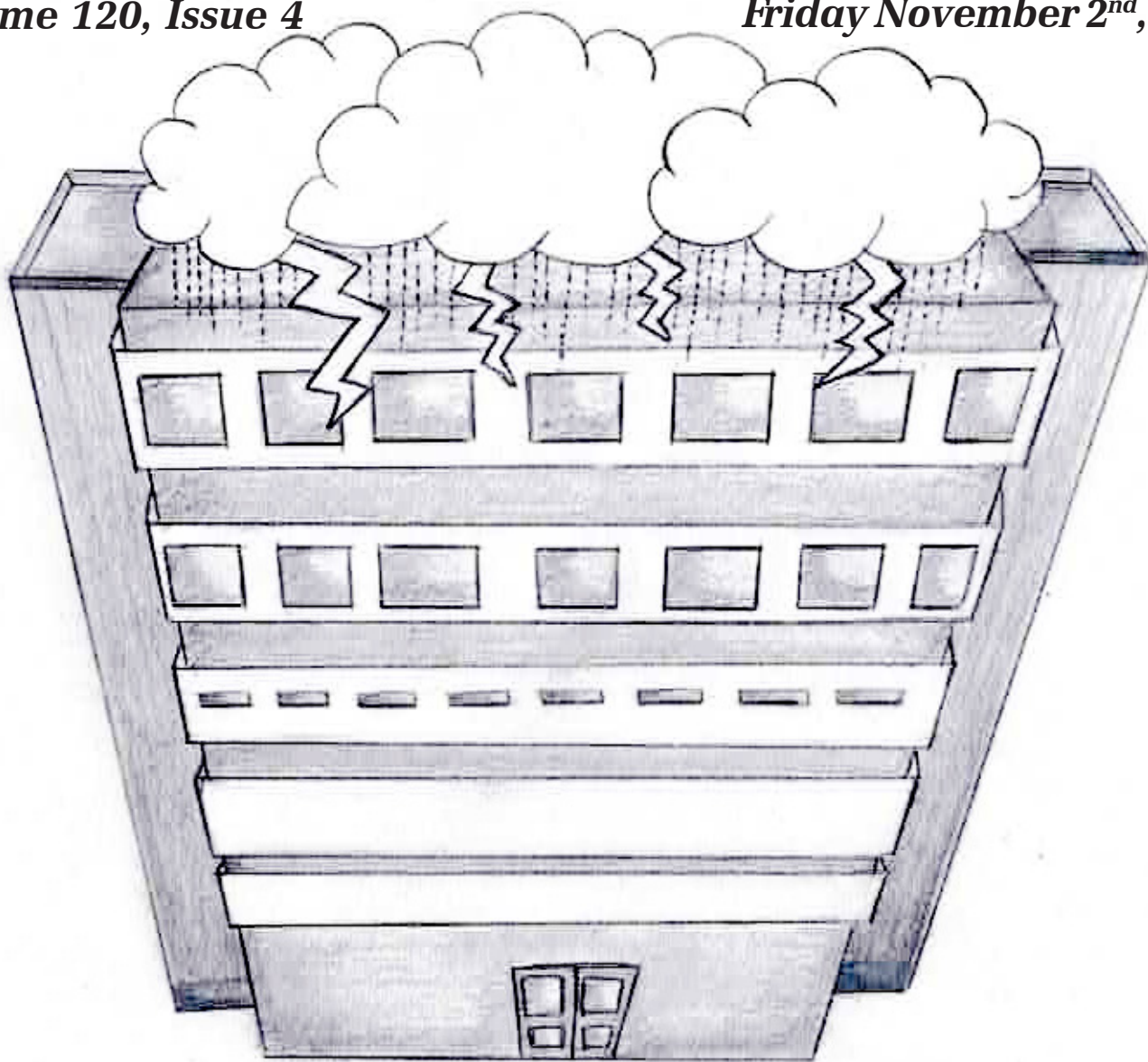


math NEWS

Volume 120, Issue 4

Friday November 2nd, 2012



NO POWER...
NO WIFI...
NO HOPE.



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lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

Nov 2	Issue 4 punches a tree
Nov 12	Production night 5 builds a dirt hut
Nov 16	Issue 5 falls into lava

MathSoc

Tuesdays	Games Night in the Comfy
Nov 5	MathSoc General Meeting
Nov 8	Pi day
Nov 15	Pints with Profs

University

Fridays	Cheese Club
Nov 16	Course drop period 1 ends
Nov 17	Course drop period 2 begins
Dec 3	Lectures end
Dec 6	Exams begin
Dec 20	Exams end

CECS

Nobody here but us chickens

Misc

Nov 3, 1957	Soviet Union launches Sputnik 2
Nov 5	Guy Fawkes Day
Nov 11	Remembrance Day

This Space Intentionally Left for Doodles

ISSN 0705—0410

Founded 1973

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

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The editors: QNX (Lenny Morayniss), Windows (Sacha Koohgoli), Linux (Will Morrison)

mastHEAD

Now on paper!

Man, hurrican Sandy really threw a wrench in all of our plans. Power went out in the MC and (to us it seemed) all of campus. The lights were out, corridors were darkened, and even the wifi was gone! The storm was so severe it even resurrected an editor from days long past, and Zombie StaticED warned all writers not to brave the storm for production night.

But our writers, as determined as they were, came anyway. Resorting to writing our articles on paper, we diligently created our biweekly issue of funny from the warm confines of Pizza Nova, where we feasted and laughed at people freezing outside.

Inspired by the storm, our *mathHEAD* question is thus: If your power goes out, how would you recharge it?

psychomath (“!ED”), theSMURF (“Masturbate furiously”), waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca (“Soviet Canadian, cause he’s a robot”), Soviet Canadian (“Bodily fluids”), washbasin (“69 lithium batteries buzzing in unison”), Zethar (“C-C-C-C-COMBO BREAKER!”), El Jengibre (“The QNC’s nuclear cockroaches”), Element 118 (“Throw all that Imprint in my 1915 combustion engine”), Concealed (“Use all of humanity as batteries, but protect the waste disposal tubes better”), Ice Nine (“Cold Fusion”), Scythe Marshall (“Harness the power Lavos, preferably waking it up”) !ED (“Friction!”)

Prez Sez

Greetings Mathies,

Congratulations! You’ve survived midterm season- I hope that you can now breathe a bit easier, and eat some leafy green vegetables. No, lettuce from the 24-hour Tim Horton’s in the SLC does not count. A couple of interesting items going on in the next couple of weeks:

- We are running so many events in November - check out Ty’s article for more information on Charity Ball, Pi Day, and Pints with Profs (there’s two!)
- Mathsoc GM is happening on Monday November 5th. This is your chance to express your opinion on what Mathsoc does, and determine what the Society should focus on in the future (see the agenda for more details)
- This might include changes to how we choose the VPF- so be sure to check it out!
- FedS Council will be providing feedback on the uWaterloo homepage, so if you love it/hate it/have any suggestions, please let me know so I can pass them along!
- We are working on a number of changes to the CnD operations to make things run more smoothly.
- The CnD furniture is supposed to be shipped on November 2nd! I’m sorry about the delay: we have been having a number of issues with the company, but they should be resolved now.
- I’m attending OUSA this weekend through FedS, so if you have any opinions on Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), or are a student from rural and northern Ontario, or are a student with disabilities, please send me a quick email.
- Finally, I’m looking for feedback on how we can make MathSoc more relevant to you, and how we can use our social media to better connect you with the information you need.

Elizabeth McFaul
President

prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

Mathsoc General Meeting

Come to the comfy on Monday, November 5th at 5PM for the Fall 2012 MathSoc General Meeting. Our general meetings happen once a term, and it's your chance to vote on issues affecting math students, see where your MathSoc fee has been going, and direct MathSoc to do things you want them to do. This term's meeting will include the following items of business:

1. Executive Reports (what each executive has been doing this term)
2. Society Financial Update (a picture of the Society's spending and income)
3. CnD Financial Update
4. Updates to the by-laws
5. A VP does not automatically become the President in the event of a vacancy in the Presidency
6. Updates to the VP Events job description to reflect current practice
7. Introducing a first year Software Engineering Council seat
8. Changing the VPF from being elected to being appointed by Council, and adding AFM101 or BU227W as a requirement for the position
9. Decreasing the Mathsoc fee by \$2.00 a term, for 2013-2016
10. Determining what expenses and activities in the CnD are covered by Mathsoc
11. Giving council the power to alter any policies (those created at a GM cannot be changed except at a GM)
12. Having monthly General Meetings in the Winter

Another incentive to stay for the meeting? Free pizza!

