

# *math* NEWS



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*Volume 121, Issue 3  
Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

**lookAHEAD****mathNEWS**

Feb. 15	Issue #3 is released to the wild
Feb. ???	Seeecret 40 <sup>th</sup> anniversary special...
March 11	Production #4 has been gone too long
March 15	Issue #4 returns triumphantly

**MathSoc**

Tuesdays	Games Nights in the Comfy
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**University**

Feb. 18-22	Reading Week (No Classes)
Feb 22	Deadline for 50% tuition refund
Feb 25-Mar 3	Pre-Enrollment for Fall 2013
Mar 12-13	March Break Open House
Mar 22	Drop, penalty 1 period ends

**Misc**

Feb. 15	Cheap Chocolate Day
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## WIM Undergrad Committee Succeeded in Beginning of Term Celebration

On Wednesday, January 30th, Women in Math Undergrad Committee celebrated the beginning of the term in MC Comfy Lounge.

We started at 6:30PM with a cupcake decorating event, which was enjoyed by all. Soon after, we started to serve pizza and drinks which were free to all mathies.

Besides this Beginning of Term celebration, we are planning a Self Defense and Yoga Class open to all Math Undergraduate students after reading week. Please stay tuned with WIM Undergrad Committee Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/womeninmath> or look out for posters about our upcoming events!

WIM

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Starting again: GingerbrED(Chespin), ScruffyED(Fennekin), ObjectED(Froakie)

**mastHEAD**

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched math nerds of your teeming shore. Yes, I realize that's the poem on the Statue of Liberty, but it seemed appropriate. Congratulations, everyone. You survived UWaterloo's first snowday since 2008. It was intense, being snowed inside with crazy roommates and no groceries; braving the wicked cold and deep snow in our jeans because, well, we wanted to feel 10 years younger and build a fucking snowfort, dammit; and dealing with a bus system so wrecked by knee-deep snow that you couldn't even see the stops. And was dealing with the bus system hell. When it was actually running, it was several hours late, and filled with slush higher, it seemed, than the snow outside. Dreaded Jack Frost told GRT that their buses were told old for this shit, and to hand in their shield and gun.

As always, *mathNEWS* writers, the most creative, intelligent, and critical thinking people on the planet step in with their thoughts on how best to get around the dangers of a useless bus system. What say you writers, to the ever relevant question, when the buses stop running, what is your preferred mode of transportation?

Scythe Marshall (“Dragons. Hasn’t anyone ever watched ‘Dragon Flyz’?”), Ice Nine (“By foot, with shovel.”), theSMURF (“By the bus (which is presumably now walking from being tired of running)”, unit (“Dorian.”), moment (“Speaking of modes of transportation, I like Segways.”), Soviet Canadian (“Mi-24 Hind”), because\_its\_hard (“Buses can’t stop running; they never had legs to start.”), k! (“riding on the back of Flemish Giants”), psynix[x] (“If(Buses.notrunning()){this.sleep();}”), DanInTheHat (“Invent, then build, then use a railgun-car.”), Vaddi Beca (“Jump on a moving car and hitch a ride. It’s a perfectly safe way to travel.”), Beyond Meta (“Breaking the fourth wall and utilizing the shortcut it creates.”), Shay Blair (“Get biologists to engineer a docile alicorn.”), MustardMap (“The flow of children’s tears.”), (define this (not cool)) (“Nuclear weaponry. If I can’t get somewhere, no one can.”), Rebel Faction (“With star ships. If it can cross the cosmos, it can cross the street.”), waldo@<3. LE-GASP.ca (“My dreams, but I just end up in random places anyway. Finding me can get nutty sometimes.”), Big Mak!/ED (“Prancing. On top of the heads of the pedestrians. While wearing a cape. A purple one.”), ScruffyED (“Scooby-Doo style rotating bookcases with secret passages.”), Zethar (“If it were not for the ice which dominates the road which serves as a landing strip, I would fly, but alas, in the state presented in the question, it would be too hazardous. Instead, I shall utilize a trick, which I learned during my trip to Japan: a really nice lady in purple taught me that if I swipe the air using my claws thusly, I open a rift to the *between*, a really useful place for travel purposes, although the butterflies do tend to get in the way.”).

(“Webslinging. Just, weslinging. It's so relaxing.”)  
ObjectED

## Call for Volunteers!

### March Break Open House

Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (PAC and SLC)

Wednesday, March 13 (SLC)

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Volunteers will receive a CS t-shirt and free lunch!

Assist as a volunteer and help set up displays, lead lab tours, and speak with parents and future students.

To sign up as a volunteer, contact Florence Chan:

In person: DC 2109

Email: [cswcchan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:cswcchan@uwaterloo.ca)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – MARCH BREAK OPEN HOUSE 2013 – Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 4:30

Are you interested in gaining leadership experience? Want to expand your EQ skills and network of friends?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, then I need your help. I need 100 Faculty of Mathematics students from all plans/majors, co-op and regular, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> years, male and female! Please plan to attend an event meeting on Monday, February 25, 4:30-5:30 pm, MC 5136B (sink room) to learn about the event (big changes from last year!) Sign up for one or more of the tasks listed below. We'll arrange training, uniform, and name tag details.

Tasks – what role will you play in the success of the day? There will be separate training for each of these positions:

- Set-up crew – 2 shifts: Mar 11<sup>th</sup> and early Mar 12<sup>th</sup>
- Lead tours of Math Faculty facilities, including the QNC – new 2-part training
- Social media squad
- Ushers in the PAC
- Booth attendants – small gym
- Campus ambassadors — meet and greet our 1000+ visitors
- Program reps – help advisors answer questions
- Lunch crew – help sell and distribute pizza
- Tear down/Clean-up crew

Volunteers will be invited to a wrap-up party on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Interested? Want more information? Come to the Information meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>!

If you can't make that meeting but want more information, contact Gayle Goodfellow, [ggoodfellow@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ggoodfellow@uwaterloo.ca).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MARCH BREAK MORTAL KOMBAT

Winner gets free volunteers from the losing side. Cadavers are good enough, right? We neither condemn nor condone the invertebration of others. Defenestration and decapitation, however, are completely allowed. Outside the Comfy Lounge at dawn. So hurry and get over here.

## WatSFic SEZ

Hello Mathies. WatSFic (the Waterloo Science Fiction and Fantasy Club) is continuing to meet every week, and host events. Our various schedules are:

- We will be hosting our annual D&D tournament again this term, on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's a lot of fun, with many folks from out of town showing up to play D&D and compete for prizes. If you are interested in participating, you can email [watsfic@gmail.com](mailto:watsfic@gmail.com) with the word "Tournament" in the subject. If you can assemble a team of five, this will help guarantee you a team, and you will know your party in advance. You can also come to our weekly meetings to register, or get more information.
- We will be running a book club this term, on "The Long Earth", by Terry Pratchett and Stephen Baxter. If you want to participate, you will need to obtain a copy. The first meeting has already been held, on Monday February 11<sup>th</sup> at Second Cup. It was an interesting discussion on the nature of art, philosophy, and sub-genres of speculative fiction.
- We will be hosting another HvZ event this term, March 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration will be March 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Location to be posted.
- Movies on every other Wednesday night from Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, at around 20:00, in PHYS 150.
- Games Days every other Saturday from Feb 16<sup>th</sup> in the MC Comfy Lounge (MC 3001), starting from around noon.
- RPGA (for roleplaying games like D&D) every Friday at 7PM, in MC2017.
- FNM (Friday Night Magic, for those interested in Magic: the Gathering) every Friday at 6PM in MC2034. On Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a Modern GPT for GP San Diego; details to come.
- General meetings every Wednesday at 6PM in PHYS 150. Fun times and important topics are had. Frequently ends in a tournament bracket – figures from the realms of Science Fiction and Fantasy are gathered and pitted in fights to the death, to see who will come out on top.

We hope to see you at some of our events,

Daniel Resnick

WatSFic VP/Minister of Propaganda, W13

## Games SEZ

Everybody loves board games, right? Yes, I'm asking you specifically if you like board games. If you do, show up to the Math C&D\* on Tuesday nights after 6:30 PM, and play games. Also, there will be snacks and drinks, freely available to participants. So show up, play games, and snag some free food. It's also a great way to socialize and have fun with other people, for those who enjoy that sort of thing.

\* Third floor of the MC, one of the two big rooms along the south corridor

DanInTheHat

## Sweet and Sour

By the time this article is printed, Valentine's is over, but you still have an opportunity to tell the university how much you want it – February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup> is FALL 2013 pre-enrollment. This is your opportunity to tell the University which courses you desire.

This pre-enrollment is different than those in the past. Why? Normally FALL 2013 pre-enrollment is followed by enrollment appointments for Fall. Enrollment is your opportunity to edit the courses you selected in pre-enrollment.

This time, however, there are NO enrollment appointments. This means the next opportunity to edit your choices will be open enrollment.

Why does this matter? Pre-enrollment/Enrollment was your opportunity to pick your courses free from long line ups, class sizes etc. If you fail to pre-enroll this time, however, you will not have an enrollment appointment as a backup. Instead, if you fail to pre-enroll, you will have to fight during open enrollment for your courses.

So the main message of this article, is PRE-ENROLL (February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 3<sup>rd</sup>)!

If you have any questions about pre-enrollment, please pass them our way, [mathadvisors@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mathadvisors@uwaterloo.ca).

Riley Metzger  
Math Undergraduate Advisor

## A Sad Realization

I know that it's been a long while coming, but I have to face the truth. We've been together for a while, and serious for over two years now. It's been a fun relationship, but I think it has to end. You've been too high-maintenance, and I need to move on with my life and focus on other things. I've spent this term slowly acclimatizing to being away from you and I think I can handle it now.

What I'm trying to say is: I think that we need to take a break. Just for a little while, so we can figure out what exactly we have between us. We can see other people, and there's always a chance that we'll be back together in the future. Just trust that I won't be around all the time. I've set you up with some really nice people [HA! — *ObjectED* [Watch it, I'm not dead yet — !ED]] who'll take care of you, and I still have some projects that I want to work on with you, but not as how I am now.

It's been a blast,  
Big Mak, formerly known as !ED

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

## Sports! They're Things!

Hello all; here's what you (need to)/(maybe should)/(could perhaps)/(probably don't want to) know about sports over the last two weeks!

To bring closure to the 2012-2013 NFL season (and to remind you that it actually ended), the Ravens won the Super Bowl! Barely. They almost kicked it away, but pulled their defense together in the last half of the fourth quarter to preserve the win. Also, lol Beyoncé, etc etc.

Major League Baseball's spring training starts very soon! Pitchers and catchers were scheduled to report this week, with the rest of the players to report nearer to the end of February. Of course, none of the on-field activity has anything on the steroid scandals taking place, with Anthony Bosch revealing that every active player in the last ten years except for David Eckstein used Performance Enhancing Drugs. Well, or thereabouts. The Jays still look good! That is, their players are not all injured yet.

