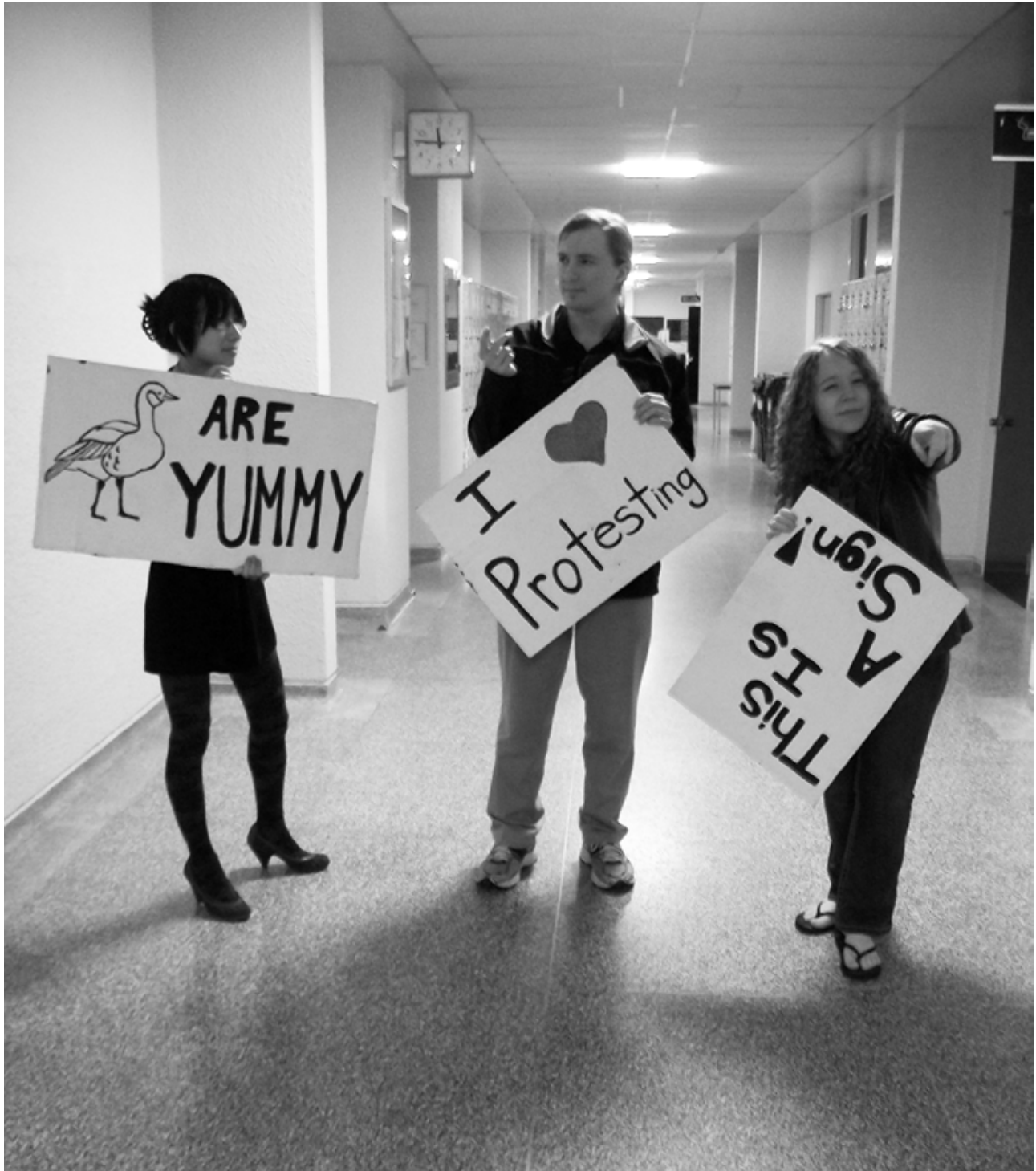


math NEWS



Lost Protesters: "There's an Arts Quad?!"