If you cannot attend the meeting, and would like to vote on these issues, please submit a proxy form. Assigning someone as your proxy means that they can vote on your behalf. Each person present at the meeting is entitled to one (1) proxy vote. Proxy forms are available online at <http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/documents/Proxy%20F12.pdf>, or outside the MathSoc office (MC 3038).

Elizabeth McFaul

Feds AGM recap

Think weird, then think weirder

The minute you think the meeting is about to start, the group does not have "quorum" (which is abnormally low – fifty at the University of Waterloo). You wait a half hour to realize that quorum is still fifteen short of starting a meeting. Just before the one-hour mark, the meeting is at quorum, but what do you know? The power goes out. Great, now the speaker (President, CEO, etc.) can't present using the projector, but hey, at least we're saving power, right?

Every motion that occurs is easily seconded and passes without much discussion. Finally, as the last order of business is presented, you hit a wall; attendees want to make amendments and discuss! Just when you thought you could escape, it turned out to be a trap, and you're not going anywhere for at least another five minutes.

But even as you try to escape, a motion has to be made to even "attempt" to vote on leaving the meeting. It is at this point that I've given up my placard, forcing myself to abstain the one and only time in the entire meeting.

And the entire time, the only thought I had constantly running through my mind was: "I like trains."

ChairmanS(how?)

VPE Sez

Hey Mathies,

With Halloween gone, its time to start thinking about other events, and November won't leave you disappointed!

First up, on November 8th, is this term's Pi Day. Come out to the 3rd floor of MC, get some free pie and participate in other Pi-related activities.

Second is our termly Pints with Profs. This term we will be holding two of them! These great events give student a chance to socialize with some of their favourite profs and get some great free food. This all goes down on November 15th and November 22nd at 4:00 pm at the Bombshelter Pub here on Campus. While everyone is welcome to attend both days, students and professors from the Actuarial Science, Statistics or Math and Business departments are encouraged to attend the first event, if not both. Pick up some invitations for your favourite profs in the MathSoc office in MC 3038.

Finally for November, it's the Annual Math Charity Ball! This year we will be hosting a casino themed event complete with casino tables, a great meal, live and silent auctions and a dance! You can find out more information at mathsoc.ca, but tickets will be sold in the MathSoc office (MC 3038). Make sure to get your tickets soon, they're only available until November 15th!

Prices:

- \$30 for one
- \$55 for a couple
- \$200 for a table of eight

Ty Rozak

Vice President, Events

vpe@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca

ASNA Conference

Hello Math Students,

The Actuarial Student National Association has a conference once a year, during the first weekend of January. This year it is in Winnipeg, the conference is a great opportunity to discuss with other future actuaries, meet employers and learn more about the profession.

We have 60 spots at subsidized rates so apply by November 5th for this great opportunity.

For more information visit: <http://www.anea-asna.ca/>

Or contact: uwasna2013@gmail.com

To apply visit : <http://bit.ly/VxCsD8>

Stéphane Hamade

UW ASNA Head Delegate

ActSci Sez

The UW Actsci Club will be having their second mentorship event the evening of Thursday, November 8th in the DC Fishbowl. Free food will be provided, and attendees will learn more about the program and interact with experienced upper-year actuarial science students!

The club will also be having Pints with Profs on Thursday, November 15th. Come out to chat and have a drink with your professors.

Finally, the club will be having a Dodgeball event in CIF on November 20th. You will have a chance to impress potential employers with your accurate aim and lightning-quick reflexes!

Keep an eye out for posters, emails, and Facebook updates from the club which will provide the finalized times of the events.

Kerry Tian

FedS Sez

It's been awhile mystical mathies, and we apologize for our disappearance- but with this, we hope you'll welcome us back into your <adjective> [*slimy? smelly? orange? fuzzy? -!ED*] arms!

There's a lot that has happened over the last while, so be prepared for a huge update this time around. In the future the updates will be a bit more topical, and much easier to digest.

Fed Hall:

As reported at the AGM on the 29th- progress is being made. FedS is in the final stages of wrapping up the agreements, and hopes to be able to announce everything sometime in November!

New Building:

Over the summer, FedS created a proposal for a New Student Building on Campus, based off very rigorous consultations ranging from your standard survey to one of the first (of what now appears to be many) unconferences on campus. A committee of at-large members (including your very own Math Councillor, Jesse) is currently working towards figuring out specifics with the University so that consultations can continue in November with more details.

Governance Review:

FedS completed a review of their current governance structure, and made recommendations to improve its effectiveness. These changes were implemented in an updated version of the Federation of Student's by-laws, which will come forward at a General Meeting next year, for implementation in 2014.

WaterlooWorks Request:

VP Education Adam Garcia has been looking into having CECA release the WaterlooWorks source code.

Feducation:

FedS started a new service this fall that focuses on mini-classes taught by any of our many student groups, covering such exciting and exotic topics of cheese tasting, belly dancing, and many more to come.

Plagiarism Detection Policy:

FedS Students' Council passed a policy that supports the optional use of plagiarism detection systems as a learning tool, but not as a means to detect plagiarism for assessment purposes. Council still opposes any system that does not protect the creator's ownership of intellectual property.

Part Time Student Representation:

After the General Meeting on Monday October 29th, part-time students will now be considered full members of FedS at a cost of 30% of the full fee (which is consistent with other fees on campus). By being full members, part-time students can now enjoy the benefits of our services, clubs, and representation on key issues.

Upcoming Decisions/Discussions

- Providing feedback on the uWaterloo homepage
- Discussing the creation of a walk safe program to replace all or part of the current shuttle service
- Creating an External Advocacy Organization Review body to examine our membership in the Ontario Undergraduate Students' Alliance and CASA
- Whether to advocate against flat fee billing structures
- These can lead to some students paying for education that they do not receive and can force students to choose between paying full fees and receiving financial assistance
- Per-credit charges and "program fee" tuition are calculated by registered program and not by the specific course enrolled in, leading to an inequitable payment system
- Whether to advocate for a new tuition framework for Ontario that includes a multi-year funded tuition freeze
- The current Ontario tuition framework allows for an average of 5 percent increases for undergraduate tuition, which outpaces the rate of inflation
- At the University of Waterloo, the student contribution to the operating budget has surpassed the provincial government's contribution

Jesse McGinnis
Math Councillor

Academics and You

The Penalties!

IMPORTANT DATE: Enrol for Spring, check quest.uwaterloo.ca for details!

There are several important policies that matter to a 1A student.

The first revolves around fails and WDs. It essentially says the following: should you not pass at least 2 courses in your first term at UW, you are at risk of being kicked out.

Another policy that is relevant is the progression requirements for year 1. This is the rule that essentially says 50% is a pass, but is insufficient to move forward. For example, if you get a 50% in MATH 137 you will not be allowed into MATH 138.

The normal progression is MATH 137, 138, 237 in calculus and MATH 135, 136, 235 in algebra.

In CS the courses are usually (CS 115 and 116) or (CS 135 and 136). There are plenty of ways in which these sequences can change and be modified. If you do not believe you will get 60% in your current course, please see an advisor in MC4023 and we'll offer alternative course selections.

At this point in the term, you are likely close to to the end of midterms. It is time to assess how much trouble you are in. If you are failing in 1 course or more, it is time to visit your academic advisor. We live in MC4023; and can likely offer suggestions on how to improve your grades.

Best wishes on the term,

Riley Metzger, Director of Year 1 Studies
mathadvisors@uwaterloo.ca

Diversifying Entrepreneurship on Campus

Do you ever wish you could take more courses outside of your major? Are you always looking to learn new things or would you like to add another component to your already high quality education?

If you're nodding your head yes, you should check out the VeloCity Campus program. This program is experiential learning; it gives students an extra layer of insight on top of their university education.

Every Wednesday at 7:30 pm, University of Waterloo students have been coming out to J.R. Coutts Engineering Lecture Hall (RCH) to expand their business knowledge. There have been workshops focussed on Business Model Generation, Basic Finances, Design Thinking, Technology, and Marketing and Customer Relations. Every week, about 20 students from all UW faculties who are interested in learning more about starting a company get together. This is creating a great opportunity for cross-faculty collaboration – the students listen to a speaker and get a chance to share their own ideas.

There are no prerequisites for these workshops and they're open to all students. If you have an idea for a company, that's great – if you don't, that's fine too. The goal of the VeloCity Campus workshops is to teach you as much as possible now so that when you start your own business, or start to work with a business, you'll be prepped with a great deal of knowledge. Lots of students are loving the idea of this experiential learning program and they're quickly picking up on the value it can add. We're seeing students from all faculties come to our workshops every Wednesday. The program is hands-on and our speakers are talking about real things that you can apply to your work, life, or even starting a businesses.

