

# *math*NEWS



... I'm not even  
a bear. Why am  
I here?



ENJOY  
the SNOW!



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*Volume 120, Issue 6  
Friday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012*

**lookAHEAD****MathSoc**

Tuesdays	Games Night in the Comfy
Dec 1	24 Hour Games Day

**University**

Fridays	Cheese Club
Nov 30	ActSci Club EOT
Dec 3	Lectures end
Dec 6	Exams begin
Dec 20	Exams end

**CECS**

Ongoing	Continuous Cycle
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**Misc**

Dec 21	End of the World
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**This issue brought to you by...  
your new editors GingerbrED and  
MuffinED!**

**ActSci Sez**

The ActSci Club is having an End of Term event November 30<sup>th</sup> at Morty's. There will be free wings and appetizers. Come out and have a good time!

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

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The editors: ObjectED(Lenny Morayniss), !ED(Sacha Koohgoli), Concealed(Will Morrison) and their apprentices: GingerbrED(Julie Sturgeon) and MuffinED(Rachel Wiens).

**mastHEAD**

Given the ongoing patent wars and court rulings about round-ed corners, we decided that we too would like to scam money out of ridiculous patents. So this week's *mastHEAD* question is "What would you patent?"

Concealed ("Patent trolling"), AcroMath ("A systemic process for documenting inventions for the purpose of allowing original artists control over creative works"), !ED ("Free will"), CorruptED ("Identity fraud"), MustardMap ("RedED"), k! ("The patent system"), theSMURF ("The linked list"), BlueberryMuffin ("Air"), Shay Blair ("All food ever"), Ender Dragon ("The 37<sup>th</sup> dimension"), Zethor ("Time"), Canadian Boson ("The past tense"), CharimanS(how?) ("Your Mom"), Moment ("Hypothetical questions"), Beyond Meta ("Money"), El-Jengibre ("Patents"), Psychomath ("Invisibility cloaks"), Metapod ("A device for facilitating live birth via centripetal force"), [waldo@3.LE-GASP.ca](mailto:waldo@3.LE-GASP.ca) ("MEEP:D"), Soviet Canadian ("A series of characters used to represent ideas"), Element 118 ("The ability to convert speech to legal cash via an accreditation process and judged arguing"), !able("A method of teaching men how to treat women right"), Scythe Marshall ("The art of stroking Treebeard; you know, patting an ent"), Ice Nine ("The shape of a W. My brother-in-law has U.").

**Prez Sez**

Hello Mathies,

Well this term is wrapping up and I hope everyone is surviving the last-minute rush for assignment and projects. I'll be continuing on as MathSoc President again next term, so it's not goodbye yet! A couple of notes as you finish up this term:

We'll be starting up next term with a bunch of welcome-back events; stay tuned to the Facebook page and the bi-weekly emails for more details!

Be sure to fill out the MathSoc survey: we want to know what you think about the CnD, Mahtletics, and the Office. The survey can be found here: <http://bit.ly/SXPKVJ>

Any other suggestions for improving MathSoc (event ideas, office improvements, etc), feel free to send them to me at [prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:prez@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca)

Good luck on exams!

Elizabeth McFaul  
President F12

**MathSoc Election Results**

The referendum (MathSoc fee decrease) was adopted, with 179 votes in favour, 54 opposed and 48 abstentions.

Elizabeth McFaul was elected President for Winter and Spring 2013. Stephane Hamade was elected for Fall 2013.

Lauren Hurley was elected Vice-President, Operations for Spring 2013. Owen Smith was elected for Winter and Fall 2013.

Stephane Hamade was elected Vice President, Events for Winter 2013. Ty Rozak was elected for Spring 2013.

David McLaughlin and Sean Hunt are elected Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Combinatorics & Optimization Representatives for Fall 2013 and acclaimed for Winter 2013. David McLaughlin and Elana Hashman are acclaimed for Spring 2013.

## FUTURE Vice President Events Sez

It's me, Stephane Hamade, from the future... Winter 2013 was an awesome term for events, the only question left to answer is: Do you want to help plan it?

Please send an e-mail to [stephane.hamade@gmail.com](mailto:stephane.hamade@gmail.com) if you are interested in working on an event.

Social events that I am interested in running include Frost Week, Pi Day, Pints with Profs, Gaming Competitions, and a Rubik's cube competition.

Academic events that I am interested in running include a Jobmine tutorial, resumé tutorial, PD1 tutorial, software tutorials, Major Night/Student Panel, Finance Talk, and Research Symposium.

Your future VPE,  
Stephane Hamade

## Games Sez

Hey, thanks for checking in. 24 Hour Games actually is going to start tomorrow, December 1<sup>st</sup>, at noon in the Comfy Lounge. For those who do not know, this is an event run by the Games Board of MathSoc, wherein we take a collection of board games, free food, and 24 hours to play board games to de-stress before final exams begin and the freedom of Christmas beckons. By no means are attendees obligated to stay for the whole time, and it is the case that only the most passionate stay for the whole night; so do come if you can make it, even if it is for a few hours to socialize.

Acquisitions also happened, so we have new board games added to our collection at MathSoc, including the much-anticipated Dark Ages expansion to Dominion and other popular requests.

We hope to see you there,

Josh  
Games Representative

## Rainbow Mathies 24

*Report from the UW LGBTQQ Advisory Committee*

According to its website (<http://www.studentservices.uwaterloo.ca/lgbt/>), "The UW LGBTQQ Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the university's various constituencies on matters of interest and/or concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer and questioning people in the campus community. Sitting on this committee are representatives from administration, faculty, staff, and students in positions to bring forward ideas and enact change necessary for the continued success of queer individuals in their endeavours here. At the beginning of the Spring 2012 term, I was appointed to this committee as a student-at-large. The following is my report of items discussed at the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting that may interest students in general and math students in particular.

**Mapped In:** Mapped In is a smartphone application developed by a team of UW Students. It markets itself as a source of Interactive Touchscreen Directions, and includes a comprehensive map of the UW campus in general and buildings in specific. The LGBTQQ Committee has received word that in a future update, the maps in this application will be updated to include locations of gender-neutral washrooms. While there is no guaranteed release time frame for this update and it is not the top priority, we heard that this update is expected to be out in time for March Break Open House.

**Rainbow Space and Equity Office:** There are two separate initiatives currently being spearheaded by UW Administrators that relate to queer issues. The first is a committee formed on determining the viability and logistic realities of establishing a UW Equity Office. The second is a working group formed to determine the philosophical basis and logistical realities that a Rainbow/Safe Space program could encompass. The LGBT Committee received a report that the Equity Office committee was starting to take concrete steps towards action, and that the Rainbow Space working group was working on a summary of the discussions and decisions made. A recommendation was made to send a framework of the proposed Rainbow Space program to the Equity Office committee to consider in taking action.

**Gender-Neutral Washroom Standards for New Buildings:** The LGBTQQ committee is of the opinion that all new buildings should contain and allow easy access to gender-neutral washrooms. Members of the committee have been asked to prepare

a document outlining these standards to submit to Plant Operations for consideration. Amid the discussion as to why previous gender-neutral washroom initiatives have not succeeded, it was stressed that coupling these initiatives with general education campaigns on their importance was essential to their success.

**More Support for International Students:** According to its website (<http://wndg.ca/about/>), The Wednesday Night Discussion Group is a safe environment for queer/rainbow and questioning individuals to receive support, ask and answer questions about sexuality and gender identity, and meet other individuals in the community. A representative from this group brought up a discussion point: that over time the group has been seeing an increasing presence of international students. Based on the feedback provided by these students, this representative is concerned that international students are not receiving enough support from the institution. Committee members were encouraged to report to their constituencies and come back with comments, ideas, and suggestions.

In addition to all this, based on conversations I've been having with fellow students, I would like to compile a report to the committee on the Orientation experience for queer students. If you have any feedback on this, or anything mentioned above, feel free to shoot me an email at the address in the below paragraph.

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](http://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](mailto:dtaleman@uwaterloo.ca).

Have a wonderful holidays, and I hope you join me against next term.

(define this (not cool))



## PSA: Exams

Exams are here, class is done, but there is no need to panic. You have made it this far, you will survive exams, pass everything, and we will see you again soon. Good luck, and from all of *mathNEWS*, good day.