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Volume 122, Issue 3
Friday, June 14th, 2013

lookAHEAD**mathNEWS**

June 14	Issue 3 starts riots
June 24	Writers rally to the cause
June 28	Issue 4 ignites civil war

MathSoc

June 19	MathSoc Carnival
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CECA

June 21	First cycle Job Rankings open (Main)
June 24	First cycle Job Rankings close (Main)
June 26	Second cycle Job Postings open (Main)
June 27	Second cycle Job Postings close (Main)

Misc

June 16	Father's Day
June 21	Summer Solstice



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Memes: Julie Sturgeon (Hipster Kitty), Rachel Wiens (Philosoraptor), Murphy Berzish (Conspiracy Keanu), Lenny Morayniss (Grumpy Cat)

mastHEAD

As a result of the recent tuition increase and students deciding they actually care about something, the resulting protests have been a hot topic on campus. This led us to philosophical musings, and we asked our writers, "What would be the slogan on your protest sign?"

GrumpyOldFart ("Anyone for Scrabble later?"), ScruffyED ("So what?" *That's a dumb thing to put on a sign.* "So what?"), Shay Blair ("Can someone tell me what I'm protesting?"), yourlocal-WHETHERgirl ("Students protesting protests about protesting"), the norm ("Meh, it's only \$80"), Soviet Canadian ("This space intentionally left blank"), wibz ("Freedom!"), moment ("You can take our money, but you can't take our sign-making materials!"), k! ("I have his sign-making materials."), 8Stubbs ("All glory to the Hypnotoad!!!"), Wolverine Panda ("Being crazy makes life fun"), unit ("Qu'est-ce qu'il faut ce maudit pancake, tabernacle?"), GingerBrED ("This is a sign"), MoGlo ("Caffeine is not a drug!"), Scythe Marshall ("All your base are belong to us!"), MuffinED ("P and NP : Equality now!"), Element118 ("Everyone deserves stability! Noble isotopes for all!"), waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca ("I AM UPSET XC"), theSmurf ("I would be unsigned so I can protest longer before overflowing"), ObjectED ("ψ").

Feds Sez

Feds Council Passed this Resolution on Sunday at our Council Meeting:

WHEREAS a tuition increase in the middle of the term creates an additional and unplanned financial burden on students;

WHEREAS the University does not normally introduce fee changes or increases part-way through the academic term; and

WHEREAS the Federation of Students believes that the communications surrounding the recent fee increase were done poorly and ineffectively.

Be It Resolved That the Federation of Students opposes the decision of the University of Waterloo Board of Governors to increase Spring 2013 tuition at the June 4, 2013 meeting, which resulted in a recalculation of student accounts and additional monies owing for all undergraduate students in the middle of the term;

Be it further resolved that(BIFRT) the Federation of Students believes that the University should withdraw the recent mid-term fee increases;

BIFRT short of the above, the Federation of Students believes that the University should provide greater than standard accommodations for the repayment of this mid-term fee increase; and

BIFRT Students' Council recommends that the Board of Directors approves the use of staffing and financial resources to further this statement.

Stéphane Hamade, Elizabeth McFaul, Jesse McGinnis, Prashant Kumar Patel, and Febrian Sidharta

Not Representing Students is Hard Work

And You Should Too

The last week has been a bit of a blur for me. Last Tuesday, at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the University, I set aside my role as a student representative. As is the duty of every governor, I made my decision on each matter before the Board in what I believed to be the best interests of the University. Accordingly, I voted in favour of the tuition increase effective this term.

In making that vote, I did not put any consideration into the measures that the administration had taken and would take to ensure that students were properly informed about the increase. I wish I had, because although I think that my final vote would not have been changed, I could have asked the administration more about their implementation plans and maybe have changed the way they did things. As it was, the fact that the increase was happening in the middle of the term went mostly unremarked.