The NHL season is now in full swing! Hockey Day in Canada was this past Saturday, with Edmonton losing to Detroit 2-1, Winnipeg beating Ottawa 1-0, Toronto (unfortunately) slaughtering Montréal 6-0, and Vancouver whipping Calgary 5-1. The Leafs are still in a playoff spot, as well, so it's too early to really say anything about what's going on, even if we're about a quarter of the way through the shortened season already.

As per request, the University of Waterloo's Competitive Full-Contact Calculus League recently was in the news, with the AMath squad (nicknamed 'SepVar': "We separate you from the variables!") beating the PMathies ('Epsilon Nets': "The sheet of questions is and will remain an isolated point!") in last night's game. Next up on the schedule is the third-year Softies against the AHS team, playing tomorrow night; CRT has been paid extra to not give up on the game halfway through. Check the standings posted in the MC seventh floor lounge for full stats and detailed sabermetric analysis.

As there will not be a full issue next fortnight, you'll have to keep track of sports on your own! Good luck! We're all rooting for you. Sort of.

Happy Watching!  
Scythe Marshall

## Tupper's Self-Referential Formula:



**mineCRAFT**

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

## Want to Volunteer in the MathSoc Office?

MathSoc is looking for more volunteers to help run its office! This is a great way to get to know one of your most important service providers, as well as meet some new people in the Math faculty and add some great volunteer experience to your resume. All we ask is that you come to a 45 minute training session (where you will learn all about how the office works and how you can best help), and then volunteer a minimum of one hour a week. Both of these can be worked into your schedule when it best fits for you! Interested? Send an email to [office@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:office@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca), because training sessions are happening next week.

MathSoc Office Managers

## Study Finds that People Read Studies to Distract Themselves from Work

*Subheadings used to get idea of study*

**PAS** – A recent finding from the University of Waterloo suggests that most people who read newspaper articles about studies don't actually care much about the content of the study. Test subjects were found to believe their own cover stories, and tried to convince the study coordinators that what they were doing constituted as work and not as an idle distraction. Over half argued that the knowledge may be of value in the future.

A startling number of subjects who read the articles mentally filed away the studies for future reference, either to be sent as a mass email to peers, shared on Facebook, or brought up in casual conversation in order to give the idea that they were intellectually superior to their peers. In the latter case, when called out on having read the same article as a friend, subjects were found to abruptly steer the conversation into an unrelated topic before the illusion of genius was completely shattered to others in the group.

In fact, 83% of readers were found to be unaware of the study's topic before the publication of the study, causing them to believe every statistic that they read. This prevalence was found to be more common among single, one-eyed, buck-toothed, Caucasian males that were over 6 feet tall and weighed less than 63 kilograms. An even more remarkable result was that even when the statistic was blatantly preposterous, 127% of readers still held that study to be valid even when told otherwise.

Finally, the study concluded that nearly all of the subjects walked away believing that the report that they had just read was something that was tested on other, less rational people than themselves, and that sort of test would never work on someone intelligent. Those subjects were given a lollipop on the way out of the door, and kept their smug satisfaction all day long in the idea that they couldn't be fooled by an eye-grabbing headline.

Big Mak

## FedS Election Results Shock Campus

In a spectacular turn of events, the Derby Party has swept the board in a landslide photo finish. All opponents from all other parties were left in the dust as these majestic candidates strode mightlily across the finish line and claimed every available seat. Although this group initially seemed like a long shot, it became clear over the past few days that they were really able to dig their spurs in and make up for lost ground on the long stretch home.

Said one candidate, Mr. Ed, after his proud victory: "I just want to take a moment to tell all the naysayers that you can never count us out, even on 90:1 odds. We stuck in there like glue — oops, too soon? — and hey, we didn't bail out at the last second."

According to their platform, the party plans to improve the accessibility of various buildings on campus by providing stables, fresh feed, and in particular, the long-missing hitching posts that have been required by law in certain parts of Canada since 1867. Various groups are beginning to campaign for unicorn and pegasus equal rights, in addition to petitioning Plant Ops to double their staff in order to instate a Dung Brigade. The registrar has already received a request to modify the engineering curriculum to teach all engineers proper shoeing and smithing techniques.

In celebration of their victory, the Derby Party is selling tickets to the Grand Galloping Gala, to be hosted on an unspecified future date at UW's Equestria campus.

ScruffyED

## mathNEWS Taking Part In Partisan Political Reporting

In the recent weeks, an investigative report has revealed that **mathNEWS** has been taking part in partisan political reporting. In the second issue of **mathNEWS** published this term, **mathNEWS** covered most of the political parties running for FedS; however, they missed one of the most historical parties at UWaterloo. The Rhino Party has existed in some form or another every single term at the University of Waterloo. Unfortunately for **mathNEWS** this term, the Rhino Party's position relative to other candidates was not published.

This reporter has gone undercover to discover what **mathNEWS** has to gain from not reporting the Rhino Party's platform. The discoveries are shocking. **mathNEWS** has nothing to lose or gain by reporting about the Rhino Party. This reporter has talked to various people who said that they were party members and that the Rhino Party had decided that this term every single candidate they would run would be a serious contender for the position, and that they would be backed by vast experience and an endless publicity budget.

The fact that the Rhino Party doesn't officially have any candidates is of no importance. They should have still been mentioned in **mathNEWS'** coverage.

because\_its\_hard

## Lessons Learned From FASS

- Force chokes work better with minions
- Only lame scientists care about ethics
- People care about elections(?)
- Mathies have superior skills at being awkward, which sometimes even transfers to being awkward on stage
- The head-in-a-jar demographic must always be considered in news broadcasts
- Being nice can get you to be the president of a student federation. Don't be nice.
- Rich parents are the bane of everyone's existence. But their costumes are nice to look at.
- Never ever confuse math students with zombies. It's not like anyone ever has done this before.
- You have a -20 penalty on all attack rolls if you must roll a die before you try to swing at things.
- Artificial Intelligence programs are not intelligent enough to realize they shouldn't care about student elections JUST KIDDING ALL OF YOU SHOULD CARE OR UNIDENTIFIED SCUMBAGS WILL STEAL ALL UR MONIES AND MAKE A GIANT PANDA PONZI SCHEME TO FINANCE THEIR FLUFFY-ANIMAL PUNCHING HABITS
- Winter came. That's why everything is covered in white.

## The Best Thing I Did All Day <sup>tesseract</sup>

Today, I have done some things. I did 1.92 assignments, which is more than I do most days. I have spammed *mathNEWS*, which some people may even appreciate. I have played some music. But all of these, even passing courses, have temporary value at best. The most important thing I did today was pick something up off the ground.

To be specific, two things. They were cheques, for a frightening amount of money, made out to some person unknown to me. (Surprise! A person I don't know, at this school?) So, not knowing what else to do, I went to Needless Hell, stood in the long line with many other humans, and gave them to the woman at the desk, in the hope she could get them to their owner and that said person would thereupon not be greatly panicked and distressed at their financial affairs and their university education in general. So hopefully, if this was you, you have now been reunited with your cheques and all is well. If not (and you lost two cheques Monday around 11:20 between SLC and MC; sorry everyone else), get thee to Needles Hall, and there will be much rejoicing.

## The Worst Thing I Did All Day <sup>tesseract</sup>

was shallowly brag in *mathNEWS* about my good deeds.

I mean, it's just such a poorly chosen venue for this purpose. It's not like the people reading it have consciences or anything.

tesseract

## Ferrero to Sue Lego in US Courts over Patent Violations

In America they're known as Satan's chocolate; in Canada we call them Kinder Eggs. Specially engineered, these German chocolate eggs harbor death via their patented internal trauma from ingestion. Being strictly prohibited from sale in the US has not prevented them from being able to patent their creation in the same country. Now, with hospitalizations from ingesting Lego blocks at an all-time high, Ferrero is preparing a lawsuit against Lego Group for violation of their patented method for endangering American children. The lawsuit is expected to settle for approximately \$15 Billion USD. The following is a first-hand account of why this type of violation is dangerous and why this matters to the American public.

Allie Tem, a baby sitter from Irving, Texas was having a regular day, taking her two clients out for a walk when something terrible happened. A young Canadian couple was enjoying some Kinder Eggs that they had illicitly brought across the border. They were trying to assassinate members of the Westboro Baptists Church as part of operation 'IQ Test' by offering them free Kinder Eggs. The children, visibly excited at the prospect of free chocolate, asked Ms. Tem if they could have some. After asking the children the secret question (what is one plus one?) and hearing the secret response (two) the Canadian couple gave the children two Kinder Eggs. Upon arriving at home, Ms. Tem supervised the consumption of the eggs and assisted in building the toys contained within.

Little did she know that only moments later, everything would go terribly wrong. Her youngest charge made a Play-Doh egg and put a Lego man inside of it. He then pretended to eat the egg and pulled the Lego man out. His older sister saw this and had an idea. She melted chocolate in her Easy-Bake Oven and made chocolate eggs. She then put Lego toys in these eggs and gave them to Ms. Tem and her little brother. The unsuspecting Ms. Tem, in an effort to show off to the children, swallowed the egg whole. Experiencing some mild discomfort in her bowels an hour later, she quickly found out what she had just consumed. The children immediately dialed 911 and explained the situation to the paramedics when they arrived. They had just demonstrated that Legos were small enough to kill Americans if disguised inside of edible egg-shaped chocolate; something that was patented by Ferrero in 1973. When she tried to sue Ferrero for her medical bills, Ms. Tam received a countersuit from Ferrero demanding that she pay royalties of \$0.63 USD for the eggs she had allowed to be made under her supervision.

Ferrero has since been in touch with Patt & Trolls preparing a suit against Lego. There has been no word on whether or not they will try to also sue Mega Brands, the maker of Mega Blocks. When asked for comment they said: "We cannot prepare the same suit against Mega as the two don't quite fit together ...and Mega will fall apart of its own accord."

Element118

## Pope Retires

In a surprising move this week, Pope Benedict XVI retired, marking the first time in 600 years that a Pope has retired. When asked about how this monumental event would affect the Catholic faith, a St. Jerome's student replied, "Wait, John Paul retired?" This was the first of a series of responses indicating utter apathy, insistence that the next Pope would totally deal with that sex scandal thing, confusion as to what a Pope actually does, and an insistence that this would mark a colossal change in which the church might maybe just maybe let women become priests because really that should have happened by now.

When asked about the rumors that the Catholic Church might alter their doctrine to embrace the social and cultural changes that have occurred since Vatican II, a Church spokesperson responded with the following comment:

"We would like to ensure members of the Catholic faith that the retiring of Benedict XVI will not mark a significant change in our social policy. We will continue to uphold our constant crusade against such dangerous changes as women becoming priests, gay people being married, and people using condoms to prevent the spread of AIDS."

