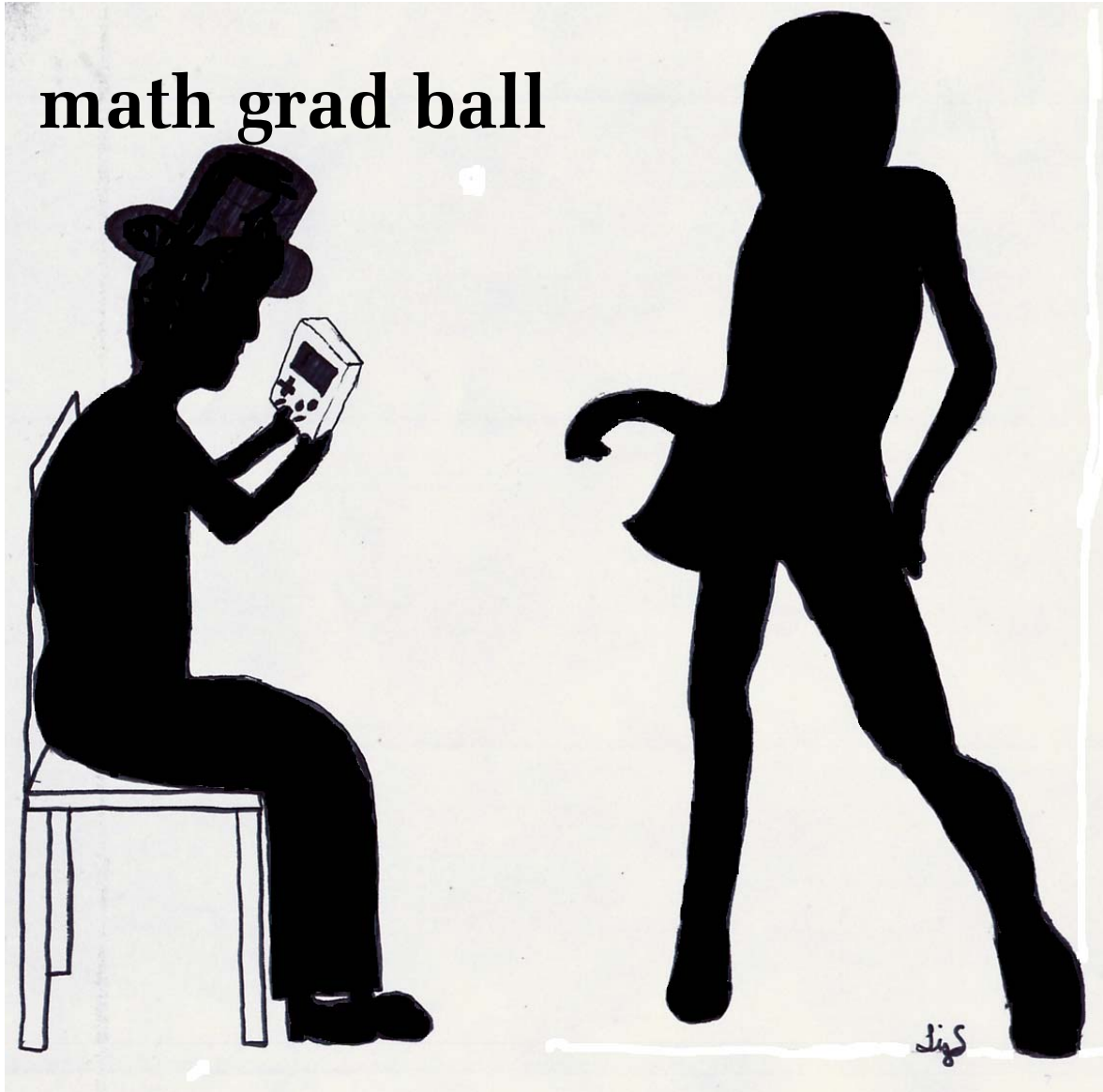


math

NEWS

Volume 100, Issue 3

Friday, February 10th, 2006



SATURDAY, MARCH 4 06

Girls Girls Girls! Dancing Bring your own GameBoy

Campus Pizza dinner Walk Safe-sponsored door prizes

CC
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lookAHEAD**MathSoc**

February 13	Last day to buy CandyGrams
February 14	Watch your inbox for signs of love
February 15	MathSoc Council meeting #4
February 16	MathSoc Movie Night - 2 Movies, \$1 40 Year Old Virgin and Wedding Crashers

Math Faculty

February 20	Last Day for 50% Refund
February 23 & 24	Reading Days
February 27	Withdrawal Period Ends
February 28	Failure Period Begins
March 6 - 20	Pick Your Plan Week
March 14	Campus Day

FEDS

TODAY	Polar Jam
February 13	Murderball Hagey Hall 8pm
February 14	Feds Election Starts VOTE!!!
February 16	Feds Election Closes

Campus Rec

February 11 & 12	First Aid Course
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See www.campusrec.uwaterloo.ca for details

Miscellaneous

February 14	Valentines Day Also Dirty Mathie's birthday!! (get me something good)
March 14	Pi Day

CSC

February 17	Talk about Spam Filtering
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MGC

TODAY	J. Alan George Award Deadline
Wednesdays	Pizza Day & yearbook sales
February 22	Deadline for candid yearbook photos email to mgcbook06@gmail.com
March 10	Val Dictorian Forms Due (Both Outside MC 3029)

BIOINFO

March 11	Skating Party
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mathNEWS is normally a fortnightly publication funded by and responsible to the undergraduate math students of the University of Waterloo, as represented by the Mathematics Society of the University of Waterloo, hereafter referred to as MathSoc. *mathNEWS* is editorially independent of MathSoc. Content is the responsibility of the *mathNEWS* editors; however, any opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of MathSoc or *mathNEWS*. Current and back issues of *mathNEWS* are available electronically via the World Wide Web at <http://www.mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/>. Send your correspondence to: *mathNEWS*, MC3046, University of Waterloo, 200 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1, or to userid.mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca on the Internet.

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The editor(s): Ian MacKinnon & Jenn Smith

Editor's Note

In our last issue, page 6 was accidentally printed on both sides of its page, and thus page 5 never appeared. The articles from page 5 are in this issue, and the spacial anomaly which caused this has been closed. Thank you.