Since then, there's been a flurry of activity as students noticed the new fees, got upset, and started talking about it. In a hurry, I decided to do an AMA (for Ask Me Anything, a form of open Q&A period) on Reddit on Thursday evening. I spent most of Thursday morning running around the University to get more information so that I could be sure I was giving accurate answers rather than just speculation, and then I spent several hours Thursday evening doing the AMA itself.

Being a student representative, even when you're not actually representing students directly such as at the Governors meeting, is hard work. It takes a lot of energy to do a good job, and with a few exceptions—I'm not one of them—is entirely unpaid. I still have much to do: there are some follow-ups I need to make with students from the AMA, and I, along with others, need to talk to the administration about the plans going forward to prevent this sort of thing from happening again.

As a student body, it is very important that we have representatives willing to stand up and take this time to work on behalf of their fellows. But somehow, this does not often materialize. Elections for senators and for Students' Council are often not elections but acclamations, because only one candidate wanted the job. At MathSoc Council this week, Council decided to affirm the statement made by the Federation's Students' Council on tuition increases without so much as a question asked. We owe it to ourselves to stand up and have real elections, real discourse, real debate, because if we do, then what we say to the University will carry that much more weight and that much more force.

What do you do for your fellow students?

Sean Hunt

Math Senator Sez

Greetings, Mathies!

I had hoped for this article to just be a quick introduction, but in light of recent events, that will have to wait for another time. So I'll give you a short version: my name is Sacha, and I represent you on the University Senate. Of course, I share the duty of representing you with two at-large Senators, but don't worry about that for now.

I want to talk about the mid-term tuition increases which the University has charged to your accounts.

Some background info: On June 4th, the Board of Governors approved the University Operating Budget for 2013-2014 (at the recommendation of Senate), which charged increased tuition in accordance with the Government's new framework. This framework was released late, so the University had to wait to approve any increases, in order to be guaranteed funding.

In my opinion as Senator, clearer advance statements and more background information from the University could have avoided a lot of unnecessary confusion and frustration — this is the issue I plan to focus on. You deserve the reasonable expectation that, once your tuition is paid, it's actually paid! You deserve

detailed communication from the University — especially about any matters concerning your money! You should be able to trust the Management to put your best interests first — and they need your trust, in order to function.

I am working with the other Student Senators and the VP Academic and Provost of the University to address this issue directly. Ultimately, we would like to see a concrete set of guidelines in place that govern how the University communicates with you, whenever your money is involved, and a plan in place that will negate the possibility of future mid-term fee increases ever happening again.

If you want to show your concern for this issue, you can come to the next Senate meeting on Monday, June 17th, at 3:30 pm in Needles Hall 3001, which is where we are hoping to table our statement for further discussion. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, you may contact me at sforstner@uwaterloo.ca.

Best Wishes, Mathies!

Sacha Forstner
Undergraduate Senator, Math

For more information on the fee increases, you can contact Adam Garcia, Feds VP Education (vped@feds.ca), Sean Hunt (scshunt@uwaterloo.ca), or consult UW Finance's Spring 2013 fee increase FAQ (<https://uwaterloo.ca/finance/spring-2013-fee-increase-faq>).

Rainbow Mathies 29

*Beckoned by the **BLACK BOX***

Hello Mathies! I have here for you today a very special edition of Rainbow Mathies, special because it wasn't originally going to exist! You see, I had planned to take a hiatus from the summer and try to work on some personal projects (like finding employment) and then see what I can do with the series come the Fall term. Little did I know that early on last production night one of the editors would approach me and ask me to come back for an article! As it turns out, the editors were sent a legitimate message in the **BLACK BOX**, and asked me to answer it. The following is the full text of what we received:

"How do I explain gender issues to family/friends that just don't care? How can I explain that it's not OK to always find the topic of gender issues funny? For example, I have family members who always think that transgendered people are 'out to get laughs' and that it's OK to make fun of them. Please help!"
—an anonymous student

Before I begin answering, I need to start with the obligatory disclaimers. I am not a trans* identified person, and I don't personally wrestle with any issues pertaining to my gender. With that said, I'd like to believe I have some empathy for the situation that Anon is talking about, and I have a couple of generic things that I hope will help. I will be talking with some friends of mine who have some experience in this area, and hopefully one will be able to publish a response for you as well. Unfortunately, this article was written on a very tight timeline, so that wasn't something I could get to happen for this issue. Keep your eyes out!