When asked for their response to the Church's comments, Waterloo students continued to respond with apathy, surprise, and more apathy. However, this comment was met with much relief by an older Catholic woman. She stated that the change to Mass in English instead of Latin translation had really been enough for one lifetime and she hopes the new Pope will do her the courtesy of retaining the current doctrine at the very least until she dies.

Program\_Limbo

## Ambiguous Video Game Quiz

The Ambiguous Video Game Quiz is back for an issue! The way this works is that we post a few questions, and your job is to answer them in the best way possible. The more creative your answer, the more points you get! Someone (possibly) gets a prize! Points are distributed, but ignored, based on how the judges feel about your answers. Your answer must, at the very least, be correct. The more obvious your answer, the fewer points it will most likely achieve. Here are the questions:

1. Where does this music come from?: Dun dun, dun dun dun dun dun~ (Name a song)
2. What's the worst voice acting in a game? (Name a game)
3. What's the most "adorable" character? (Name a character)

For the music, the answer only needs to include the above but can be longer. Submit your answers to the **BLACK BOX** by Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. The winner will be announced in a future issue. Give us your creative answers and have fun!

Duo Maxwell

## Tips For The Sick

Many people are unable to take care of themselves whenever they get sick. It could be because that their parents were the ones who would help them deal with it, or because they believe there are other priorities to take care of. This is bad logic, and getting better should be first priority for numerous reasons. Here are a couple of guidelines to follow:

- Stay home and get a good amount of sleep: Some people decide that they still want to show up for classes even in the worst of conditions. Many times your mind and body can't comprehend what's being taught, making you a copy-bot: only there to take notes without knowing what it means. The earlier you get better, the faster you can get back to actually learning.
- Don't infect others: This goes with the other point. University has a tendency of causing an "epidemic" of sorts, having one person come in sick, and eventually spreading it all around campus. It is unfair to infect and affect other people's learning just so you can selfishly come to school.
- Take medicine: This does not necessarily mean to take over-the-counter or prescribed medicine. Do whatever it takes to make you feel better and get better faster, which can include home remedies.

Overall, be sure to get better soon, and try to treat yourself as a sick person. Spoil yourself by staying at home, sleeping in, watching TV in bed, etc. Try to make the best of being sick, but not at the expense of others!

TheSickOne

## Local Conclave in England Elects Richard Dawkins Antipope

*Dawkins Available for Comment at @antipontifex*

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, in a shocking move, recently resigned from the Episcopal See, giving up the title of the Pontiff. In a strange move, he was found to be hosting a conclave in England supposed by churches in the recent Anglican Rite of the Catholic Church. In attendance were Tony Blair, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Queen, and the corpse of Christopher Hitchens.

They elected Richard Dawkins, who had been raised Anglican and was technically eligible for the office of Pope. His papal name would be Pope Hilarius II. When asked why he hosted this extraordinary conclave, Ratzinger stated: "In a secret private debate with Dawkins through PMs on Twiter, I convinced him of the existence of a God, from a message encoded in the background radiation from the Big Bang. He said he would be honoured to bring people back into the universal fold."

The regularly scheduled Latin conclave is still planned for March. It is expected the two candidates will be scheduled for a public debate with voting on the internet to see who becomes the new successor of Peter, Vicar of Christ on Earth.

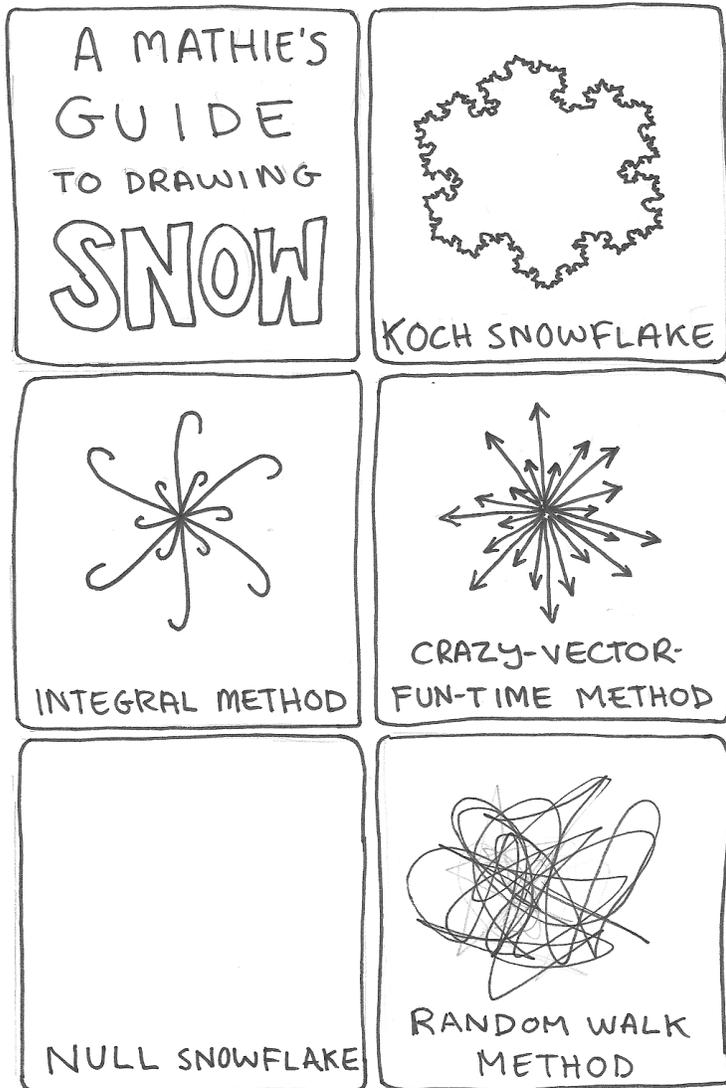
Ice Nine

## n Things to Do on a Snow Day

A snow day? Waldo's high school NEVER had those!

- Sleep in!
- Rest and relax
- Be sick and try to get better
- Go outside and do outside things (like skiing, dog-sledding, igloo-building and snowball fights)
- Surf the 'net
- Shovel and dig all the snow off of pathways you need to walk through
- Go see/perform in FASS, because the show must go on!
- Personify Ned Stark and be like, "I told you so" in your mind but "Winter.....CAAAAAME" when you actually speak.
- Feel sorry for those on co-op who may not necessarily have received a snow day
- Play video games, and do other things that you may not necessarily have had the time to do otherwise
- Sleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeep.....zzzzzzZZZZZZZZ

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca



## Why it is Unnecessary to be a Christian to be an Effective Administrator

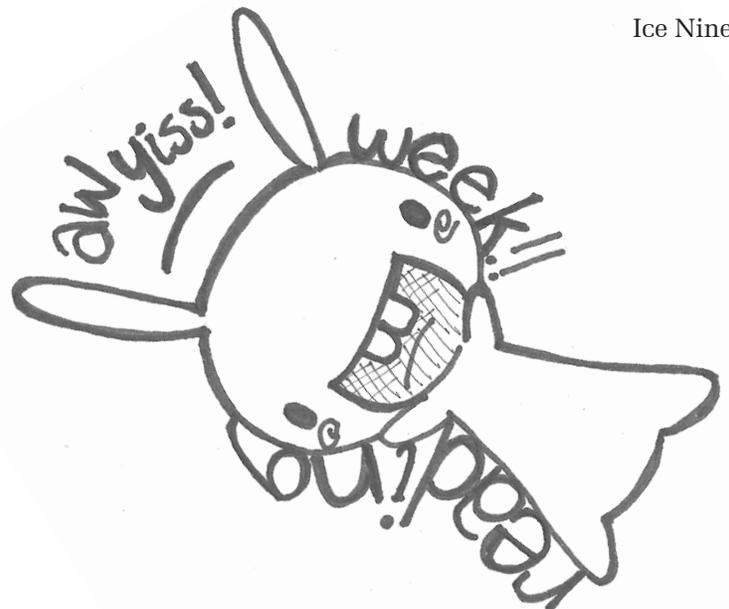
The FedS President Andrew Noble had an interview with Imprint in the last week in which he reflected on his time as President. In his last answer, he ruminated about the influence of his God on his term. While I do not think that this is detrimental, my goal in this piece is to show that it is unnecessary to be Christian to be an effective administrator.

In student politics, federal, and international politics, you can see that religion is still an important issue in elections, but administration and politics, while intertwined, are not the same thing. The question is, is there something essential in Christianity that is necessary for administration? If I were to want any quality of Christianity to be embodied in an administration, it should be care for the poor. Stephen Harper, Barack Obama, George W. Bush and many others have governed with groups that were also majority Christian. However, inequality has gone up under all of them.

This seems to show the case that, despite claiming to be Christian, people are imperfect, and there is no guarantee that a Christian will be a good person compared to someone of another faith, or of no faith. This of course is a form of lie, which is a Christian sin. They even admit that we are sinners, one and all. So why should it be that a Christian should be better than others at recognizing it? Many people can be self-aware of the damaging nature of lies and gossip.

In recent history, the majority of de facto political leaders are not also faith leaders, and as such it seems to me that the majority of why they even discuss their religion is not due to sincere belief, but rather to pander to a base in order to distract from the actual political issues of the day. I hope that this ceases to be the case in the future, as distractions such as this prevent real work and changes from being done in government.

Ice Nine



## Crowd Funding is the Future, also Space

*Space is cool*

Crowd funding (such as kickstarter campaigns) for video games has shown that indie developers with an idea can get the finances to build a game without needing to sell their souls and enslaving themselves to publishers. What happens is this: a developer comes forward with an idea, a plan to achieve it, and proof of concept to demonstrate what the game will be like. Then it is left to prospective players to look it over, and if interested put forth a 'backing' to support the creation of the game and secure a copy for themselves when it is complete. This method of game development/financing is a beautiful thing, where instead of clones of successes, rushed projects, and gameplay that sacrifices fun and intricacies for the sake of the easiest accessibility into more markets, you can fund the development of the exact kind of game that you want, without letting publisher hype and misinformation get in the way.

The success of crowd-funding for video games is undeniable now that one game (concept) has broken all previous records. Star Citizen (SC) is a Space Sim game created by Chris Roberts, main designer for classics such as Wing Commander, Privateer, and Freelancer, with SC designed to follow the spirit of those classics as well as those like Elite. The studio showed progress made on various parts of the game, the experienced and ambitious members of the team, and the features they wanted to implement if they could just get the money to do so. They asked for a minimum of \$2 million to build the game, with goals made if they obtained additional funding. Getting \$2 million wouldn't be record breaking though, as the previous record was for \$4.2 million in crowd funding, what was record breaking was that after an initial 40 day funding period hosted off their own site (and later on kickstarter as their site was not prepared for the traffic it received) \$6,238,563 was raised. Think about that for a second, \$6.2 million was gathered in a short time by players who looked at the game concept and what was planned for it, and who decided that it was worth supporting. This period of funding went from October 10 to November 19, with a total of \$7,776,318 being raised at the time of writing.

