

math NEWS

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Friday October 19th, 2012

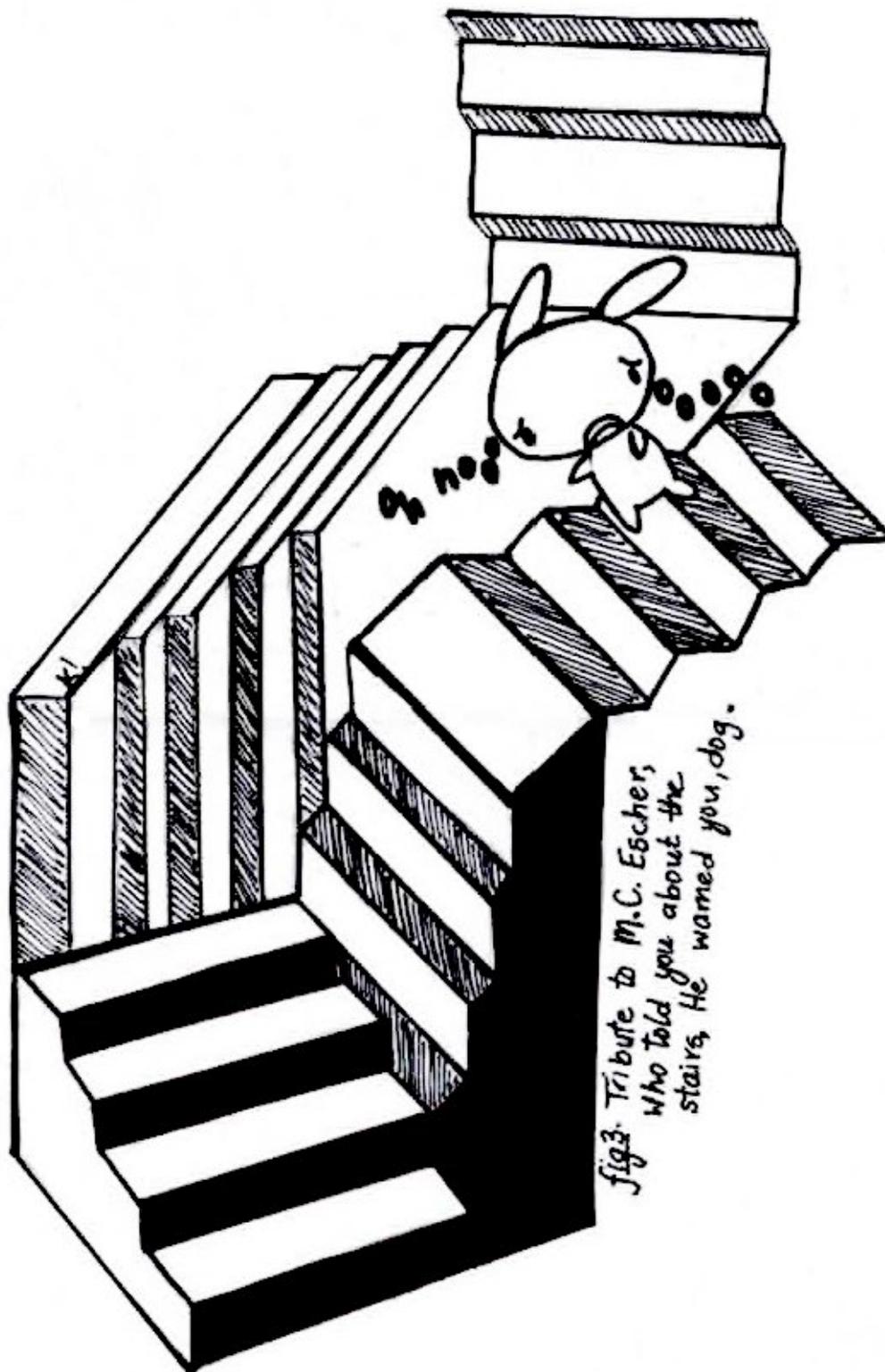


fig3. Tribute to M.C. Escher,
who told you about the
stairs. He warned you, dog.



9 770705 041004

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

Oct 19	Issue 3 leaves home
Oct 29	Production night #4
Nov 2	Issue 4 returns home terrified

MathSoc

Tuesdays	Games Night in the Comfy
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University

Fridays	Cheese Club
Oct 22 - Oct 26	HvZ registration
Oct 25	ActSci Club movie night
Oct 26	Deadline for 50% tuition refund
Oct 29 - Nov 2	HvZ game week
Oct 31	MEF funding request deadline

CECS

Oct 26	Rankings Open
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Misc

Oct 31	Halloween
Nov 1	Cheap candy

Call for CS Volunteers!

Participate in this year's Fall Open House to help answer student questions, discuss program requirements, and lead math tours.

When:

Saturday, November 3
9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Math 3 building

Free lunch and faculty t-shirt will be provided to all volunteers! An orientation session will be happening on Wednesday, October 31 from 4:30 – 5:30 pm in DC1304. Halloween costumes are welcomed and recommended.

For more information, please contact Heather Steinmetz

In person: DC 2119

Phone: 519-888-4567, ext. 35144

Email: h2steinm@uwaterloo.ca

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The editors: The Kid (Lenny Morayniss), Sora (Sacha Koohgoli), Nameless Barbarian (Will Morrison)

mastHEAD

Those of you that have been present on campus recently may have noticed the fire alarms and blackouts that have plagued the MC in the past weeks. Rumours have spread of people trying to get out of midterms by pulling fire alarms, and of battered breakers in the bowels of the building. This issue's *mastHEAD* question is therefore "The recent string of blackouts and fire alarms cannot be a coincidence. Who is behind them, and what is their motive?"

Ice Nine ("Tie Liberation Front, it is a DISTACTION (not distraction)"), El Jengibre ("Campus Gnomes"), BlueberryMuffin ("Experiments in the Quantum Nano Centre"), Lemon~Juice ("Urr eem bees a gurtt sillyoh molebeast. Eem er loike der black"), Soviet Canadian ("The bourgeoisie obviously"), theSMURF ("The fire extinguisher manufacturing and distribution people"), AcroMath ("I am not at liberty to discuss this question. Perhaps you could talk to my lawyer?"), Shay Blair ("ESP -> Evil Society of Pineapples"), waldo@LE-GASP.ca ("GODDAMMIT PINKIE PIE!!!"), SG-17 ("Someone is building a Stargate in the QNC"), Zethar ("[Redacted by the Draconic Conspiracy]"), Element 118 ("The gremlin room was found by a frightened frosh ferrying fluids"), moment ("Meghan Kaushal"), psychomath ("Romney"), !ED ("Concealed, to stay concealed"), A concerned citizen ("The conspiracy of short people. Don't trust anyone below 177cm"), SytheMarshall("Well, it's NOT the students taking midterms, is it?"), ObjectED ("A bored editor with nothing better to do at work.")

Concealed ("Engineers did it and ran away")

Congratulations!

*You've just proved that putting propaganda in
mathNEWS works!*

*Come out and write for mathNEWS on Oct 29th at
6:25pm at MC 3038!*

CTRL-A Sez

The Club That Really Likes Anime is celebrating its 20th anniversary at the end of the month, and no better way to celebrate than to invite everyone and watch anime. We're going to be having a themed/retrospective showing of anime, and I hear there will be cake. Well, there's a lot more than that, like the cosplay cafe, cosplay contest, Weiss Schwarz Tournament, gaming, arts and crafts, activities, and a lot more. It's completely free to attend, and open to the public. If you have anime goods to sell, we're having a flea market for that, too. Saturday October 27, 12 noon to 10PM, hope you guys can make it! You can find more information at <http://www.ctrl-a.org/wp/20th-anniversary>, or "CTRL-A" on Facebook.

CTRL-A

FOC Sez

FOC applications are open. Apply at leads.uwaterloo.ca.