Onto the question. Anon, I am so sorry for the situation that you find yourself in. It sounds like you're dealing with some deep and entrenched ignorance on the part of the people you're close to and that can be a frustrating thing to slog through. It's even harder when the places they frequent and the people they are associating with are empowering their positions despite how harmful they are, while ignoring anything that challenges those viewpoints. I think the big thing to take away from all this though, Anon, is that there is only so much you can control. It's good that you're talking about gender issues in a positive light and wanting to enable positive change, and you should be proud of the level of growth you have achieved in your perspective. Maybe some members of your family have not progressed as much, and that's unfortunate, but ultimately that is out of your control. Try as hard as you might, there is no easy way to simply convince someone that their fundamental perspectives are wrong. You can't, and shouldn't, be held responsible for that, because you really only have so much influence in the matter. While your questions are good ones, and come from a place of caring and respect for those experiencing their gender on a deeper level (which may or may not include yourself, I'm not sure and am speaking generally), they are ultimately misguided. There just isn't any way to explain these kinds of things in an easy and guaranteed way to enact change. Changes of these nature tend to be more progressive, and influenced by general cultures or personal situations, and are rarely inspired by the work of an individual.

With all that said, I would like you to understand that there are still some things you can do about this situation. While you have little control over the perspectives of others, you have much more control over your own. I have a feeling that some of your struggle may be coming from how you are approaching the situation, so maybe the following can help. I have a favourite author named John Green, and as someone who consistently writes deep and compelling characters he is often asked how he can approach the human experience so clearly. According to him, one of his most revolutionary shifts in perspectives that allowed him to become the author he is today is the necessity to imagine people complexly. You see, we all have this tendency to reduce people in our minds according to their easiest or most approachable characteristics. There is some long-winded psychological explanation for this, but really the important part is that we often ignore the intricacies present in the people we interact with and that it takes considerable work to attribute a person wholly. It's clear that your family members are failing to do this about transgendered individuals, but they are not solely influenced by this phenomenon. I wonder how much work you may be putting into how complex you imagine these family members to be. For example, it's easy to understand them as bigoted and hurtful. It's more difficult to acknowledge, however, how the contexts they were raised in, the years of reinforcement they received, and the amount that their fear of the unknown and the uncanny may be affecting their perspectives. In terms of gender issues, their ignorance is a vulnerability, and crudeness is one way to defend against this. That's just one example of how many new angles get introduced when we begin to examine our relationships more complexly. Now, I'm not trying to say that your family members are justified or right in holding their beliefs, but rather that there is more to the story than just accepting or rejecting their ideas.

Sadly, I am running out of space. There is a lot more I would want to say, but I'm going to try and leave some things for my guest author next week to say. I hope that this can help in the meantime though, Anon.

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

Until we meet again,

(define this (not cool))

A Preview of the 2013 Stanley Cup Finals!

Or: How to Be a Fan of Teams Which You Despise.

Disclaimer: The subtitle is (mostly) a lie. The author is a fan of unbiased refereeing and the Canucks, two things which are apparently mutually exclusive. That said...

It's that time of year again—when but two teams remain in the hunt for Lord Stanley's mug; when between four and seven games determine if the season was a career-defining success or a humiliating failure; when all eyes gaze and every spotlight shines on two rinks, in a 2-2-1-1-1 home-and-away format. That's right, it's the Stanley Cup Finals! ... And they started Wednesday. How anticlimactic. But that's the way *mathNEWS* rolls.