The speakers at these workshops are approachable and relatable as well. Most of our them are Waterloo locals or University of Waterloo alum who know what it's like to go to school and want to do something more. We've had Jesse Wilson, an engineer at Square and University of Waterloo alumnus, speak to students about technology, Mike Kirkup, a University of Waterloo Computer Science alumnus talk about creating a business model, and Kim Ho, a University of Waterloo Architecture graduate, talk to the students about Design Thinking. The workshops are a great opportunity for you to meet industry experts as well as network with other students who also want a taste of entrepreneurship.

The next VeloCity Campus workshop is on Wednesday, November 7th, in RCH 306 at 7:30pm. This workshop will focus on how to pitch an idea – what you need to include and how you need to say it. In this session, Brett Shellhammer, VeloCity's Entrepreneur-In-Residence, will share his expertise and get you pitching like an expert. If you're interested in learning a little bit more about starting your own business, sign up here, <http://velocitycampuspitch.eventbrite.com/>.

VeloCity Campus is free and doesn't require any commitment. You get to pick and choose which workshops you want to attend. If you like a workshop, feel free to come to another one. Just remember that every Wednesday night you can expect some free pizza and some expert startup advice in RCH.

Does Waterloo Kill Creativity Too?

Has the school of innovation hit a snag?

In February 2006, Sir Ken Robinson made the case that schools kill creativity. It's easy to look at his talk, and dismiss it as something that happens "somewhere else" — whether it's in some independent school district in the middle of Texas or a school system an ocean away. As I've gotten older, however, I've started to worry whether it happens at Waterloo too.

Waterloo has, for as long as I've been here, been about the fundamentals. Students are exposed to both functional and imperative programming, proof techniques, algebra, linear algebra, calculus and partial differential equations, logic systems, algorithms, models of computation, and more.

As I take SE 390 though, I wonder whether all this structured instruction in the fundamentals causes students to suppress divergent thoughts and ideas. I remember a long, late-night newsgroup thread from CS 137 (when CS 137 still used NNTP newsgroups) demanding, "Charlie Wants Typedef!" The thread culminates by saying that a solution that implements

```
typedef struct { ... } complex;
        versus
typedef struct complex { ... };
```

is wrong because "'complex' and 'struct complex' exist in entirely different name spaces", and because "Assignment 6 requires that you define 'struct complex'" (so that a student's solution can be linked with code that allows for automated grading).

This really leaves me with mixed feelings. In my upper-year courses, it's common for code to be graded by hand, which gives TAs the opportunity to use professional judgement to see if a solution is in the spirit of the assignment. In exchange, we give up the "instant gratification" of automated grading.

If this was a one-off thing, I think I'd have just disregarded it and called it a day. However, the other day, a Waterloo graduate said something that made me wonder if it's something more systematic. He asked me, "So, now that your class is in 3B, has the apathy hit?"

I'm not quite sure that it has, but if there's anything I can do to help stave it off, I want to at least give it a go.

!able

Pizza Etiquette

Don't be a jerk chicken

Often times, subsets of the university populace meet up for events of varying significance. Many times this will be happening and those in attendance will be awarded with foodstuffs, commonly pizza.

To avoid chaos and attempt to have a distribution of food with an appropriately sufficient amount for each person, follow the algorithm below:

1. Collect people around pizza.
2. Allow each person to take two (2) slices.
3. Ensure step 2 is complete.
4. Allow those who want more to distribute the remainder as they see fit.

In review of “How to Get a Girlfriend”

My article in Volume 120, Issue 2 offended some people. This was the intention. “How to Get a Girlfriend” was dry and bitter satire, and was written to make you feel uncomfortable or, had I more skill in satire, laugh at the obnoxiousness of its sexism.

If you put the article down after reading the header or the first few sentences, then (I just met you and this is crazy, but) let’s be friends, maybe?

Perhaps you read through the entire article, not realizing it was satire, and were offended by the blatant racism or sexism. However, the very nature of a how-to guide that objectifies women into goals to be realized - instead people to be understood and respected - is sexist. But it is subtle, socially-accepted sexism that permeates Western society; it is the idea that women are puzzle boxes to be solved and won, statements of hard work and skill resulting in sexual or romantic rewards. There should be no need to “figure out” the opposite sex because we are not fundamentally different. There is no greater “trick” to getting a significant other than making a friend. Women, like men and soylent green, are people. “How to Get a Girlfriend” was written to illustrate this point.

Or perhaps you expected the article to be about getting a girlfriend and not some feminist agenda, and were disappointed at the end. Then I hope I offended you; I hope I continue to offend you in the future; and I hope you are continually offended throughout your lifetime by the women you treat as objects who demand the right to feel human.

I probably I sound it, but I really am
NOTANGRY

N Things to do During a Power Outage

I’m sitting here in the dark on Monday evening, trying to come up with something clever to do during this blackout. Here are some things you can do during the next power outage:

- Build a blanket fort with your friends and watch movies with your friends.
- Run around campus looking for building that have electricity so that you can study for your upcoming midterms.
- Complain that you can’t get on Learn and therefore not study for midterms.
- Light candles and play with the pretty fire.
- Hope that your CS midterm gets cancelled.
- Go for a walk in the storm. Hopefully you won’t get struck by lightning or anything.
- Not eat dinner because you can’t cook food and all the food places close to where you live are closed.
- Ask everyone you know if there are any buildings with showers and electricity so that you can have a much-needed shower with both hot water and lights.
- Knock on your friend’s bedroom window and call out her name in a creepy voice. If you do it right, she’ll get scared and scream.
- Write a *mathNEWS* article.

Sylvia MacIntyre

Don’t Have a Job? Don’t Panic!

Don’t worry! I didn’t even get ranked!

Coming from someone who has had three co-op terms and never had to worry about a job past first round, this is big. Considering the fact that I usually got at least rankings (and a job offer), I was pretty confident this time around! When rankings opened up and I had four “NOT RANKED” show up on my Rankings profile on JobMine, I flipped out. I had no idea what to do! I still partially have no idea what to do! The mitigation strategy I have is simple: apply to as many jobs as possible next round, regardless of usefulness or value (which I’ll admit, is pretty flawed). After setting aside a solid eight months that I could work for people, nobody seemed to enjoy interviewing me!

No need to panic, though; usually JobMine posts plenty of jobs for the continuous round at the start, especially for those like me (and you?) that got left behind in the “good candidate pool” from first round. I’ve already revised my resume, did more practice interview questions, and am revved up to go for Friday morning when applications open again.

The key thing to getting jobs now is confidence. Literally every employer you interview now will know that you’ve been through first round; and whether or not you choose to let it affect you is completely your call. You can choose to play it cool and act as if nothing can faze you (which is important for stressful work placements in high-intensity environments), or you can be demoralized and miserable (as I first was), leading employers to believe you’re not enthusiastic about jobs (thus causing a perpetual loop of “no-job syndrome”).

Whatever you choose to do now is what will define you moving forward. The way I see it is this: Sure, I failed at getting a job the first time, but I probably just need to adjust a couple of things. I may have shot too high in terms of expectations, but I have a chance to recover in time before next term.

I hope my thoughts can help you as it’s helped me. After talking to numerous friends who left co-op for this exact reason, don’t feel discouraged! — the fact that you’re still trying already signals that you’ve gone a step further than those who quit at the first sign of trouble!

ChairmanS(how?)

Sexy Sexy Magic

Cards! Cards! Cards!

Wizards of the Coast has recently released three sets for Magic the Gathering; The Wenchies of Dominaria, The Hags of Mirror-din and the Foxes of Phyrexia.

The release has seen an unprecedented increase in sales. The cards, featuring mostly female characters, are already popping up in tournaments across North America.

“I see players carrying around binders full of women” said one tournament organizer.

There is some controversy over the cards, suggesting that the cards are low quality, and that players are using the cards merely for their provocative figures.

“I dunno. They seem ok to me. I mean, I’ve tapped all of them and they seem alright”, said Willard Mittens, long-time player.

El Jengibre

How To Interpret Jobmine Rankings

Haaaaave you met my euphemisms?

Around this time, students get very nervous about many things. Midterms worth 25%, assignments worth 1%, wondering if their *mathNEWS* piece is funny, getting lost on the 6th floor of the MC jungle, etc. Somehow all those things are equally terrifying to some students. But none match the terror level of JobMine rankings and the silent, anticipated release of them, since obviously zero glitches exist on the website.

Let's swim away to a good ol' metaphor.

You are a straight male at the Bomber, hoping for some sweet, uh, company tonight. You converse with a few girls with the best of your mathematical wit, spicing up the conversation with your sexy talk of differential equations. Some of them get hot and bothered, especially loving when you get all non-linear. Others aren't so easily convinced if you walk the walk. You say you can do the hard stuff... but can you? You ponder whipping out your calculator to prove yourself... um, dude, what are you doing?! This is a bar!