Amanda, Anna, and Sacha
MathFOC 2012

VeloCity Sez

Every term, VeloCity holds the VeloCity Venture Fund for University of Waterloo startup companies. This fund was established in March 2011 after a generous donation of \$1 million was made to VeloCity by Ted Livingston, a VeloCity residence alum and tech entrepreneur. The donation inspired us to create the VeloCity Venture Fund.

At every VeloCity Venture Fund final, we give away up to four prizes of \$25,000 to uWaterloo tech startups. This amount emulates the \$25,000 left to Ted Livingston by his grandfather – the perfect amount for him to start Kik Interactive Inc. In addition to \$25,000, winners of the VeloCity Venture Fund receive mentorship and workspace in the VeloCity Garage. VeloCity takes nothing in return.

We use the VeloCity Venture Fund to help get student startups off the ground. It's extremely important for innovative students to have the tools and resources they need to start game-changing companies, and we're doing everything we can to give them this opportunity.

This term, we had 10 amazing finalists compete on October 4 in the University of Waterloo's Davis Centre Foyer. They all got up on stage and pitched their companies – ideas ranged from Ava, an app that lets you shop the streets, to Tenguin, a private social network for parents and babysitters. The pitches were of an extremely high caliber and our judges had a tough decision to make. Tim Ellis, CEO, Accelerator Centre; Brian Kobus, VP, Summerhill Venture Partners; and Cameron Hay, EIR, Communitech; narrowed it down to this term's winners.

- Kira Talent, founded by Konrad Listwan-Ciesielski and Emilie Cushman, is an online video platform that allows employers to interview hundreds of job candidates in minutes.
- Oikoi, founded by Logan Fuller and Oliver Cardoza, is an online rental search and management platform making it easy to find apartments and roommates, and simplifying the property management process for landlords.
- PumpUp, founded by Phil Jacobson and Garrett Gottlieb, is the first fitness app that provides personalized workouts that learn as you use the app and adapt your workout to help you reach your fitness goals.
- Thalmic Labs, founded by Stephen Lake, Aaron Grant, and Matt Bailey, is creating natural, wearable 3D control.

These four startups founded by University of Waterloo students and alumni get \$25,000, free space in our VeloCity Garage and limitless mentoring from the VeloCity network.

The VeloCity Venture Fund happens every single term – applications for next term will be open this December. If you are a UW student and you have a startup, follow us on Twitter and Facebook for application reminders. We want to help you be the next big thing!

While you wait for December, check out our VeloCity Campus events - they'll help you prep for VVF!

Velocity

ActSci Sez

The UW ActSci Club will be having a Movie Night event on Thursday, October 25th from 7:30 pm – 10:30 pm in the MC Comfy. Please attend; we will be providing free popcorn and cotton candy! The movie we that will be watching will be Fight Club. This will give you a chance to see an actuary in action. Also, keep an eye out for our Excel and VBA tutorials which will be happening the first week of November!

Kerry Tian
ActSci Club

Games Sez

Do you enjoy board games? How about card games?
Free snacks and drinks?

If any of this appeals to you, show up to MathSoc Games Night at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays.

DanInTheHat
Affiliated with the Games Board

HvZ Sez

It's that time for BRAAAAAAAAAAAINS again!

The time has come for the termly face-off between the zombie hoard and those who defend humanity. Yes, the now infamous Humans vs. Zombies Game (HvZ) as hosted by the Waterloo Science Fiction and Fantasy Club will take place in the coming weeks! For those unaware of what it is, it is basically a tag game with Nerf blasters and disc launchers (and copious amounts of socks). The game itself will last an entire week and take place across ALL of campus. Some important information you'd probably want to know includes:

GAME DATES

Start: 12:01 am, Monday Oct. 29

End: Midnight, Friday Nov. 2

REGISTRATION

If you'd like to participate in the game, drop by in-person at our registration table! Registration will be open 10 am – 7 pm each and everyday at the following times and locations:

Monday, Oct. 22 – Wednesday, Oct. 24 in SLC Vendor's Alley
Thursday, Oct. 25 – Friday, Oct. 26 in MC 3rd floor across from the Coffee and Donut Shop

To know more about the game, check out the rules at <http://bit.ly/XkhHrN> and our website at <http://bit.ly/SZwCCK>. To contact the HvZ Moderators directly, come to the registration table or email us at uwhumansvszombies@gmail.com. Keep zombie-ing on, and enjoy the game!

Brook Jensen
WatSFic Necromancer and HvZ Mod

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

Rainbow Mathies 23

A Call to Action

Coming from a small town, I didn't get a chance to meet very many different people until I came to UW. Being a queer person, something I will always try to learn about when meeting someone is their previous experiences with other queer individuals and how they relate with them. Back in my hometown, very few people had any kind of experience like this before meeting me, so not many people saw themselves as an Ally. Coming to UW, this changed. Most of the people I met had interacted with other Gender and Sexual Minorities (GSMs) before. Most (but not all) had positive experiences with these groups. Many were familiar with what an Ally is, and actively identified as one. As a queer person in a new place, this was really exciting for me! I was worried that UW would be just like my hometown, and I'd have to teach a bunch of people about things like homosexuality all over again. Being relieved of this burden was a blessing.

As time continued, and as I met more and more people, I found myself feeling more and more conflicted. I mean, sure, when I was talking to them a lot of the people were very queer-positive. Unfortunately, some of the people I did meet did not share this, and were quite openly homophobic. Something I noticed, though, is that outside of direct and personal conversation, it would be hard to tell that an Ally is actually an Ally. They will offer support for their friends, but they often will be hesitant about attending queer-positive events, participating in queer activism or speaking openly about their beliefs. However, if someone was homophobic, they would often make it clear pretty quickly through their words or their actions. In other words, I noticed that Allies were generally passive, but homophobic individuals were much more active.

I can understand the perspective behind being a passive Ally. It's natural to care and want to support your friends, and there is still some controversy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity. The problem with passive Allies, though, is that they do very little to fight the culture of silence surrounding these issues. Consider a normal conversation between friends. In my experience, casual homophobia still seems to be more "natural"

in these situations than casual queer positivity. (People find it easier to say "that's gay" than to say something like "her partner", for example). Since homophobia tends to be so much more active, queer positivity has the impression of being less common in comparison, which is not true.

This is why I want to challenge anyone who considers themselves an Ally to try and be more active with their beliefs. Consider speaking openly about your queer positivity more often. Look into community organizations (such as GLOW or the Rainbow Coalition) for events or opportunities to show support. Take some time to educate yourself on current issues or areas/groups you may not be familiar with. Finally, and most importantly, make an active effort to examine your behavior or conduct to ensure that you're portraying yourself in a way consistent with your beliefs, and to see if you can improve. Doing some or all of these things will help improve the general environment not only for people close to you, but for all queer people should you help inspire change.

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

Join me next week when I talk about some recent news in the queer world.

(define this (not cool))

Crossdressing and Negative Stereotypes

Double the Stereotypes

For people unsure of their gender identity, crossdressing offers a fantastic opportunity to "try on" other gender identities to see if they "fit". Yet, even then, there can be strong barriers to their ability to explore in this way. Certainly crossdressing is still frowned upon by a majority of the population. It is seen as unnatural at worse, or comical at best. In Japanese culture for example, crossdressing is often the butt of many cultural jokes. In many countries it would be frowned upon because it would advocate the "secret homosexual agenda."

However, besides the cultural and social barriers to it, there are learned behaviours that prevent people from pursuing this type of gender expression. That is, the notion of stereotype threat prevents people from exploring as they should be able to.

The key example of this is that of men who have certain body types. In popular culture, you are either rugged or unfit, and there are very few explicit in-between states. Men being "cute"

isn't allowed as much. And so it is that those who have the type of body that is viewed as unfit will likely be less willing to experiment with gender identity, first because they categorize themselves in a certain state in their stereotypical sex, and then when they attempt to map that type of body shape to another gender it is wholly one that is rejected in stereotypes. That is, negative stereotypes about large women will play a role in the ability for people to experiment with gender identity. It is in this way that say a fat man would be unwilling to look for high heeled boots that he finds cute, because they clearly wouldn't look cute on his body.