This year's Finals are between the Chicago Blackhawks and the Boston Bruins; it's the first time these two teams have met in the Finals, somewhat surprisingly. It is the first all-Original-Six Finals since 1979, when the Montréal Canadiens bested the New York Rangers in five games to cap a streak of four straight titles. Chicago has home-ice advantage, based on their status as winners of the President's Trophy (not like that's a guarantee of anything, is it, hm?). Television ratings are sure be high, as these are two of the most hockey-mad fanbases in the United States, for some definition of "hockey-mad". Canada, of course, will watch, because it's hockey and hey, the Blue Jays aren't doing anything worthwhile anymore. When does next season start again?

Chicago made it to the Finals on the strength of hot goaltending and contributions from up and down the lineup, and in spite of a second-round matchup against the hottest team in the league at the time, the Detroit Red Wings. The Red Wings pushed the Blackhawks to 3-1 down in the series, but could not finish the job as the Blackhawks overcame a deficit in Game Six and won Game Seven in overtime to reach the Conference Finals, where they wiped the floor with the Los Angeles Kings. Their first-round series against the Minnesota Wild led some to question the gumption of the Blackhawks before the Red Wings really brought the question to light, but it looks to be solved at the moment.

Boston overcame... the Toronto Maple Leafs (!?!?) in the first round, who had pushed them to seven games and had them down 4-1 in the third period, before the Bruins scored three unanswered goals, two in the last minute and a half, to tie the game, and shattered the hopes and dreams of Leafs fans worldwide with the series-winning goal in overtime. Leafs fans everywhere reacted in every single possible way imaginable, and vowed never to watch hockey again; that is, until a couple nights later. Better luck next season. Anyways, Boston then handled the Rangers and Penguins on their way to the Finals, with help from a balanced offense and a solid goaltending effort; that's the way it usually is, if that sounds familiar.

Problem of the Week

Is there a closed form solution for the length of the period of the Fibonacci sequence in the integers modulo n ? If so, what is it? For reference, the length of the period in Z_2 is 3, Z_3 is 8, and Z_4 is 6.

... And that's all you get in terms of civilized words from me. Both teams play a talented but dirty style of play, and get the benefit of the doubt from the league's referees in almost every circumstance. Brad Marchand of the Bruins is a menace who, while he's been suspended once for a brutally obvious clipping incident on Sami Salo, still plays the game like he can do no wrong, and manages to get away with everything. Normally, if you punch someone in the face multiple times, you face punishment, but this isn't the case. You'd think he'd learn after taking a elbow to the head and sitting out a couple games. Johnny Boychuk isn't much better, and is praised for his spine-breaking move (to do this in NHL 2K13, when you're hitting someone in the corner, hit up, up, X, triangle), famously performed on Mason Raymond. Milan Lucic's hit on Brooks Orpik in the Conference Finals was lauded by Pierre McGuire on air as clean, when it was obvious that Lucic hit him from behind, and shoved his head into the glass. I mean, perhaps Lucic was trying to clean the glass, but Orpik isn't really Mr. Clean, in any context. N-fold entendre?

There's no one on the Blackhawks who plays like Marchand, but they all do their part. Marian Hossa is suspension-bait, and thus it is impossible to hit him without risking losing more player-games than Hossa loses sitting out injured. The Blackhawks are, surprisingly enough, however, a less dirty team than the Kings, as we saw when Jeff Carter slashed down on Keith's glove as Keith was about to pick it up, which is a ridiculously dangerous play; this led directly to Keith's retaliation and subsequent suspension, but it's a black mark on the NHL that Carter got away with that. That said, the Blackhawks use the chorus of The Fratellis' song "Chelsea Dagger" for their goal celebration song, and if you actually enjoy listening to it over and over again, please donate your hearing organs to someone who might actually appreciate having them. This is almost as bad as having dirty players.

Indeed, we'll see how the refereeing goes this series. The penalty kill is a strength of both teams, and both are struggling on the power play, so it looks like barring shorthanded goals, this series will be decided at regular strength. However, for fans of any of the other 28 teams, or good hockey in general, the disgust that comes from watching these two teams may make the series completely unwatchable. All we can hope for is that the officiating is good.