A Concerned Citizen

## Interview with the Editors

*This could get weird... but we like it weird.*

We're your new editors GingerbrED and MuffinED. We thought that the best way for you to get to know us is Q&A style, so we interviewed each other! Disclaimer: we were perhaps slightly mad with power and sugar. Please excuse our random insanity.

Q: What is your favourite animal, and what is your favourite cooked animal?

G: Well, in Spanish, there are two different words for fish. "Pez" is dead cooked fish. "Pescado" is live cooked fish.

Q: Rastafarians or waffles? Why?

M: Waffles, because they have air pockets in them so you are less likely to choke and die when you eat them.

Q: What fictional character would you want to duel?

G: Pinkie Pie. Fucking Pinkie Pie. I would lose so badly though.

Q: How do you plan to improve *mathNEWS*?

M: Waffles for good writers, \$40 fines for bad writers. The fine money is going to fund my tuition.

Q: How do you plan to attract new writers to *mathNEWS*?

G: I plan on creating a mascot, Pointy the *mathNEWS* Pencil. We will get a plushy suit and a huggable *mathNEWS* writer to dress as Pointy to give all the writers hugs during the production night. The pointy suit will also have a sharp top so Pointy can joust with unicorns.

Q: You go to the *mathNEWS* office to do layout. You open the door to reveal a murderous troll! Roll your D10.

M: I equip my algorithms textbook (+10 power, -2 agility) and bean the troll in the head. I then run away screaming like a little girl.

Q: You walk into the C&D, and discover that all the Raspberry Turnovers are gone. Make your move.

G: Cry. Profusely. Assume the fetal position. Combat sugar withdrawal, crawl to the Eng C&D.

Q: There are two female editors again. Do you think we can get away with writing articles about boobs?

M: Being a CS student, I hold strictly to the view that the mythical creatures known as girls do not exist.

Q: We are most likely the shortest editor team to ever exist. Comments?

G: I postulate that the height of editors is inversely proportional to height as the vector length of editorship is a minimal linear program. In short(lololol), we will be the best editors ever!

Q: What is the first rule of *mathNEWS*?

M: Ponies. Okay, joking. The first rule of *mathNEWS* is always talk about *mathNEWS*.

Q: What is your preferred method for disposing of a body?

G: Body? What body? (Bees)

Q: Are you pumped to be an editor?

M: I'm so pumped that they used me to replace the winch-and-bucket system on the well. *\*bricked\**

And that's when MuffinED's body was dragged off and never seen again.

## You're All Screwed

You may have noticed the ponies on the violently pink cover of last issue, and wondered why they were there. They are a harbinger of doom, foreshadowing dark times ahead where the word "squee" accurately describes *mathNEWS* editors. Normally I'd be working to fix this, but I'm done. You'll all just have to deal with whatever abomination this once fine bastion of erudite thought becomes.

Those of you who look back nostalgically on the days when software engineers benevolently ruled in the *mathNEWS* office, well, it sucks to be you. You could try to go convince some that they need more work, but that's your problem. You'll probably come up short and *mathNEWS* will be left under-staffed. I don't care, I'm still leaving.

The last few years had their high points while I was an editor, and I will look back fondly on those times. The *mathNEWS* debate during the Winter 2012 election drew a larger audience than the FedS debate, the new production system was finally deployed, and the ever popular *mineCRAFT* server brought life back to the BLACK BOX. However, I fear that time is at an end, and you're stuck with GingerbrED and MuffinED from now on.

Fuck this. I quit.

Concealed

## How to Write a Club Event Invite

I'm sure you've read your share of reminder emails for events hosted by Stats Club, CSC, ActSci Club and the like. Ever notice they always follow the same structure? I'll teach you:

**Step 0: Subject Line.** Have you ever noticed how you think longer than necessary for the subject line? Anyway, this should be self-explanatory. For increased probability of the email being read, use "OPERATION IRON DEMOLISHER: E5 BUILDING INFILTRATION", and follow it up with the first line "Now that I've got your attention..."

**Step 1: Greeting.** Never forget to say hi. Otherwise, who are you addressing? Even Psy addresses some big brother before breaking into a seizure of stone-faced dancing. No best man at a wedding simply stands up for his speech and starts blurting out outrageous non-sequiturs in honor of the groom (unless they're drunk). So say hi, or hey. It is a solid start to any email.

**Step 2: Announce your event.** Seriously, get right to it. Don't stall with some witty joke. There's no foreplay in email reminders!

**Step 3: Provide motivation that will never work.** This usually resembles "take a well-deserved break from studying for mid-terms" (which you don't deserve because you have been slacking) or "one last social before final exams" (as if you'll abstain from all social events after this one). Ultimately, this motivation line will never, ever sway you because it's a boilerplate sentence. So you must be original, with something like "Tired of walking to MC every day? Well, you're in luck, because our event will be in PAS!"

**Step 4: Dangle event perks that may work.** The go-to perk is free food. This is very appetizing, of course. Or sophisticated "refreshments", which are usually just color-coated aluminum cans of sugared, carbonated water. Fancily unhealthy.

**Step 5: Apologize for making the email longer than necessary.** THEN WHY ARE YOU MAKING IT EVEN LONGER? But people do this, so follow the trend. Maybe it's polite. I only half recommend this step.

MetaCynik

## On Responsibility

One learns more, I think, from failure than from success.

The story of Icarus comes from Greek mythology. Wearing wings of feathers and wax, Icarus flew too close to the sun. The wax melted, and Icarus fell and died.

In first year, my don in residence failed to enroll in Winter term. He was replaced in my sixth month at Waterloo, by a more experienced don.

A team from Waterloo got an interview at Y Combinator and told all their friends. They flew down for the interview, were rejected, and came back demoralized.

A friend was a peer leader for a group of first-years. She let a former Don stay in her residence room, against the terms of her contract. When housing found out, she was removed from her leadership position.

Humans are expected to make decisions along a continuous domain, rather than along a binary (or discrete) one. That's hard, though, so suboptimal decisions will be made once in a while. As an individual, that's okay! You'll rationalize the decision away.

Step into a position of authority though and suddenly it's not okay. Whether you're a volunteer for undergrad recruitment, a Don in residence, a council chair, or a lecturer, you are expected to have perfect judgement. But you're just human. As  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $P(\text{made a mistake}) \rightarrow 1$ . Thus, it's inevitable that some mistake

will blow up and become a huge scandal – and suddenly you're Icarus, flapping your featherless arms, just as you start your ungraceful descent.

I think that it's important for the rest of us to remember that our professors, student leaders and representatives are only human. Keep an open and civilized dialogue with them, and tell them regularly whether things are working or not (and why).

As for my don from first year, I've lost touch with him. However, I won't ever forget Wednesday night tea-time. He showed me how kind and compassionate Waterloo can be. The team I spoke of is doing well at a local startup incubator, and teams following in their footsteps are a little more skeptical. That peer leader will probably still graduate next year.

As for me, I will probably think twice before volunteering for leadership positions going forward, and I'll try to be more appreciative of those who have consciously made the sacrifice to take those positions on our behalf.

Special thanks to my Dons, my lecturers and professors, my class academic reps, the MathSoc exec, Heather Steinmetz and Dana Evans Laity in undergraduate recruitment, Shaz Rahaman, Andrew Morton, and Patrick Lam in Software Engineering, and the *mathNEWS* editors for making this term an awesome one, as always.

!able

## Assorted Musings

As a typical *mathNEWS* writer, I failed at organizing my thoughts on one particular topic into an article. So instead, here are some cherry-picked thoughts, together with some ridiculous puns or inane comments that will either redeem my poor effort or make this absolutely unbearable to read. Hopefully the former! You know, "first" or "car" or whatever syntax that "Dr. Racket" thing uses nowadays. Why, back when I took CS 135, it was called "Scheme" and we liked it! You young'un whippersnappers and your Racketeering. Don't you know that it's illegal?

**Mumford and Sons:** Listen to them and weep tears of joy if you haven't heard them before, and then weep tears of joy while listening to them subsequently. They are indeed that good.

**Jazz Fake Books:** Why is "The Real Book" actually called that? It doesn't have all the possible jazz pieces one would want to play. It should be called, perhaps, "The Rational Book." Then the name wouldn't imply that it was complete.