Ian W. MacKinnon
mathNEWS Editor

MEF Report

MEF is now kicking into full gear and so there are a few announcements:

- Funding proposals for Winter 2006 are now being accepted.
- Individuals wishing to fill vacancies on the W06 funding council should submit a nomination form. We are looking for 2 undergraduate students from each department, and 3 undergraduate students from each year.
- The Professional Development Fund finances students taking part in conferences; proposals are also being accepted for this fund.

All forms can be found on the website (www.mef.uwaterloo.ca) under the Resources tab and are due Tuesday, February 28th. Forms can be submitted in the MathSoc office (MC 3038), or slipped under the MEF door (MC 3050).

MEF finances projects that are in the best interest of undergraduate math students at UW. Financed projects are student or faculty projects of educational nature, those that provide necessary teaching resources and laboratory equipment, and/or those that improve the student learning facilities. A complete listing of projects which have been funded by MEF can be found on our website.

Office hours for the Winter term will be held on Wednesdays from 11:30 to 12:30PM. Drop by if you have a question or would like to learn more about MEF.

Catherine Hicks
MEF Director
Winter 2006

mastHEAD*Stupid Frosh*

Ok, frosh aren't stupid, they just tend to all have midterms on the same night. Ever since the first days of *mathNEWS* the bane of our existence has been that first-year midterms always fall on the same day as our production nights. Nothing will change that, and all we can do is hope the frosh mail in their articles in time.

With bitter singles day coming up, we asked out staff..."How are you spending Valentine's day?": Richard (I'm attending class), Angelo (I'm crying alone in my room with a tub of ice cream. NO ONE LOVES ME!), Michael (I have STAT231 to attend), Pi (With Half-pint and a feather duster [dear, don't forget to hide the feather duster before your parents get here]), westcoastchic (Midterms then looking for excitement. Call for a good time), DanS (Playing with my long hard piece of wood [a pool cue, playing pool, pervert!]), Beatlemaniac (Playing Volleyball).

Ian W. MacKinnon (Alone, why break tradition?)
Jenn Smith (Taking my boyfriend out for dinner [but I am expecting flowers])

Grad Yearbook Update

No, seriously, we want your photos

The deadline for submitting candid photos to the yearbook is **Wednesday February 22** - that's before the next edition of mathNEWS! So send us your photos *now!*

Photos can be of pretty much anything. Grads, non-grads, mathies, non-mathies, campus, off-campus, sober, extremely not sober... like we said, pretty much anything! Here, once again, are the instructions for how to submit.

For every photo you submit we need you to include certain information:

- where the photo was taken (Amsterdam, MathBus gala, Accounting dinner, etc),
- when the photo was taken (eg Fall 2004, January 2002), and
- the first AND last names of everyone in the picture (eg Bob Smith, Jane Doe), even the non-grads. You can leave this part out if, and ONLY if, there are more than 10 people in the photo.

Digital photos:

- These should be as high resolution as you can give us without blowing the photo up. Why? Low-res pictures can't be printed very big. And blown-up pictures look really really crappy in print, so we can't use them.
- Email digital photos to mgcbook06@gmail.com. If you'd rather submit a CD/DVD/floppy, follow the hardcopy instructions below.

Hardcopy photos:

- Stick 'em in an envelope marked YEARBOOK and take them to mathSOC (MC 3038) or to the MGC office (MC 3029).
- Make sure your caption info is with the photos, and that you've included your contact information so we can get your photos back to you.
- Prints will be sent to Jostens for scanning, and although we will get them back it won't be until about June. We'll do our best to get them back to you though.

For those of you who haven't bought your yearbook yet, there's still time! Drop by our table in the 3rd floor hallway Wednesdays between 11:30 am and 1 pm. (We'll be set up right beside the pizza table.) Books are \$40, or \$50 if you'd like it shipped to you anywhere in North America. We accept cash and cheques.

Gillian Gothard and Terry Vaskor
mgcbook06@gmail.com

Will you be my sweet Barbu?

Barbu Tutorial Today (Friday) at 1:00 outside Comfy

Points for people who got the Peanuts reference. More points for people who know what Barbu is. For those of you who don't, Barbu is a marathon card game consisting of 8 sub-games. People who enjoy trick taking card games such as bridge and hearts may be interested.

I will be holding an introduction to Barbu today outside Comfy at 1:00 p.m. I will introduce the rules to the game (structure, scoring and sub-game rules). Depending on attendance I will go through strategy for three of the subgames and do the remaining 5 the next week. Look for me in the green coat.

GCM

gradNEWS

Attention grads! Greetings from your friendly neighborhood Math Grad Committee! We've got some neat stuff on the slate for the next little while. Here's the rundown:

Math GradBall 2006

No, that is not a typo. GradBall is real, it's coming, and it's going to be a blast. Mark your calendar for March 4th, 2006 and pick up your ticket starting next week. Tickets are \$55 each or \$100 for a pair. Good times guaranteed.

Pink Tie Pledge

Help support your faculty! We are still looking for pledges. Pick up a pledge form from the big white Pink Tie Pledge board outside the Math C&D. Show the faculty you care and pledge some money to the cause of your choice. And since we're all going to be rich next year, the tax benefits are really quite astounding!

Grad Rings

The famous Mobius Strip design is back — other designs are available, too. Rings go on sale real-soon-now, if they aren't on sale yet. These rings are stylish and fashionable, with much less Bling-Bling factor than the rings you probably saw at UW Shop. Order yours from the MGC office, or watch for signage advertising when they'll be on sale.

J. Alan George Award

Application deadline is TODAY. 4:30 PM. Application forms are still available outside the MGC office. Selection committee application forms are also available outside the MGC office. If you want to either be recognized as an amazing contributor to student life, or want to figure out who deserves that recognition, fill out a form today!

Valedictorian Nominations

Are you a great public speaker? Are you also a pretty good student? Did you always dream of speaking at your convocation? Here's your chance. We have two convocation ceremonies this year, and we will have two valedictorians. Valedictorian applications are available outside the MGC office, and they are due March 10th. We still need people for the selection committee, and those forms are also available outside the office, and also due March 10th.