Happy watching, I suppose. Go refs!
Scythe Marshall

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(MC 3001)**

It's okay Microsoft, you still have TV, Sports, and Dog

But a BLT without the bacon is just not the same

It's kind of sad that not having bullshit is considered a plus instead of the norm. Stuff like "Made with real chicken", "No hidden fees" and now "No stupid online requirements". God fucking damnit.

If you haven't already heard, the next Xbox has some stupid requirements: it must connect to the internet once every 24 hours to play games (you can still watch TV without connecting... go figure). Trading / lending / borrowing / taking your game to play at a friend's house, or, in general, playing a game on any console that isn't yours, involves jumping through stupid hoops and dealing with massive amount of bullshit. Oh, and it seems that their focus is no longer on gaming but on TV, SPORTS and DOGS.

I have been a Microsoft customer for almost 10 years. I bought an Xbox when *Halo 2* came out, got a Xbox 360 on *Halo 3* release. I had Xbox gold for 6 years from 2004 to 2010, and only canceled it due to starting university. Even then, I moved to gaming on PC, with Windows 7 and now Windows 8. I had some of my best experiences on the Xbox and 360: *Halo 2* and *3*, *CoD4*, *Bioshock*, *Fallout 3*, *Mass Effect 2* and *3*, the first *Borderlands*, *Red Dead*

motherfucking Redemption (which was amazing, by the way) and my first playthrough of god damn *Portal*.

The purpose of that last paragraph is to give you an idea where I'm coming from: I'm what a Sony fanboy would call a Xbox fanboy. All I have to say is what the fucking fuck, Microsoft.

I currently live in a house filled with gamers. We have something like 6 consoles and a huge shelf filled with >100 games, about 50% of them being Xbox 360 games, all of which brought there from our own collection by those of us living there, including many of those I listed above. With the Xbox One, exactly 0 of those games will be Xbox games. I won't be able to pop in my buddy's copy of *Bayonetta* and play with one hand, or throw in my friend's copy of *Lollipop Chainsaw* [*Same friend. Don't judge — ObjectED*] and... play with my other hand.

Microsoft fucked us, and Sony won with 2 simple words: "No bullshit". But hey, sports! Right guys? Guys?

Okay, the dog is pretty cool. I can't stay mad at the dog.

theSMURF

Lamponery at the Theatre

A Review of Quick Change, a play about scandalous relationships with numerous states of dress and undress.

A couple of weeks ago, I had the opportunity to see the KW Little Theatre's production of *Quick Change*. At first I thought, "Huh... this could be interesting. I wonder if I have the time for it?" Getting right to the point, the play itself was a much needed escape from a personal roller coaster of a week that left me schickering, face-palming and overall in a better mood than what I entered with although there was still a feeling of emptiness looming overhead.

The play advertised itself as being "18+", and in some sense of the phrase, it did not disappoint. Much to the chagrin of one of the characters, the play definitely had some heated moments, underwear galore, and a little shirtlessness. Admittedly for an "18+" endeavour, it was relatively tame and could've turned up the heat on more than one occasion. Just because multiple people are busily undressing each other about to engage in a heated encounter doesn't mean it should be done without some sense of passion and intimacy.

I do have to commend Wes Campaigne on his portrayal of a very flustered caterer and bystander caught up in a number of these scandalous outbursts. You couldn't help but laugh at his reactions to his ordeal. His performance was definitely a highlight of the show. Other highlights included the non-sequiturs in each act, the facial expressions of John Settle as the mayor

as he engaged in his own heated encounters, and even the face-palm-worthy predictability of certain one-liners and situations.

Props to writer and director Rob Card for bringing quite the vision to life! My major critique of this show was that it overall felt very empty. Now, this could've been heavily influenced by the fact that my roller coaster of a week was still on my mind, but that is how I'd describe it. The show had something missing. At first, I thought it was context for a number of non-sequiturs. Once they were more or less explained however, the emptiness lingered. Then again, it could've also been a combination of some dry delivery and the quiet and subdued audience of that particular show.