In this way, feminist ideals towards working against negative gender stereotypes empower both women and men to explore and define themselves as they wish rather than how society expects them to be defined.

Ice Nine

Midterm Planning

A Guide to doing well during the Midterm Sesaon

Hi there. This article mainly focuses on first-year planning (since many, if not most new students will be experiencing this kind of stress for the first time in their lives) for what we Mathies like to call the “hell” that is midterm season. While you’ll overhear the software kids (as well as many other programs in Engineering) complain about their “Engineering Hell Week”, you will have an entirely different set of rules to abide by whilst studying and writing midterms.

What you probably didn’t know about midterms was that you, the purebred awesome Mathie that you are, still have assignments and projects to complete whilst midterm season is raging. You’re still expected to balance a timetable, go to class, and do midterms, but where in that entire time period do you have to study?!

The answer isn’t easy. Some upper-years you’ll talk to will tell you that it’s best to skip some classes, assignments, as well as tutorials to prepare for the “higher value” percentages given out in midterms. Others will tell you to stop having “free time” and that sleeping will be the bane of your existence. Both of these answers have their merits, but also their detriments, which will ultimately either affect your final grade or your overall health, neither of which you’d want to sacrifice for the other (or at least, you shouldn’t!).

By skipping tutorials, assignments, and classes, you miss a lot of material that can (and probably will) be on the final exam. While your midterm might be worth something significant like 20-25%, I guarantee your final will be worth equal, if not significantly more in terms of final grade contribution. Unless you can be absolutely sure that you’ll do well on catching up what you miss, my best advice is to do the minimal amount of class and tutorial work as possible, while still taking notes and attending as many of your lectures as you possibly can.

The second option also isn’t viable because losing sleep is never the proper answer to finishing assignments or cramming for exams. The quality you lose by choosing to work or study over sleeping is immensely proportional to getting bad grades in the future. Even if you gain the instant gratification benefits from doing well on that one assignment or one test, you’ve set back your sleep schedule and your ability to succeed moving forward that it makes your recovery all the more difficult.

So what exactly is “viable”, then? Balancing your sleep and work schedule is definitely an important factor in your success. On top of that, though, you need to remember to exercise regularly, eat well, and most importantly, have a stable static time allotted for you to sleep. The most valuable tool for your success in university is being able to focus and remember things, which can only truly be obtained properly with the right number of hours of sleep.

I wrote this in the hopes of helping those who were confused or worried about midterms, and in the hopes of raising your morale a bit, because hey, everyone goes through the same thing together, and for better or for worse, you’ll be perfectly normal coming out of midterms regardless of how you do.

ChairmanS(how?)

N Ways to Get a Coop Job

It’s interview season and Waldo is in a good position to ACTUALLY have a co-op job for next term!

- **Making sure the resume you have is up-to-date is a MUST**, any experience (be it volunteer-work or paid) that you think is relevant should be mentioned
- **DON’T FORMAT YOUR RESUME LIKE PD1 WANTS YOU TO WHEN YOU APPLY**, your resume should be formatted in a way that reflects how YOU think you should represent yourself
- **Tailor the resume to suit the job you’re applying for**, only list the most relevant experience for that job (as well as any awesome achievements you racked up that show you ARE good at things)
- **Put the extra effort in to make a reasonable cover letter/application package**, some of the best jobs are the ones that ask you to do that extra stuff and it shouldn’t take too long
- **Constantly check JobMine but don’t forget about other potential opportunities outside of it too**, kind of self explanatory
- **Dress to impress for the interview but don’t forget to show off your personality**, suits are fine, but if you feel comfortable wearing something else, go for it! Just try NOT to show up in jeans or yoga pants if you can avoid it [*Some companies prefer jeans and/or yoga pants. The interviewer dictates the dress code, see below—ObjectED*]
- **Be proactive and research your potential employer beforehand to get more of a scope for the job**, show that you are interested in the position and you are briefly aware of what you are expected to do. Interact with your potential employer
- **Let your experience speak for itself**, you want to show that YOU are the best candidate for the job right? Bring in things (like a design portfolio, or a relevant sample assignment from a previous job) that you think would be good to show off what you can do. Talk about what you did! Potential employers want to SEE that YOU are good at what you do
- **Relax, be yourself and ask/answer questions honestly**, be prepared for the typical interview questions, but don’t be afraid to tackle some unexpected surprises

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca



Wash Your Fucking Hands

A poem by the I Am Tired of Getting Sick committee

I went to take a dump,
So I sat on my rump,
And the person beside,
Indeed wiped his behind,
and left in a dash,
without so much as a splash,
Off to infect everyone.

Is it so hard, I think:
To wash ones hands in the sink?
To not leave your ass
(except to pass gas)
On everything you touch
(Do I ask too much?)

Wash your fucking hands!
You know who you are!
Especially when you shit,
Inexcusable by far.

-I wish I was health services

I'm quitting Jobmine Sniping

This term, at least.

I've written three or four articles over the past couple of years about Jobmine Sniping, so why not another?

If you're new to this extreme sport, it's when you check Jobmine obsessively (or your email, now that there are email notifications!) so you can pick the very best interview slot.

This term, I've decided to quit. The reason is simple: my class schedule. I have almost no class on MWF, so it doesn't really matter when my interview is — I probably won't miss class. On the other hand, I have almost no breaks on TTh, so it doesn't really matter when my interview is — I probably will be missing class.

Of course, it's still nice to avoid 8:00AM or 5:00PM interview slots, so I still need to check Jobmine frequently. Just not every 30 seconds.

Interestingly, my friends still accuse me of sniping their preferred interview slots. I don't see how I have anything to do with it. I mean, it's not like I'm addicted to this, right?

!bob

N Ways To De-Stress from University / Job Search / etc.

It's not procrastination, I swear!

- Listen to awesome music.
- Hang out with friends.
- Read Reddit/Hacker News/TechCrunch/a book for fun/a random interest book/webcomics.
- Play video games (especially "XCOM: Enemy Unknown"; That game is fun.) for a day or two.
- Sleep (since you haven't in a few days, I know).
- Play sports! (Intramurals, anyone?)
- Watch videos on Youtube
- Set your real life to emulate those videos
- Like trains.

ChairmanS(how?)

Dealing With Anxiety and University Stress

Something I struggled with on a day-to-day basis throughout my first, second, and third years in university is how to deal with assignment & midterm stress, while at the same time applying for jobs (and the frustration that is JobMine), running a startup, volunteering everywhere, and, at the end of the day, still take care of my required needs (namely cleanliness, food, and overall health, but not in any particular order). I don't think I've yet found the answer to my problems, but I've definitely found coping solutions that I can and want to share with the general public, especially considering the fact that I know so many more people struggle with similar, if not worse, issues in their lives at present.

One important concept I had to understand was that I wasn't alone in my feelings. While talking to counselling services is a big help in some cases (especially when it comes to domestic problems such as my parents' separation earlier this year), I found that talking to and hanging out with my best friend became a big part of what I needed in my daily life in order to function optimally. The awesome thing about university is that you hang around a lot of like-minded people, and it becomes much easier to make friends without any of that judgmental or awkward atmosphere of high school (after all, you're all starting out again, right?).

I'm grateful to have met my best friend in first year, when I chose to live on-campus in residence. The impact of a community-like environment affected my experience to such an extent that I would spend my next two years living there, since I loved the experience so much the first time. Even now, I still choose to live on-campus (albeit in a different residence), mostly because it lowers my stress with regards to monthly housing and utility payments (and all of the drama associated with dealing with landlords), creates convenience for getting to and from class, and still provides me the community environment that I'm so gratefully used to.

Some might say that I'm not very "adult-like" in that I haven't yet signed my own lease or rented my own place while being away at University (I'm from the faraway land of Scarberia), but I think quite the opposite. By living independently (I still make my own meals, clean my own room, and do everything pretty much solo), I still gain the importance of understanding financial management (i.e. not eating out every meal); I just get the nice bonus of having an awesome community environment to hang out in when I'm bored and need entertaining.