So! You don't know if they'll come home with you for some uh, bedroom exercising routines. Instead, you have to wait 2-3 whole weeks! And some of those girls were really nice and intelligent too! They liked to integrate expressions with three x's in them, just like you! Curves! Oh, but how love waits.

I was made for lovin' you, baby...

Rankings day arrives. You've been madly pining over fleeting visions of those wondrous girls. You're furiously clicking JobMine's brains out with Refresh commands. 1 PM strikes, and... you see:

Not Ranked, Ranked, Not Ranked, Not Ranked, Offer, Ranked, Not Ranked, Not Ranked, Ranked, Not Ranked

First of all, congratulations on the strength to approach ten girls! You're well on your way to Gosling level. So, it looks like 4 girls chose to spend an evening with you and your calculator. Not bad, soldier! And ultimately, you rocked one girl's world so much that they want to do it again. That's what you wanted, right? See, some things are worth the wait.

Flaunt that pink tie proudly. No, not that one.

MetaCynik

It's a Love Story, Baby Just Say Yes

Nobody says it better than my homeslice T-Swift. The story of guy-meets-girl is pretty cliché and everyone regards chick flicks as "too girly." Being in love is more than having butterflies in your stomach whenever you see your "significant other" or holding hands in public. Love is when you look into each other's eyes and for a brief moment, you can see their happiness, their secrets, and their ambition. Love is cherishing every moment with the other person, even if you're each doing your own math assignment. Love is when you're in different parts of the world, yet you still talk to each other every day. Once you're in love then you don't worry as much about materialistic things like money, clothes, and school. I guess by my above diagnosis and what I'm led to believe from chick flicks, I'm not in love with anyone. Yet. I'll end with a quote from one of my favorite movies, *Moulin Rouge*: "The greatest thing you'll ever learn, is just to love, and be loved in return."

-MoGlo =]

6th Floor Declared Fire Hazard

Inspectors call floor layout "too confusing" and "an impediment to navigation in case of fire"

In the past week, a group of fire inspectors entered the building to conduct a full inspection of fire safety in the Mathematics and Computing building. The sixth floor was the only floor that did not pass. The inspectors declared that the sixth floor was "utterly unnavigable" and that the fire fighters would not be able to reach the correct room quickly enough in order to put out any major fires, quoting that "the whole building would burn down before we could find the damn room from which it started" and that "any poor soul who didn't know the layout like the back of their hand would be forever wandering the halls trying to find an exit". The inspectors also strongly advised that the fifth floor also had the same problem to a lesser degree.

The fire department submitted their report to the Kitchener/Waterloo city council, who ordered that the University renovate the sixth floor to make the building layout "more intuitive" and "friendlier to navigate". This motion was met with much appreciation from the vast majority of students and professors alike, who were elated that they will not be spending half an hour trying to find an office every time they are on the sixth floor. Sometime in the next week, the inspectors will also be going through PAS.

Ender Dragon

A Warning

I'm here to warn you about an evil monster that's been lurking about, just waiting to pounce on some poor, unsuspecting victim such as yourself. When this monster catches you, it'll make you feel like you just got hit by a speeding GRT bus. Actually no, make that five speeding GRT buses. All at once. It'll make you feel like you got punched in the face by your best friend, and it'll make you want to curl up in your bed and cry for days at a time. The monster will cause you more pain than stepping on a piece of LEGO and then falling down seven flights of stairs. Eventually, the monster will turn you into a crazy person and take over your entire life. You'll find yourself spending far too much time thinking about things you don't want to be thinking about, and you won't be able to control it. Once the monster gets a hold of you, it won't let go for a really long time – days, weeks, months, years – I don't even know how long. Maybe it never lets you go.

Now, what is this monster I'm speaking of, you might ask. Well, I know Halloween was two days ago, but this thing I'm talking about isn't a ghost, or a zombie, or anything of the sort. This monster I'm warning you about is love. Don't do it people. Don't fall in love. With anyone. Ever. Unless you're absolutely certain that the person you're falling in love with reciprocates the feelings. Otherwise, I hope you enjoy feeling like someone's tearing your heart out of your body and leaving you lying on the ground to die.

Forever Alone

Come Write for *mathNEWS*!

Next production night will be held on November 12th, starting at 6:30pm in the MathSoc office.

Windows 8 Review

Squares are for Windows 8

Microsoft's new operating system has been out for about a week now, and I've taken the software through its paces on my two-year-old laptop with pretty low-end specs. After spending my Sunday afternoon installing Windows 8 (the advertising claims that it's a simple installation, which is only true after you fix all of the issues on the previous four failed attempts) and playing a lot with it since then, I've made the following conclusions:

The bad:

- For an OS that has been advertised as being touch-screen based, it relies an awful lot on keyboard shortcuts. Yes, you can use the mouse and do the same commands, but it takes a lot of time to get used to it.
- Speaking of keyboard shortcuts, the only way to learn about them is to look them up online. Here are some to get you started: Win + I gets you the settings menu, Win + TAB allows you to switch between apps quickly, and Win + D gets you to the desktop quickly. All of the previous keyboard shortcuts from Windows 7 have been carried over too.
- The new OS uses the words "App" and "Program" interchangeably.
- The apps are stored on a hidden folder on "C:/Program Files/WindowsApps", which you don't have permission to access unless you overwrite the default permissions.
- The mail app doesn't store attachments in the "Downloads" folder.
- Microsoft is trying really hard to tie everything down to an MS account.
- Apps are better for tablets than for PCs, with a few exceptions.

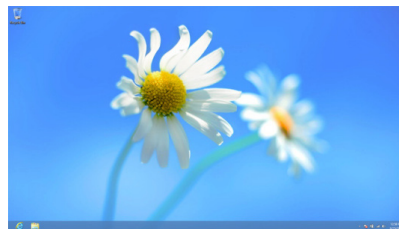
The good:

- It's supremely easy to navigate with a mouse or trackpad. Microsoft understands that not everyone has a touchscreen device, and has made the UI extremely slick to use.
- All of your settings from Windows 7 get carried over and are applied automatically.
- The news-reading app, weather app, Skype app, and mail apps are pretty decent
- You can ignore the windows store completely, and treat your computer like before.
- You can uninstall any and all of the apps that come with Windows 8
- The bootup time has dropped considerably, to something like 15 seconds on my machine.
- The OS is a lot more memory-efficient (kernel-level paging, for those in CS), which means that your computer has a lot more RAM to play with. My machine can now play Deus Ex: Human Revolution, when it couldn't have with Windows 7. The software upgrade fixed that.
- The desktop is intact, and you can use it just like you did on previous versions of Windows.
- So the big question is: should you upgrade?

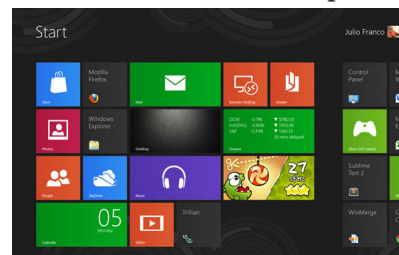
If you're running an old machine (like me), the answer is yes. The newer, lighter OS definitely breathes new life into your aging computer, and will convince you in holding off from spending money for another few years.

If you're running a newer machine, then the real question depends on how badly you want access to the apps available in the app store. As of writing, the selection is extremely limited. The OS itself is pretty solid, but 7 still has more support when it comes to software.

Happy computing!



Windows 8 Desktop



Windows 8 Start Menu

At the Heart of the Internet...

It never made any less sense than this

Charlie was awoken by a strange noise – while it was reminiscent of something familiar tingling at the back of his head, he had no idea what was to become of him, or the sound. The noise wasn't just any noise – it was definitely music of some kind. Catchy beat, but along with it a very ominous undertone – as if something... terrifying was associated with it.

His thoughts were interrupted by the other two unicorns screeching in their squeaky high-pitched voices, "CHARLIE WE FOUND THE LOLCATS TREASURE!"... And then, it hit him.

The music wasn't just any mainstream music – it was "the" mainstream beat that everyone simultaneously loved and hated: Gangnam Style. Charlie turned to the pink unicorn to realize that both he and his blue accomplices were wearing Psy shades and were warming up to dance.

"NO! THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! NOT AGAIN! Why can't I just be in a dream where I see Dragonball Z, Ghostbusters, Pokemon, Chuck Testa, or some other kind of harmless, non-intrusive internet meme!?" shouted Charlie.

"It's no use, Charlie", yelled the pink unicorn gleefully. "THIS... IS... INTERWEBS!"

And with that... They danced. For exactly four minutes and thirteen (or fourteen) seconds.