Nevertheless, it was well worth seeing. Some may benefit from even seeing it a second time as having the context from the previous non-sequiturs may add to the overall story. The run of this show unfortunately ends on Saturday, June 15 with the last show starting at 8 pm, but if you're able to catch that, enjoy! It may just brighten up your week a bit! With the KWLTL 2012-2013 season drawing closer to the end, I may end up waiting a bit for the next KWLTL production that I'm able to attend. Nevertheless, thank you *Quick Change*, for lifting me up after the week I had.

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

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Interactive Fiction Review: Detective by Matt Barringer

“It was the kind of morning you only get to see once in your lifetime; twice, if you’re lucky. The sky was grey and turning dark black like someone kicked over an oil drum. No sooner did I roll out of bed than the Chief had a case for me. The Mayor got rubbed out by a gang of so-called vigilantes and it was up to me to find the perps before we had to deal with any bad publicity or the FBI had to get involved. I was out on the streets, finding out what there was to know. I thought of going to check out the Mayor’s place. Maybe he had a few skeletons in the closet — any clue was a good one. Meanwhile the rain was coming down hard and I was running out of time.

“The rent-a-cop watching the front entrance let me in. Probably could have shown him a pack of matches instead of my badge, but hey, that was me once. I went up the stairs, creaking every step on the way up. Something caught my eye through one of the doors on the landing. Something long and knife-shaped. Okay, now we were getting somewhere. Who knows, could be the one thing that turns this whole case around. This deserved a closer look.”

```
>examine knife
You can't see that here!
```

Yes, folks, the knife is right here in plain sight, but you can’t see it. It’s one of *those* games. Detective, by Matt Barringer, somehow manages to make its best effort and still fall far too short of its mark to even be really considered “interactive”. Scenes like the one illustrated above (all embellishments mine, natch) are only too common while exploring the thirty-something rooms laid out in this game.

So why review this decades-old text adventure if it’s such a stinker? Well, much like a B-movie, Detective has a certain appeal to it in its utter badness. It manages to make nearly every mistake possible in a work of interactive fiction, and this gives it a certain charm that you just don’t find in merely mediocre

Boat

I should buy a boat.

I keep seeing that meme of that sophisticated cat reading the paper, having that outstanding moment of realisation that buying a boat would be a great next move. At first, I just laughed and quickly moved on with my life to more important things, like cookies. Now, I think about it. For a little longer each time, I consider what it would be like to own a boat. To be sailing on tranquil turquoise waters in the Caribbean. Or pulling into the port of a Greek island, then spending the night dancing and drinking in a taverna. To be somewhere beautiful, then with just a few days of traversing oceans, be somewhere else. I could visit remote sandy beaches and spend days in the sun, sand and cool water. I could swim with dolphins, or turtles, and dive deep to see reefs.

I should buy a boat.

games. One exit leads west, but going back east from that room takes you to a third place. Several rooms kill you upon entering them without any warning or hint. And the way you discover where the killer is hiding, as well as the game’s single, solitary puzzle, have to be seen to be believed. The entire game can be won with only the commands “north”, “south”, “east”, and “west”.

You’ll want to play this one (and yes, you should play this game, if only to say that you’ve experienced it) with an interpreter that supports undo, due to the number of rooms that kill you immediately. Frotz is a good choice that runs on Linux; Gargoyle would work but doesn’t support undo.

But before you go and download this game (<http://mirror.ifarchive.org/if-archive/games/zcode/detective.z5>), let me tell you about a way to make it even more enjoyable. Long ago in 1988, there was a little show called Mystery Science Theater 3000. Its premise was as good as it gets: a guy and his two robots were trapped in space and forced to watch bad movies by mad scientists. To keep themselves sane, they would “riff” on the movies (make fun while watching them); it was this riffing that was the highlight of the show. Almost 200 episodes, along with a feature-length film, were produced between 1988 and 1999. MST3K may have ended, but the fans still keep circulating the tapes...which brings us to “Mystery Science Theater 3000 Presents ‘Detective’” (<http://mirror.ifarchive.org/if-archive/games/zcode/mst3k1.z5>). It’s a complete remake of the Detective you know and love, but wait, there’s more: the characters from MST3K are watching the game and riffing on nearly everything that happens. The riffs are top-notch, and should be enjoyable even for people who have never watched MST3K. Everything gets a riff; some things get two (remember to “look” again in every room so you don’t miss anything). I highly recommend a dramatic reading; grab your friends and turn on the noir filter for a very enjoyable time.