That's it for now. Good luck with midterms!

Alex & Sam, or Sam & Alex
Co-Chairs, Math Grad Committee 2006

Want a Scholarship?

Dalton Camp Essay-Writing Award

Every year, three awards of \$5,000 are given to students for excellence in essay-writing on topics related to democracy and media in Canada. These awards are given in commemoration of the late Dalton Camp, a Canadian political commentator. Deadline for submission is 31 March 2006, so get writing! For more details go to www.daltoncampaward.com.

If no one else applies, I will get it... I wonder how wrong it would be to leave this ad out?

VPAS Sez!

So little time, so much to do

Alright, so we've definitely hit midterm season now (which as luck will have it is also the season of love). I'm going to choose to tell you all about the darker of these two ideas, love. Alright, so maybe it doesn't scare you, but love lasts much longer than the 2.5 hours I have to write midterms and is generally much less structured. If that's not a selling feature of CandyGrams, I don't know what is. Mmmmm...sweet chocolatey treats. Love is sweet. CandyGrams are on sale today and Monday in the hallway on the third floor. You can buy them for your general love interest, your close friends, your distant friends, heck, you can even buy them for yourself. Who can say no to sweet treats in the middle of the winter?

Also on the subject of love, this upcoming Thursday MathSoc Movie Nights is featuring 40 Year Old Virgin and Wedding Crashers. Two movies, \$1! You can't lose.

I suppose I should be happy for the season of love and all that, I am a November baby after all. Happy Valentine's day to all, and hopefully you won't have two midterms to go with your love interest on the 14th.

Good luck on your studies and other interests.

Alex McCausland
Vice President, Activities & Services
Winter 2006

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the accurate description of CS 135 published in your issue of January 27th. One thing on which the article was unclear was the purpose of the large metal rod, "Old Rusty", passed out to CS 135 students. If you see a CS 135 student carrying such a rod, go up to them and ask, "What is the sound of one parenthesis opening?" The student will strike you on the head with the rod, whereupon you will be enlightened.

Yours sincerely,

Prabhakar Ragde
CS 135 instructor

[Yeah, the original draft of that article didn't leave the role of Old Rusty to the imagination of the reader. It was quite explicit, in fact too much so. Don't look for PG-13 explanations. — iEd]



See ad on page 13 for more details

Curing Electoral Dysfunction

Romance and Democracy

So the federal election is over. The Conservatives won, the Liberals lost, nobody had a runaway majority and we get to repeat this process again in a year or two (yay taxpayer dollars!). That may sound like a happy ending, but it's not, really. Lots of votes didn't count. If you voted Conservative in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal, anything but Conservative in Alberta, or Green anywhere in Canada, your vote did not contribute to getting any MPs elected. We could have done better.

A bunch of us have gotten together to help change our voting system. On campus, we started "The Action Group for Democratic Reform." On February 14 we are holding our first event: Larry Gordon from Fair Vote Canada is giving two talks (actually, one talk twice) entitled "Electoral Dysfunction: Why Canada's Voting System is Killing Democracy." If you have been wondering what's so bad about first-past-the-post (or wondering what the feasible alternatives are) you'll want to check these talks out. One of the talks will be at noon (so as not to interfere with your Lonely Singles Night plans), and the other will be off-campus at 7pm. Look for the posters with the droopy Parliament tower on them for details.

If you want more information or are interested in joining the group, send me an e-mail at pniijjar@uwaterloo.ca

Paul Nijjar

Pink Tie Pledge

Now on the Interweb

Still haven't decided to donate to the Pink Tie Pledge? Now it's even easier with our awesome new online form. Check it out at <http://www.student.math.uwaterloo.ca/%7Emgc/2006/?page=pledges> and support a worthwhile cause.

Pink Tie Pledge Directors

Mathie Pride Spreading

Warn the Populace

The Math Society has been trying for years to spread its disease of math geek jokes to the world. This summer, this goal became one step closer.

While a Math graduate student from Laval was visiting the UW campus with some friends, she came across the wide array of products which the Math Society purveys to Mathies. This walking propaganda caught the unsuspecting French girl's eye, and she promptly bought both a Cheat Shirt and a stylish new Irrational Behaviour shirt.

Ordinarily, this would not be cause for concern. However, this particular mathie had influential friends at Laval who loved the shirts, particularly the "Keepin' it R" slogan. Then came the blunder which changed Laval forever.

These influential people decided that they would make shirts bearing the joke large and proud, and give them to all first year math students. The world gave a shudder and the Math Society cheered.

And that is how UW Math Pride has infected hundreds of young, malleable minds and plans to infect many more.

Based on a True Story
Jenn the Dirty Mathie
mathNEWS Editor

Cheese: The Deciding Vote in Upcoming Fed's Election

With the future of students all over UW hanging delicately in the balance, I direct your attention to the upcoming Fed's election. Never in the history of hard hitting politics and underhanded dealings has there been such a heated race: full of controversy, serious campaigning, cheese and Star Trek. Yes, that's right, this is what the upcoming election has been reduced to:

1. Who can down the smelliest cheese the fastest (an important trait for any serious and qualified politician)
2. Who can stereotype the Math faculty the most, throwing out Star Trek references to distract the mathematical electoral body and blind us to the true nature of their campaign: to wield absolute power over us all

Some of the ticket teams have, in fact, embedded their position on cheese into their platform using subliminal messages, naming their ticket "The Yellow Team", leaving no room for the electoral body to question what their position is. Now, I pose this question: while choosing a name for their team, did they consider offending the vast number of blue cheese lovers who refuse to even acknowledge the existence of yellow cheese? They are treading on dangerous ground, taking such a firm position on the most controversial issue in this election. While they will no doubt garner the support of traditional cheesists everywhere, is it worth alienating the rest of the cheese-loving student body? This is a dangerous campaign strategy.

In the interest of true journalistic integrity, it is important to also note the other issues in this upcoming Feds election.

- Effectiveness seems to be big — they all claim to want it — I am pro-effective
- Money? Also big, seems to be some discussion about where the money will go. I'm pretty flexible as long as it's not spent on the council's cheese and Star Trek fetish.
- Also common themes: Management buzz words including empowerment and accountability — why not throw in synergy and proactive too?