**Stage Band:** Our EoT concert is Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm, in the Great Hall at Conrad Grebel! Tickets are \$5 for students/seniors, \$10 for everyone else. It'll be a great show! And no, we're not a stage prohibited from competitive play; that's a Stage Banned.

**Food Credit:** No, not excess meal plan dollars. Rather, it is to be declared that the same person who found Thin Crisps Triscuits not flavourful enough is also the person who suggested that I try making both peach and apple cinnamon ice cream. The look I got while being told that this should happen was alone enough to convince me. That said, one of the more amusing things that can happen is to arrive home one day and find a box of Tris-

cuits on one's doorstep, covered in sticky notes so as to have obscured the flavour. Thus one guesses the flavour, or, if one knows the flavours well enough, figures it out in a heartbeat. Still a great thing.

**More Food Credit:** Amusingly enough, this idea doesn't go to the aforementioned person. Instead, credit here goes to the market/fundraiser that was in the SLC on Monday. The idea? Make shortbread cookies. Isn't this the best idea ever in the history of the universe? All I need to find is a rolling pin. Hint hint. My close friends and I are going to gain \*insert misused physical quantity here\* this winter! Well, at least, I will.

**Protip for Intramural Sports:** Don't be so intense that you get injured playing one of your many sports, because then you won't be able to play the others. This, to put it in some of the most eloquent terms of which I am capable and without even cussing once, sucks.

**Priorities:**  $|mathNEWS| = |*insert non-academic activity here*| > |Assignments| > |Sleep|$ , where  $| - |$  denotes the apparent magnitude of importance in my mind of an activity. In case you haven't noticed, this is a horrible inequality.

**mastHEAD Errata:** Knowing that this will inevitably be typed and thus launched into an endless cycle of "errata of errata," I will just say that last issue, my *mastHEAD* answer was left out. When asked what I would do with a pony, I replied, "Pretend it's Rocinante and go windmill hunting."

As a final (LaTeX) comment before signing off for this term:  
% Have fun, and good luck on exams!

Scythe Marshall

## A Trivial Article

This article is trivial; as such, its completion has been left as an exercise to the reader.

tesseract

## mineCRAFT

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

## What is WATSOC?

A couple of weeks ago, The Imprint published an article regarding how WATSOC hosted HvZ this term and taught one guy about video games whereas the organization that has hosted HvZ as a mass cross-campus game every term for the past year is actually WatSFic, the Waterloo Science Fiction and Fantasy Club. As a disclaimer: it is presumed for the purposes of this article that the Imprint article either encountered a grave spelling mistake prior to publication or sources researched for the article were misquoted. It is true, however, that WATSOC did exist and it does continue to exist in a non-existential way as a memory to those who remember it (and also in old digital archives).

The abbreviated name WATSOC is misleading, as it implies (by today's standards of course) that it applies to a very general "Society of Waterloo" within the university encompassing all students, akin to FedS. WATSOC in reality, however, stands for the Waterloo Society for the Study of Modern Visual Culture, and was a former FedS Club that existed around 2009. Taking on the "geek side" of the UW community, this "society" aimed to gather people of common interests in mostly anime and gaming. It seemed to be a kind of amalgamation of UW Gamers, and CTRL-A (perhaps even WatSFic itself) in it's own strange way, and various events that they held seemed to involve members of these particular groups. In particular, trips to Anime North and promoting the "geekier clubs" on campus through initiatives like "Geek Week" were expressly marketed towards those within the "geek" niche.

How and when exactly this organization disbanded is still a little unclear. Speculation among *mathNEWS* veterans point to how it may have been confusing to distinguish the individual clubs from administrative standpoints. As the term "Society" gathered more and more association with the different programs and faculties, the purpose of WATSOC continuing to exist may have been confusing to those seeking their associated academic equivalent as WATSOC did not quite fit any program or faculty.

Personal executive dramas may have played out and as such the club's function become more and more complicated until members either gave up, moved on or even graduated and the organization became inactive. Such an organization as this existing may have also been seen to no longer be necessary as smaller clubs also existing could easily do the same job (albeit to a more specified audience) and thus the organization may have disbanded due to lack of a unique purpose. Whatever the reason for disbanding, it is clear that WATSOC no longer exists in the modern UW community as the question everyone has been asking is "What IS WATSOC?".

While The Imprint's article does make some interesting points to think about regarding how the video gaming world is very different when applied in real life through the HvZ medium, WatSoc was not the organization to make it happen. The credit goes to WatSFic for that. WATSOC may have briefly manifested in ninja form this term and took over the lead game organizer for HvZ to do so, but that allegation is still yet to be investigated fully. It is clear however, that WATSOC continues to baffle people by the fact that it existed. For those who are curious, WATSOC will likely be remembered as something that people forgot. It's university, it's to be expected as people move on and graduate that some organizations will get lost and fade as only a memory. Here's hoping that WatSFic (and in turn the HvZ game) are not among those organizations.

Narf Dert

Sources (because legitimacy):

<http://www.theimprint.ca/article/2441-what-hvz-taught-me>, <http://watsfic.uwaterloo.ca/hvzinfo>, <http://uwgamers.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=10&t=923&view=next>, <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/Issues/mn10904/watsoc.php>

## How Mathematically Minded Are You?

As final exams draw near, it's a good idea to review how into the groove you really are. Here are a few simple questions to evaluate how mathematically minded you are:

- Which one of these most closely represents the structure of your favourite number?
  - 4
  - 3.8219547
  - $2 + \pi - \sqrt{6}$
  - [OMEGA]<sup>2</sup>
- When you're at the Math C&D, what's most likely on your mind?
  - What you're buying
  - The latest XKCD comic
  - What you got on your latest Math 135/245/350/478/etc. assignment
  - Your current attempt at solving the P = NP problem
- What is your opinion of Carl Friedrich Gauss?
  - Who's Gauss?
  - He had a cool way to sum up the first 100 numbers.
  - Gauss? That guy's everywhere!
  - He's a friend of mine.

- What do you think when you hear the word "Lipschitz"?
  - Hee hee, lip shits.
  - Who's Lipschitz?
  - Fucking analysis.
  - Pfft, continuity is trivial.

Now, in order to find your score, add 1 point for each answer a), 2 points for each answer b), 3 for c), and 4 for d).

Here is what your scores represent:

0-3 points: You either cheated or didn't bother to answer all the questions.

4-5 points: Perhaps you're not in math? I hear Science was looking for new students.

6-8 points: Perhaps you're in computer science? What's it like paying twice as much tuition?

9-11 points: You're about average for a second-year mathematics student.

12-14 points: You are above average. There is no more detailed description of what you are.

15-16 points: What are you still doing reading this? Go do research, grad student!

17-20 points: You either cheated or somehow managed to answer more than all the questions.

Ender Dragon



(Universe, Season 2, Episode 19)

## PETZ Announces Boycott of All Zombie Movies

Earlier this week, the National Association of People for the Ethical Treatment of Zombies (PETZ) announced a blanket boycott of all zombie movies and related merchandise. In an accompanying statement, the organization claimed this was due to abuse of zombies in movies, as well as the horrible misinformation about zombies being spread through media. In particular, PETZ cited the following complaints about the portrayal of zombies in mass media:

**Exaggeration of Violent Acts:** In most representations of zombies, they are portrayed as mindless, vicious, killing machines with no semblance of rationality. In reality, zombies are generally harmless, as documented in a landmark study by PETZ involving the placing of PETZ members in the same room as hungry zombies and measuring aggression. However, individuals with high measured intelligence are suggested to be careful around zombies, as zombies seem to have a taste for brains.

**Zombies as Acceptable Targets:** A long-standing convention in the portrayal of zombies is their view as an “acceptable target”, ie. it is morally all right for the “protagonists” to maim or kill zombies en masse. This is a clear violation of the zombie’s right to unlife, in the absence of zombie aggression. In fact, in many cases, zombies are routinely sought out for extermination.

**Zombies as Test Subjects:** A frequent “plot hook” in zombie media is the so-called “zombie plague”, for which the protagonists are attempting to find a cure. It completely glosses over the fact that zombies do not need a cure, and experimentation on intelligent organisms without informed consent is illegal. Zombies have rights too!