Another major change I had to make was about my frugality. While I used to be overtly micromanaging over my daily expenses, it has gotten to a point where I live with ancient technology, thus making my productivity and my efficiency very low, especially in comparison to my peers. Lately, I've been "impulse-buying" things that I believe I need in the long-term, and in every case that I've done so, it worked out immensely. Not only am I now more efficient and productive, but also my life has been much less stressful with my increased usage of cloud-like storage programs such as Google Drive, Dropbox and Microsoft Skydrive.

I hope my somewhat tirade-like thought process makes sense, otherwise I sound like a crazy Mathie rambling on about gripes I've had in life! Here's to your future success in both school and life.

ChairmanS(how?)

A Beginner's Guide to Being a Pedestrian

Hey. It's been a month and a half since university started, and while most students have figured out their way to classes and how to hand in homework on time, a surprising number seem to still be struggling with one basic task: walking. The number of students who I've hovered over ominously, breathing creepily down their necks as I try to get around them because they're blocking the entire path, is far too many. So I present to you: A Beginner's Guide to Being a Pedestrian.

1. Get off the chair. Lift that leg. Then yes, lift the other leg. Repeat and repeat. Yes, you're getting the hang of it! Who's a good boy? Here's a dog treat.
2. Beware of your surroundings. I know that Twilight/Pokemon crossover fanfic you're planning out is going to be the next big hit, but try looking around every once in a while. See that car behind you? Maybe you should get out of the way. Going around a corner? Try giving it enough space that you don't find yourself bulldozing the person on the other side.
3. Walkways are like roadways. You should always keep to the right. Don't give me that crap about it being prejudiced against left-handed people and Europeans. Nobody cares about them.
4. If you do not want to get decked, do not stand near
 - doorways
 - corners
 - traffic bottlenecks
 Additionally, if you do not want to get sniped, do not stand near
 - open spaces
 - windows
 - assassins
5. Most escalators are two people wide. Just like roads, the fast lane (walkers) is on the left. The slow lane (standers) is on the right. If you are standing in the fast lane on a crowded elevator in front of me, I will drop a lizard down the back of your shirt.
6. When entering a room/elevator/bus, wait for everyone who's trying to leave to exit before you go in. Trapping the prior class' prof inside is an excellent way to introduce yourself to next semester's exam writer.

Finally, I'd just like to comment that despite my presumed rage, I've broken every one of these rules at least once. So I guess I am no better at pedestrian etiquette than any one else. But in the spirit of true hypocrisy, that won't stop me nagging you about it.

BlueberryMuffin

Rants about (Sweat)Pants

First of all, "rants" rhymes with "pants" so that's pretty cool. Today was the first time during my university career where I wore sweatpants outside of my room. Not the tight pants that show off your butt, nor track pants that make a lot of noise when you walk, but the huge, warm, snuggly, make-your-legs-look-like-an-amoeba sweatpants. They were totally different from wearing jeans—my legs could move and the waistband adapted to me (instead of the other way around). They're so comfortable, I could take a nap on demand which makes up for the increased chance of getting pantsed. I also love the fact that sweatpants have pockets that you can actually put things in! Guys take pockets

Midterms to Cease

Increase in fires found to be related to midterms

Over the last two weeks, we have seen midterm season fall upon us, and with these midterms we have been plagued with fiery pain. It has been observed that on Thursday October between 4:30 and 5PM and Thursday October 11th at 6PM there were "fires" in the MC building. These facts indicate to us that as midterms go on, a fire will have broken out in the MC at an even later time (likely 7PM) on Thursday (as this article has been written on Monday, the event in question has not actually been observed).

The Faculty is taking no action at this time, although if this trend continues there is a chance that midterms will be replaced with some equivalent that is less likely to burn down the campus.

Amon

Curiosity Found a Rock

Saturday, October 13 – While monitoring the status of the Mars Science Lab Curiosity, NASA scientists received a strange message from the rover. All was normal at first, but suddenly a string came in that baffled the scientists.

[2012-10-13 14:32:12] MSL: LOOK GUYS! I FOUND A ROCK! LOOK AT THIS ROCK!

[2012-10-13 14:32:19] MSL: IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THE OTHER ROCKS BUT IT ISN'T!

[2012-10-13 14:32:24] MSL: <incoming image: rock_1350153144_640x480.jpg>

[2012-10-13 14:32:42] MSL: IT'S A VERY SPECIAL ROCK. WHY HAVEN'T YOU LOOKED AT MY ROCK?

At first, the scientists suspected a prank was being pulled by their fellow colleagues. However, after triple checking the source, they confirmed that the messages were indeed being sent from Curiosity. After an investigation by the operations team, it was concluded that the Wall-e effect occurs faster than expected, and Curiosity has already developed sentience and intelligence. Currently, the rover has the intelligence and emotions like that of a small, excited dog. As of Sunday, the rover has been enthusiastically speeding around Mars, sampling rocks and happily reporting the results to its "owners", hoping to receive the praise "Good rover!".

Seriously though, this project is awesome
theSMURF

for granted but for girls, pockets are deal breakers when buying skirts, dresses, or jeans. They're not my typical go-to pants for every day wear but I highly recommend them if you're having "one of those days" or a test. I DON'T recommend that you wear these to work if you ever want to be hired again. Since midterm season has started, I suggest that you invest in a pair of these! If you want to kill two birds with one stone by getting sweatpants and showing your MATH SWAG you can get a pair in black or gray from the MathSoc office (MC3038)! Anyways they'll come in handy for me since I heard that people in finance gain a lot of weight from alcohol. GG.

Red Bull's Publicity Stunt Backfires

It in fact does not give you wings

This past weekend, Austrian skydiver Felix "balls-o'-steel" Baumgartner jumped from a balloon at an altitude of 39km. Sponsored by Red Bull, the experiment was to see if the popular energy drink really did give the consumer wings. After consuming 20 liters of Red Bull, Mr. Baumgartner ascended in a balloon to the stratosphere. When the moment of truth came and he took a small step, wings were not grown. Luckily, there was a back-up parachute which helped our brave jumper reach the ground safely.

Due to the failure of ol' Felix to grow wings, Red Bull has been trying to bury the entire publicity stunt. Multiple videos of footage from the helmet cam uploaded to Youtube were taken down by Red Bull, and Mr. Baumgartner refused to make any comments on his lack of wings. When reached for questions, Mr. Baumgartner only had one comment: "WHEEEEEEEEEEEEE".

theSMURF

Windows 8 Looms

Doom Swiftly Follows

If you're a Mac or Linux user, good; you're safe. Us normal people though, are dreading October 26th and the release of Windows 8. Windows 8 is designed to spite PC (and seriously guys, stop using "PC" to mean "Windows." It means "Personal Computer" and is basically a reference to any desk or lap sized device with keyboard, mouse, and monitor [or appropriate alternatives {like a trackpad}]) users first and foremost.

The introduction of the "Metro UI" (sorry, "Modern UI") is the biggest middle finger I've ever seen. "Apps" abound, with all the sketchy closing of programs, lack of real multi-tasking, and inability to have your screen look how you want (want two chat windows tiled side-by-side next to a youtube video? NOPE!) that have become standard fare in phones and tablets.

"But theDreamer!" I hear you cry. "If you just set up your desktop correctly, you never have to see Metro...Modern...whatever the hell they call it." Oh, sure. I could do that. Only my favourite function in Windows 7 was pressing the Win key to bring up search and then typing the name of whatever I wanted and I could get it. Not any more. Now I have to use the search charm, and make sure I'm searching in the right fucking area. No more "*.txt" in the same line as "uninstall programs" and "steam." Plus, who the hell wants to go full screen just to SEARCH?!

And if you aren't like me, and don't understand that there is a key on most keyboards specifically for Windows? You'll never find the start menu. Or the charm bar. Or anything else. Plus the mouse fatigue for people with low sensitivity mice and large screens (they do exist, trust me, I deal with it at work) is just crazy.