With all the candidates united in the desire to improve the Federation and the student environment (if they're not for this, then why would they be running), the true issue that requires clarification is where do the candidates stand on Gouda? And how many Feds candidates does it take to insult the entire Math faculty by making repeated Star Trek references during the candidates forum?

-WestCoastChic

Facts about the Dean

- The Dean doesn't plagiarize, he liberates
- If the Dean ever teaches a MATH137 class, the students come out with a masters degree
- The Dean never wrote his exams as an undergrad, he just stared at them until they wrote themselves in fear
- The Dean writes his Sudokus in ink
- The Dean didn't apply to schools, they applied to him
- The 'smartest show on tv' is whatever the Dean is watching at that moment
- If the Dean was alive during the time of Leibniz and Newton, there would be no debate as to who created calculus
- The Dean never puts his name on his research papers; when they get that popular, it's just assumed
- Fermat's last theorem was the Dean's first
- The Dean's IQ is a bound on all positive integers
- If the Dean ever says " $2+2=5$ " textbooks get re-written
- The Dean has never "discovered" anything on the Discovery Channel
- The Dean factors numbers in linear time
- The Dean has made Deep Blue cry
- If the Provost ever worries about UW's reputation, he just gets the Dean to wear a UW t-shirt in public
- "Open problems" only exist because the Dean likes to take vacations
- Some smart people can bend spoons with their minds; the Dean can bend a shovel
- If the Dean writes code that doesn't compile, it's a fault in the compiler
- If the Dean worked for the European Space Agency, nobody would have ever heard of Arienne 5
- The Dean doesn't go to a casino to gamble, as "gamble" implies an element of chance; the Dean goes to a casino and takes other people's money
- The Dean views people on the honours list the way you view people on the short school bus
- Prof. Hawking is just an animatronic puppet the Dean uses to introduce an element of comic relief when he proposes his theories

Ian W. MacKinnon
Matt Strickland

A question for Zen-master Ragde: if everyone drops your course, is it still a course?

What You Missed Last Issue

Due to a mishap with graphics, you may have noticed a lack of page 5 in the last issue of *mathNEWS*. After looking at the list of articles which appeared on Page 5, I'll let you draw your own conclusions on whether it was an accident, or if *mathNEWS* was being suppressed by UW administration.

- Heather 'Fitz' Fitzgerald — Does she really fit?
- David Johnson Sex Scandal Cover-Up
- Alan George vs. Tom Coleman — When Egos Collide
- Feds Election Using Diebold Software
- Rabid Squirrels: Natural Occurrence, or Biology Class Mishap?
- UW Graphics Stealing Millions from University Budget

- Grad Students Unionization — Vote Today!
 - FASS Sucks & Blows
 - Ian Vanderburgh Arrested for Drinking and Deriving
 - David Taylor Goes on Rampage, Suspends Hundreds
- How did we manage to fit all of that on page 5? I guess you'll never find out.

Cooking 102

Valentine's Day Dinner for Two

Well, it's that time again, and you all know what I mean. Especially given as I wrote it into the title. That's right. The time when males and females display their brightly coloured plumage in the hopes of attracting a mate. What's that you say? You have no plumage to display? Well, we can help you with that.

This week's recipe is, again, a bit trickier than the ones we've done in the past. It's not complicated, but it does require patience and a certain amount of planning ahead. Similar to our Christmas meal, this recipe is actually three recipes, forming a complete meal. And this meal impresses. I tried the main course for the first time this past weekend (my partner-in-crime has made it many times), and it was delicious. I was impressed.

So as a lure to the opposite sex (and if you already have someone of the opposite sex, as a lure to sex in general), I and my guest chef present you with a romantic dinner for two. And believe you me, there are few things more romantic than a guy who cooks a lovely meal for you.

Prosciutto wrapped, garlic, herb and sundried tomato-stuffed chicken breasts

The meat component of this meal. It sounds hard to make, but really, it's just a little time consuming.

Ingredients:

- 2-3 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless
- 1.5-2 sundried tomatoes per breast
- 3 slices of *very* thinly sliced prosciutto (a salty ham found in a grocer's deli; get them to slice it as thin as they can — the thickness of two sheets of paper is perfect)
- 2 Tablespoons of Garlic & herb cream cheese per breast (either store bought, or you can make your own). We won't give you a recipe to make your own, but if you do, make sure you do it at least a couple of days in advance so the flavours permeate the cream cheese.
- Red wine (between half a cup and a full cup)
- Chicken broth (1:1 ratio with the red wine)
- 1 Teaspoon of brown sugar

Cardinal rule #1: do not use any wine to cook with that you wouldn't drink on its own (well, unless you don't drink wine)

Directions:

Cut the sundried tomatoes into strips and then mix them in with the cream cheese. You will get a mixture that looks a lot like this picture:



Now this is the tricky part: using the sharpest knife you have (if you're lucky enough to have non-serrated knives, it's a **lot** easier), cut a pocket into the chicken breast. Spoon in the cream cheese mixture. This is what it should look like:



Now that you've got the stuffed chicken breasts, it's time to wrap them. You'll want to close up the cream cheese filled pocket by folding the top of the breast over before you wrap the breast. Once you've got the breast closed (and looking like there's nothing special about it), lay two to three slices of prosciutto on a cutting board such that they're slightly overlapping (you don't want to see the cutting board between them), and then roll the chicken breast into it. Repeat this for each of the breasts you've prepared. Now you're ready to cook them.

In a pot, mix the wine, chicken broth and brown sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Put the wrapped chicken breasts into the mixture and bring to a boil. Boil for 15-20 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked (you can use a meat thermometer to check internal temperature if you have one, we just cook them longer to be safe). This is what your pot will look like once you put the chicken in:



Once the chicken has been fully cooked, put it on a clean cutting board and cut it into wheels (the same way you wrapped the prosciutto). Cover the chicken with a piece of tin foil and boil down the liquid. This takes 10-15 minutes and will give you a thicker sauce to go with the chicken.