**Condescension toward Zombie Activists:** Not only are zombies maligned, but advocates for the zombies are labeled as “insane” or “suicidal”. This negative stereotyping has severely detrimental effects on the public’s perception of zombie advocates, leading to them not being taken seriously. This leads to stagnation of policy regarding zombies, meaning that the current unacceptable zombie situation is unlikely to change anytime soon.

Acromath

## Movie Review: Life of Pi

Go to the theatres, people. This is the film which proclaimed to be ‘the next Avatar’, and after watching it, that description couldn’t be more right. The film begins with an opening sequence of shots of animals commonly found in India, which looks like it belongs in a Discovery Channel documentary; when you realize later on that all the shots are CGI you become open-gaped. The film tells the story of an Indian teenager, who after some unfortunate events is left in a lifeboat with an untrained Bengal tiger in the middle of the Pacific. A CGI Bengal tiger. Have I made the case that this is a graphically enchanting experience? A whimsical wonder of wowza? Because it is. In addition, the film has a thrilling plot intertwined with unreliable narration and fantasy bordering on the fairy tale, and a cliffhanger that keeps leaving me puzzled. A 5 star adaptation of a classic Canadian novel!

CanadianBoson

## Historic Waterloo Landmark Mysteriously Destroyed

Ripples of shock were sent through the Waterloo community late last week when the all-too-mysterious q.uwaterloo.ca was suddenly taken offline. Curiosity turned to panic when the website, which used to house the reassuring face of Desmond Llewelyn as Q, showed nothing but a “server not found” screen when navigated to by already stressed Waterloo students. As of publication, there is no official word on the culprit in these attack on our history, but blame has been quick to point towards the recent changes to the uwaterloo website. q.uwaterloo.ca used to be a beacon of hope and laughter for students too sleep deprived to type in quest.uwaterloo.ca correctly, and was apparently associated with m.uwaterloo.ca, which showed a James Bond character to students hoping for a mobile site. Sources say the pair of sites, reportedly created within the Science faculty, could have existed as far back as 2005. Things started to turn dark for the sites earlier this year when m.uwaterloo.ca had mysteriously vanished, but any hope has been replaced by despair now that q.uwaterloo.ca is also dead. There are no reports yet as for how many students were affected by this tragedy, but early estimates indicate that handfuls of students may have noticed this blatant destruction of such an important part of our school’s history.

maplebaconburgr

## Suicide Fork Bomber Attack on America Declared as the ‘Worst Attack Since 9/11’

**November 28th–** As technology evolves, so do the threats against our freedom, and this became a reality earlier this week when terrorist organization al-Qaeda launched another successful attack on New York City. This time, the target was the New York Public Library, and the attack was carried out at 10:48 AM, during prime operation time. A member of al-Qaeda, still unidentified, entered the NY Public Library at 10:46 AM. He looked around to ensure that he wasn’t followed, then walked up to a terminal and plugged in an USB. Within minutes, the computer crashed. Satisfied with his results, the individual shouted “Allahu Akbar”, then pulled out a 9mm pistol and shot himself in the temple.

The police, FBI and Homeland Security were immediately notified by the library staff and patrons, and arrived within minutes. They locked down the library and conducted a full investigation into the incident. It was determined that the USB contained a fork bomb, a new type of IED developed by al-Qaeda.

The attack resulted in \$675 USD in damages: \$600 dollars in gas due to the various agencies responding in force, and a \$75 bonus for the janitor to clean up the mess of brain in the library. The entire incident inconvenienced a few hundred people for 3 hours, but terror was struck into the heart of America.

The president released a statement later the same day, stating that this act of aggression will not be tolerated, and declared the attack as the “worst attack since 9/11”. He then continued to state that the War on Terror will be intensified, and that he will raise military spending by \$3 billion USD in 2013 to combat the new threat.

theSMURF



## The Night Before Finals

T'was the night before finals, and all through the 'Loo  
Not a student was sleeping 'cept perhaps one or two.

The assignments were messy and finished up fast  
In hopes they might bump up some marks to a "Pass"

The students were tired, confused, and unfed  
As piles of notes refused to fit in their head

And in a small office, hidden away in MC  
A new professor was having a shocking epiphany

He'd been staying up marking, it was starting to show  
He'd just awoken from his third nap in a row

"I'm exhausted", he said, "I need a TA"  
"But I can't afford a co-op, not at my rate of pay"

"I really don't want to mark this bloody exam"  
"I'll call it all off, it's just a huge scam"

And away to the Dean he flew with great speed  
And told him his wonderful idea, yes indeed

"The students could concentrate, and not sleep through class!"  
And he was promptly fired and laughed out on his ass

"That wouldn't work, we need some way to test"  
"Some way to distinguish the worst from the best"

"Your idea's frankly ludicrous" said the Dean with a sigh  
As he closed up his door and bid the ex-prof "Goodbye"

But that wasn't the end, not by a long way  
Because that ex-prof swore a grim oath that day

"I'll show them all yet" he said, wearing a grin  
He went back to his office and locked himself in

Threw open a drawer and pulled out a knife  
"Either this works, or I've wasted my life"

Taking the axiom of choice, he started to chop  
a finite number of pieces, from bottom to top

He cut off his limbs, sliced into shapes strange  
became a poltergeist, and began to rearrange

An army of clones he created that night  
Those who did see it were given a fright

But the ex-prof had made a mistake quite small  
One might have thought it wouldn't matter at all

You see, he had only one soul to go 'round  
And for the hundreds of clones, no spares could be found

The Dean came to the door on the following day  
To tell the ex-prof to pack and go away

As he saw the soulless bodies all standing in line  
A rather clever thought came into his mind

"We can't let all this potential just go to waste"  
And he gave them all jobs marking exams with great haste  
Concealed

## An Article About Trains

On request of some of the other writers, I have decided to write an article about trains, and the awesomeness of them. One of the mainstays of "train-liking" is to ensure, that regardless of situation, you keep composed and acting under the mantra of "keep calm and like trains". Keeping calm is the difficult part in most scenarios – if you study the art of train-liking, liking trains is literally the easiest thing you can do. By the mere fact of your conscious existence, you probably like trains and can therefore fulfill the latter part of this motto.

Every time someone asks a question or makes a statement regarding you or something you are doing, the correct answer, regardless of scenario, is "I like trains". Failure to do this may result in a random train crossing your path, inconveniencing you in some way, or possibly even harming you.

Knowing that you like trains internally and exclusively is one thing; telling other people that you do and ensuring that your message is spread to the corners of the world is one of the most important slogans of Train Liking; forgetting this is detrimental to the system. Remember that reminding everyone everywhere you go is the most important rule of train-liking – regardless of how bad or how awesome your day was; you need to ensure that

you are loyal to the system and faithful to the liking of trains.

Trains are awesome for the following reasons: they are fast, they are sleek, they make cool sounds when moving, and the way they make train intersections with roadways is awesome. Making traffic yield right-of-way to trains instead of cars is the ultimate form of awesome – not only were trains a commercial form of transport before cars were, trains are still the king of the ground when it comes to transportation.

Now that you are versed in the facets of train-liking, be sure to tell your friends and spread the word of train-liking; it's not often that you come upon those who do so, which means finding one is a joyous and awesome event that should be celebrated with watching YouTube videos featuring the "I like Trains" kid and other related Internet memes.

Be sure to actually take "CS452: Real-time Programming" if you like trains and are a genius at computer science, because this is the ultimate test for train lovers worldwide.

Remember students: as exams come around, always keep calm and like trains.

ChairmanS(how?)

## The Tale of Burt the Homing Pigeon

*Stressed out about exams? Worried about word problems? Listen to this noble tale to get inspiration to tackle your finals.*

There once was a bird named Burt.  
 But this bird was no ordinary bird.  
 He was a homing pigeon.  
 He could fly a 400km in a mere eight hours on a non-windy day.  
 And only be slowed down by 40 minutes on rather windy day.  
 But what was most remarkable about Burt.  
 Was the fact he existed as the subject of a math problem.  
 A rather annoying math problem as it happens.  
 It was so ridiculously frustrating.  
 That Burt was now dead.  
 The student had killed him.  
 She had done so in retribution for the torment she suffered at the problem stubbornness in being solved.  
 Burt was dead but this did not perturb the student for it was math problem.  
 Actually she was quite satisfied.  
 For the homing pigeon death gave her inspiration  
 And she finally solved the problem.  
 While it is true that Burt the homing pigeon is dead  
 Do not be sad for he is in the heaven of solved math problems.  
 Also it has already been decreed that he shall come back to life next year  
 And shall continue his grand legacy of tormenting math student to the point of murder.  
 This is the tale of Burt the homing pigeon.