I hope Windows 8 dies a bigger death than Vista. I'm tired of "innovation for innovation's sake" removing first my gamepads, and now my keyboard and mouse. I'm afraid for the future of PCs, but it's not just Microsoft. Mac OS X was the first to iPhone-ify their PC Operating System, then Ubuntu (the most popular Linux Distro anecdotally, and definitely in the top ten) introduced Unity which was a similar and terrible attempt. What is a gamer to do, when mouse support exists no more? Valve will take forever to release the SteamBox. I expect it after Half Life 2: Episode 3.

theDreamer

mathNEWS sportsDESK #3

Friday Night Troll Edition

Hey kids. How are the streets these days? OH BUT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE STUDY DETENTIONS OF MIDTERMS. Well I have your ultimate cure: sports headlines! Cue the music!

Welcome to *sportsDESK* update, I'm MetaCynik, and here are tonight's top stories.

In the NFL, the Seattle Seahawks believe they are championship contenders now, with a stunning victory over the New England Patriots. In other news, your CS prof has also said the class's marks will surely be bell curved.

In baseball, young teams Baltimore, Oakland, Washington, and Cincinnati have been sadly eliminated. I hope they learned something for next year, though I don't remember anything from first year.

Finally, the NBA is set to begin, and it's New York's hottest club. And it's got everything. Kevin Durant being amazing. Vince Carter choking shots. Jeremy Lin doing math. And lots of heat!

And that brings us to this week's parting advice: please don't take naked pictures of yourself. I know it sounds like a really, really, really good idea in your mind at the time, but it actually isn't.

You: /gets out of shower

You: hey look no clothes I'm so hot

You: hey look my fancy hot iPhone 9

You: two hot things obv's make sexy photos, duh

Siri: um no

You: /goes to Instagram

Siri: stop

You: /goes to camera

iPhone: don't do it

You: /snaps

You: /applies Lo-Fi filter

Instagram: Finishing up

Is that clear? Except you, Blake Lively. And you, Heather Morris. And Christina Hendricks. And Olivia Munn. And Jessica Alba! And Vanessa Hudgens! And Nathan Fillion! Continue with ... what you all do.

MetaCynik

N Things Geese Do At Night

i.e. I may be a goose

Waterloo has a goose problem. Geese clog up Ring Road. They don't yield to cars. They poop. Obviously, they are doing this to disrupt our lives so eventually they can take over the world. But when the sun sets and we're off campus, they disperse (for the most part). I wondered what they do, so yours truly went undercover and found out:

- Get double-doubles at Tim Horton's
- Line up outside offices with Course Override Forms
- Try to penetrate locked M3 doors
- Hold LAN parties in the computer labs
- Race in maze competitions on the 6th floor of MC
- Play chess in the CSC office
- Have campfires on the V1 greens
- Poop. They just never stop pooping!

MetaCynik

El Jengibre's Quest to Pumpkin ALL THE THINGS

It is fall. Fall means pumpkins. I love pumpkin, and can never seem to get enough of it during the fall season. It seems like the endless bounty of pumpkin will never end; that the Starbucks Pumpkin Spice Lattes and DQ Pumpkin Blizzards will always be here. But inevitably, so as the leaves fall, the delightful array of pumpkin comestibles leave, to return another year, leaving only the lingering taste and orange stains to remind me that it has left all too soon.

But not this year! This year, I will get my fill of pumpkin! This year, I plan to incorporate pumpkin into as many foods as possible. I've already made pumpkin chili (quite literally chili with pumpkin and a little cinnamon and nutmeg) which was glorious. I also made extremely healthy pumpkin coconut muffins.

Here is a list of other pumpkin foods I plan on cooking: Pumpkin Lasagna, Pumpkin Hummus, Pumpkin Pancakes and Creamy Pumpkin Parmesan Pasta.

And just 'cause, here is a recipe for a pumpkin spice latte that you can make at home (if you're cheap like me):

Pumpkin Spice Latte

Ingredients:

2 cups milk, 2 tablespoons canned pumpkin, 1 to 2 tablespoons sugar or sugar substitute, 2 tablespoons vanilla extract, 1/4 teaspoon each cinnamon and nutmeg (plus more to garnish), 1/4 cup of espresso or 1/2 cup of strong brewed coffee, whipped cream (to garnish)

Instructions:

1. In a saucepan whisk together milk, pumpkin and sugar and cook on medium heat, stirring, until steaming. Remove from heat, stir in vanilla and spice, transfer to a blender and process for 15 seconds until foamy. If you don't have a blender, don't worry about it — just whisk the mixture really well with a wire whisk.
2. Pour into a large mug or two mugs. Add the espresso or coffee on top.
3. Top with whipped cream, if desired, and nutmeg and/or cinnamon on top.

El Jengibre



waterloo.insert(a swarm of, locusts)

Well everyone, December is soon approaching. Many of you are probably hoping that this 12/21/12 apocalypse will come true based on your current goings on/marks/assignments etc. But there happens to be a large number of people out there who don't feel like dying just yet. That's why my paranoia has compelled me to write about what happens when various doomsday events occur and we're all sitting like geese in Waterloo attempting to study for exams and such.

Supposing the weather changes drastically; October's and November's cold and hail give way to scorching heat and a blistering sun. The weathermen keep predicting that it won't last but since when were they ever right? You're sitting in the DC cafe, eating over-priced food and wondering whether you'll pass this term when suddenly, you hear a hum. Apparently it was hot enough to attract a swarm of locusts. While everyone is freaking the flip out outside screaming and running inside, you my friend shall have an action plan!

1. Locusts usually eat all the vegetation. So say good bye to your geese poop fertilized grass! Suppose this locust plague has covered all of southern Ontario; help is on the way, but will take a while. I say run for the greenhouses located in front of DP with an umbrella shielding you from the swarm and hope that some idiot did not let them in.
2. Once you get there, make sure the place is safely boarded up along with anyone else who had a brain like yours. Hopefully those biology students have a bunch of plants that were not genetically experimented on [*alternative: hope they have a GMO corn that kills locust. Oh wait — ObjectED*]. Make sure there is little to no trace of green visible from the windows (hint: mulch). Since locusts are attracted to floodlights, keep lighting to a minimum at night (assuming the power is still on).
3. Locusts can produce 1 kg of protein per 2 kg of fodder. Since Canadian geese are too tough to replace your daily chicken consumption (it's also illegal) you might as well munch on some dried/fried locusts. Use fishing nets (small or large) and catch them once they have settled and are eating/laying eggs. So unless you're vegetarian, have fun till help arrives!
4. If you are a vegetarian like myself, don't fret! You aren't that screwed. If you can stomach it and turn the other cheek to survive then go for it! Driving cars in a swarm is never a good idea because they'll block your radiator causing overheating. Hopefully a bike can be found once they've settled down a bit to lay their eggs. Hop on and proceed to scout for some place they haven't destroyed. I don't really suggest going to the produce isle but look for the canned goods that the locusts haven't been able to get into. If people are running around causing as much havoc as the insects you might want to bring a bat.
5. Hopefully your canned goodies, alongside the greenhouse will enable you to survive till help arrives. Be careful of your water source (in case the little buggers storm the place through the taps) and pray that a chemist has holed themselves away and discovered an extra powerful insecticide against locusts without blowing himself up!

lemon~juice

Assignment Whiplash

Why I spent this weekend Playing Minecraft

By now, most of you will have experienced your first “Hell week”. In the case of any engineers who may be reading this issue, you probably just finished yours. If you are in anything but 1A and have not had one of these weeks, I salute you. Just as difficult and potentially dangerous to your academic success, however, is the week after. After spending a huge number of hours in the previous week working on assignments and mid-terms, it is very difficult to continue working in the next week. For most courses, losing a week of work is nearly unrecoverable. In my several years here, I can count on one hand the number of courses I have taken that I would be able to miss a week of work and be fine.

The first symptom of “Assignment Whiplash” is a general lack of inclination to work. At the start, this seems perfectly reasonable. After all, you just spent a week doing nothing but work, so you deserve a break! This is entirely reasonable. What comes afterward is much less so. Your “short break” becomes a break for the entire weekend. The weekend break starts extending into the next week, and it remains difficult to be motivated to do assignments. This is a problem. Motivation will continue to be difficult, and work will start piling up.