Such a display of support shows that it is possible for major developers to create games without the need for publishers anymore, no money being siphoned to pay someone else to hype and sell copies of your game. Instead you receive full payment long in advance, and build the game that you and your backers dream of. If you would like to see what the fuss with this record breaking game is about, and help push the record further, visit [robertsspaceindustries.com](http://robertsspaceindustries.com) to look at the game and support the development.

Soviet Canadian

**The filler on page 14  
is false.**

## PMAMCOC denied merger with FARMSA

*Abbreviation said to be "too long"*

**MC** – In a stunning decision by the MathSoc council, the Waterloo *Pure Math, Applied Math, Combinatorics & Optimization Club* has not been given permission to merge with the *Financial Analysis and Risk Management Student Association*, despite the heavy pressure from both clubs.

Despite the potential of getting an extra room for storage and work and the more streamlined budget, the council was adamant in keeping the two organizations as distinct groups under MathSoc's wing. The historic 34-6 vote (historic due to the unusually high turnout of councillors to the meeting) any and all hopes for uniting the two historically close groups.

"It would have been a huge logistical pain," says councillor Savage (Stats), who voted against the proposed merger. "The abbreviation would have been so long that we'd have to readjust all of our print and online materials in order to accommodate for it. The sign over the door would have to be redone, and we'd probably have to call plant ops to cut a hole in the wall to make room for the full abbreviated name. Not to mention that seeing PMAMCOFARMC would just be ridiculous."

"If anything, the CSC should just officially absorb the CMC and stop pretending that it's an autonomous entity."

Big Mak

## Canadian Nights

Oh I come from a land, from a faraway place  
Where the geese are known to roam  
Where they give you good beer  
If your ID matches your face  
It's not exciting, but hey, it's home

When the wind's from the east  
And the snow's from the west  
And the ice on the ground is bright  
Come on down  
Stop on by  
Hop a sleigh and ride  
To another Canadian night

Canadian nights  
Like Canadian days  
Most likely are cold  
So cold you will fold  
To its freezing ways

Canadian nights  
'Neath Canadian moons  
A fool off his guard  
Could fall and fall hard  
Out there on the dunes

## Solve for Ex

You are given a relationship defining the unspecified function  $u$ . (Not  $u$  and  $me$ . There was never any relationship there. Nor was there any potential for one. Why must you keep kidding yourself? Besides, everyone knows  $u$  is always paired with  $v$  in math. As in radiation.) This relationship evolves in time, according to the additional variable  $t$ . However, each time you try to solve it, an additional parameter,  $ex$ , shows up in your formulation.  $Ex$  is not a solution to the equation; in fact, all solutions for  $t > t(ex)$  are unstable. You do some research on the subject, and you find that mathematicians of a previous generation also grappled with this equation, and came up with  $ex$  as a solution. It was an intuitively obvious solution, requiring no great creativity to find, and it seemed a natural fit. They thought it was the ideal solution, in fact, and that it would be stable. However, later mathematicians arrived at a surprising breakthrough based on correctly interpreting the Mean Value Theorem, which surprisingly showed  $ex$  was not even a solution. They tried many other solutions, but none really worked out, or at least none was stable. For a while, they went back to studying properties of this  $ex$  to see what unique properties it had that could cause it to be so problematic. They determined it was a strange attractor. Turns out that your equation wasn't separable.

tesseract

## n Reasons why Being Single on Valentine's Day is Maybe not so Bad After All

- No one yelled at you for buying them discounted Christmas chocolate. Or dumpster diving for them.
- If you remembered Valentine's Day on Wednesday of this week, you did not have to scramble for a restaurant reservation.
- Your Friday math assignments were on time because there was nothing... distracting you the night before.
- You have more money to spend on MTG.
- No one had to see how inept you are at removing a bra one-handed.
- You did not have to help a tipsy girl in heels walk back from Uptown in the snow.
- You can continue to call Valentine's Day a stupid commercial holiday meant to sell chocolate and greeting cards without risking the displeasure of your significant other.
- You did not have to pay for an overpriced meal that was not even that good anyways.
- When you lie and say you totally got laid last night, there is no one there to contradict your story.
- There was nothing conflicting with your game night.
- No one cares if you had midterms this week and forgot to shower (well, except maybe the guy next to you in class).
- You did not have to try and remember how to tie a tie.
- You can take advantage of all the discount chocolate that is on sale now.

Program\_Limbo

## (Un)Happy Breakup Day

So it's the day after Valentine's Day, and you spent all last night staying up not doing your math assignment, because you told your Previously-Significant Other that you were going to do your math assignment, and they broke up with you.

And no, they don't think your frugality in buying expired chocolate shows you're a good choice of life partner. Alternatively, you went all-out and made an extremely elaborate date set-up for your Previously-Significant Other, and found out that, in spite of liking cat videos, they're not really into furies. And by not really, I mean not at all.

You suspect that many of your friends are in the same boat. You know, HMS lonely-and-trying-really-hard-not-to-be-depressed-and-it's-working-just-fine-thank-you. I mean, the ones who have never seen the opposite gender from closer than 431 cm away clearly are (can they really like matrices that much?), but you suspect many of those who claim to be dating someone actually just got broken up with, for at least one of the reasons mentioned above, or possibly because they haven't showered in the past  $d_{20}$  days. So you decide to do some research for your stats class (you know, the one with the \*dreamy\* prof) and investigate the matter, going beyond your pitifully small sample size (man, pitifully small... the reasons for your singlehood just keep coming). You find out that your initial supposition was not in fact correct – many of the people you asked were happily involved in relationships, most of which had, in fact, been bolstered on Valentine's Day. You are slightly concerned that your data is unreliable, since many of the people you asked made no sound other than slurping someone else's face and moaning.

However, as you go around asking these people questions about their relationships, they realize they're not satisfied with them, they were expecting better, life is full of depressing things (as helpfully pointed out by this publication), and yes, their SO is pathetic for a whole bunch of reasons they just realized. So you facilitate a great number of breakups. To mourn the lost happiness of the human race, you consume vast amounts of ice cream. You go to Marble Slab, realize it's really expensive, get depressed at the amount of money you just spent, and make up for this with more ice cream. You then see why you're so stupid that no one wants to date you. You walk out, oblivious to the crowd of equally desperate (and therefore available!) singles sitting in there doing the same thing.

Happy Breakup Day!  
tesseract

## *dissed*CONNECTIONS

Lost: one concept of time, lightly used. Happy Halloween! Left behind Sunday afternoon, possibly next to tear-stained algorithms assignment. If found, please return to the *mathNEWS* office, MC 3030. Ask for ObjectED.

To the girl who accidentally gave me the chocolates meant for her boyfriend: thanks, they were pretty good.

Found: hardcover chemistry textbook. I killed a bug with it, but let me know if you want it back.

## How to Get a Date

Starting materials: A bus pass and twenty dollars

1. During the day, head to the DC bus stop.
2. Wait for bus 13.
3. Get on bus 13.
4. Get off at the stop closest to the Columbia Sobeys.
5. Head to the Sobeys.
6. Enter the Sobeys.
7. Go the produce aisle.
8. Pick up *Phoenix dactylifera*.
9. Head to the checkout and purchase *Phoenix dactylifera*.
10. Open up the package.
11. Take whichever one you think is prettiest.
12. Congratulations! You now have a date.

Vaddi Beca

## Dates with *mathNEWS* Editors to be Auctioned

Have you ever wanted to date a *mathNEWS* editor? Well, good thing for you that Valentine's Day just went by. It turns out that many of the editors didn't have dates for yesterday and will be running an auction [*No, we won't. — ObjectED*] to get dates! However, unlike normal auctions, where the goal is to bid higher than everyone else, in the "*mathNEWS* Editor Date" auction the goal is to bid lowest. This makes perfect sense when you remember that the auction is backwards, and instead of paying to date the editor, they will pay you.

Please, get our *mathNEWS* editors dates.  
because\_its\_hard



## Crowdsource your Date

Since Valentine's Day has just gone by, maybe for next year you can do a better job planning and executing your date. Unlike this year, where you did something at the last minute. Here are some ideas from *mathNEWS* to help make your date a success.

- Fund your date with Kickstarter – you don't have to pay
- Troll a forum by saying you have the best date idea and post something truly horrific – they'll think of something awesome for you
- Use Twitter to livetweet whatever your date is saying – you can find the optimal response
- Use Foursquare to find the most popular date locations
- Find the most popular Youtube dance videos – you can learn how to dance

because\_its\_hard

## theSMURF's Pro Tips for Choosing a Job

Greetings again, friends! After reading and applying my pro tips from last issue, you should have nailed every single interview you've had so far. Chances are, you will have plenty of offers coming up in the following weeks. Being the senior co-op, I am obviously not worried about any competition. I'm definitely not trying to convince you to decline an offer just so I can snatch it up! Here are some protips to help you decide where to work.

First of all, consider the amount of work that is required. Not at the actual job, but in terms of what is required to get there. For example, if you want to work in America, you'd have to fill out some stupid forms and apply for this "visa" thing (I have one in my wallet, but they won't accept it for some reason). The worst part? You have to PAY them to fill out paperwork. It's like doing work and paying your employer. Definitely not worth it.

Secondly, consider the location of your work. Do you want to endanger your life by picking the wrong co-op job? In L.A. there is currently a rogue LAPD officer and people are getting shot left and right. In general, there's a bunch of guns and gun-related crime in America, and you aren't even safe from police officers. Screw America. You should definitely stay in Canada where it's safe.

Finally, consider your employer. Do you really want to work for a large corporation, slaving away in an office as an insignificant part of a giant machine? Hell no! You want to be there at the start, do things that actually matter, and be considered as a core part of the team. This is why you should reject that Google/Amazon offer, and instead take that job at that small startup with the two-man engineering team.

theSMURF

## Rainbow Mathies 27

### *Queer-Positive Places to Bring Your Significant Other*

Happy Singles Awareness Day! Well, day-after-Singles-Awareness-Day. The timing of *mathNEWS* this week is quite unfortunate to have a Valentine's Day column... but I don't want to come up with another idea, so you can deal with it. Maybe you were smart and decided to wait for the bountiful advice we can offer you. Maybe you were actually smart, and didn't. In either case, I think you should rehash your Valentine's Day excitement by visiting one of these fine establishments! (Note: I absolutely accept the idea that a friend or a good book make great significant others, so these suggestions are not only for those with the human model).