CharmanS(how?)

A Brief Geography and Etiquette Lesson

Hello! This is your favourite *mathNEWS* writer from Trail, British Columbia, of which you've never heard because it's only 8000 people and shrinking (but of which you should've heard, because the Trail Smoke Eaters were the last senior men's club hockey team to represent Canada at the World Hockey Championship, in 1961, and they won the damn thing, whereafter Canada did not win the tournament until 1994; oh wait, sports.), here to instruct you on the proper etiquette of discussing locations and hometowns, and a bit of geography along the way.

Rule #1: Remember which city or town someone says they're from, and not just the province. Because you'll inevitably say things like "Oh, you're from Victoria" when in reality they live a day's trip east from Victoria. No, that's not the same thing. It's not even remotely true, as there is a ferry trip through various bodies of water to the mainland, sections of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, parts of the Fraser Valley, Manning Provincial Park, multiple mountain ranges, and Canada's only natural non-permafrost desert lying between Victoria and Trail, if you drive.

Rule #2: "Far" is not a 4-hour drive. "Somewhat far" is flying across the country, and "Far" is on a different continent. Most of Asia, for the record, is further from Waterloo than anywhere in Canada. Thus, don't insist that someone from out west, say, is from "far away", because 1. we're really not, and 2. we're typically used to travelling longer distances on a regular basis. This phenomenon also happens to occur in major-league sports, where western teams fly an exceedingly large amount more

than eastern teams, due to the sheer distance between cities. The proposed schedule that was, thankfully, shot down by the NHLPA was ridiculous, by the way.

Rule #3: Be considerate of people who live in suburbs and smaller cities and towns. In the same way that someone from *pick-a-"suburb"-of-Toronto-rightfully-called-that-or-not* is not from Toronto, or someone from Port Coquitlam is not from Vancouver, someone from Yorkton, Saskatchewan is not from Regina, no matter how much you don't care/know/believe that Saskatchewan has places other than Regina and Saskatoon. There is, usually, a sense of regional pride associated with a hometown, and insulting that is akin to insulting that person directly. Also, Yorkton's nowhere near either city.

Rule #4: Don't patronize, regardless of which side of the geographic wherewithall divide you're on. "Hypocrisy!" you cry, and you'd be correct, but I really do try to be patient with people who choose to remain completely and blissfully ignorant of the world outside their doorstep. I would just rather that everyone be a bit more worldly, and this is my attempt at getting it started.

Rule #5: *Insert your favourite map application here* is beyond useful. Browse around sometime; you'd be surprised at what you'll find.

Hope that improves your intergeographic relations! Maybe they'll be bumped up to partial orders, or even equivalences!

I had to get a math joke in there somewhere,

Scythe Marshall

The HP TouchPad: WebOS vs. Android

Consider a much cheaper iPad, but faster!

There are always costs associated with productivity. Currently, we have two frontrunners in most peoples' minds: the iPad (3rd generation) and the Microsoft Surface. I guess the Nexus 7/10, the ASUS Transformer Pad and a few other tablets exist that can compete as well, but today I want to talk about one that not only fell out of obscurity, but is so cheap to purchase and maintain that I figure it'll likely start a trend again that may overtake Apple in due time (I.e. Before Tim Cook invents the "iPad nano mini tiny").

The HP TouchPad was released at a whopping \$499 for the 32GB version back in 2010. Not only was it a flop, but think of this: out of the 275,000 units sold to Best Buy, only 25,000 were sold after six months of it being in stores. There were a number of factors associated with its failure: poor marketing, stiff competition (iPad two was going out the door, as well as numerous other worthy competitors), poor support and development community, and lack of HP's guarantee to service or replace the device should anything go wrong with it.

Whatever the overall factors were, the end result was that the HP TouchPad was cut from the product line, leading to "fire sales" of all remaining stock. I snagged two HP TouchPad 32GBs (16GB versions were available for half the price, but I didn't care) at \$199 each, and I have to say it's probably one of the best decisions I've made since I came to university.

While the drivers are somewhat lacking in CM9 (Cyanogen-Mod9 – Android 4.0, codenamed "Ice Cream Sandwich"), the community support is overwhelmingly generous. As an avid touchscreen tablet user, I love the idea that a dual-boot system works so well as this, such that I can use my e-mail and basic

functionalities on HP's WebOS (from Palm), and still be able to have all of the cool features of Android at my fingertips. I bought a BlueTooth keyboard, a wireless charging dock and a case for a little under \$60 total, and I have to say that the speed, usability and functionality definitely rival that of an iPad.

Better yet, I can even overclock both the WebOS portion and the CM9 portion of the tablet, effectively making the tablet as fast, if not faster than the rival iPad. Tools such as "Guvnah" (available on PreWare in WebOS) and "SetCPU" (available on the Google Play Store) allow a user to overclock the HP TouchPad to 1.836GHz, which is almost a 66% increase on the initial 1.2GHz underclocked Snapdragon dual-core SoC-embedded chip.

The sad part of all this is even after the relative success that the TouchPad embodies, HP still decided to curtain itself from the consumer electronics market. They may have a tablet coming in the future with Windows 8 on it, but until an official announcement from HP is made, all we can do is speculate.

In conclusion, even if you find an HP TouchPad that is considered "gently used", and you want a tablet to use for note-taking or any kind of side-project-research stuff that the iPad is too slow or too expensive for, I'd definitely recommend picking it up. I've bought two so that I can use one reliably for DropBox, SkyDrive, and Google Drive, and tinker with the second until I can get Windows 8 installed on it.

Note for all you hackers out there: It's definitely possible, I'm just not skilled enough (yet) to do so. Consider this a challenge to get Windows 8 working on an HP TouchPad!

Happy shopping!

ChairmanS(how?)

Stargate Quote of the Issue

With 354 episodes across 3 TV series, there must be some good stuff.

[while looking at a whiteboard with "April 6" written on it]

Dr. Daniel Jackson: "What does that mean?"

Dr. Nicholas Rush: "I dunno. But Gloria didn't die on April sixth." *[replaces "April" with "4" to make "46"]*

Jackson: "Well, it's not the Ultimate Answer to Life, The Universe, and Everything. That's forty-two."

(Universe, Season 1, Episode 14)

First Round Blues

Keep your chin up!

Rankings for first round came out last Friday. Many were excited to get offers, but some of us only had a few rankings, if that. So you may come out of first round without a job. But my friends, I tell you: Don't despair! The wonderous time called CONTINUOUS ROUND is upon you. Now don't fret. Not all of the "good jobs" are gone. You're not going to fail out of co-op. You may have to work a little harder to get a job, but it is both possible and probable that you will do so.

Keep positive! Each interview you have prepares you for subsequent interviews. Take it as a learning experience. Sure, you may not have done well on the interview for your dream job. But your dream job will most likely be posted again in six months, and this time you'll know how to ace the interview.

Consider expanding your search. Maybe you had your heart set on staying in Waterloo, or working in California, but maybe it just won't happen this term. If you've restricted yourself geographically, consider looking for work in a wider area. Don't worry about being away from your friends and family for a few months; it'll give you a chance to have some "you" time. You can make new friends and explore a whole new area. Get to know the coops in your area and make some new friends! Everything and everyone will be here when you get back.

You can also expand the type of jobs that you are searching for. Co-op is a time to explore possible career paths. Consider applying for jobs outside of your base major. For instance, if you're in Computer Science, you can also apply to Software Engineering, Scientific Computation, Computational Mathematics, Computer Engineering or any sort of general math job. You can also apply to jobs outside of your faculty entirely. For instance, if you have an interest in business, consider applying for business-related positions if you have all the necessary skills that relate to it. TL;DR: read the job description and let that be the deciding factor as to whether or not you apply.

Consider looking for jobs on your own. There are plenty of jobs that aren't posted on Jobmine. Also, it is possible to get companies to create a position for you. I've known a few people who have approached their old high school, their parents or family friends that work in their field in hopes of getting a job, and it has worked! If you can survive a few months without extra income, you can also consider taking volunteer co-op work.

There is plenty that you can do. If you are really determined to get a job and are willing to sacrifice a little, you will get one.

El Jengibre

#seproblems

This is probably the most inflammatory mathNEWS article I've written

During applications

- There are over 9000 (OVER 9000!!!~!!1eleventyone) jobs posted on JobMine, how am I going to have time to go through all of them? I mean, I need to work on my stealth startup at the same time!
- Why are all of these web developer jobs? I only want to code assembly.
- Why are all the job descriptions vague? Why do they want N years of experience in X when X has only been around for <N years?
- There aren't enough cool job titles, like "Software Ninja" or "UX Guru."
- There needs to be more jobs in San Francisco. I need to escape the Canadian winter. Why are all the jobs in Waterloo or Toronto?
- I need more applications to increase my chances of getting a job, but at the same time, I don't want to get too many interviews.