Without recognizing what is happening, Assignment Whiplash tends to end with a cycle of desperate work on assignments followed by slacking off on assignments and studying. Stress levels rise as marks lower. It is a vicious cycle. Hence, some sort of intervention is required. This can take the form of deliberate effort to do assignments, or a conscious delaying of assignments and acceptance of the results. Either way, to avoid failure, Assignment Whiplash must be dealt with.

AcroMath

N Things to Do as the Power Goes Out

Waldo was found in the midst of a minor blackout.

Ghosts at work?

- Hear all the computer people yell “NOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!” as all their progress gets lost because they didn’t save their work
- See the emergency lights go on and people scramble to get power back
- Get out your Nerf gun stash and prepare for an impending zombie apocalypse
- Enjoy the internet for another 20 min as the internet servers didn’t immediately crash when things powered down and your computer totally has enough battery power to do that!
- Try and call someone of authority to figure out what’s being done about the power outage only to have the chaos interrupt your phone calls and you end up not getting through at all
- Keep doing business as usual, because that CAN happen without the use of electricity!
- Wonder how the heck a fortress that can supposedly withstand a bomb/nuclear war, or something like that, can’t withstand a simple power outage!

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

N Better Uses for the Word “Plug”

The author aims for humor, results in snark

Because I am insane (I’ve been tested... by myself!), I am irked when professors abhorrently use the phrase “plug it into x”. I do not find plug anywhere within official mathematics nomenclature. Here are the appropriate uses for plug, each unexpectedly linked with semi-tasteful wit.

I plugged the sink.

Were you also the genius that figured out how to stop the oil spill?

This line is for plugging my article in Iron Warrior.

Theorem: *mathNEWS* is better.

Proof: Unfortunately, we suck at proofs.

I plugged the pins into the connector.

Did you know this paper can sense if you’re an engineer? It slowly drains you of wisdom, height, and sexual prowess. Drop it like it’s hot!

I need ear plugs.

AM I WRITING TOO LOUDLY FOR YOU?

Internet Explorer plug-ins suck.

This is true.

I am so plugged in to my music right now.

It’s Friday, Friday, gotta get down on Friday...

She’s such an energetic spark plug!

Metaphors are cool.

“Last night, you wouldn’t believe how hard I plugged this chic.”

Metaphors are not cool.

MetaCynik

1-		6-	3÷	5-		9+
12×				3÷	13+	
1-	11+		60×			
				120×		
3-		60×	4-			7
2-				12+		10+
	14×					

Courtesy of kenken.com

A Breakup Song

An ode to Stat 230.

I remember when I failed you the first time
Saying, "I don't get it what's going on" 'cause like
I hadn't been to the class in a month
When I had tons of assignments (Oops...)
My prof comes around again and says
"Students aren't doing well and I swear it gets easier, trust me."
Remember how that lasted for a day?
I say, "I hate this," fail midterms, I study, fail final.

Oooh I almost dropped this course last night
But oooh, this time I'm telling you, I'm telling you

We are never ever ever getting back together
I am never ever ever going to fail again.
I'll go study harder, talk to my friends, get on track.
But I am never ever ever ever taking stats again.

Like, ever...

I'm really gonna miss your examples
That don't, help me at all cause you speed right through
Theorems, will not help me to find my peace of mind
Cause I don't get what the question's asking to do

Oooh I almost dropped this course last night
But oooh, this time I'm telling you, I'm telling you

We are never ever ever getting back together
I am never ever ever going to fail again.
I'll go study harder, talk to my friends, get on track.
But I am never ever ever ever taking stats again.

Oooh yeah, oooh yeah, oooh yeah
Oh oh oh

I used to think that I would never fail
And I used to say, "I'll study harder"
Uggg, so the assignment's due and my friend's like, "Haven't
you started?"
And, like "I just... I mean this is exhausting, you know, like,
I cannot fail stats again, I will never. Like, ever"

No!

We are never ever ever getting back together
I am never ever ever going to fail again.
I'll go study harder, talk to my friends, get on track.
But I am never ever ever ever taking stats again.

I, ohhh, taking stats again, ohhh,
I, ohhh, failing stats again

I'll go study harder, talk to my friends, get on track.
But I am never ever ever ever failing stats again.

Yours in insanity,
Shay Blair.

On Demons

All of the literature we read, especially as nerds, presents us over and over with the same theme. This theme, particularly prevalent in fantasy but also in the rest of life, is that to grow up, we must do battle with demons, and overcome them. Really naïve upstart kid finds great power, has adventures revolving around it, and then must defeat evil being who also wants said power, or who wants to kill their friends, or something like that (this entity hereafter referred to as "demon"); annoying naïve upstart kid then, having secured their contribution to the world and along the way learned things like responsibility and the meaning of contentment, leaves behind the world of childhood and grows into mature, less annoying adult. (Results not guaranteed; subject to quality of writing. No refunds will be given to those who did not purchase Happiness & Cheesy Ending Warranties along with their books.) Incidentally, this is a situation where the corollary to the Law of Natural selection, the Law of Author selection, applies: those authors whose protagonists suffer natural selection do not sell books, thus selection acts against them, so they die as impoverished alcoholics within a few iterations.

Anyway, back to the main point: we live in a society with a very strong underlying assumption that to grow up, we need to overcome demons. I mean, modern society actually offers tons of examples; consider all the listless semi-adults that have graduated from university in the past several decades, and find themselves outcast from the world of children, but totally outside any semblance of fitting in to the Real World. These are people who have had no real challenge in their lives, never pushed themselves, never proven themselves, never made significant-but-clichéd realizations about the meaning of life, the importance of friendship, and so on.

So: we need more demons. Hell, given the benefits, and the risks associated with non-exposure, we should expect demons to be highly prized commodities. Everybody wants to grow up, to gain that extra edge, to put "Defeated Cthulhu, Lord of Ry'leh" under the "Volunteer experience" category of their resumé. Or to add, under "scholarships and awards", "Hoard of the dragon Ixcantilus, and 2000XP story award".

But demons are notoriously good shapeshifters. They are masters of deception, and whatever form they were in that you fought them last, or whatever you prepared against, is not the form they will take. So, since you have prepared yourself with fantasy, they will take innocuous-seeming forms, forms that do not seem out of place in the real world, forms that can allow them to get past your defenses and carefully optimized selection of magic items. They may take the form of midterms, and everyone else being better than you, or unexpected breakups (or being ineligible for unexpected breakups), or assignments you don't understand, or mental health problems, or lack of friends, or those who are close to you dying. These are awful things, the demons of our world. They are cowards, and attack in packs, when they are unexpected. And you shall overcome them, for the protagonist always wins. And you shall suffer setbacks, because otherwise the story would be too boring. But if you have demons, you will vanquish them, and you will then grow up, and leave naïve-upstart-you far behind, in rose-coloured nostalgia.

To (maybe) be continued...

What I learned from Stargate SG-1

Stargate SG-1 is a TV spin-off of the 1994 film, "Stargate." The show takes place in the present day, with the premise that there exists a network of stargates across multiple galaxies that act as telephones, except that when you dial another gate it creates a stable wormhole allowing for travel between the gates. Earth's stargate is in a top secret base controlled by a branch of the US air force, and teams are regularly sent out to explore and to recover advanced technologies that could be used to defend Earth from an attack.

SG-1 ran for ten seasons (1997-2007) and had 214 episodes. It was considered the second longest running science fiction series (next to Dr Who) until it was later passed by Smallville with 218. (Note: some more research discovered a show called "Space Patrol" (1950-1955) that had more episodes and was broadcast live. Episodes were shorter, but the total time is still longer than that of SG-1.) SG-1 spawned two other spin-off shows: Stargate Atlantis (2004-2009) and Stargate Universe (2009-2011). Universe was my first introduction to the Stargate franchise, and with its cancellation I decided to go back and watch the other series for the first time. Over the past 18 months I have seen all 214 episodes of SG-1, and here are a few of the things I have learned. Episode numbers are included for reference.