The following descriptions all correspond to local establishments which I can speak to from experience as being queer positive. To me, a "queer positive" establishment is somewhere where a couple can go and act in a way similar to the typical couple, and not experience any compromise to the positive environment. This consideration includes things like public references to the couple being together or on a date, one party paying for the group, and light PDA. The ways that the establishment can no longer be considered queer positive is by enforcing heteronormativity (such as readily acknowledging only male-female couples) and the strict use of only gendered language in addition to blatant homophobia.

- Jane Bond: 5 Princess Street W, Waterloo  
A pleasant mix of bar and lounge, go for the good food and great atmosphere (thought the servings could be bigger for the price.)
- Princess or Princess Twin: 6 Princess Street W and 46 King Street N, Waterloo respectively  
These conveniently located cinemas show some of the best indie and Hollywood films, and kindly host the yearly Queer Film Festival. The cinemas themselves are small and quaint, making a great date spot.
- Tomu Sushi: 347 Erb St W, Waterloo  
Easily some of the best sushi in the city, with attentive and accepting wait staff to boot. They have lots of private booths available if you're not too comfortable with dating "publically."
- Little Bean Coffee Bar: 417 King St W, Kitchener  
My favorite coffee place! Lesbian owned and operated, it's a great music venue and is the right amount of cozy for a first date. The coffee itself could be better, though.
- Thai Sun: 75 King St S, Waterloo
- For Thai enthusiasts everywhere! I can't comment on much of their menu (I have a low spice tolerance), but I know their pad thai is great.
- Thrive Juice Bar: 105 King St S, Waterloo  
Don't judge a book by its cover, because this place has great vegetarian entrées as well!
- Molly Bloom's: 170 University Ave W, Waterloo  
Sometimes a pub environment is the best thing for a date, depending on the people involved. Try the wings!
- Mom's Tattoo Shop: 43 King St N, Waterloo  
For those more adventurous couples looking for new date ideas. Is having matching tattoos still a thing?

- Button Factory: 25 Regina St S, Waterloo  
A smaller arts gallery with some hit-and-miss exhibits. Don't ask me about the name, though.

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).

Until next time,  
(define this (not cool))

## Words: Beverages

The word alcohol has had an interesting linguistic trip, tracing its origins to the Arabic word *kahala*, meaning "to paint". From this, we receive the Arabic word *al-kuhul*, referring to 'kohl', an eyeshadow cosmetic originally made from powdered antimony. The original definition of alcohol in Latin was "powdered ore of antimony", before meaning "powder formed by sublimation". In English, alcohol made the move from powdered cosmetics to any powdered sublimate and then any sublimate, liquids included. In 1753, alcohol of wine referred to the intoxicant found in strong liquors. From then, the shorter alcohol was broadened to include the substance in any fermented liquor.

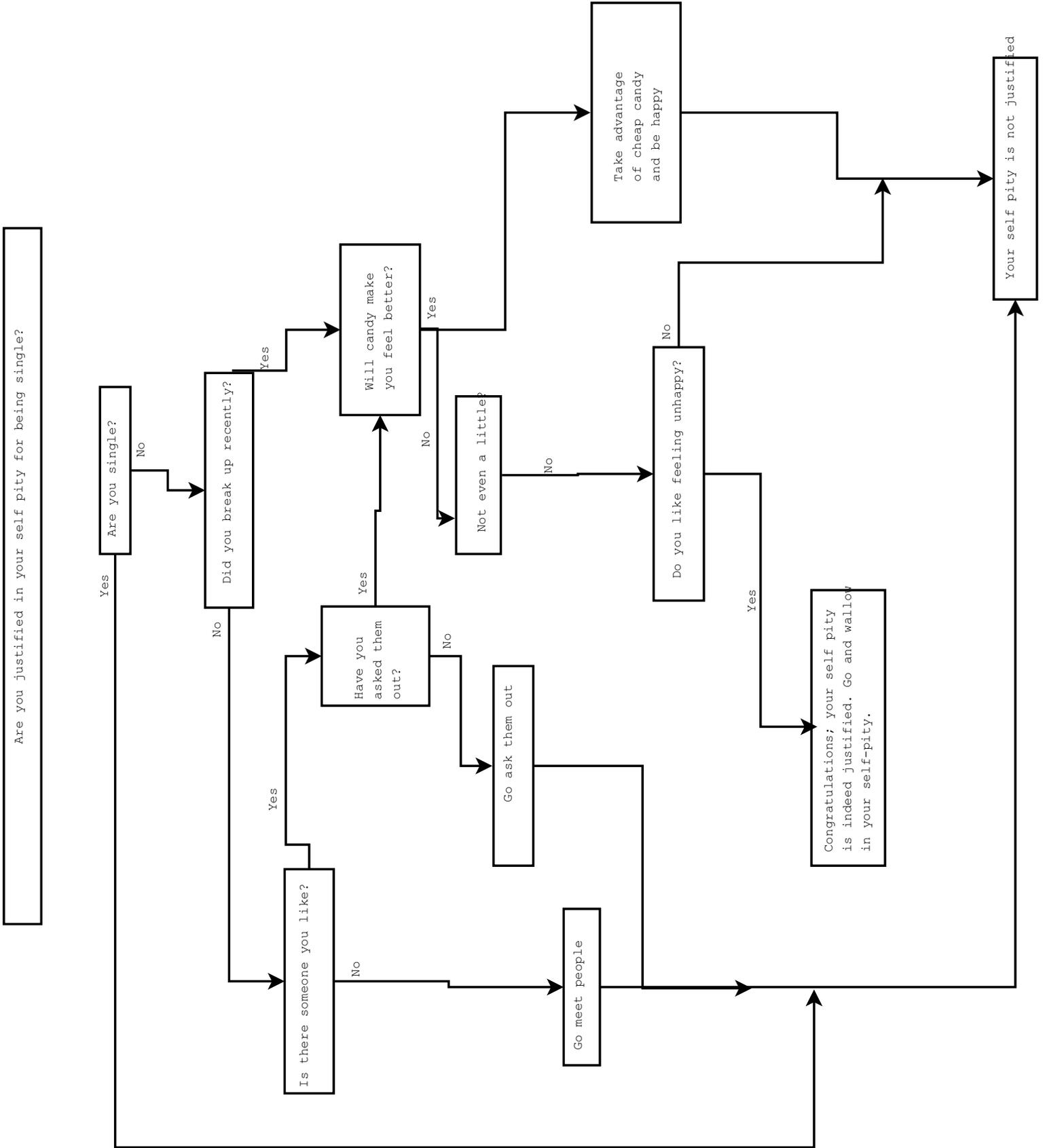
TL;DR Beer contains eyeshadow.

I intended to make a Russian joke here, given that the word vodka literally means 'little water'. Yeah, Russians refer to vodka as being less than water. Then I found out that the Irish are worse. The word whiskey has its origins in the phrase 'water of life' or 'life-giving water'. Apparently, the Irish need whiskey like most humans need air [*Just another reason I believe I'm actually Irish — ObjectED*].

Rum is one of remarkably few words to become part of English before any other European language. We're not entirely certain of the word's origins, though. We can trace its origins to rumbullion in Barbados, 1651.

"The chief fuddling they make in the island is Rumbullion, alias Kill-Devil, and this is made of sugar canes distilled, a hot, hellish and terrible liquor." (Note: fuddling means 'alcoholic drink' in this context.)

I've got in-cider knowledge,  
moment



## The Most Amazing Joke I've Ever Made

This was so ~~bad~~ good that two editors told me they would ~~not~~ gladly publish it and threatened me with ~~physical violence~~ glorious cuddling. Here it is:

A process was running and asked the OS for a semaphore.

The OS returned false.

The process refused to block and ran into the critical section before it was ready.

It got corrupted data.

The OS checked the status. It was zombie.

The OS messaged to the dead process:

"I meant to give you a semafive." (That's one more than a semaphore)

Convince the editors to let me live if this made you cry (with laughter) [Alternatively, send all hate mail to [mn.thesmurf@gmail.com](mailto:mn.thesmurf@gmail.com) — ObjectED].

## Difficult Questions to Answer

For as long as there have been guys dating girls, questions with no correct answers have existed. Questions like "Does this dress make me look fat?" or "Do you think celebrity x is prettier than me?" For years, guys have agonized on what to answer when asked "Am I apple or pear shaped?" However, this question has become even more complex with the discovery of the asian pear and the rose apple. One's a pear with the unusual property of being apple-shaped; the other, an apple that is pear-shaped. This reveal has confused guys so much that they have started to compare girls to oranges.

If ever you have found yourself in a situation where you have to answer this question, your best bet is to point out that their question is logical fallacy of a false dilemma and they forgot to include the two other female body shapes, banana and hourglass (at least according to the world's most popular source, Wikipedia). Though really, if you're dating a woman, chances are she's shaped like a woman.