ScruffyED

BDPZ PZ V TGOOXM

BDPZPZVTGOOXM,NMZPYIMNZGADBDVBLVADPIMZ
AVIICBZCXFMPBCIBDMPUCRI.PBDVZLVIJZBMTZ;PXC
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MPBMLZBCDPNM.DVFMKGI.

Perspective

You are awesome. Just letting you know. This is going to be lengthy, but if you stick with it you'll get cookies and a free puppy. If you don't, fuck you, you awesome person.

Recently I have been having fun with the graphics libraries of C++ and it has helped me gain some perspective, both literally and figuratively. To make really awesome super cool drawings look three dimensional on a screen, you apply a perspective matrix in the vertex shader. What it does is take your points in space and re-sizes them, moves them and just adds that depth that you were looking for. Do I really have to explain what 3D graphics look like on a screen? I mean come on, get out from under your rock and come into the dark cave with nothing but the glow of computer screens.

Anyway, how you create your perspective matrix is important because, believe it or not, your computer does not have infinite precision. Two things you define when creating your perspective matrix are the near and far z-plane. The z-near plane defines the closest thing that will be rendered; the z-far plane defines the furthest thing that will be rendered. But they do more than that, they also determine where the bulk of your precision lies. So, define your z-near plane too close and you lose your ability to draw depth accurately.

I'm failing at explaining this... I need an example. Think of a train track. The sleepers are equally spaced but if you stand in the middle of the track looking into the distance the tracks converge, the sleepers appear to get closer and closer until they just blur together. Of course, you can't see the the sleepers at your feet either, that's the z-near plane.

Now to why you're awesome. Life at university is a lot like having the z-near plane defined too close. Instead of standing in the middle of the track, you're lying down. You can see that first sleeper really well, but anything past it is just a blur. You need to stand up. All around you, all the time are fellow students who are almost as awesome as you are. Some are landing amazing co-op jobs, going places like Vancouver, Switzerland or Shanghai. Some are managing to pull off miraculous marks on midterms. It has put your life out of focus. Instead, think back to high school and all the people that didn't make it. Think about what they're doing this summer. Just for a second, compare and contrast your life against that one stoner who once said, "When will I ever use this?"

In other words, gain some perspective and realize how smart, funny and hot you are.

You are awesome.
Stubbs

The Argument Against the Printing Press

My Immortal by Tara Gilesbie exists in bound print format. 'Nuff said.

Married Life

A sneak peek into mornings as a married man

Morning A:

Wakeup at 5am due to kicking.

If I snuggle I can't be kicked. *Snuggle.*

Remember we were fighting when we went to bed.

Carefully unsnuggle.

Ok, I am free, now to try and fall asleep again.

Movement. Crap, was she awake? I just want to sleep, I don't wanna finish this argument now.

Well then. I am now a little spoon. Could be worse.

Wakeup at 7am due to cold.

Where the hell are my blankets?

I guess I have to get up anyways.

Fall back asleep.

Wakeup at 9:30.

Do I smell Bacon? Apology bacon is best bacon!

Morning B:

Wakeup at 10am due to intense snugglecrastination.

"Honey, I'm going to be late for class."

"No you're not."

How did I end up on the floor?

Brush teeth, shower, get bag, leave.

Bloop bloop.

Oh, a text. "Do you want me to bring you lunch?"

I bet it's that awesome barbeque chicken. "Yes :3"

Get on the bus.

MnM

