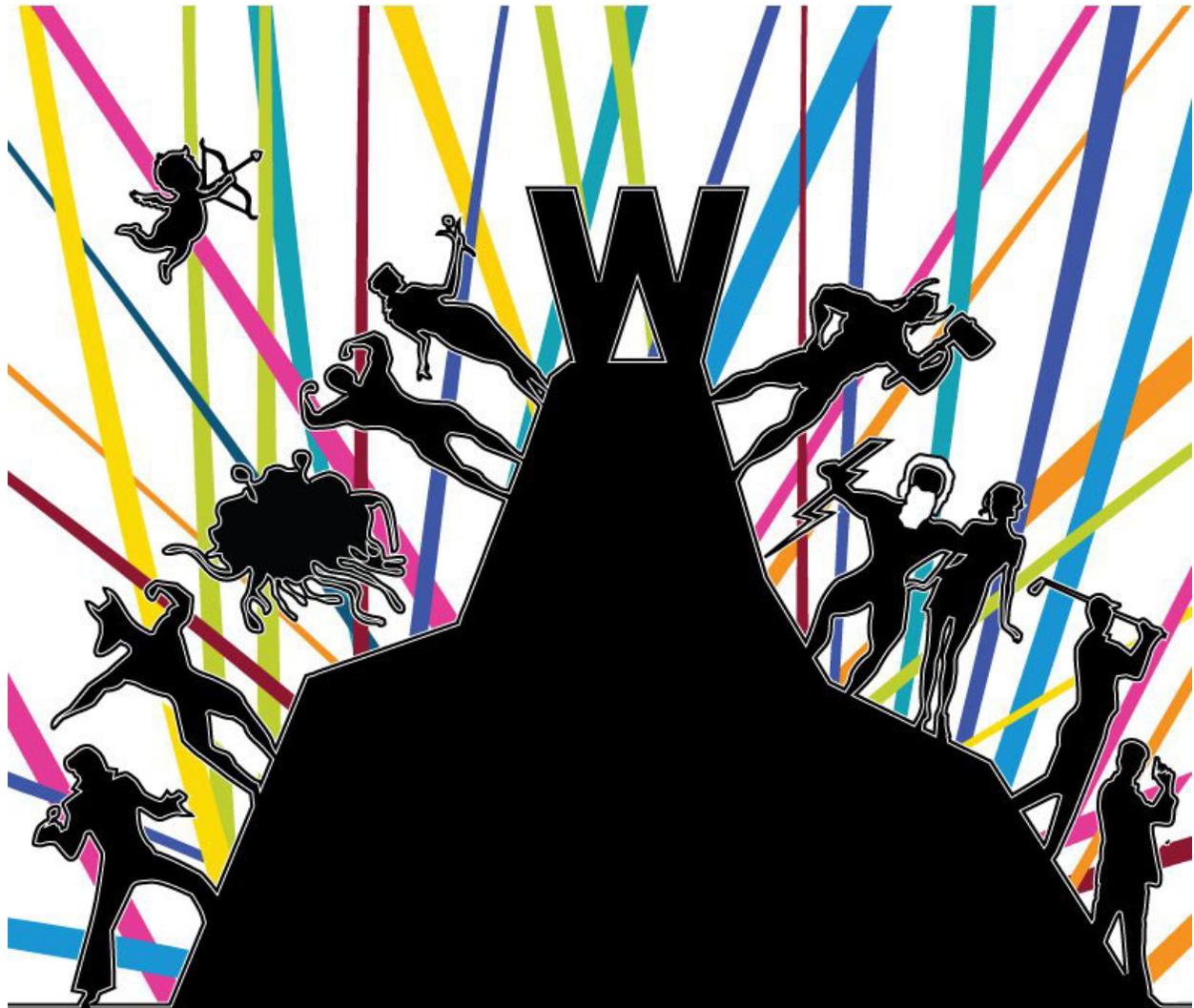
*This is a reference to a Champion in League of Legends. But seriously though, I think I’ve spent the majority of my interviews saying “Ok”. This article is now over. Ok.

theSMURF

Nominate Your TA

Do you have an exceptional TA? Here’s your chance to recognize them through the Amit & Meena Chakma Award for Exceptional Teaching By a Student! Visit the CTE website for your nomination form: <http://tinyurl.com/6x3qs2v> Nominations are due February 11, 2011

Cathy Duong



FASS OF THE TITANS

SHOWTIMES:

Thursday Feb 3rd: 8pm

Friday Feb 4th: 8pm

Saturday Feb 5th: 2pm & 7:30pm
@ Humanities Theatre in Hagey Hall

PRICES:

\$10 advance, \$12 at the door

Groups (10+): \$6.99 advance, \$9 at the door

Thursday Only: \$6.99 advance, \$9 at the door

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE HUMANITIES THEATRE BOX OFFICE: (519) 888-4908