Roasted Herbed Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 5-6 medium potatoes, or 3-4 large potatoes, washed
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 tsp ground cloves
- 3/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tsp rosemary
- 2 tsp oregano
- olive (or other type) oil

Directions

Chop the potatoes into roughly inch-sized pieces. Lay them in a 9x13 inch baking dish (it should have sides that come up over the potatoes).

Keep reading...

Pour enough olive oil over the potatoes to coat them lightly. They should not be floating in oil; the point is not to deep-fry them. You just need enough that the spices will stick to the potatoes. Sprinkle the spice over the potatoes — crumble the bay leaves into small pieces so they can be spread among the dish. Use a spatula to turn the potatoes, making sure they are all coated in oil and spice.

Cover the dish with tinfoil and put it in a 350-degree (F) oven, and bake for 20 minutes, turning the potatoes halfway so that they don't burn. As always, each oven is different and you should keep an eye on them. Potatoes are done when they can be easily split with the side of a fork.

Remove them from the oven and keep the tinfoil over. This will help keep them warm if the rest of the meal is not yet ready.

Asparagus parmisiani

One of the two vegetable components of this recipe, it's really easy and tastes great.

Ingredients:

- 6-7 asparagus spears each
- butter (or margarine)
- parmesan cheese (freshly grated will always taste nicer, but any will do)
- pepper (again, freshly ground is even nicer, but any will do)

Directions:

We'll have to introduce you to a different style of preparing here: blanching. It's easy, but you'll need to have certain things ready in advance. Here we go!

Clean the asparagus and break off the bottoms (they will break off relatively easily once they're no longer woody at the bottom).

Using a frying pan, bring some water to boil. There should be enough water that your asparagus will be completely submerged, but it shouldn't overflow. Once the water is boiling, put the asparagus in it. Cook for 5 minutes only.

While the asparagus is blanching, clean a sink and put about an inch and a half of cold water into it. Once the 5 minutes have passed, put the asparagus (but not the boiling water) into the sink. You'll want to add a tray or two of ice to this. Basically, you want to stop the asparagus from cooking.

For the next part, you'll need an oven-safe dish. Butter the sides and bottom of the dish and then line the bottom with asparagus. Sprinkle the asparagus with parmesan and then with pepper.

Preheat your oven to 350F and cook the asparagus until the cheese is melted and slightly browned. It should look like this:



So there you have a lovely meal. Full-colour photos are available in the online version of *mathNEWS*. I do suggest checking them out if this recipe seems daunting. I also suggest that you prepare the dishes in the order I've presented them. The chicken takes a while to simmer, and you can easily get the potatoes and asparagus cooking while it does.

For that added romantic touch, serve with a nice red wine and a light salad (leafy lettuce, baby spinach, red cabbage, and a balsamic vinaigrette dressing).

And hey, if this actually works out for you, let us know! It's not often a cooking writer gets to play Cupid, and I'd be tickled to hear if something nice happens.

Ali and Mark (give him a round of applause!)

mNcooking@yahoo.ca



Valentines

So, Valentines Day is only a few days away and if you're like any other person in this building, you've made plans for yourself to have a nice grumpy day home alone telling yourself that it's "just a stupid day that's extremely commercialized and doesn't actually mean anything." Since you have all these plans already, it'd really suck if all of a sudden you were to end up hooking up with somebody before the 14th and have them ruin all your plans. Although we really can't expect 20 years of not winning with the ladies, here's a list of things you can do in order to prevent yourself from finding yourself in a relationship in the next 4 days, ruining your plans for Tuesday.

- No one wants someone exactly like themselves, you want a personality that complements yours but is not exactly like it. If you run into a girl who seems interested in you, try pretending to be interested in all her hobbies and other things like that. She'll think you're exactly like her and won't want to go any farther with you.
- All girls say they like smarts[*Note: girls lie — iEd*], so don't ever mention you're in math/cs as they'll know you're smart, make up a story and say that you're in arts or something. Better yet, say you go to Laurier: they'll avoid you cause we all know those types are dumb (oh...except the math and business ones).
- Girls don't like arrogance, so try getting a huge wad of cash and waving it around all the time and, even if you're not, go around talking about how rich you are. They'll be disgusted by your arrogance.
- If you find yourself in a conversation with someone, whatever you do, resist the urge to tell her about your uber D&D/WoW character. She'll be too impressed and want to do you on the spot.
- People say that one of the best things you can do to attract someone is to just be yourself. With that in mind do not act like you normally do, try being more charismatic and *suave* than normal
- BONUS: Try growing a beard, that seems to keep the ladies away

DanS

My *prof*QUOTES fetish will never get old

If someone is a fucktard, there is no room for interpretation there.

Burris PSYCH232

To have a winning personality you need a personality first.

Larry Smith ECON102

Election nights, like budget nights, are the only time I get [pause] hard.

Larry Smith ECON102

This is a PAW—proof by arm waving.

Hardy ACTSC433

Perilous Journey through Campus Terrain

I do not recall a winter day as cold as the other day when winds were treacherous and literally clawing at my face. You know it's hopeless when the snow starts falling in a horizontal fashion. Each minute out in the cold feels like a lifetime. If only I lived closer to campus. It didn't matter whether I took shortcuts that saved me half a minute here and half a minute there.

I could only rely on one thing: my trusty winter touque was my sole protector. No wait. I could only rely on two things. I just had to make sure to walk behind someone substantially bigger than I am in order to successfully block the oncoming wind. Ok, so I didn't look like the hottest thing out on the street but I was warm. I am the type who checks the weather forecast three times a day in case there was the slightest chance that a forecast error was made and that the weather may have improved.

My wish this year is that I meet that special someone: that special someone who will show me the way through the indoor walking paths on campus. The 10-15 minute trek from one end to the other of campus is unthinkable on days where severe weather warnings are issued. I am aware of a few of the 'secret' paths linking one building to the next, but why are these paths never explicitly published anywhere on campus?

If anyone does know about all these existing 'secret' paths, then I would like to meet you for coffee to map out these paths across campus so that we can share this useful information for the weather sensitive students out there. There are so many endless combinations that can be formed with these paths to minimize our time in the cold and maximize our utility of these paths. Who said a math degree wasn't useful?

qw

True Love

The Corollary of Acceptance

After proving an everlasting love, she and I had met many times again for love that seemed to be exponential where our love is greater than one. We had tried many things: spanning the 3D vector space and forming a very appropriate basis, using the axiom of choice for proving our unbounded love, and so forth. We even rotated our axes.