- If Richard Dean Anderson (MacGyver) is on your show, you must use MacGyver as a verb (1).
- If you reference The Simpsons often enough, you can get Dan Castellaneta (Homer Simpson) to be a guest star (169).
- 43-minute episodes are too short to deal with a language barrier every time. It's easier to just make every human in the galaxy speak modern English, even if they are the decedents of Mongols (4), Greeks (9), Vikings (10), etc. At some point you should point out this plot hole (100), but

don't resolve it.

- If the bad guys are too powerful, introduce a set of good guys that are even more powerful (10).
- If the new good guys are too powerful, introduce a new set of bad guys that are more powerful (66).
- If you don't know if there will be a next season you can defeat both major sets of bad guys in the same story (171).
- If you do get another season, introduce a new set of bad guys that are even more powerful (176).
- If you can't negotiate a new contract with one of your actors, kill off their character and replace them with a character that has a similar personality (109).
- If you do eventually work out a new contract with the above actor, bring them back from the dead (133) and send the new character away (134).
- If an actor decides to retire, replace them with a character that has a similar personality (175).
- It's ok to miraculously beam the heroes out of danger just before they die, as long as one of the characters point out that the timing was convenient (67, 190).
- The above is especially true if a character points out that a character pointed out that the timing was convenient (200).
- It's perfectly acceptable to blow up a star to destroy the enemy fleet (88).
- If you travel back in time, feel free to use Captain James T. Kirk or Luke Skywalker as a pseudonym (43).
- You can't go on a quest for the Holy Grail without a Monty Python reference (196).

SG-17

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

Follow us on Facebook (mathNEWS), on Twitter (@UWmathnews), or in person (MC 3030)!



profQUOTES

“Or you might have HireDate, FireDate. You don’t want to put FireDate when you hire the employee. Hopefully you have higher hopes for them than that.”

- Özsü, CS 348

Student: “Is that effective at the start of class or at the end of class?”

Professor: “Yes. Don’t ask a computer science class a disjunction.”

- Ward, SE 390

“I’ve heard through the grapevine that I’m losing people”

- Toman, CS 245

“I only printed out about five, because I didn’t think anyone would show up. What the hell are you guys doing here? Shouldn’t you be out celebrating that you got into university?”

- Zorzitto, MATH 137

“When you get 250 people in a class, some of whom are in love with each other, you’ve got to have rules.”

- Vaughan, ECON 102

“Ladies and Gentlemen, you have an addiction. I’m from the sixties, I know what addictions are.”

- Vaughan, ECON 102

“Now let me tell you a story about my arms.”

- Vaughan, ECON 102

“Then a beer guy is gonna make a bike, and it’s gonna suck. It’s gonna have no brakes.”

- Vaughan, ECON 102

“I’m going to show you it’s true by example... like an engineer.”

- West, MATH 237

“You’re going to have nightmares about Mallord gang rapes tonight.”

- Burris, PSYCH 218

“You know what I should have? A tranquilizer.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“Does my English make sense? I hope so, otherwise you’re going to lose marks.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“I’m not going to put questions like this on the exam... because that’d be like signing my own death order.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“I decided that I’m not going to waste my time telling you to be quiet, who’s talking, and stuff. [...] So guys, I give you complete freedom: if you wanna kick somebody’s ass because they’re talking, I give you complete authority to do that in here. I mean, if you stand up, grab somebody, take them by the door, bang! I will say nothing.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“Believe me, there is nothing in here that is useful for your life, except possibly a couple of marks on your exam.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“So I wasted 20 minutes of your life today. You can go to Needles Hall and claim your money.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

“Now, for some recreation, let’s all clap for your friend. [Everyone claps.] Just for some movement of the hands.”

- Moshksar, STAT 230

We’re at the University of Waterloo, so we don’t talk about n^2 sorts unless it’s in dismissive tones.

- Burkowski, CS 341

[breaks chalk for the 3rd time] At this rate my chalk is going to be size E by the end of class.

- Wolczuk, MATH 235

“If this was my 239 class, that would be a profQUOTE”

- Katz, CO 330

“A root can have no children but it can have Katz”

- Katz, CO 330

“I can get the computer to do whatever the hell I want it to do! Muhahahaha!”

- Berry, CS 445

“Cookies let the website take all this information from you.”

- Berry, CS 445

“Do any of you decorate your wall with phone numbers? Good. Everyone in this room is sane.”

- Berry, CS 445

[when his microphone had feedback] “It feels like the beginning of a sci-fi movie.”

- Schonlau, STAT 231

“In general, if you’re a low-level evil functionary, you only have toadies and lackies. But the ultimate extravagance for the evil villain is the yes-man. It is the ultimate accessory for your evil empire.”

- Endres

“I asked for the definition of PPDAC on last year’s final. The most original answer was: Probability princesses dig awesome cats.”

- Schonlau, Stat 231

“I’m breaking chalk and my pants are falling off. It’s all because of this power outage.”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“If you’re riding in a car, you don’t want to oscillate –unless you’re a pervert.”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

How to Avoid Actual Work

1. Take as few math courses as you can. Take tons of bird courses.
2. Make friends who can explain concepts to you and take notes for you so you don't have to go to class.
3. Learn the art of procrastination. Find a master of the art and train for years to become a master.
4. Pretend assignments and midterms just don't exist.
5. Create a time turner to have more time to avoid your homework.
6. Become a supervillain, take over the world, and outlaw work.
7. Fall into a pit of nuclear waste and develop the ability to read and control people's minds. Get them to do your assignments.
8. Build a time machine and use the wibbly wobbly timey wimey logic to give yourself assignments from the future you have because future you got them from old, past you.
9. Grow out your hair and spike in straight up. Sit in the front of all your classes and get your friends to do the same. It will block everyone's view, so everyone will fail and marks will be curved so you won't have to do much work!
10. Create an artificial intelligence smart enough to do your assignments. Ensure they have morality programmed in or something else to ensure they don't take over the world.
11. Don't sign up for *mathNEWS*. You'll have to come up with a new idea for an article every other week.

Yours in laziness,
Shay Blair.

Come Write for *mathNEWS*

Come to the dark side. We have free pizza. And pumpkins

Every two weeks, a group of people gather in the Mathsoc office and venture forth soon thereafter. Those in the know speak of free pizza, of tasty cookies, and of entertaining conversations. Should you wish to experience Waterloo's Bastion of Erudite Thought, you can show up at 6:25pm on Monday, Oct. 29th in MC 3038. We promise we won't bite.

The Editors

Sonnet IV

I heard you wanted more sonnets...

The bleak Arctic sun shines o'er the landscape,
Where a man wakes, devoid of knowing why
He deserves this desolate fate to die
But he knows of redemption and escape,
Fleeing the providence of oblivion,
Where the condemned are obliterated;
Despite fortitude reiterated,
His odds are still one in a trillion.
To damn one to such a gruesome sentence
Is an act most monstrous and shocking.
Yet thousands of groups depart silenced -
These many peoples demand repentance.
While there is time people should start talking -
To the past wronged, they should be revered.

Zethar

On Midterms

It's midterm season! Wheeeee!

- Don't forget to sleep. Sleep deprivation results in silly mistakes, like trying to argue in a proof that $1 + 1 = 1$.
- Drink lots of water this month, to avoid dehydration. Except right before and during the midterm itself, because then you'll need to pee and you'll be too distracted to write your midterm.
- If you're allowed to bring a snack with you during midterms, bring one in. If you're doing well, you can nom on it to celebrate. If you're not doing so well, perhaps it'll help cheer you up. Choose something that's not too messy... maybe a cup of fruit salad?
- Bring a backup pen or three. If you're allowed calculators, consider bringing both solar-panel-powered and battery-backed variants (that are approved by the faculty, where appropriate).
- Sleeeeeeep.
- Spend a little time with your friends, too. You don't want to be so lonely that you can't concentrate on study.
- Did I say sleep?