During interviews

- I have so many interviews today that it's impossible to schedule them such that none of my interviews overlap.
- I keep getting JobMine sniped, and now I'm stuck with 8:00AM interviews every day of next week.
- They want me to fly down to San Francisco for a full day of in-person interviews. Seriously?
- OK, I got out of the in-person interviews in SF, but now they want me to do a 5 hour Skype interview. Seriously?
- They didn't ask me enough algorithms questions. They only cared about those stupid wishy-washy soft skills questions. "If you were a programming language, which one would you be, and why?"
- The recruiters are spamming me with emails and phone calls, trying to get me to fill out paperwork because they want to send me an offer. The problem is, I already accepted a different offer.
- I already have an offer, so why do I need to attend the rest of my interviews? I don't care anymore.
- I'm turning down offers from The Big N, because I'm more interested in working at X.

During rankings

- Oh, I don't need to check JobMine, I already got the offer I wanted weeks ago.
- I have no idea where I want to work. There's so many options and I want to work at all of them and I can't decide!
- All of my rankings say "Offer," so I need to be careful that I accept the one I actually want.
- I would accept the offer from X, but they're not paying me enough. Seriously, I would either starve or be homeless if I took that job.

I get the feeling that I will have angered both non-softies and softies. My only defence is that this is mathNEWS: why are you taking this article seriously?

!bob

profQUOTES*Now with 60% less fat!*

“I like to cut off the material before an exam. There are some profs who say ‘You know, you have a class the day of an exam, maybe that will be on the midterm’. There are some fucking profs who do that! Believe me, I like to be devious, but that is too devious, even for me.”

- Endres, Earth 260

“My wife is away this weekend on her annual knitting retreat, otherwise known as the ‘Stitch n Bitch’ where they complain about their significant others. I might not get your midterms marked this weekend, as I have Scotch and cigars pencilled in.”

- Endres, Earth 260

“I’ll make an assignment for Halloween so you’ll get scared and do it. And so you’ll have the zombie look the day after.”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“When you’re pushing your girlfriend of child on a swing, to get it into a certain frequency, you don’t need to apply a cosine function, just kick them!”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“If I lose my job over *profQUOTES*, you are all screwed for the final!”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

[points to infinity symbol] “This is a little 8 that fell down and went to sleep”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“If I say that every elephant in my pocket is green, or flies, that would be true since I have no elephants in my pocket. I’m not going to prove that to you, because I’d have to show you what is in my pockets.”

-Wormald, CO 250

“A good tester makes a developer feel like shit.”

- Ward, SE 390

“That’s why you have to spend so much time on pretty printing (in the assignment) – we can’t do automated testing.”

- Karsten, CS 343

“Apparently I’m failing to see that, so that’ll be assignment question number 2.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“The proof is to draw *[the graph]* with a thick pen on fine grid paper.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“If you take the Axiom of Choice or Zorn’s Lemma, which in this class you have no choice, then you can well-order any set.”

- Forrest, PMATH 351

mathNEWS sportsDESK #4*Actual, serious analysis on the TORONTO RAPTORS*

Based on my extremely scientific method of observation which I’ll never explain, I’ve concluded there are many NBA fans at Waterloo. Guys, come on, watch some competitive fishing or mobile phone throwing competitions (it exists, seriously, Wiki it). There are plenty of terrific sports out there—FINE, I’ll write about basketball. Stop pressuring me.

SO. In the offseason, the Toronto Raptors finally discovered that defense was 50% of the game, so they added Landry Fields, Kyle Lowry, and Dominic McGuire. Here are some serious thoughts on the team.

Fields is one of my favorite players to watch. He isn’t supremely talented, but has a higher “basketball IQ” than anyone on the floor. Observe how he sets screens, makes timed cuts out to three-point land, positions himself for rebound, and uses his length to defend without overstepping. Essentially, he facilitates a major part of the offense without ever touching the ball. He’s a guy that coaches will love, but his lack of talent will hurt him – in the NBA, you can only do so much with smarts.

Lowry is the best defensive point guard in the NBA. Period. Calderon was one of the worst, so there will be significant improvement here. He’s a horrific shooter, but succeeded in Houston because of clever schemes that optimized open three-point shooting. Dwane Casey would be smart to implement similar sets. The compatibility problem, of course, is DeMar DeRozan.

I watched a ton of tape on DeRozan this summer, and I’ve given up on him. He can’t flex to play small forward. He’s a subpar shooter, so opposing defenses don’t respect him, nullifying his penetration opportunities. Even with open shots off screens, defenses don’t bother to close out on him. In the half-court, he can’t create scoring chances by himself because he doesn’t have anywhere close to a refined dribble-drive game or rim-finishing ability. He has decent athleticism that’s useful in fast-break, but that’s it. To paraphrase, he has no elite offensive skill, and the scoring simply can’t revolve around him this season.

I’m optimistic on Jonas Valanciunas. I won’t make conclusions on him yet, but there’s plenty to like from him. Bargnani’s still a defensive liability but has an outside shot will always play. That’ll help stretch the floor for the mid-range DeRozan, but Lowry’s lack of long range threat isn’t conducive to enhancing that.

What does it all mean? Defense is a priority, because there still isn’t much reliability to be found in this offense. The Raptors were the 2nd worst offensive team last year and they didn’t exactly add game-changing pieces. The team went from the worst defensive team in 2010-11 to above average (14th) in 2011-12 under Dwane Casey. If they continue to execute there and invent some creative offensive sets, maybe the Raptors will return to regular League Pass viewing for me.

Quick (serious) parting advice: watch the Nuggets. They’ll be a fun team this year.

MetaCynik

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3030)!**

A Review of WWE Hell in a Cell 2012

On Sunday October 28th, 2012, WWE presented its annual Hell in a Cell pay-per-view from the Philips Arena in Atlanta, Georgia. Here is a short review of each match that occurred on this night.

Alberto Del Rio vs. Randy Orton

The pace of this match was your typical Orton or Del Rio match. The eEnding of this match had Del Rio putting Orton into a corner for the signature kick, and Orton dodging it to land a devastating RKO to get the pinfall victory.

3.5/5. A great start to the pay-per-view. I'm looking forward to seeing more matches between these two.

WWE Tag Team Championship match – Team Hell No (Daniel Bryan & Kane) vs. Team Rhodes Scholars (Cody Rhodes & Damien Sandow)

This was Team Hell No's first real challenge. This match ends with Kane, the illegal man at the time, throwing both members of Rhodes Scholars in the ring and beating them up, causing Team Hell No to earn a DQ, but retaining the tag team titles.

3/5. This is another feud that I am interested in following.

Intercontinental Championship – Kofi Kingston vs. The Miz

A nice fast paced match that the crowd does not get excited about. This match ends with Miz dodging the Trouble in Paradise, followed by Kofi reversing the Skullcrushing Finale and hitting Trouble in Paradise on the second try to successfully defend the title.

2.5/5. This match was spoiled by a mostly dead crowd.

United States Championship – Antonio Cesaro vs. Justin Gabriel

The first of two unannounced matches. Match ends with Gabriel diving to the outside of the ring and getting hit by Cesaro's uppercut elbow maneuver. Cesaro picks up Gabriel's lifeless body, rolls him into the ring, and hits the Neutralizer for the pinfall victory.

2/5. This match was unannounced for a reason. Also, Cesaro needs better opponents.

Rey Mysterio & Sin Cara vs. Titus O'Neil & Darren Young

The other unannounced match. This was a solid tag team match that had more wrestling and less storyline than the tag team championship match earlier in the evening. The match ends with Mysterio nailing the 6-1-9 on Darren Young and pinning him for the victory.

3/5. Sin Cara continues to show signs of improvement.

World Heavyweight Championship – Sheamus vs. Big Show

This was the best match on the pay-per-view. The ending for it was very well executed. Here's what it looked like. Sheamus managed to hit the White Noise on Big Show, but only got a 2 count. Sheamus then tries for the Brogue Kick, but Big Show catches him and lands the W.M.D. Sheamus kicks out at 2. Big Show attempts another WMD, misses, and Sheamus hits the Brogue Kick but can't keep Big Show down for the count. Sheamus now sets up for another Brogue Kick. Big Show sidesteps, and lands the WMD to defeat Sheamus and become the new World Heavyweight Champion, ending the Sheamus title reign that lasted since WrestleMania 28.

4/5. One of the best matches that both men have done this year.

Divas Championship – Eve vs. Kaitlyn vs. Layla

This was a rather exciting match given the time constraints that the divas are usually under. The match ends with Kaitlyn slamming Layla onto the mat and attempting a pin but Eve does a front flip from the top rope onto Kaitlyn, rolling Kaitlyn off of Layla to have Eve pin Layla to successfully defend the Divas championship.