Further exploring our operations, the subject of integration came up. I was investigating the area underneath her curves, and then, by the laws of summation, I pulled out a constant. I was shocked, and she was embarrassed. Feeling a little betrayed about why she wouldn't mention a special case for this to me, I stopped. Did she feel the need to make the proof of love more rigorous so that I would still be interested? I mean, how much more rigorous could we get? It's not like I was an engineer; I wasn't going to go to test our love for three cases and then say its true and never look at it again. I was offended. But instead of making her fret over this, I smiled, and said, "Since my love for you is true, then my love for you exists regardless of any scalar multiple you have. I call it: the Corollary of Acceptance."

Angelo

Did you know: There is over 7 acres of nipple tissue in Canada.

These Three Strings

To the tune of: These Three Kings

These three strings from one input file
Crash my program once it compiles
Impending doom
It's due at noon
My teacher, I will dial.

Oh, oh.
Prof of mercy, if you may
Grant me one extension day.
Woe is me
I guess you see
I'm failing anyway.

I should have started this last week.
So these bugs, I could have tweaked.
Oh God, I'm screwed
Now where's that dude
Who finished so I can cheat.

Oh, no.
I'll take this course again in May
My parents will be kind and pay.
No more thinking
Time for drinking
Hope this all goes away.

Valentine's Day

Angelo

On Tuesday of next week, couples around the world will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Most people will wait until the last minute to pick up gifts for their significant other. You're probably no exception. So, if you're still hurting for some ideas, here are some suggestions.

If you're giving gifts to a male, try:

- power tools
- sex
- his favourite food
- oral sex
- money
- a threesome

If you're giving gifts to a female, try:

- flowers
- sex
- chocolate
- oral sex
- anything heart shaped
- a threesome

If you're buying for yourself, try:

- bottle of wine
- kleenex
- movies

One lonely *MikeBest*QUOTE

[prof writes an ugly equation on the board]
Doesn't that look suitably scientific? Doesn't that justify the high tuition fees? (C&O 372)

Squiz

There were some actual submissions for Squiz answers this time, but I need more. MORE!! The more answers I get the less souls I devour, so you now have vested interests in answering. Drop them in the black box outside the comfy lounge, or email them in. Scot Nyback, you are the winner for the last Squiz. Come to the mathNEWS office to get your 5\$ C&D gift certificate. You were two answers away from perfect, but otherwise well done.

Red vs. Blue

1. What game is used to make the cartoon Red vs. Blue?
2. Who was the first character to die in the series?
3. How many seasons have there been?
4. What colour is Griff's armour?

Oscars

1. Who won the Oscar for Best Actor in 1995?
2. Who won the Oscar for Best Actress in 1998?
3. Who won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in 1987?
4. What won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2002?

Canada

1. What does the word Canada mean?
2. What does the word Toronto mean?
3. When did John Cabot land in Newfoundland?
4. Who was the first Prime Minister of Canada?

Orcus

My favourite part of this job is using *prof*QUOTES as filler

STUDENT: Are you trying to blame us for your shortcomings?
PROF: Trying? I am!

Beatty CS136

"v" happens to be the first letter in "vector" but also happens to be the first letter in other words too.

Cunningham CO350

Typically you're given an assignment 2 weeks before it's due but what happens is no one looks at it the first week, and no one comes to office hours in the first week.

Patrick CS360

I have your marked assignments twos back in record time. There were three of you who handed in your assignments early; I forgot to give those to the markers, so you'll have to wait until Wednesday. I guess the moral of the story is never to do your assignments early; you should always wait until the last minute.

Menezes CO331

The day f's and 1/f's multiply together is the day we achieve unity at last!

Samsa PMATH352

It's not like [ghosts] took her soul at knifepoint and said "don't say a word, bitch, we're here to stay."

Burriss PSYCH232

I'm not here right now. I'm off fighting Zorkons, or maybe mating with Zorkons.

Burriss PSYCH232

π

What Would Captain Picard Do?

Dedicated to Carrie

I stood outside of the election polls, preparing to vote in a diligent and honest manner on the day of elections when I noticed something was amiss. Instead of the standard polling stations of democratic justice, there was an odd half-organic and half-mechanical station. As opposed to the standard votes, turbid androids were assimilating the voters into a collective consciousness of machinery. Having no life, I immediately recognized the threat: the Borg. For some reason they decided to take over the electoral process in, of all places, Canada. This led me to the question: What would Captain Kirk do?

In less than ten minutes I had one night stands with every woman I could find. Realizing that this literally did nothing for my situation, I thought about the next generation and what would Captain Picard do?

Before using any logical thought, I prepared an entourage of nameless people to go and investigate the situation as best as possible, regardless of any foreboding instincts that I had. We casually walked right up to them, and one by one, everyone who didn't have a name was immediately assimilated. I miraculously escaped without incident. From my reconnaissance I drew one conclusion: it was working properly, so it likely had nothing to do with the engineering faculty or students.

I decided upon one action: send in more people I don't know. So I went to the SLC and found some arts students who still had half a term to finish their only assignment. Guessing that they would last long enough to give me time to make some sort of simplistic analogy for the situation at hand, I sent them all off, and then acted sad when they all perished.

Three minutes later, overcoming my powerful woe, I realized that the androids were trying to infect the government in a manner very similar to how a virus will infect and spread itself through a series of hosts. Within moments I devised a complicated plan involving a large chunk of wood, called the natural log, and enough pink ties to play jump rope. I rushed back to the election polls (which were now slightly less heartless and mechanical with the Borg in control) only to find that by introducing art students into the collective, the Borg had absorbed with them an entirely new philosophy: laziness. The Borg were sitting around, playing poker, drinking and spouting mindless dribble about how difficult their only task for the term is. I thought to myself: they will make fine leaders as soon as they are finished learning how to embezzle and have scandals. Having a sense of pride in my accomplishment, I felt I needed some form of non-monetary reward and I pondered: What would Captain Kirk do?