Beyond Meta

## The Horror

*'Tis the season...*

Beware, my fellow Mathies. A great pestilence has descended upon the land. A plague that has driven some to madness, and those who can endure suffer a fate worse than death: mindlessness and desire to spread the epidemic. We must stand strong against those who wish to corrupt us with their disease.

Form support groups if you need to. Create fortresses to defend against the horde. Arm yourself with counterweapons. We can survive this dreaded time if we band together. We can fight the infected and survive with at least some sanity.

Some of your friends may already be infected. You will be able to tell by if they have all of the following symptoms:

- Filled with "Christmas spirit"
- Listening to the same songs over and over again
- Choosing to listen to the Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez, and other such versions
- Ruining good Christmas songs and making the bad ones even worse

Form discussion groups on which song is the most horrible. Create soundproof rooms where only your music can be heard. Arm yourself with good music, with proper versions of the songs. We can survive this Christmas season if we band together. We can fight those who play annoying pop versions of Christmas songs and survive with at least some sanity.

Yours in defense,  
 Shay Blair

## Let Go

*It takes one second, one minute, one hour or even a lifetime to realize life is too short. When you do everything seems a lot clearer.*

You'll learn not to wait  
 You'll learn promises are only words  
 You'll learn to live in today  
 You'll learn plans are only circumstantial  
 You'll learn that life crashes mid flight  
 You'll learn how to survive it  
 You'll learn that relationships aren't prisons; friends aren't chains  
 You'll learn everything changes in the morning  
 You'll learn with a new day comes new hope new strength, new life  
 You'll learn that every second counts and a minute changes lives  
 You'll learn to smell the damn roses as you walk by  
 You'll learn your strengths and embrace your flaws  
 You'll learn to listen to your own voice  
 To take your own path, to be your own person  
 You'll learn everything has a consequence; even the little things  
 You'll learn the importance of your happiness  
 You'll learn to make your own rules  
 You'll learn to live  
 You'll learn to love  
 Most of all, you'll learn to let go

Red Baroness



*I thought fun. anal.  
 was supposed to be  
 FUN...*

## Tales From My Travels

Unlike most of my friends, I am in absolutely no hurry to graduate. I don't mind that my undergraduate math degree will take about 6 years to finish (mostly because of co-op). So, with this carefree attitude in mind, 6 months ago I decided to take the coming summer term off and backpack through the Levant (which roughly includes: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Israel, and south-eastern Turkey).

Here is the first of a select few stories from my trip:

Somehow, I ended up at a Jordanian nature reserve near the small town of Dana. The bedouins who ran the camp told me there was a special trail I could hike if I woke up early enough. The trail was referred to as the "Cave Trail", because you hike past (and through) a bunch of small caves, until you get to one special cave (that you have to climb up to) which used to be a church in the Byzantine era. The floor of the cave church was littered with ruins of mosaics that were still being excavated.

Of course, this sounded like a great opportunity. So I was given a map that had instructions on how to get to a cave (which ultimately proved to be useless, as Arabic script and Comic Sans do not combine to make a legible document), packed a lunch and some water, and set out for the cave trail. We (I was traveling with another person, let's call him Icarus) set out early. We got lost on the way, because Icarus insisted he knew where the trail began (and he did not). Eventually, we got the trail and it was a beautiful hike! There were lots of strange rock formations and trees, and far in the distance you could see the Dead Sea.

I should now note that this entire trail was on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, which is a very deep ridge that runs through the Middle East and into Africa. It is also very, very, very, very deep (at least, it was deep near this trail! We couldn't even see the bottom ...). Now, to get to the special cave, you must get to what you think is the end of the trail. There's just a wall blocking your way and a very intense drop on the other side. We were told you had to press yourself against the wall, and blindly swing your leg around, and jump to the other side (which you can't see, until you're there). When we got to this

section, it seemed way too dangerous to be what the bedouins had described, so we backtracked and began to ascend another "path" we thought would get us to the cave church.

It certainly was not an easy ascent. It started out being slightly-less-than vertical. After about an hour, we were quite lost (we couldn't see the trail above us). We were constantly slipping down loose rocks, and the climb had become almost completely vertical (and we did not have any climbing experience or equipment). It was very terrifying, and being on the edge of the Great Rift Valley did not make the experience any better. Eventually, somehow I hit a patch of sandstone and couldn't move anymore. Any sudden movements would have caused me to slip off and fall into a nice, deep crevice. If you aren't familiar with sandstone, it's exactly what it sounds like ... a sandy stone. It's very slippery (especially in vertical situations). So an hour passed, with me slowly slipping off the sandstone. This was definitely the most terrifying thing I have ever experienced. Icarus, who had climbed ahead and had managed to avoid the sandstone, tried to convince me to grab onto him and be lifted up off the sandstone. Initially, I agreed, but the first attempt resulted in me slipping quite a bit and was too frightening to try again. I am adventurous, but not when faced with death (or serious injuries). After an hour, Icarus agreed that we needed the help of the bedouins to get down.

Luckily, we had a cell phone and so did the man who ran the camp. We called him and he said he'd come get us. We didn't really understand what he meant by that, as he was an older man and was quite out of shape. Instead, he sent the chef and housekeeper who found eventually found us, and in flip flops and shorts managed to climb up to us and help us down safely. It was ... embarrassing, but I'd take embarrassment over dying any day.

There were some other interesting things that happened at this camp, like the mysterious Dutch people we met or the incident with the hyena, but I'll leave those for a later issue.

Yomna Nasser

## *mathNEWS* is Dying! (Not Really)

Okay, maybe *mathNEWS* may die one day, but that's a different story and most likely preventable. Now, what does it mean dying? Well, it means that writers and editors are old, jaded people who will eventually graduate. Which means they leave. Which means *mathNEWS* ends if everyone leaves.

Now, what can someone do to prevent this? Actually join *mathNEWS*! We're always looking for new writers and potential editors. It doesn't matter if it's for one term or even one issue, new blood is new blood. It helps keep one of the longest living traditions in the university alive.

No ideas for *mathNEWS*? Not a problem, we take all ideas! Good, bad, sexy, ambiguous, and others. Literally no ideas? Not a problem! People bounce ideas off each other constantly. Spread the love around, and some of us have more love to give than others, but that's another story.

Not good at writing? Not a problem! The editors will happily edit your article to make it readable. And by happily, I mean anything you give them they will edit to make readable. Literally anything- they will construct the sentences for you. Aren't the editors nice people?

Are you an artist? Then come join! We're always looking for new artistic talent for comics and covers. Reading is sometimes hard, so pictures in *mathNEWS* help divide the reading process into smaller bits. A picture is worth a thousand words!

Not an artist either? Ideas are useful! We actually have a few comic artists who can't think of a joke. They will gladly draw out a script or idea you have if you can have it. Teamwork is the key.

Not an idea, artist, or writer? Maybe you're good at grammar and editing. This will help get rid of some of the stress our happy editors get. For some writers you can consider them full time jobs too. Share the pain. Or in some people's cases, the pleasure.

All in all, join *mathNEWS*. Maybe not this term, maybe not next term. But if you enjoy reading *mathNEWS* and want to keep the tradition alive, the best way is to literally be part of it. And if you can't do that, at the very least send an appreciation letter our way. We're lonely people, and the editors would love to have a letter sometimes. Hate mail works too. Or stalker letters. Or Iranian letters. Basically, send letters. Thank you!