!able

Sonnet III

Why yes, I do spend very little time on these

By the light of the candle one doth toil -
A final stand in gathering knowledge.
However this fragile state cannot spoil
Lest one risks getting expelled from college.
Clocks tick down until the appointed time
Anxious students speak nervously in wait
For the examination bell to chime
Yet fear makes them unable to think straight.
On the page is a cacophony of words
Confidence trickles away drop by drop;
Of it one has only finished two thirds
Before writing has to come to a stop
The grades are now in; one can do no more
But be pleasantly surprised at the score.

(More on page 14)
Zethar

Sonnet V

I really hate this iambic writing

In pensive citadels philosophers
Who speak of rings and other abstractions
and spar verbally without due actions
Contemplate everything while it suffers
The living condition: reality.
The cave of shadows snares the human mind
With appetite and perfect lies combined
Bring forth this faultless mentality.
What does a perfect world contribute here
If it becomes frozen in time - without
Advancement, void of room to grow and sprout -
The human-driven passion would disappear.
To question the "ideal" is not a sin;
Who knows how things actually might have been?

Zethar

Stargate Quote of the Issue

Because you should support Canadian science fiction, even if the US SyFy network doesn't.

Dr. Daniel Jackson: So, I knew we were going to have to narrow the search parameters a little. That's when it hit me: Sir Gawain.

Colonel Cameron Mitchell: Wasn't he one of the knights who say "Ni"?

(SG-1, Season 10, Episode 2)

mathNEWS Article of the Issue

Yes, we pick favourites

Every issue, the editors will choose the article they like best to win the *mathNEWS* Article of the Issue award. The writer of the chosen article wins a \$20 gift card for Conestoga Mall.

This issue's award goes to theSMURF for "Curiosity Found a Rock" on page 7. You can pick up your gift card in MathSoc (MC 3038)

The Editors

profQUOTES

Our mentors and role models speak

[talking about springs and dampening] "And now you know why soft mattresses are popular in student dorms... Zero dampening is the 'ideal mattress'."

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

[talking about earthquake in Japan] "At this point it was panic, I almost choked on my sushi"

- Evans, EARTH 270

"Wikipedia, in my opinion, is just a big and fancy blog."

- Delaney, EARTH 121

"There is a group of people who define this differently, perhaps to annoy mathematicians. they call themselves Engineers."

- Wolczuk MATH 235

"Forget about this for a minute. But before you forget it though, think about what it says."

- Özsu, CS 348

"'You starve and die' is not considered a good business model."

- Ward, SE 390

"My daughter decided that naps were a thing of the past, so I didn't get anything done."

- Skrzydlo, ACTSC 331

"I can't do arithmetic."

- Skrzydlo, ACTSC 331

"Infinitesimal amount of charge dq. Delta Q okay, not Dairy Queen."

- Vrscay, AMATH 231

Sudoku

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

Courtesy of websudoku.com

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NEW! You can barter with vendors or other students using your personal artwork. Participate in the knitting cafe and group painting!

For more information and to apply (by Nov 12)
see feds.ca/arts-symposium or email artscomm@feds.ca
November 27th from 9:00AM - 5:00PM in the SLC Great Hall

horrorSCOPES

ActSci: Obama is looking pretty haggard in the US elections debates, and you wonder if he'll be able to survive until Election Day. You run through the numbers and see that he is much more likely to be attacked by a pair of rabid lobsters. The TSA issues a new warning at airports.

Your unlucky number is: 3000lbs of lobsters overcrowding Halifax airport.

AHS: Felix Baumgartner's space jump was pretty daring and ballsy, and now you have to prove that whatever he can do, you can do better. You don't have the funds to go that high into the atmosphere, but you figure that jumping from GSC's smokestack would be close enough. You jump...and wake up in the hospital a week later.

Your unlucky number is: 183 metre minimum height for parachute deployment.

AMATH: Your prof has cancelled yet another class, and you're beginning to seriously wonder if you can get a refund because you've only had ½ of the classes you're supposed to get. While you muse about this, your prof announces that to make up for it, you will have double the normal amount of assignments and tests.

Your unlucky number is: 3 hours of sleep per night.

ARTS: You overhear a CS student talking about dining philosophers, and suddenly realize that you are very, very hungry. You head over to East Side Mario's with your friends from philosophy, but discover that there are only enough forks for half of you. The rest of you get a pizza.

Your unlucky number is: \$78.62 bill that none of you can pay for, since you're all philosophy majors.

C&O: You and your friends decide to draw a hook-up graph for fun, to see how incestual your little group is. Somewhat surprisingly, you find that it is almost a complete graph. You raise your eyebrows and reach for the vodka.

Your unlucky number is: K5 graph of your friends, and being non-planar doesn't affect positions.

CS: After being asked to solve the dining philosopher's problem, you realize that you should probably eat a big meal before spending the entire evening bent over your computer. You head out for some Chinese food, but they only have one chopstick. Now what?

Your unlucky number is: 25% MSG skewered on a stick.

Double Degree: The pouring rain means that you constantly have to carry your yellow umbrella with you between the two campuses. It just so happens that whenever you have to travel to Laurier, you just miss meeting your eternal soulmate. This starts a story that will take at least 5 years to finish.

Your unlucky number is: 8 years, if you're really unlucky.

ENV: Although going paperless is good for the environment, you hear that transmitting all the information with computers inconveniences electrons. You start an electron advocacy group to save these endangered particles, but you're stumped as to how you will spread the message.

Your unlucky number is: 55 trees cut down to make leaflets.

ENG: You set out to make the perfect plate of nachos, but want to make sure that the structural integrity of the chips is strong enough to carry all of the fixings that you plan on putting on. You get so engrossed in designing the perfect nacho chips that the salsa spoils.

Your unlucky number is: 1 plate of dry nachos.

Grad: You see that your research paper has been scooped by a rival researcher over at MIT. As means of revenge, you plot on "scooping" up the researcher's boyfriend instead. Your supervisor is unimpressed, and orders you to research something else.

Your unlucky number is: 2 invalid study topics.

Math Phys: You're asked to start working on a Portable Quantum Tunneling device, for the sake of science. After two weeks of hard work, you get handed a slice of cake instead of a pay stub. You head to the office to protest, but your boss Gladys reassures you that you will get paid eventually.

Your unlucky number is: Have to navigate 20 levels to get back to your office.

PMATH: The weather is getting cold, and your supply of sweater vests has been ruined by a flock of moths living in your dresser. Lucky for you that they have a sale on at the Gap!

Your lucky number is: \$33 in savings.

SCI: The experiment has gone loose in the lab, and is flinging test tubes everywhere. Ducking behind one of the desks, you quickly concoct an explosive solution that will hopefully subdue it. The explosion rocks the lab, and takes down the experiment. Unfortunately, all of your research papers have been consumed in the fire.

Your unlucky number is: 3 weeks of work up in smoke.

Soft Eng: Although you're living off campus, you discover that you still have access to DC++ by hooking up your laptop to an Ethernet port in the SE lab. You download all the episodes of *My Little Pony*, and spend the rest of the entire weekend marathoning through them. You emerge from the lab on Monday extremely tired and incoherent. Everyone else thinks that you were working on your CS 343 assignment.

Your unlucky number is: 19 hours of productivity lost.

Stats: The hockey season may not be cancelled after all! You start dusting off your NHL statistics books in preparation for constructing your fantasy team. You inhale the dust and curl up in a coughing fit, banging your head against the chair and knocking yourself out.

Your unlucky number is: 0.35 BAA (Books Against Average).

Teaching Option: It's time to pick two fields of study that you will be teaching once you get your job. Math is a no-brainer, but you can't decide between either French or Music. You settle on a compromise, and decide to sing all of your lessons in French. *Your unlucky number is:* 6 notes off from singing "Les Rois du Monde" correctly.

Undeclared: You read the other *horrorSCOPES* to see if it'll help you pick a major. You get too intimidated to pursue and field of study, and drop out to become a plumber.

Your unlucky number is: 16 toilets to unclog.

!ED

**gridWORD will return
next issue**