2.5/5. Dear WWE, Divas matches need more time. Sincerely, the WWE Universe.

WWE Championship – Hell in a Cell match – CM Punk vs. Ryback

Most of this match can be summarized by the chants heard in the crowd: "boring!" and "we want wrestling!" This match ends with the referee low-blowing Ryback as he set up Punk for the Shellshock. A rollup pin with a quick 3 count helps CM Punk to defend the title.

1/5. Not the worst Hell in a Cell match, but it's down there. The post-match stuff was more interesting as we saw Ryback assault the referee while Paul Heyman tried to pull Punk out of the cell. Ryback grabbed Punk and whipped him into the cell. Punk jumped onto the cell and climbed up to the top. Ryback followed him and laid out Punk on the top of the cell by performing the Shellshock to end the pay-per-view.

Overall, I'm going to give this pay-per-view 2.5/5. Aside from Big Show winning the World Heavyweight Championship and seeing wrestlers go on top of the cell for once, there isn't much to talk about coming out of this pay-per-view.

This is the first wrestling review that I have written; I hope that you enjoyed reading it!

UnoriginalName
future WWE champion

Early Windows 9 Plans Leaked

3D Interface Involves Cubes

Apparently, Microsoft is already in the planning stages for yet another user interface change coming down the pipe, scheduled for Windows 9. The new interface involves manipulating cubes to build your own interface, in an attempt to create a more personalized experience for Windows users.

Meanwhile, hardware vendors are wondering what's coming for them, as the leak also hints at yet another set of hoops to jump through for Windows compliance. Details are scarce, but the new hardware requirements set is apparently codenamed "Project Redstone".

ConcealED



Russian Reviews: The Walking Dead (Game)

The Walking Dead is a graphic novel series about the Zombie apocalypse, turned into a show, turned into a point and click adventure game. There are differences between the story told in the novels and show, but the same characters show up, and similar events take place. In the game, an entirely new cast is used, with one exception, and the overall situation is similar, but the events that transpire are new, and it is the game that we will look at.

The game is a series of point and click adventures (the final episode to be released Dec 4th), with it's center-piece being the story, and the relationships you will build over the course of the games. Now I will say that I enjoyed the series, I really do, but I also have some issues I have with this series. First, this is a point and click adventure game and suffers from simple puzzles. This is fine, but a lot of the time the point and click sections seem to be busy work, or the object I am supposed to click on is completely non-obvious. Very few times have I had a satisfying puzzle. Second, the story, although great, will force you do something you don't want to, giving you a game-over if you don't make the decision it needs to proceed. This is understandable because they can only make the game branch so much, but I find it annoying that plans that had been working abruptly have to be dropped.

Now onto what makes the game good. There is a good amount of dialogue and game-play in every episode, making the price worthwhile. There is also a decent amount of replayability because there are around 5 key decisions in each episode which have an effect on your group, from who you side with in an argument, to who lives. The general plot will no doubt remain the same, but the group dynamics would change, and the group; how it acts, who does what, is what I find interested in. There is always a split in the group, some sort of vital decision that no one can agree on, and the player's choice will effect everyone, and what will happen next. I had my favourites in the group, there were some I felt were a danger to everyone, and there were plans I just couldn't go with and this all changed over the course of the game. There was a character I liked, then disliked, hated, pitied, liked, then disliked again. The decisions made will matter, and watching the story you make as it unfolds is amazing.

I would suggest checking out *The Walking Dead*, available for download on your preferred platform, later on disc. It is a game that has had me feel desperation, fear, regret, hope, and anger, such frothing anger that I said "You are dead to me" to my screen, and left a character to die. It is an experience.

Soviet Canadian

The Worst Feelings in the World

The power, along with the internet, is down. I no longer have the knowledge of the world within a few clicks and key strokes. No more can I plagiarize articles from The Onion, steal jokes from Reddit or talk about whatever happens to be on the news at the moment. As such, this article is coming straight from the squishy fleshy bits they call the brain. Here's a list of the worst feelings in the world, in no particular order.

- Burning your mouth by eating something hot, especially the tiny piece of gum between your two front teeth. That part's the worst.
- Stubbing your toe on furniture. I'm pretty sure that the Shaolin Monks who can break bricks with their face can't stand the pain, and hop around holding their foot and crying like the rest of us.
- For men: when you pee and a little bit splashes back onto your pants. It doesn't even have to be a lot, just the tiniest drop will pretty much ruin your day. You can try to hide it, and even be successful, but in your mind you will know and you can never unknown.
- Waking up in the morning and having to go back to work / school.

- Slow internet, which is worse than no internet because you get your hopes up, then completely shut down. For example: A funny comic starts to load, but then stops just before the punchline. The top 1/3rd of Scarlett Johansson's new nude photos load, showing her face, but then stops. The Steam starts up and tries to update, but times out half way and now can't be started in offline mode, and can't run normally because of the connection. You get the idea.
- Wet socks due to rain. At first you may try and avoid getting your toes wet with a funny walk, but it will be of no help. Inevitably your socks will get wet and finally you'll hit a "fuck it" moment, give up, and run through every puddle because fuck it.
- Stepping on LEGO.
- When you thought you wiped clean but didn't really, so there's just a little bit of poop left and it itches. You want to scratch, but if you do there will be poop on your underwear so you sit funny until you can get a chance to run into a bathroom and wipe cleanly.

And thus completes my list of first world problems.

theSMURF



fig5. By the bunnyhole principle.

An Open Letter to an English Scholar

I most humbly apologize about the writing quality with regards to poetry; I know there is much to improve, for when I compare to esteemed poets I am far lacking, but I am first and foremost an abstract philosopher, then an empirical analyst, then a synthetic scribe. There is only so much I can muster towards improvement in the constraint which I have imposed on myself with regards to writing this term – an hour a week – and the limitations of it show, yet to transcend in the said time seems to be beyond my current ability; if I force not the envelope of my writing I fear I languish in the mire of mediocrity, an abyss I cannot escape due to inaction brought by a lack of writing in contrast to the planning eternal my usual self likes to exhibit.

Secondly, I ask for forgiveness this fortnight, my friend; the schedule which I planned for the term sets my designated time for writing before when *mathNEWS* feedback gets to me. I tried to tackle too much again, with abstract references and allusions, but in the hazy hour whence it was written it seemed thematically appropriate, considering the HvZ game occurring this week.

I have the sneaking suspicion through my endeavor for the term that I probably actually enjoy writing imagery and by extension conceits more than the sonnet form, and by insisting on packaging it in such bringing disgrace via abuse in the meter – it feels like the cornucopia of experiences from which the imagery starts wants to escape the prison of bone such that it can evoke empathetic another, and the sonnet form merely an emphatic excuse for it to do so.

It seems as if the gavel has fallen and the sentence is sealed; for the court jester I am not to freely flaunt form formed from an unbroken chain of custom, yet I am not so arrogant to think myself as a caged bird under the dangerous delusion that she is only misjudged for being flamboyant and different. Thus I seek improvement, and this redemptive trek is not to be completed overnight nor without practice - nevertheless as of now my choices of damnation or excommunication is clear: ought I continue work of obviously inadequate quality or renege on my word that one would get published per issue this term?

Yours Respectfully,
Zethar
Zethar@live.com

Sonnet VI

Survival here in this forsaken land
Ruled o'er by malice and desecration
Of life, one needs to make a final stand
And to escape avoiding damnation -
To dart through wrecks of the deserted past,
Lost after the undying pestilence rose,
To see undead if humans can outlast.
Resources dwindling as everyone knows
Forces bleak decisions – choose between death
And honour amidst this sadistic fate
Chasing after geese until each's last breath
In an attempt to make sense of this state.
Yet in the face of fortune few can spit,
Even in such tough times they show great spirit.

Zethar

Excuse for Free Pizza

Hi Zethar

Although I won't commit these words to ink,
Although there is but little I can say
Amidst this noisy crowd — I cannot think
When others' words keep getting in the way –

I'll try to summon up the wits to write
A hasty sonnet for you to peruse,
A simple game to lighten up the night.
This is my *mathNEWS* writer's monthly dues.

My hand is quick and darts across the page
As in my head I struggle to believe
The things I mean. This battle that I wage
Against reality. I seek reprieve

From all the things I know cannot be right.
Paper's forgiving. I'll sleep sound tonight.

washbasin

Call to Arms

A warning and a call to all Mathies has been issued, to be prepared and aid your fellow Mathies. The MOSS (Mathematically Ordered Secret Society) has declared that MC will be seceding from Canada, forming its own country. MC has become self-sufficient thanks to a few slight modifications, such as a generator and its own supply of water and other such things. Already present is the food source, population, and defense systems.