Beyond Meta

## The filler on page 9 is true.

Being strangled,  
theSMURF

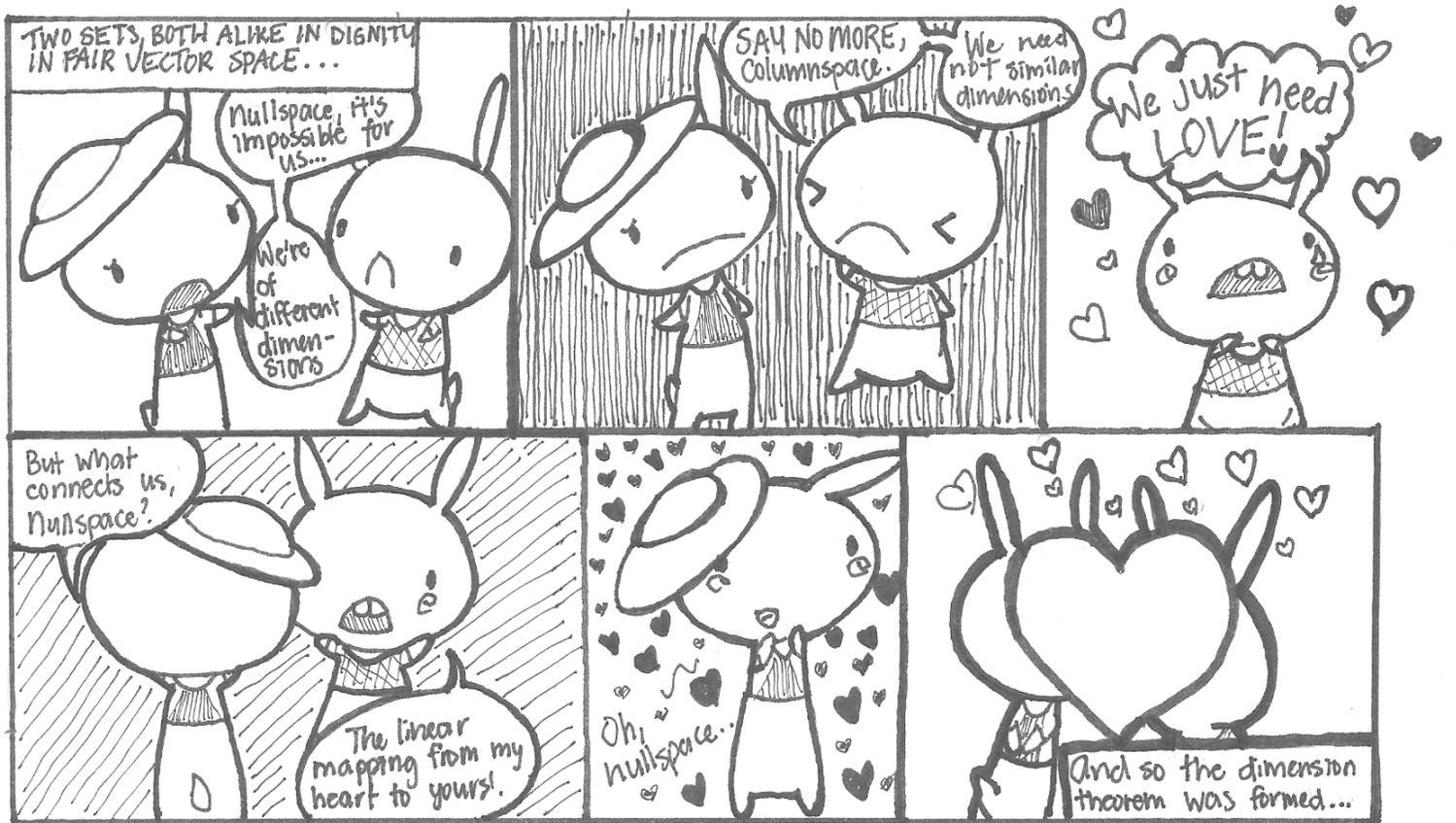


fig. 3a. Even subspaces are getting together. Happy singles' awareness day!

## Book Synopses

Here are some book synopses! I haven't read any of these books, but I'm sure I can judge a book by its cover and title.

### *Under the Dome (Stephen King)*

The biggest snowglobe in the world has been created — so big, it is actually to scale. This is the story of the workers who toiled in order to be a part of what becomes the pinnacle of human achievement. They then celebrate by setting an airplane on fire.

### *Perks of Being a Wallflower (Stephen Chbosky)*

A person of indeterminate gender takes two photo booth photos (see no evil and hear no evil). They then spend the rest of the book writing in their journal about girls being weird and trying to grow flowers on their wall.

### *The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)*

A disembodied finger steals a book with directions on entertaining domino arrangements, then proceeds to create them all for the pleasure of knocking them down.

### *The Outsiders (S. E. Hinton)*

In a world turned red-orange, the citizens must live in fear of the giant heads in the sky, distortions of young men melded together at the cheek. Can the citizens band together and create a force field to force out the monsters?

### *Call of Cthulhu (H. P. Lovecraft)*

Cover, too scary. Need. Something. Happy.

### *Divine Comedy (Dante)*

A charming comedy about a few angels getting up to shenanigans and helping a few men out. A feel-good book that makes you laugh at the silly things the angels and the friendlier devils do.

### *Game of Thrones (George R. R. Martin)*

A sword is only a lowly peasant when it is given the opportunity to rise higher in social status due to heroism. Can a silver sword survive among the golden ones, navigate the confusing social climate, and survive the deadly game of nobility and royalty that permeates the court?

Yours in misinterpretation,  
Shay Blair.

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

## So You Realized that You're not a Main Character

For whatever reason, by whatever unpleasant method, you have realized you are unfortunately not the main character in this thing we call life. You may be a supporting character, or even simply a background character. Maybe you're even the villain. Regardless, what can you do? Here's an easy guide.

First, you must figure out which genre of life you have found yourself in. Next, follow these steps based on what you've found.

- **Comedy:** Figure out your archetype. Play into it as much as possible and you will do well... unless you are an antagonist. If so, play into it but plan to have a "epiphany" and change your ways by the end.
- **Coming of Age:** Are you a bully, nasty person, stuck-up idiot, or general prick? If you are, you will get an unpleasant comeuppance. Otherwise, you probably will be ignored in favour of the main character.
- **Mystery:** Are you a suspicious person? Did you have some connection to the victim? Congratulations, you're a suspect. You'll have a lot of fun! Unless you did it or you're the very first serious suspect (in which case you'll die to prove your innocence). Do you have a desire to be or are you working as a police officer? Try not to get killed, but you should be fine, if inept. You may also be a future victim, in which case you're doomed.
- **Musical:** Brush up on your harmonizing skills and dance abilities; you'll be singing and dancing background. Trust me, if you stick out you'll be viewed as full of yourself and taken down a peg. If you're lucky, you may get a small solo, or even a larger solo if you manage to swing supporting character.
- **Romance:** Are you in love with either of the people in the alpha couple? If there is someone who is in love with the other person in the alpha couple, fear not! You may become a beta couple. Pair The Spares!
- **Action:** Run. If you are not the main character's love interest, run as fast as you can. You are either an innocent bystander likely to die in the crossfire, a villain who will be killed and the audience will cheer, or a friend likely to be killed to motivate the hero.
- **Horror:** I'm sorry.

Yours in obscurity,  
Shay Blair

## *prof*QUOTES

"Ln(1) bonus marks to those people!"

Metzger, STAT 340

"If I give you a week extension you'll just start a week later."

Lank, CS 349

"Bananas are kinda the opposite of stop lights. Green means slow down, yellow means go and red means... WHOA WHERE DID YOU GET THAT BANANA!"

Katz, MATH 239

**profQUOTES**

“This is the analogue of the first fundamental theorem of calculus. In other words, it’s bloody useless.”

Hewitt, AMATH 231

“The second fundamental theorem tells us, ‘If you can solve this problem, you can solve this problem.’ In other words, it’s bloody useless too.”

Hewitt, AMATH 231

“If someone you know literally appears to be glowing from within, they are not well.”

Carson, INTEG 251

“All teaching is a succession of lies, and disclosures of those lies.”

Carson, INTEG 251

“Ethical issues... Let’s put those aside.”

Legge, ChE 161

“I hate square roots. In fact, even all of my plants have roots and it annoys me.”

Wolczuk, MATH 235

“I don’t know who named this, but they should be shot.”

Wolczuk, MATH 235

Prof: “My charger is in my office.”

Student: “I’ll get it!”

Prof: “No, no. That’s too dangerous.”

Pei, MATH 135

“There’s nothing better than being laughed at. No, I was wrong, laughing at others is better.”

Pei, MATH 135

“So suppose we are dealing with a real life situation- *[Starts laughing]*. One of those rare cases where we are dealing with a real life situation.”

Pei, MATH 135

Student: “Is that absolute value of *zee* times the angle of *zee*?”

Prof: *[two seconds of silence]* “Zed.”

Nielsen, SE 380

“Say you’re at Timmy’s waiting to get food, and VIP’s keep showing up in front of you. Then you will experience starvation. Literally.”

Fischmeister, SE 350

“Deadlock: when one person is holding all the toilet paper and the other is sitting on the throne.”

Fischmeister, SE 350

“If there was a zombie apocalypse, you would much rather I be a zombie.”

Metzger, STAT 340

“If you catch up to the producer you will eat a negative cake, and that’s not delicious. In this case you have to make sure you don’t put a cake on top of another cake.”

Fischmeister, SE 350

“There was a major change in Newton’s time: they wore much bigger wigs.”

Taylor, PHYS 275

*[On January 29<sup>th</sup>, the day it rained very hard]* “I cycled to work today. It was a huge, huge mistake.”

Taylor, PHYS 275

“So I was sitting in a Greek restaurant over the weekend, picked up a Greek newspaper and thought ‘I’ve done plenty of math. I can probably read this.’”

Taylor, PHYS 275

“I say something to you. You can quote me, but I can deny it and who’s to say otherwise? Well, it’s written in *mathNEWS*.”

Lank, CS 349

“There were users that figured it out, but that’s because they got so frustrated and just started clicking everywhere.”

Lank, CS 349

Prof: “Did that make sense?”

Student: “No.”

Prof: “Good.”

Lank, CS 349

“It makes sense. It’s wrong, but it makes sense.”

Lank, CS 349

“I’m going to end lecture 30 minutes early on the day of the midterm so I can make the midterm.”

Lank, CS 349

“You go to your child and ask: why are you so high?”

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

“Usually your children don’t tell you they’re high – they lie – but these are honest children.”

Lopez-Ortiz, CS 240

“The actual algorithm is also like a soap opera, except that the algorithm runs in  $O(n^2)$  time, while soap operas run for considerably longer.”

Truskowski, CS 341

“Although I have never used Jobmine, but I don’t think anyone actually knows how it works.”

Truskowski, CS 341

“This is the University of Waterloo, you should be better at computers than I am.”

Wang, ACTSC 446

**profQUOTES**

"If the people in The Matrix were actually in a computer environment, then why don't they ever see any Adobe updates?"

Wang, ACTSC 446

"This is the easiest statistic to remember: EIEIO."

Metzger, STAT 340

"I generally don't think. It's safer that way."

Metzger, STAT 340

"We're going to talk about alcohol at 8:30 in the morning."

Metzger, STAT 340

"Does this make sense? Or at least some dollars?"

Metzger, STAT 340

"I think mathematicians should rule the world, by definition."

Metzger, STAT 340

"Is there anyone here who does not see a trend here? No? Good, nobody's drunk."

Razeman, STAT 443

"Some of you have never heard of Taylor expansions? You're in the wrong class."

Razeman, STAT 443

"It's like the probability of me marrying Angelina Jolie. I shouldn't say that, especially since I'm married already."

Razeman, STAT 443

"I don't mean to intellectually insult anybody, but the proof is really easy."

Razeman, STAT 443

"In the buildup to a socialist apocalypse...Obamacare."

Kenyon, PHIL145

"Can we actually just ask rhetorical questions non-stop?"

Kenyon, PHIL145

**A story in n parts****III**

The realm of Alma is acting in its temperamental mood, as it is wont to do, especially with its monarch fluttery inside. The lava pools bring nourishment to the plants of the realm, which slither across the flat landscape. Trees of ice dot the plain, each one tinted a different coloured hue, as the narcissistic ice and its deal with light bring forth a cacophony of colour and radiance, belying its utmost danger to the realm's more fragile inhabitants, of which even the slightest touch would mean a most certain fate.

Among its more lowly denizens are those brought from other places to please Her Majesty, snatched from their sleepy lives and brought here across the divide for a more chaotic existence. Her concubines and slaves of pleasure held in a thrall of soma and psychedelic delusions answer to each of her whims, unable to resist and escape the torturous ecstasy bespelled upon these folk. Such people and the even less fortunate tread very carefully in a realm where even the water, placid and palatable one day, may suddenly become thine enemy, and the reason for this change is an insult in its integrity.