Shameless Plug



# How SpaceChem Will Destroy Your Confidence

*Right in the Spaceballs*

Let me start by saying this is one of the best logic games I've ever played. It also is the most terrifying. This is what dreams are made up, largely because of how much time you spend trying that one chemical compound you just can't quite get. SpaceChem is a puzzle game that is as amusing as it is horrendously challenging. The premise of the game is in constructing reactors that combine base elements into more and more challenging chemicals. Although the game adds additional parameters to make it more challenging, the base of the game is in its puzzle engine. Solving any given puzzle requires coordination of spatial resources, proper timing and optimization techniques. When you've solved a level in SpaceChem, it feels like you've solved a math problem. There are so many tricks and tools you pick up in trying to convert zinc oxide into its base components and not making too much nitrogen at once, and the game increases difficulty with your skill level. All in all, unlike games where you feel more confident the more you play, this game will destroy any confidence you had in your skills as a gamer, much like a graduate degree. So should you buy it? Absolutely worth it!

CanadianBoson

## Subscriptions!

*Everyone else is getting one...*

Going to be on co-op next term? Graduating and moving away? Looking for a Christmas gift for that special someone? Never manage to wake up early enough to snare a copy of *mathNEWS* in the MC building? Well, a *mathNEWS* subscription is the answer to all these questions and more! Indeed, for the low, low prices described below you can subscribe to *mathNEWS* for the winter term, or indeed for any term! And then you'll get a copy of *mathNEWS* delivered to your door by mail about every two weeks.

Sure, you might think you can just read it on the web. But do you know what sort of computing power you'll have available to you? What if you want to read *mathNEWS* away from the computer? Not to mention a paper copy means you get to see exactly how the editors managed to somehow (yet again) fit everything nicely into an even number of pages. (For that matter, not all filler makes it onto the web.)

Of course, nothing in life is free. But all you've got to do is give us some money to pay for postage (okay, and your address). Still, it's a good deal, have a look at the rates:

Canada	US	Overseas
One term	\$7.50	\$10    \$15
One year *	\$20	\$25    \$35

This is the cost of 6 (per term) exciting issues of *mathNEWS*. All prices are in Canadian funds. And if we happen to publish more than 6 issues, then you get them absolutely free! (So maybe some things in life ARE free... but only if you subscribe.)

\* The "one year" indicates 3 terms that are not necessarily consecutive.

For more information, come by the *mathNEWS* office (MC 3030) to subscribe some time and we'll explain it to you. If you're a bit far off, then send us e-mail to [mathnew@gmail.com](mailto:mathnew@gmail.com).



## PSY #1 - JB's Fall From Grace

There were two developments that occurred this last week. One, PSY's "Gangnam Style" music video has finally broken the 815 million view mark, which defeats Justin Bieber's music video "Baby" by 15 million views. Since the release of "Gangnam Style" on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, having 800 million views means that there had to be roughly 2 million views of the video per day, on average. Even now, the number of views is still growing rapidly, while JB's video is only increasing at a rate of 100,000 per day.

The other development that occurred is that PSY now has a mash-up video with MC Hammer's "Too Legit to Quit", complete with dance and all; it was first presented at the American Music Awards, completely destroying the faces of fans of both artists from sheer awesomeness. Be sure to check it out on YouTube for yourself!

ChairmanS(how?)

## N Things to Do When You Have a Co-op Job Outside of Canada

- Freak out since now you're going to a different country.
- Look for housing in the city where you're working.
- Freak out because everything is in a different currency/timezone/demographic/language.
- Attempt to keep enough focus and concentration to pass the rest of your school term.
- Freak out because you got a co-op job so late that they didn't send you the notice you needed for applying for out-of-country visas.
- Submit the risk management form because it's required by UW co-op policy.
- Freak out because they tell you that you did it wrong, and therefore you have to resubmit it.
- Submit your visa to whatever company UW tells you (Cultural Vistas in this case)
- Freak out because you're 9 days late to the deadline to "receive notification before you leave for your work term", and you don't know if and when you'll get it back.
- Submit more forms for tax information numbers to ensure that the country you're interning in doesn't withhold money from you in tax escrow.

Good luck to those still looking – I got lucky and landed a job in the US!

ChairmanS(how?)

## N Ways to Stay Focused During Exams

### *Time to assume the fetal position*

If you haven't noticed yet, exams are looming, and the last day of class is just this Monday, so hopefully you've checked your exam schedule and begun hoarding food for the long haul of the final exams. Here are a few basic tips to stay focused on studying during your final. Hopefully you take some, if any, to heart.

- Turn off your phone! It's ridiculous how much this distracts you in your time of most intense focus. Turn it off, put it away, and keep it out of sight and mind.
- Deactivate yourself from social networking: Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, etc. will only serve as procrastinatory methods bent on keeping you from the ultimate goal of good grades. While it seems easy to just "stop cold turkey", like any addiction, it takes time and conscious effort to break the nasty habit.
- Create a localized schedule with priorities. Your next exam is in four days, but you have exams every other day after that! You now need to prioritize your studying – study the essentials, and study them well.
- Don't discourage yourself. Talking to your friends and finding out that they've been ready for this exam since they were born is not a good mindset to go into any final exam with.
- Remember, you're unique in your own perfect way; regardless of what the exams tell you, there are never enough evaluative measures to contain the awesomeness that you embody.
- Dwelling on your mistakes isn't constructive towards the progress of your next exam, so don't do it! — Just focus on the future, and keep looking forward!

ChairmanS(how?)

## N Things to Look Forward to in the New Year of 2013

- FASS; auditions for the show will take place around January 9th with the show taking place February 7-9. Come get involved/see the show!
- Champagne/some alcohol variant and a New Year's kiss (which you may not remember)
- NEW CO-OP JOB!!! (I enjoy this prospect of employment)
- ZOMG! We'll have a Reading Week!
- All the plastic money
- The new term starting later; we'll actually have a winter break of substance
- Getting into full swing of the 3rd decade of my life
- Congratulations! We survived the impending doomsday! Or did we?

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

## Classic Games that Made My Childhood

We all have those video games that were so intrinsic to our growing up in the tech age, they are some of our fondest and best memories as a kid. Some of us had the fancy video game consoles, some had parents who believed the sole purpose of games was to facilitate learning, and others played outside (however, these kids hadn't the pleasure of becoming super cool mathies). I grew up on the following computer games, and hopefully some of you reading this will become nostalgic for those not-quite-Pacman, not-quite-Skyrim games.

- **SimCity 3000:** The successor of SimCity 2000, when this game came out in 1999, it was in a period where simulated reality of everything from roller coaster parks to prisons to poor, poor human lives dominated the game industry. I recollect having 3 successful cities after nearly 2 years of playing on my Microsoft ME (it was an OKAY operating system :P). It was a hard game, because of how well it simulated reality. You had to have the slums and the landfill and the oil plants to get the nice high-rises you always aimed for. It also made any kid that played it obsessed with urban planning.
- **Runescape:** Released in 2001, and originally conceived as a text-based multi-player game (MUD), RuneScape was the first internet game for me that everybody new about and everyone wanted to play. As very few parents would allocate the monthly fee to become a deluxe Runescape member, many of us would spend hours in the school computer lab killing helpless cows and grilling their meat into pies to become Level 40 chefs. So many cows!
- **Math Circus:** Your childhood is likely incomplete without the famous game 'Math Circus'. It's lack of a Wiki article is an affront to all things good. This was better than recess. This game was life. From the tricky acrobat game to adjusting polar coordinates to target cannons gave the math minded kid a jovial ball of wonder.
- **Age of Mythology:** Some kids had Civ, and the others had Age of Mythology. Both were of the spirit which game designers even today know appeal to us: start from nothing, build giant nations, be awesome, etc. The Norse were the best, by the way.

CanadianBoson

## The MUDpit

Begin UW-BoI v1.69

You are a frosh. Your professor has been inspired by the Dean to attempt to murder you. You are on the 1st floor of MC. What do you do?  
> attack assignments

They are defeated trivially. They drop some marks.

> attack papers

They are too fast and have too much health. They take away some of your stock of exhaustion.

> drink coffee

Your caffeine stores are loaded. Once they are gone, you will take exhaustion damage again.

> enter TA office

It is a tough fight, but eventually you defeat him and he relents, allowing you to ascend to MC Floor 2.