(Note: The Friday show encourages audience heckling. Not for the easily offended!)

www.fass.uwaterloo.ca



WORDARC

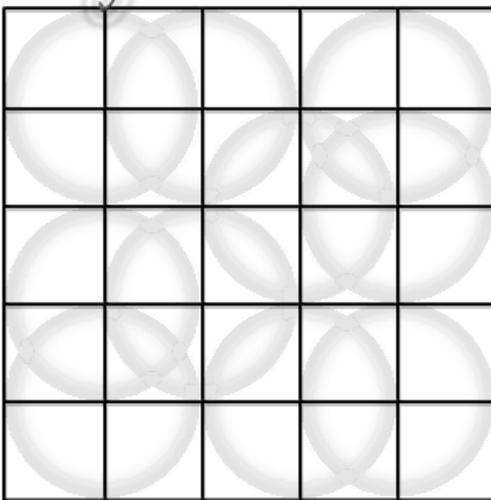
The scrambled words overlap by two letters

amy, aemn, ejnoy,
 eorsty, deeirtu, beeilrrt,
 eloprsy, anstxy, aimox, emno, den,

<http://euri.ca/puzzles>

umbrellas

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



5 2	2 3	3 6	7 6
9 5	5 7	6 1	6 1
6 1	8 0	0 6	7 6
1 7	7 6	6 1	4 4
1 9	9 4		
3 8	8 5		

Drywaller

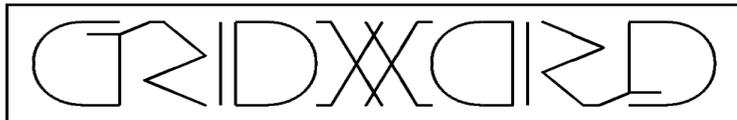
"Listen up. Our client isn't picky, as long as each square has the right number of walls surrounding it. Sounds a little tricky, but we didn't get to be the #3 drywall outfit in town by being lazy."

Also:

- There's a wall around the outside
- They want exactly 14 rooms

2	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	4
2	2	1	1	2	3	3	2	1	2
2	1	0	1	3	2	3	4	2	2
3	1	0	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
1	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
2	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	4

Puzzles courtesy of euri.ca



Quick Clues

Across

1. Extreme care
6. Spanish warship
10. Shoot from hiding
12. Social prohibition
13. Five-petaled primrose
17. Trustworthy
18. Barrister
21. Referee's helpers
25. Not darkened
27. Strike with one's knuckles
28. Aristocracy
32. Authoritative government
35. Poisonous arachnid
36. Aged and respected
41. Strike
42. Uncanny
43. Most careful
44. Assail, attack

Down

1. Proto-butterfly
2. Unlock
3. Loneliness
4. Atop
5. Nibble
6. Jewel
7. Perjure
8. Geologically very long time
9. Nonexistent
11. Single squares on a screen
14. Heartbeat
15. Uncooked
16. Before
19. Astronomical orbital period
20. Brilliant, magnificent
22. Recede
23. Chemically large quantity
24. Has a document legalised
26. Hoodlum, gangster
29. Grand musical play
30. Extra slip worn inside shoe
31. Background, environment
33. Night
34. Frost, glaze
36. Oath
37. Neither of two options
38. Reuben bread
39. Wager
40. Geologically long time

D	V	M	O	N		E	A	I	S	U	L	C	E	S
N		I		V	E	M		L				V		U
E	L	V	R	I		A	L	D	E	L	N	I	O	P
C				E		H			L			L		Y
S	E	L	U	B	I	R	L		U			I		T
A		S		E			O		A	N	E	H	L	V
		E		L		K	R	O	P			P		L
V	C	I	L	P	E	R		R	E	L	W	O	R	P
R		T			L	A	E	P		A		M		
O	C	N	O	R	B		E			E		E		T
H		E			V		L	V	E	R	E	H	L	E
T	V			T		R		E						G
E	L	V	A	O	R	A	O	D	O	D	I	B	A	R
L		E			E			Y	V	I		I		V
P	I	H	W	E	S	R	O	H		S	U	R	O	T

Last Week's Answers

1		2		3	4	5		6		7		8		9
				10				11						
12						13				14		15		16
17										18			19	20
				21		22		23		24				
25		26											27	
				28	29		30							
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32	33		34				35							
36		37		38		39		40		41				
						42								
43									44					

gridCOMMENTS

Insert witty comment here.

Hello again all. Last week we received only a single submission to the *gridWORD*, which is somewhat upsetting, especially considering that it was incomplete and contained neither a name nor an answer to the *gridQUESTION*. As such I can't officially declare the winner. So, again, submit your solutions to the **BLACK BOX**. The best submissions wins free stuff.

Since I didn't get an answer to last week's *gridQUESTION*, I'll reuse it: "What is your quest?"

-perki