While the rest of campus is invited to join the new country of Mathosia, the Mathosian people are prepared to stand alone if necessary. The Mathies have been granted citizenship to the new land, but must swear allegiance to the Mathosian crown alone to be let into the inner circle.

And there is one more thing, the call to arms: the end goal of MC seceding is the eventual takeover of the world. With the help of all Mathies, MOSS and Mathosia can achieve this feat.

Join us, brothers and sisters. Swear allegiance to MOSS and Mathosia.

Together, we can pinkify the world.

Yours in politics,
Shay Blair.

Minecraft

To the astonishment of many, the *mathNEWS* Minecraft server has once again continued to exist. Should you wish to verify this miracle for yourself, drop your Minecraft user name in the **BLACK BOX** and we'll add you to the whitelist. The server IP is 129.97.134.134.

We've also been asked about creative mode. The server defaults to survival, but if you ask, we'll put you on creative mode. The server rule is still "Don't be a dick", so play accordingly. Try to build farther out from spawn, and avoid people playing in survival. Being jealous of your neighbour's massive mansion is worse when you actually worked for your dirt hut.

The reason we're not creating a separate creative mode server is the work factor. Editors are lazy, and we're supposed to be editing *mathNEWS*, not running Minecraft servers.

ConcealED

profQUOTES

“This proof has a mistake in it: the plural of lemma is not lemmas, but you’d need wild horses to make me write lemmata.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“I could use dot products, but I feel it’s more bourgeois to use the transpose.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“The proof is only one line.”

[Writes 'Proof: See assignment 2' on the board]

- Geelen, CO 255

“There’s something I should tell you. I’m a nice guy. Most of you probably didn’t know that. And wouldn’t have guessed.”

- Geelen, CO 255

Prof: “Or even better, I’ll move off to infinity and go ‘hooray, I’m unbounded’.”

Student: “Why is that better?”

Prof: “Because I go off to infinity. Suppose I was optimizing my salary. Being unbounded’s fantastic.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“Don’t calculate it. Just compute it by being sensible.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“There’s a problem with negatives and positives here. One of you is going to say 2 and one of you is going to say 3 and only one of them is going to be right.”

- Geelen, CO 255

Student: “Did you mean non-positive or non-negative?”

Prof: “Just take my sentences today and put in whatever’s true. My brain doesn’t work.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“And that leaves just infinitely more cases.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“If you’re not here, which most of you aren’t, you’re out of luck,”

- Forrest, PMATH 351

Student: “When you say the theorem is ‘bland’, do you mean that the guy’s name was Bland or that the theorem is boring?”

Prof: “Well, in this case, both.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“What it should have been if Mozart was a /good/ composer—he didn’t consult with me on this one...”

- Paynter, MUSIC 270

“Professor Marcoux? You believe him? I’ll tell you something. I first met him in 1985; I’ve known him for a long time. I’ll believe anything he says.”

- Forrest, PMATH 351

“Want to see at least fives 1’s and 5 zero’s.”

- Schonlau, Stat 231

“A lot of professors tell you there’s no such thing as a stupid question. They’re lying. There is such a thing as a stupid question. And when you ask one, you sound stupid.”

- Seljak, RS 121

“Think of me as an annoying father”

- Viskovic, AMATH 251

[lights turn off in lecture hall] “Well, it’s kind of romantic in here”

- Pei, MATH 115

“I’ve been told I have the power to kick people out of lectures. I think trap doors or ejection seats would be cool, but I personally would rather have the power to punch people in the face”

- Pei, MATH 115

“Oh yeah.. That’s a good pen. Yeah, that’s great”

- Jennewein, PHYS 115

“I hope you’ll come away from this lecture with the impression that English is ambiguous and that there’s nothing you can do about that. Excuse me, that there’s nothing you can do about requirements being written in English and you better do something about that.”

- Trefler, SE 463

“If I get in trouble for those profQUOTES, you guys are DOOMED on the final exam.”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“You’ve seen the Heaviside function in Calc 1 right? It was used to torture you for no obvious reason.”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“Set $n=10000$ and integration by parts becomes integration by farts”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“I don’t want to see any more profQUOTES”

- Miskovic, AMATH 251

“The pigeonhole principle is that if you have more pigeons than you have places to put them, you have a problem. Literally, because you will have a bunch of pigeons in your house.”

- Forrest, PMATH 351

Student: “If that’s case one, what’s case two?”

Prof: “Oh, good point.”

[Starts writing on the board.]

Prof: “Case two is not case one.”

- Geelen, CO 642

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

KenKen

18+			2-	
1			30*	
12*	5*	10*		
		3*	32*	
10*			1	

Courtesy of kenken.com

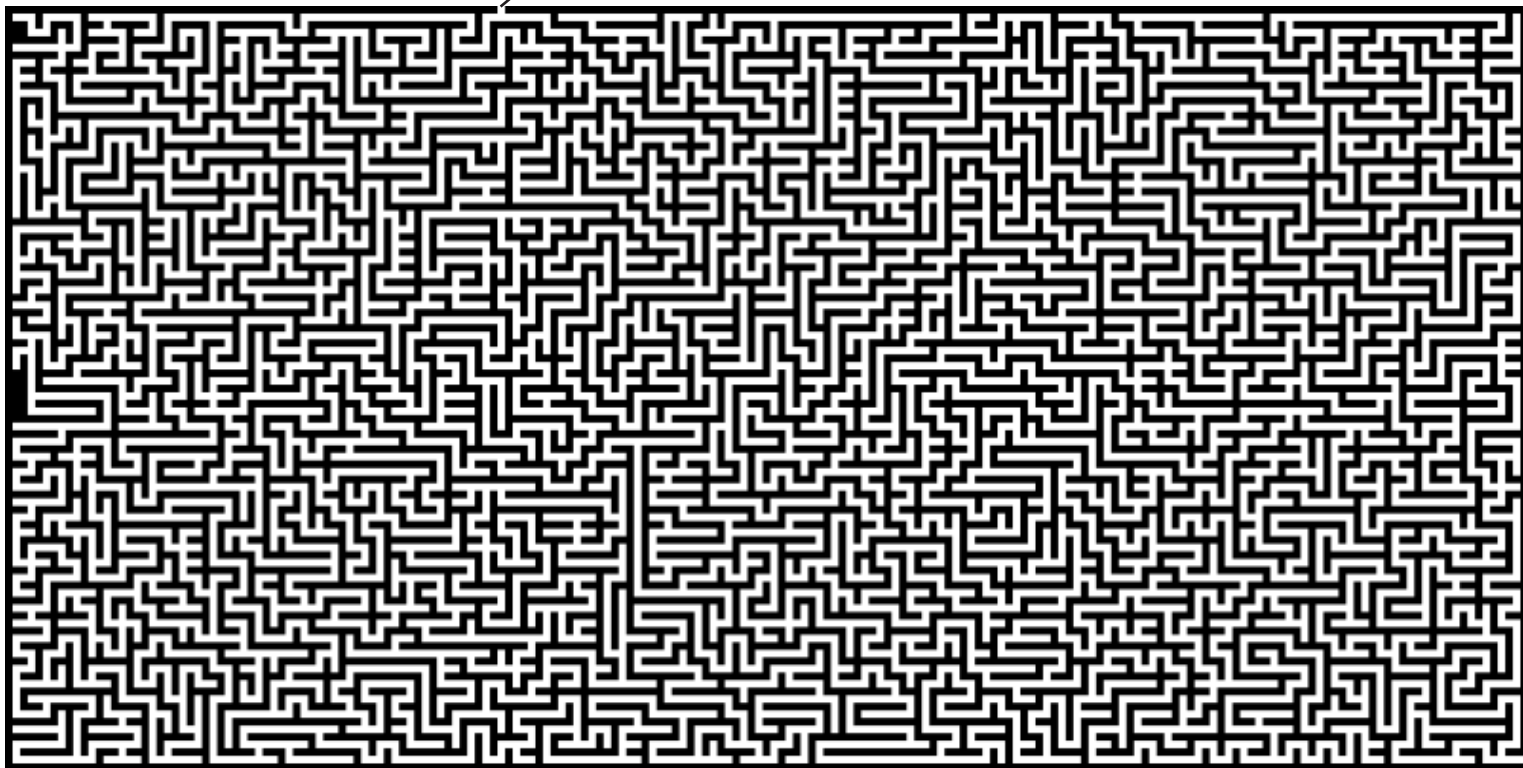
Sudoku

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

Courtesy of websudoku.com

Map of PAS

You are here



Your exam is here

Courtesy of billsgames.com