To the Pi Monster

Angelo

To the author of the heinous email addressed to `mathnews@student.math.uwaterloo.ca` from `untracable.numbered.account@gmail.com`, I challenge you to prove your claim that Pi is exactly 3. No engineering proofs are allowed. Can you back up your mouth (er...fingers)? Meet me at the bike racks today at 11am if you think you are woman enough. That's right, woman enough.

To all other mathies who are as appalled as me at this outrageous claim, join me in reciting as many digits of pi as we can to show by counterexample that pi is not 3!

Jenn the Dirty Mathie
Outraged *mathNEWS* Editor

The 9 Basic Stages of the Jobmine Application Nightmare

Ah yes, it's that time of year again, the first round of postings is closing down and the interview process is just beginning. If you survived applications, Congratulations! Job fever is setting in and finally the pain of applications is temporarily out of mind. After this round of applications I have managed to boil down the application panic process into 9 easy steps to help you be prepared for the next round. Knowing the danger ahead will give you the advantage over those who get lost in the depths of depression that often can accompany the application process.

1. **Get excited about the prospect of a new job.** Struggle to find the login page and watch as your spirit disappears into deep pit of bitterness.
2. **Attempt to sign on to Jobmine system.** Remember (after 10 minutes of continually re-entering your UW email password) that you never changed your jobmine password to match your email. Get a new password, don't reset it to match your email and finally login to the system.
3. **Rant about inefficiency of jobmine,** the user interface, the constant page refreshing, and its existence in general, to an empty room — make unfounded claims to possess the ability to write a far superior program in under a half-hour. Consider proving claim. The ranting time can be modelled as a function of the number of application cycles and the number of days into this cycle. $r < 10c^d$; where c is the number of cycles and d is the number of days into the cycle.
4. **Realize that there are only 30 minutes until postings close** and that you had better save both the ranting and the system rewrite until after 12:00. Do an open search of jobs that returns an unmanageable number of results and fear all is lost.
5. **Begin randomly reading job descriptions,** and realizing that you are currently under-employed for every position except dung-beetle wrangler. Begin to regret last term spent playing freecell, checking email, and writing work-term report.
6. **Find job that you are qualified for.** Realize that job requires a cover letter and reject job on principle alone. You are in (*insert math related program here*) and command of the written word is highly overrated, and honestly unneeded.
7. **Look at time and realize that with 7 minutes to spare** before postings close, you had better lower your standards. Apply for a job that won't help you be any more qualified for desirable jobs next time around. Confirm application.
8. **Realize that you forgot to upload a current resume** into jobmine and that the one you just sent has both your name and your term wrong. In addition, your last employment is listed as "cone-girl" at Dairy Queen. Wash your hands of the entire thing since jobmine has just shut down anyway.
9. **Have a drink,** you've earned it!
10. **Complain to off-stream house-mate about lunacy of Jobmine** and application process as an arbitrary and backward Darwinian disease — culling off perfectly functional members of the herd. Get no sympathy from house-mate as he will not have to fight with Jobmine for another 4 months.
11. **Vow to write new resume** and upload it well before 12:00 the next day and be organized and not get distracted by ranting (Yeah right!).

Repeat entire process tomorrow night, allotting more time to ranting and less to resume writing and job searching.

-WestCoastChic

Honest Slogans for Local Businesses

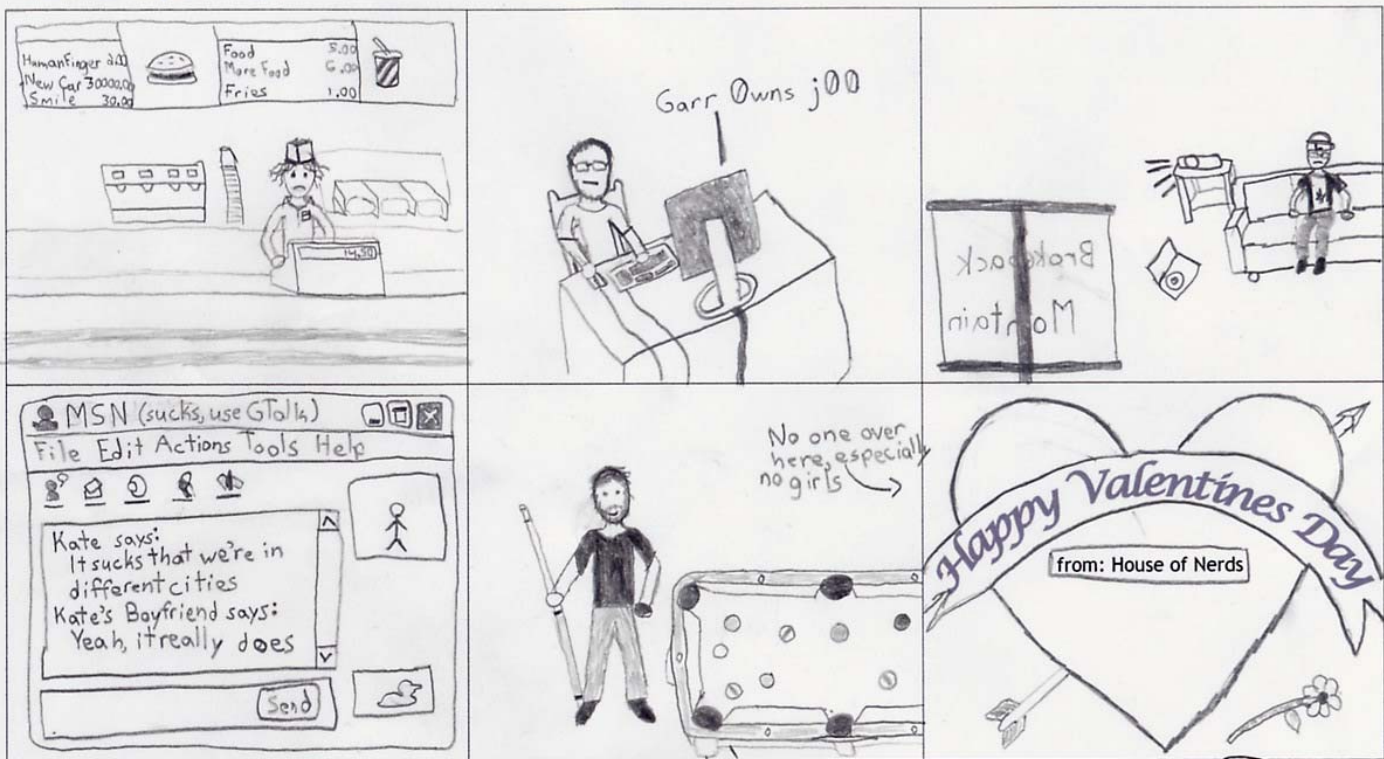
You know how certain businesses have certain reputations? Well, we at *mathNEWS* think that they should have slogans that truly reflect the nature of their clientele. It will make things easier when you are determining where to spend your (parents') hard-earned cash. Observe:

- **Mel's Diner** — *If you're going to pick up some random from a bar, the least you can do is buy them breakfast the next day.*
- **Sweet Dreams** — *Once you've had bubble tea, you can look down on your fellow man who hasn't.*
- **Phil's** — *A great place to find that random you're going to take to Mel's tomorrow morning.*
- **Generation X** — *Because your favourite entertainment is too weird for mainstream.*

- **Aussies** — *We sell smokes and lotto tickets, what else do you need from a convenience store?*
- **Farah's** — *A non-judgemental cashier for when you buy porn, condoms, and pickles at 2 in the morning.*
- **Front Row** — *When you have that homoerotic dream about your best friend, you'll want the hot waitresses, beer, and sports we provide.*
- **Bombshelter** — *The random you pick up here will probably be of higher calibre than the one at Phil's.*
- **Travel Cuts** — *Just because we're owned by a crazy socialist student union doesn't meant we don't know were the best party destinations are.*
- **Fubar** — *Double bag it.*

Ian W. MacKinnon
mathNEWS Editor

House of Nerds



House of Nerds



profQUOTES

If you worry about this, (starts mumbling) then you need to get out more. Not many people worry about this

Atkinson AFM102

Any customer you add after that is, in fact, a loser

Atkinson AFM102

The last 20% are losers.

Atkinson AFM102

He's using a Mac, though. And if you're using a Mac, you deserve to have problems.

Atkinson AFM102

People have been abusing you, haven't they?

Atkinson AFM102

The photocopier takes four days to print any particular page.

Brian Forrest MATH148

It becomes easier to test antiderivatives if you use...Maple!

Brian Forrest MATH148

If you go back 20 years when I was a student...27 years...423 years...

Brian Forrest MATH148

Zero is equal to zero, which is technically true.

Brian Forrest MATH148

We're looking for something that complicates our life.

Brian Forrest MATH148

If it's the final exam, then I'll mark it wrong; although, you got it right and you'll never know.

Brian Forrest MATH148

There is no non-zero number in front of zero.

Zorzitto MATH146

I'm not going to do that. I'd have to remember what to do.

Zorzitto MATH146

This is a measure of how much sleep you got last night.

Zorzitto MATH146

[Looks at the half page of profQUOTES from last issue] Oh...what have you guys done?

Zorzitto MATH146

[You should see how many we left out! — iEd]

If you were Goldie Locks and you wanted it to be just right, you would make a definition where you would have independence and spanning.

Zorzitto MATH146

No profundity there. That's not a word, profundity.

Zorzitto MATH146

Given that linear algebra is based on matrices to make it boring, let's continue to make it boring by finding a basis.

Zorzitto MATH146

What if I lose my spanning powers? What if I gained independence?

Zorzitto MATH146

He's gonna talk to you, and I'm gonna talk to you, so you're going to get told off twice.

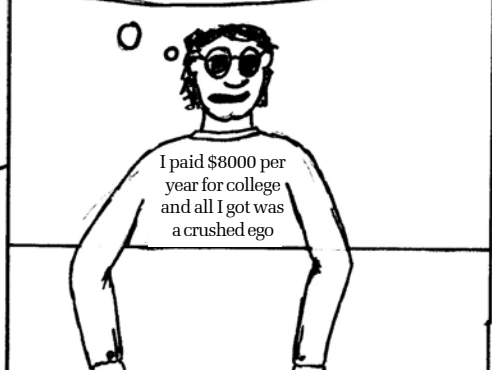
Zorzitto MATH146

Close to Infinity

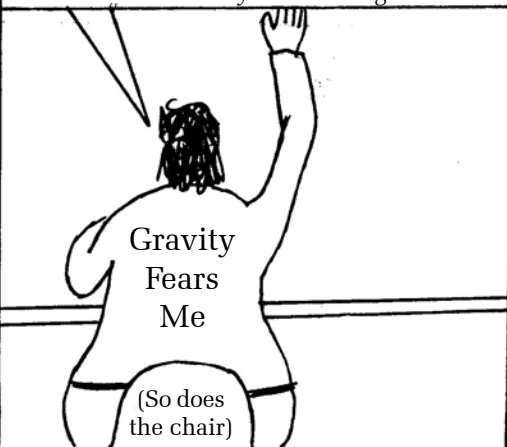
Great, now the professor is writing something on the board that is both elementary and basic. This is the perfect opportunity to complete my goal of proving my professor wrong! Of course, I couldn't have a goal along the lines of being successful in my field of study, which I'm paying a lot of money for. This one is much more fulfilling



Completely disregarding the fact that he's obviously spent years studying, teaching, and researching related material, I, an untrained student who only really serves as a painful reminder that the Ontario Education System has more holes than Swiss cheese, will try to prove him wrong.



Professor! I boldly proclaim that you are wrong! What you're saying is wrong and untrue. The derivative of a constant is not zero! I have no logical basis for this claim, other than my oversized ego.



Actually, this is true. Not only is this true, but it has been proven by people much smarter than you. I won't even entertain the notion that you might be right. Why? Because of the corollary to Proposition 2. Shut the Hell Up: That says, "shut the hell up." There. QEPwned.



The background of the poster features a light gray gradient. In the upper left, several small, stylized butterfly silhouettes are scattered. The central focus is a large, dark silhouette of a couple dancing. The woman on the left is in a dynamic pose with her arms raised, while the man on the right is in a classic ballroom hold. The text is overlaid on the right side of the couple's silhouette.

math grad ball

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