> continue to ascend

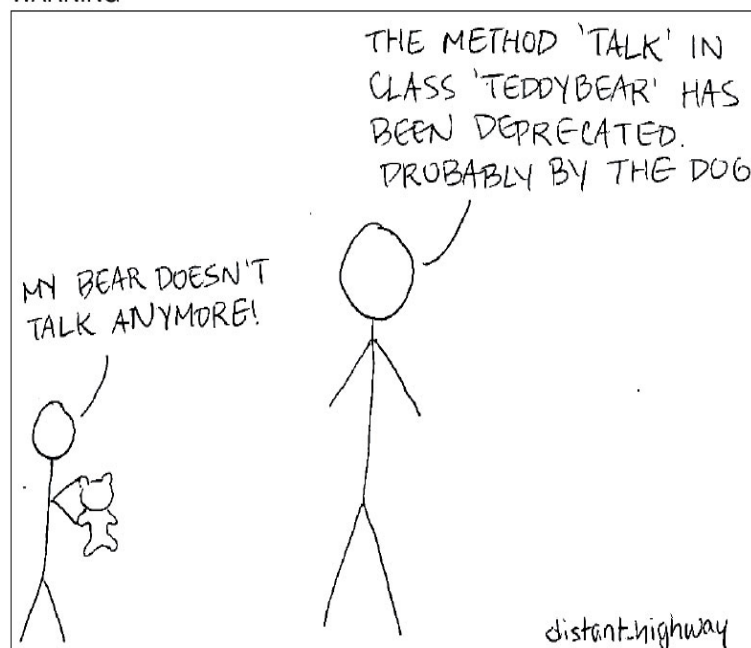
You fight through the 7 deadly midterms, get to floor 6, beat up the Dean's first form and arrive on the roof. But is this the end? Will you reach the steam tunnels? Start a new game to find out.

candu

## Comments on my \$1600 Business Class Laptop

- "Your keyboard is literally Hitler."
- "Gingers have more soul than the fingerprint scanner."
- "So your hard-drive locks if I hit the table like this, right?"
- "It can run games? Impressive."
- "A wifi hardware switch is only useful if you want to lose your internet randomly."
- "You're fat and it's heavy. You're compensating for something."

### WARNING



## Snow!!!

On the evening of Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, something amazing happened. It finally snowed! Well yeah, it snowed before, a few weeks ago, but it melted almost immediately, so that doesn't count. It's now Monday night, and the snow is still here! In case you can't tell, I FREAKING LOVE SNOW! It's just so white, fluffy, and beautiful. For me, there's something almost magical about the snow; every time it snows, I get the feeling that something wonderful is going to happen to me. It almost never does, but there's still something incredibly euphoric about the snow. I don't understand the people who complain about snow, it's just so pretty! I love walking around outside when it's snowing and just admiring the beautifulness of everything around me. Seriously, the other day, I spent more than two hours walking around Waterloo, thinking about the snow and smiling to myself like an idiot. The strangest thing is though, I have no idea why I have these sentimental feelings about snow. Nothing incredibly special has ever happened to me in the snowy weather. Perhaps it has something to do with my inability to feel cold. Or maybe, I'm just totally crazy. Either way, snow is awesome! I wish it snowed all year long.

Make sure you get outside and enjoy the snow before it disappears again,

Sylvia MacIntyre

## N Things to Experience at a FIRST LEGO League Qualifier

*Waldo went back to high school to capture the moments that elementary school kids had during a FIRST LEGO League robotics qualifying tournament!*

**IT WAS AWESOME!**

- All the fresh pots/tanks of coffee
- Kids practicing on any field they have access to
- A sincere thank-you and handshake for each volunteer from one boy that probably made everyone's day
- Kids driving a robot as big as they are (sometimes even bigger!)
- Exploring higher places and seeing what transpires
- Meeting people and making connections
- One of the largest group photos ever taken!
- A Gangnam Style dance party....ON VIDEO!
- All the technical difficulties!
- Smiles and excitement on all the kids faces as they find out they've moved on to the provincial level thanks to all their hard work
- Reviewing all the moments you captured and realizing how much you missed the robotics experience

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**Your mom follows us on Facebook (mathNEWS), and your grandma follows us on Twitter (@UWmathNEWS). Don't forget to follow us in person (MC 3030 ☺).**



# The Garden

## Part 2

Paul awoke confused by the visions he had seen. He wandered over to where the crone had her "base camp", underneath the solitary tree.

"You have had a vision?" she said nonchalantly.

"How did you know?"

"I get them every night, always two figures, a man and a woman. They try and speak to me, but always say the same thing: I am to wait."

"They said nothing to me."

The two of them didn't speak for another couple of days.

"Who are you by the way? Why do you speak English?"

"Husna Nasrim is my name. Used to be a civil servant in Iran before the revolution. Was ran out of the country by zealots for being a Sunni Arab instead of a Shia Persian."

"That's unfortunate. I suppose the Canadians didn't do much to save the previous government members, despite helping save the Americans."

"No, they didn't. They left us to our cruel fate."

That night, Paul had a dream where the figures spoke. He didn't remember exactly what they said, but he knew that time wheeled above him and he was told to examine his surroundings.

The tree had grown a single fruit. Paul climbed the tree and picked it, and offered it to Husna. They ate and shared the fruit, and planted the few seeds inside.

Once in a while each tried to leave, but to no avail. The tree grew more fruit, and slowly more trees grew, and the dreams continued.

Ice Nine

## Article of the Issue

This week's "Article of the Issue" are actually two articles. Congratulations to MetaCynik and CanadianBoson for their articles "How to Write a Club Event Invite" and "Gingerbread Houses".

**Happy exam season! This will be our last issue of *mathNEWS* of the term. Be sure to look for us next term!**

## elseWHEN

*A look back to 20 years ago*

Every so often, *mathNEWS* harkens back to older times, back when the internet as we know it was simply a twinkle in Berners-Lee's eye and see what we find. Here are what was of note in Vol. 60 #6.

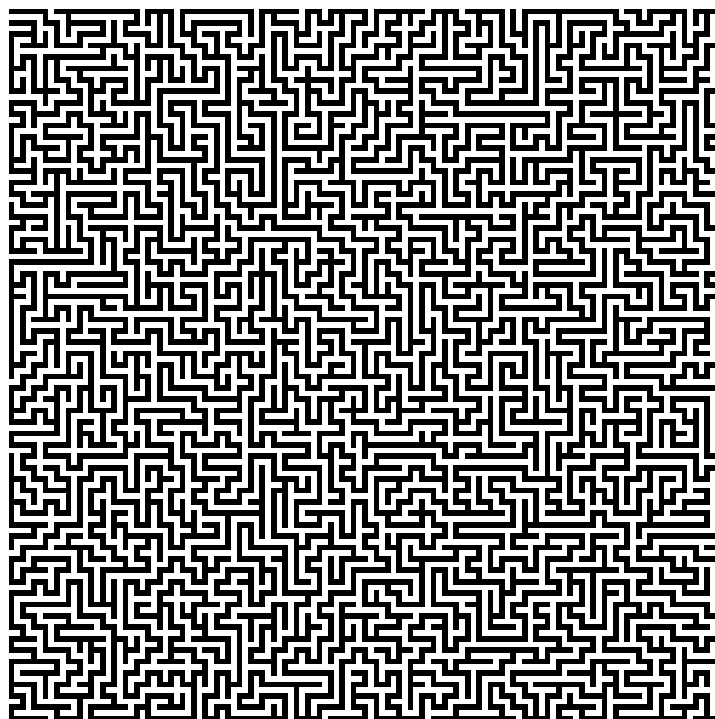
The issue was completely sideways! What a twist!

Editors were just as good as now, that is, not very. (People in glass houses, etc.) There are obvious mistakes even within the serious editorial.

Speaking of, there was a serious editorial! The *mathBOOZE* caper has just finished, and an editorial concerning humour versus offensiveness was written. Since *mathNEWS* has been threatened to be sued at least twice since then, been called up to the Dean's office multiple times for offensive work, I think we haven't really learned our lesson.

To be fair though, we are following in the footsteps of our forebears. We attempt to be on the edge of humour, as they intended.

We had a different office location: the current West end of the MathSoc exec office, which looks like it may be taken over by the CSC. Good to know we have a Causus Belli on there if we need to go to war.



**This space intentionally left blank for doodles.**

## profQUOTES

“Here at `a.end()` is someone else’s file, it could be pornography, but here at `–a.end()` we have Doug Gilmour! Who is better than pornography!”

- Godfrey

“The analogy they use is laundry. Which is kind of silly... I dunno who does laundry.”