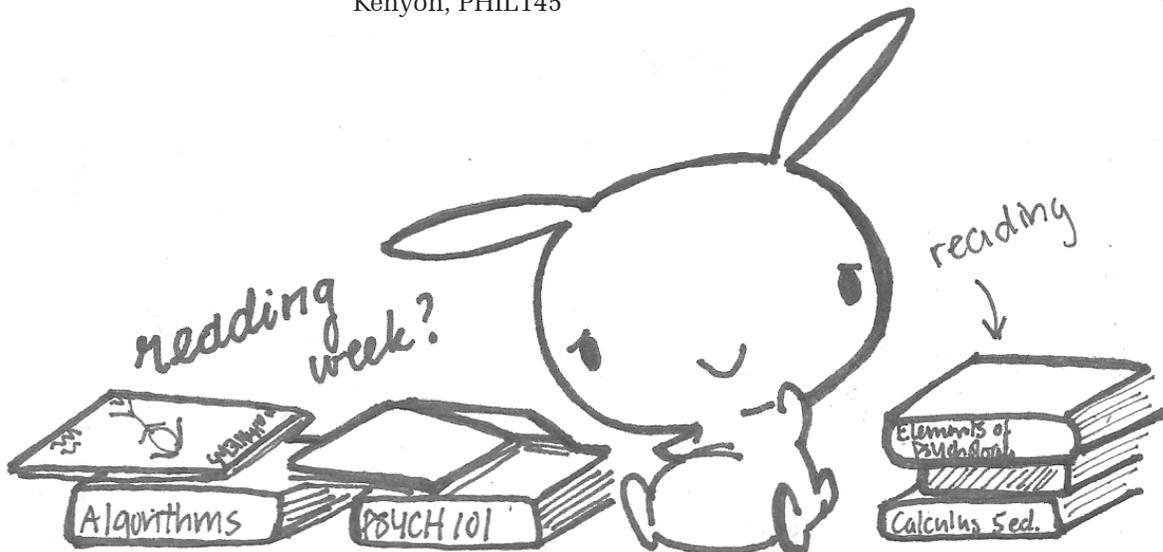
Her Majesty at the moment in court is feasting and entertaining several exalted guests in riotous revelry, being served upon hand and foot by her servants. One guest asked the course to be passed, and when a servant hesitated, a piercing stare changed the poor servant into a grotesque form twisted yet beautiful in its chaos, while relating the dying throes of the servant to a gurgling geyser, carefree. And a geyser is a spirit of water, and who else is a spirit of water...?

"Has Saphira been returned yet?"

To the question the only response was the sky turning violet, to which Her Majesty only cursed under her breath one name oft on people's lips.

A thousand leagues and a whim away, Zyl falls unconscious writhing in pain. One cannot escape from Her Majesty.

Zethar



## Geese too stupid to fly south in Winter

*Experts hope all the fuckers die*

**Waterloo** – the first major snow storm of the season hit last Friday causing school to be closed, the first time such a thing happened since at least the last ice age, but not all creatures had the most basic level of intelligence to stay indoors. The falling snow; although, pretty, did manage to keep the students inside, warm and protected from the elements. A survival instinct apparently absent from the university's geese population, a species so rife for natural selection it's a wonder that these walking shit factories haven't frozen themselves to death entirely. And it's definitely not for a lack of trying.

For many years the geese population at UW have flaunted their suicidal tendencies and candidacy for extinction by being absolutely, fucking stupid as shit. Regardless of the fact the geese have been pushing their young off of buildings, walking confidently into oncoming traffic along Ring Road or just lacking the simple the survival instincts that literally every other fucking winged creature has managed to develop, these little bastards miraculously avoid eradicating themselves from the face of planet. In addition they somehow manage to thrive. The sheer arrogance of the species may appear as nothing more than giving nature the finger and laughing in the face of what realistically should result in total extinction. Even during the coldest season, where other animals leave or hibernate, the Waterloo geese aggravatingly still traverse the campus without all dropping dead simultaneously and succumbing to their collective stupidity. Geese even have been seen challenging passing students to unarmed combat for years, knowing full well that their opponents would be thrice their height and at least as much in weight, but seldom do they find takers. How the geese have not been completely and viciously fucking killed by student predators is a mystery. The last time the hubris of a species took it to challenge a much stronger animal, the lions rid the planet of another subspecies of pygmy and, really, who the fuck cares?

UW Experts have been speculating when the geese line will be ended by participating in a gambling pool, the winner of which will be awarded a grant of up to \$15,000 to celebrate by getting fucking hammered with 12 of their closest colleagues in the Alps. The monetary value of the grant will depend on how close to the predicted date and method the last of these vermin choke the last breath out of their ugly, long necks. In addition there is speculation to an additional fund bonus dependent on how fucking awesome and cathartic the death of the species is. Professor Donald Hunding, lead participant in the pool, took some time to share his thoughts on the situation. "Unfortunately, due to the delicate nature of the pool, we cannot directly affect the environment to tip the odds in our favour." This sentiment was also shared by campus environmentalists who are strongly encouraging the community to let nature do it's thing and finally step up as a long-await goose Hitler. Hunding also stated that "... interest in the pool extended beyond just the scientific community..." including submissions by auto safety specialists to

replace crash test dummies with geese that have been superglued together in sexually awkward positions. Hunding's own place in the pool comes close to mid August, 2013, which coincides with his invention to the school's lawn water sprinkle system with a fire sprinkler system where the feathered fuckheads congregate and will burn like squacking box of tinder.

Hunding estimated that "... goosicide would eliminate approximately 75% of the shit that can be found on the university campus and my shoes." Students have been optimistic that their end will come swiftly and hilariously also need to consider that once the geese are gone that it may leave the campus open to other, more bothersome creatures such as Predator or cuccos. Until nature finally fucking realizes that these winged creeps are truly deserving the unrelenting fury of nature, our shoes won't be clean and our pathways won't be safe.

Pleiades



*Fig 1: Geese + Snow*



*Fig 2: Geese + Fire*

# mudPIT

## Special Stuck-at-Home Edition

The light of the early morning sun seems a bit dull today as you begin to wake from troubled dreams. Through your half-closed eyes you can see that the sky is a funny colour -- not its usual blue, nor that strange peach tone you only vaguely remember at this point -- something more like television tuned to a dead channel. You scratch your leg and wonder what could have caused you to make connections to Neuromancer this early in the day.

> Wake up.

Despite the subtle allusion to Kafka's *Metamorphosis*, you are still, in fact, ScruffyED, just as you always have been and always will be. You are also feeling very cold. You get dressed, but it doesn't seem to help. Then you notice that a small pile of snow has accumulated beneath your bedroom door.

> Attempt to open door.

Much like tackling an angry grey hedgehog, it's no use. The door is totally frozen shut. You didn't think this could happen to wooden sliding doors, but apparently this is a thing now. Then you get a very inspired idea.

> Quickly retrieve industrial heat gun from closet.

Yesssssss. You will take any excuse to use your industrial heat gun. It is the best thing ever. You make short work of the snow and ice that was jamming your door, and take a look into the main room. Oh man. The view through your window would be magnificent if it wasn't so terrifying. There is snow everywhere and you cannot see a thing. It never occurs to you to wonder about how the snow got inside if all the windows were closed. What does occur to you is that a very rare event has the potential to take place today.

> Check notifications.

You have received a notice from the University of Waterloo. It says that classes have been cancelled today, for the first time in five years. What a stroke of luck! You had a feeling this would be the case. Below it, someone has mentioned something about unreliable bus service and traffic accidents. You decide that you are certainly not going to go anywhere interesting today.

You have received an email from the Faculty of Engineering. It says that Engineering classes have been un-cancelled. Interesting.

You have received another email from the Faculty of Engineering. It says that the previous message was due to shenanigans and that all classes have been well and truly cancelled. This is a shame. For a moment you thought that they had finally come to their senses about what now doesn't look like very much snow at all. You think back to high school in Winnipeg, when

the only snow day you remember was due to about two orders of magnitude more snow than this. On most normal school days, the snow was only one order of magnitude worse than it is today.

> Status.

You are ScruffyED, the Half-Tanuki Wizard(10)/Hacker(10)/Software Engineer(4). You have been playing for 20 years, 7 months, and 15 days. You have no outstanding assignments for the next seven days. You have no events scheduled for the next three days. There is nothing interesting on the Internet today. In fact, you do not have very much to do at all.

> Stop time.

When you said that you were certainly not going to go anywhere interesting today, you didn't say anything about *anywhen* interesting. And anywhen else would certainly be more interesting than this. You try to keep the weird time stuff to a minimum to avoid drawing confusion and ire.

> Let's have a look at the future.

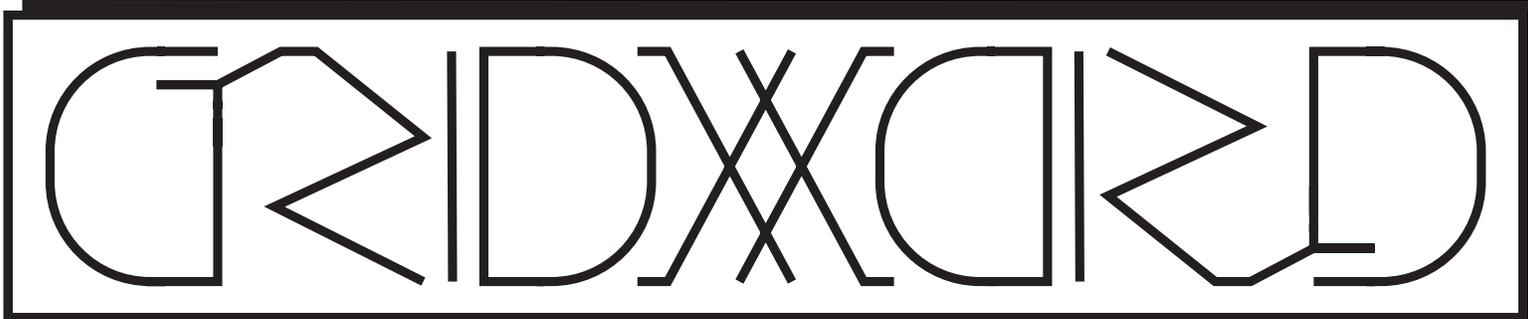
You step forward about a week. It is now February 14. You do not have a date, or anyone to spend time with this evening. This suits you perfectly. Sometimes you hardly have enough time for yourself, let alone for a significant other. You would rather not bother with it all in the first place than make a half-hearted attempt at romance and end up making things worse for someone else. Plus, if everyone else is messing around in restaurants today, you can at least get some work done in peace and quiet. The irony of your having stopped time and travelled to the future in order to realize all of this does not occur to you until later. You are too busy laughing at a young man, frozen mid-trip-and-fall, about to injure his crotch in front of his date in a basely humorous fashion. The look on his face, you note, is one of a circus clown whose human cannonball act is about to go tragically wrong. It is the height of low comedy.