- Mann, CS 251

“Guys, you need to start asking questions you know. You have to take risks to get higher return.”

- Ali, ACTSC 372

“I hope you have seen it already because i’m thinking of putting it in your exam”

- Ali, ACTSC 372

“Not you two again. Do I only have two students in my class?”

- Ali, ACTSC 372

“Because this is local maxima. You being the smartest in this course does not mean you’re the smartest on campus”

- Qin, STAT 330

“This graph is ugly, I dont like it.

[Pulls out a sword]

I dont know if i can do this.

[Slashing the sword to graph on board]

There, I’ve done it. I’ve cut the graph to make it nicer ”

- Li, ACTSC 232

“Life goes on”

- Kathir, MATH 116

“My whole life is in Times New Roman”

- Fowler, ChE 100 Lab

“Is this set of functions linearly independent?”

“Maybe..”

“Maybe? Maybe... Call me maybe?”

- Pei, Math 115

“Is everything cool? I heard laughter. Did I sweat something in my back that’s interesting?”

- Katz, CO 330

“No matter how smart Gauss was, nothing can change the fact that he didn’t have indoor plumbing.”

- Katz, CO 330

“I’m either gonna get a *profQUOTE* or a lawsuit. I’m not sure which yet.”

- Katz, CO 330

“I don’t know how many l’s you guys use here but I’m spelling ‘labelled’ the American way. That’s how Jesus would have spelled it.”

- Katz, CO 330

“So then R2 is in D. I was gonna say R2 is in D2. [pause] A little Disney joke.”

- Marcoux, PMATH 334

“I don’t get *profQUOTES* so I can say anything I want.”

- Katz, CO 330

“It’s not because there’s no consistency to my logic. This term there’s a little consistency to my logic.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“This should also be a theorem, but it’s too trivial to be a theorem.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“Hajós’ Conjecture is false. Not only is it false, it is spectacularly false. Catlin proved that almost all graphs are counterexamples to Hajós’ Conjecture, which is slightly embarrassing.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“The problem here is my proof is for something else, but it’s close enough.”

- Geelen, CO 642

“You might be wondering how we spend a third of [CO 351] on this problem. One way we do it is by going very slowly.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“You see how long it’s been since I thought about first-year calculus. I’ve just forgotten the name of [pause] the Taylor series expansion! It’s the Taylor series expansion!”

- Geelen, CO 255

“We can assume without loss of generality—so this means without loss of generality—we can replace our sequence...”

- Forrest, PMATH 351

“There were too many ‘not’s in that sentence, but you probably knew what I meant.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“I’ve seen you sleep at least twice. The last thing you need is a more comfortable chair.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“All problems are the same problem, and they’re all integer programming feasibility.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“I was asking for trouble writing ‘formalism’ on the board.”

- Geelen, CO 253

“... And then we’ll delay the course evaluations to next class so you can forget that I screwed up today.”

- Geelen, CO 255

“Nu is like a v with a pointy butt”

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

## profQUOTES

"Any time we can bring in swear words or various bodily function, it's worth the effort."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"You're in university now; you need to go beyond simplicity and into weirdness"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"Then we've got microwaves. We all use microwaves. Some of us have our own personal microwaves, and they use, guess what, microwaves!"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"It's not a good thing to cause changes in our DNA. It might be an interesting thing, to see what you get, but it's generally not a good thing"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"You plot your points. You draw a line through your points. You're going to get something that looks like that if you collect enough points [gestures to graph]"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"Well, as it turns out, people knew the results from about the mid-1800s. Nobody really tried to explain it. It didn't seem like much of a problem, I guess."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"They didn't care about SI units back in the 1900s. They made up their own crazy units."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"Exocytosis isn't like flushing the toilet"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

"I get kinda crazy by the end of the day"

- Engelhar, BIOL 130

"The final exam is cumulative. The cell doesn't box units, so I don't either"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

"Mammals are basically the slowest at everything"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

[talking about frogs] "We've got two researchers in the department working with them, which probably explains why I've got two tanks of them in my basement"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

"It's Friday. I need a beer."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"It's a simple equation to remember because it says that to get the molar mass, we put dirt over pee. Just like dogs, just like cats"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

[Prof goes to board, attempts to draw a molecule, fails] "I think I just rolled over in my own grave"

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

[pointing to a recipe for grilled cheese, written as a chemical reaction] "Recipes aren't written like this in cookbooks. They should be. It would make life a lot easier."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"So what's the mass percent alcohol in beer? What, don't you look at what you drink? Don't tell me you're not of age yet. I've got a daughter your age, I know."

- Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"Memorize these for now, we'll tell you why later"

-Bissonnette, CHEM 120

"We already talked about Ras, right; well, this is Ras coming back at us"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

"Here's a newborn baby. Aww, it's so cute! But it's a proto-axe murderer, because it could turn into an axe murderer"

- Engelhart, BIOL 130

"I'm German; I must drink"

- Schonlau, STAT 231

"Does anyone have a theory why all the erasers always end up at one end of the chalkboard? In my 20 years of teaching, I have yet to come up with a model to explain this."

- Miscovic, AMATH 251

"You're used to \*this\* notation right? Well, I'm not." [crosses it out]

- Miscovic, AMATH 251

"You just have to do a tiny bit of jiggling and you'll get there"

- Wormald, CO 250

"Suppose by magic..."

- Wormald, CO 250

"Let's look at an example. [goes to next slide] Ok, I guess not."

- Storjohann, CS 240

"So you've got a huge-ASCII text..."

- Storjohann, CS 240

**This is not filler, this is a groundbreaking advancement in text placement.**

**Submit your *profQUOTES* to the BLACK BOX (by the Comfy Lounge) or email them to us at [mathnews@gmail.com](mailto:mathnews@gmail.com)**

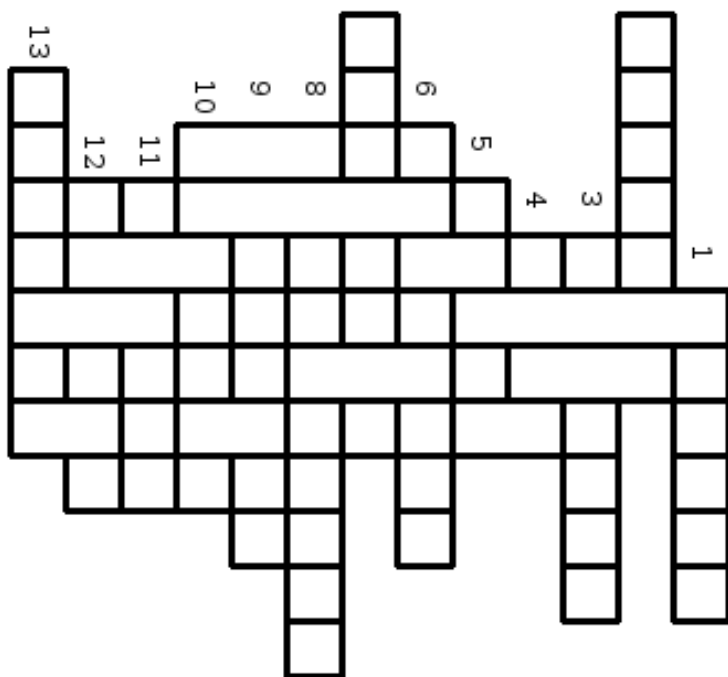


Hey...  
nice asymptote.



Another gem from  
Volume 60 #6  
The puzzle below  
holds space for the  
names of 13 aver-  
age Ontario universi-  
ties. Each university  
in the list shares at  
least one letter with  
neighbours in the list;  
the shared letter to  
be placed in the big  
boxes. Now, knowing,  
(as everyone does),  
that Waterloo is not  
in the list because it  
is not average, but  
superior, can you fill  
in the list?

## elseWHEN Puzzle



## Sudoku

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

Courtesy of websudoku.com

## KenKen

5+	14+			7+
	2-	6+		
9+			1-	
	12+		1-	
			8+	

Courtesy of kenken.com

## MuffinED Sez

*I'm totally not just doing this to fill space*

Pistachio pudding is the best pudding in the world. Also anyone who sends me clever math puns will be rewarded with sugar and expressions of admiration.



<http://windupmyskirt.com/tag/animals/>