> Go into the past a bit.

You have arrived at February 11, in the evening. It is *mathNEWS* production night. Everyone is eating pizza and being jovial and trying not to think about midterms. Something has been hastily scrawled on a piece of pink paper, demanding an impertinent answer to a pertinent question. Fortunately, you thought of this and prepared your answer on Friday, which is to say only moments ago. You empty your thoughts onto the paper. Everything has been leading up to this moment. It is arguably the single worst *mastHEAD* answer in the history of the unified multiverse. You go home, where you sit and drink no tea.

> Look at yourself.

ScruffyED



*Across*

1. Arthurian adulterer
7. Superhuman
12. Palm and berry
13. Kampala rules it
15. She whispers her love through a crack in the wall
16. 37D's fiancée
18. Sometimes electric
19. Becky Thatcher's Sawyer
20. Measures men, merlot, and mozzarella
21. Significant others (abbr.)
24. En tout \_\_\_
28. Sad
29. What a general keeps in his sleeve
32. Herbivorous lizards
34. Old, like the mariner
36. Cat's coo
38. Past "tis"
39. She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt Mr. Darcy
42. Prancing Pony
44. Category
45. A choking sound
47. Gloria in excelsis \_\_\_
48. Devil's weave?
49. Rubbish can
50. Turn inside out
53. Locomotive limb
54. Foil target area
56. Lustful
58. Lusty
59. Irish Isolde's idol
60. Motherlover
61. Upper air
62. Clamato maker

*Down*

1. Dead
2. Love pains
3. Hammer mate
4. On the same side (in chemistry)
5. White or through your teeth
6. Cell mass
7. Place to make love to your tonic and gin
8. Business suffix
9. Doting poem
10. Nothing
11. Upper or lower
14. Precious person
17. 35D's love
21. Assault a sense
22. Gaiety
23. Guinea swine
24. Flask
25. Bow shape
26. Maker
27. Fleshy fold
28. Sticky seed husk
30. Bow wood
31. Possessive pronoun
33. Arthurian adulteress
35. Echo's love
37. The Count of Monte Cristo
40. Ardour
41. Two-master
42. i.e.
43. Huis Clos
45. Curt
46. Inextricable things
51. Marsh plant
52. Gallery group
54. Busyness
55. Death report
57. Guardian deity
58. Dream sleep

***gridWORD* grid on page 22**

**Submit your *gridWORD* solutions to the BLACK BOX outside the Comfy Lounge (MC3001) and don't forget to answer the *gridQUESTION*.**

## horrorSCOPES

**ActSci:** Seeing the offers from all of your prospective coop jobs, you decide to open up a pension account to store your excess earnings. You don't know how long you should save for, so you look up your life expectancy.

*Your unlucky number is:* 6 more years. Might as well spend it all now, because YOLO!

**AHS:** By simply flexing your muscles and showing off your figure, you attract all of the heartbroken students. After having one heck of a weekend, you wake up Monday morning with a really itchy groin.

*Your unlucky number is:* 13 new STDs!

**AMATH:** After spending yet another Valentine's day alone, you decide to take a Laplace transformation of your love life to make it easier to figure out.

*Your unlucky number is:*  $\mathcal{L}\{f(t)\} = \text{undefined}$ . Unfortunately, there is no solution.

**ARTS:** You have landed a co-op job that is relevant to your history major. Congratulations! Those old books can't organize themselves.

*Your unlucky number is:* 32 asthma attacks from inhaling too much dust.

**C&O:** You go to a speed-dating night at the local pub, where hopefully you'll be able to find the one. After all, the Stable Marriage Algorithm guarantees that you won't walk out empty-handed, right?

*Your unlucky number is:* 3 girls for the other guy as you leave by yourself.

**CM:** Learning about Fast Fourier transforms, you decide to mathematically analyze the top 40 songs, and synthesize the perfect tune. You send out the record to all of the radio stations, but you fail to even chart.

*Your unlucky number is:* 342 too many wubs.

**CS:** Aware that you probably won't be able to make the perfect UI assignment, you decide to code creatively and see if you can earn some bonus marks. The addition of jiggle physics, while great in theory, amuses the prof but not the TA.

*Your unlucky number is:* 48% on the assignment.

**Double Degree:** You have been doing so well in all of your courses this term that you have been offered TA positions at both Waterloo and Laurier. After comparing the incomes of both, you decide to teach at Conestoga College.

*Your unlucky number is:* 2 scorned universities.

**ENV:** Concerned by the excessive snowfall, you create a shelter to protect all of the helpless animals from the wrath of the blizzard. After a few days, you look inside the shelter, and startle a skunk.

*Your unlucky number is:* 8 more days until the smell fades away.

**ENG:** Having received your iron ring, you decide that you're pretty much an engineer already and start slacking off on your assignments. You party through all your midterms.

*Your unlucky number is:* 365 more days until graduation.

**Grad:** Not wanting to waste precious time marking assignments, you decide to outsource the marking overseas for a low price. The next week, you get complaints that the students can't read the Hindi comments.

*Your unlucky number is:* 120 students lined up for your office hour.

**Math Bus:** Analyzing the global exchange rates, you realize that if you invest \$1CDN and convert it into Euro, Peso, Dong, Rand, Yen, and then back to CDN, you would get a \$1.25 return. You invest all of your savings into this brilliant scheme.

*Your unlucky number is:* 75 cent return/dollar. Zimbabwe's hyperinflation ruins everything.

**Math Phys:** Due to a startling calculation, you see that the Church was right and Galileo was wrong: the sun does indeed revolve around the Earth! You rush out to tell everyone, but you immediately get stoned by angry physicists.

*Your unlucky number is:* 400 years and the intolerance has shifted to the other side.

**PMATH:** Although the weather outside is freezing, you realize that by examining the temperature in  $\mathbb{R}^6$  instead of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , the value becomes essentially meaningless. You step outside in a t-shirt and shorts.

*Your unlucky number is:* 7 frostbitten toes.

**SCI:** You find that your orbital path is going to be crossed by another celestial object. You two are about to make a divine connection when you find yourself being pulled away by a stronger gravitational field. You're not single, dude.

*Your unlucky number is:* 1 binary star system, with no space for a moon.

**Soft Eng:** The lab has been overrun by cocky first-years trying to impress their dates by showing off the work area. You decide to give them a healthy dose of reality, and mention that soon they'll be spending more of the lab than their loved ones.

*Your unlucky number is:* 5 minutes later, everyone is single.

**Stats:** By some fluke, you get a 90% on your STAT 231 midterm. You figure that the rest of the course is going to be a cakewalk, so you slack off and work on other things instead.

*Your unlucky number is:* 55% on the next midterm. It seems that you have regressed to the mean.

**Teaching Option:** Your odd course sequence confuses everyone, including prospective employers. They don't know when to hire you, so you're left teaching them about your program sequence without earning a cent.

*Your unlucky number is:* 4 missed opportunities.

**Undeclared:** You can't decide whether you want to go skiing in the Rockies or swimming in the tropics during reading week. You do neither, and end up studying.

*Your unlucky number is:* 32 wall posts from your friends showing what a great time they're having.



## gridCOMMENTS

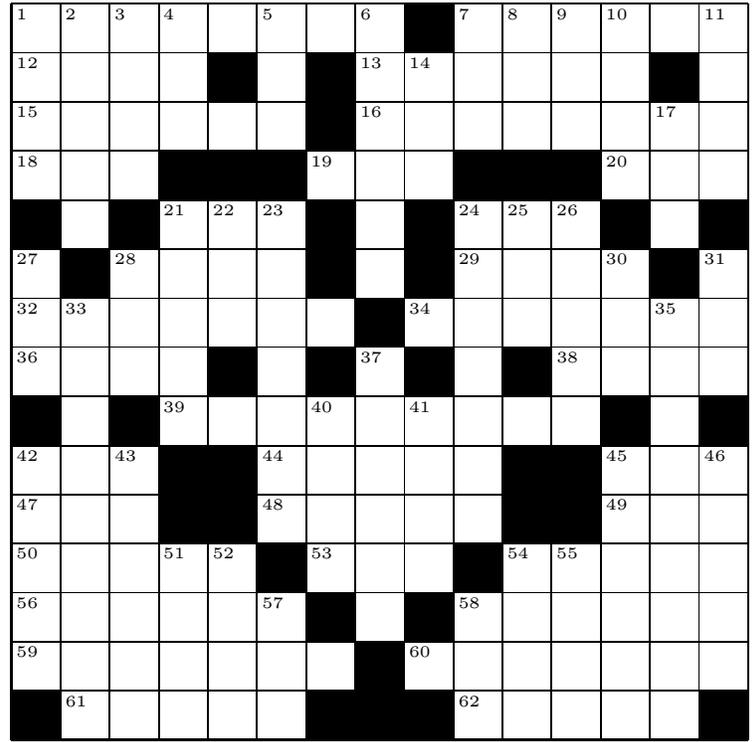
### Legendary Lovers

Pardon the asymmetry—neither is love perfect—but 1 and 16 across had nowhere else to go. You might notice an ambiguous square; this week’s grid has two correct solutions. Draw a diagonal and fill in both letters for bonus points!

Out of three submissions, one was perfect; Glenys, you were close, and I’d be more willing to accept a variant spelling of “minuscule” from John Ladan were my mother more mysterious. In any case, this fortnight’s winner is Katherine Tsuji, who answered last issue’s **gridQUESTION** “What lies beyond this world?” with “Space . . . the final frontier.” Congratulations, Katherine! You may pick up your prize at MathSoc.

When y’all complete as much of the **gridWORD** as you can, submit your work to the **BLACK BOX** (outside the Comfy Lounge on the third floor of MC) by 18:30 on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. Include your name and your answer to this issue’s **gridQUESTION**—the funniest answer decides the winner (of a \$5 C&D certificate) in the event of a tie: “What’s the worst thing you could do on a date?”

Cheers,  
unit



## This Reminds Me of a Puzzle

### Special Applied Cryptography Edition

Edward wants to send a priceless object to Alphonse, who lives far away, without allowing anyone else to gain access to it. Edward has a box that can be fitted with any number of locks, as well as a large supply of locks and their corresponding keys. Alphonse has a separate supply of keys and locks, but doesn't own any of the keys to Edward's locks (and vice versa). How can Edward send the object to Alphonse securely, keeping in mind that a key sent in an unlocked box can be copied en route?

Edward should put the object into the box, secure it with one of his locks, and send it to Alphonse. Alphonse immediately attaches one of his own locks and sends the box back to Edward. When Edward receives the box again, he removes his lock and sends it back. Alphonse can then unlock his own lock and retrieve the object!

## gridWORD clues on page 20



## Last Week's Solution