

“WHAT’S THE PROBLEM WITH KIDS THESE DAYS?”

Oh, the poor youth with their TikToks and modern tech and love of eating grass. As a nasty old crone, I pity them. Such wretchedness! Ah, to be back to the noughties of my *own* youth. I remember when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne as the First Holy Roman Emperor like it was yesterday. Now those were simpler times.

Reminiscing aside, let's take a look at what's to come in this issue. On the next page, we've got our usual **mathASKS** segment, featuring MathSoc President Matthew Schwarze: champion of ~~cowboy~~ outback hats. The extended universe of Camien and Wordpress makes a comeback in CC's SE's Secret Laboratory I, if short fiction and on-campus nostalgia's your thing. But if you're looking for something lighter to while away your time, why not take Finchey's Where in the Third Floor of MC Are You Most Likely to be Studying quiz? If you're wondering, I got the third floor computer labs.

Speaking of quizzes, you should take a look at UW Unprint's article on Page 15 of this issue, which is about when everyone at production night worked together to fill out a personality quiz as if we were Vladimir Putin. There was some contention over a few answers — I remember one about Putin's favourite fruit being particularly difficult — but overall I think we all did a fine job. The final result is pretty reasonable to me, and I'm confident you'll agree.

Of course, other shenanigans were had during production night. At some point, we got an “Alexa” Discord bot to play music. You can imagine how that went — or just read about it in N Things mathNEWS writers have requested Alexa play.

Finally, I'll just remind you that we have a wonderful new **gridMASTER** on our team this term. An actual one (i.e. not me or god ⚡peED)! That makes puzzles (as opposed to reposting **gridWORDS** from old issues)! Cloak and Vorpel Dagger is my idol and you should absolutely try out their **gridWORD** on Page 17. Make sure you submit your solutions to mathnews@gmail.com too, for posterity and bragging rights.

Before I forget — the cover of this issue is a homage to obscure **mathNEWS** lore, featuring the only two personifications of **mathNEWS** that I know of. For the unaware: check out issues 143.4 and 142.2. Now scram!

clarified
Editor, mathNEWS

HOECHIMINH	The e-boy trend on Tik Tok that never seems to die down.
THE EUROBEAT-’EM-UP	They make me feel old, especially when you learn that they’ve never lived in a world without smartphones or Nintendo Wii.
THE DEPRESSIMIST	Same problem as with adults: everything.
ALYSSNYA	They have it better than me and that’s simply unacceptable
ROYAL NO.69 MILK TEA	They have more brain cells than me
TENDSTOFORTYTWO	The “anonymous to classmates” switch on Piazza
A BALD MAN	They don’t know how to use computers because they never had to struggle with barely functional operating systems like Windows Vista.
FINCHEY	Can’t cook, can’t clean, don’t work, only know how to be bisexual, eat hot chip, and lie.
CC	Mmmm social media dopamine hit tasty
APHF	They now have to be paid minimum wage
A COOL PEN NAME	Major psychological stunting and a lack of social skills because these kids are growing up in a pandemic yeah you want to make fun of the younger generation but they’re going through a catastrophic world-wide emergency while trying to learn fractions and some people don’t even learn fractions without a pandemic; 4 out of 5 kids are suffering depression and the other 2/5 have anxiety send help
DERIVING FOR DICK	They lack the passion to overthrow the government.
BEYOND META	They have a tendency of randomly fainting and eating grass
WALDO@<3.LE-GASP.CA	The fear of the future, and older folks finding themselves unable to give them the answers and support they’re looking for and/or need.
GOD&PEED	They don’t know the glory of in person prod night pizza voting sessions.
TERRIFIED	They’ll never understand what it’s like to share a Fruit by the Foot during recess
CLARIFIED	A widespread lack of object permanence.

ARTICLE OF THE ISSUE

Congrats, The Procrastinator! Your article, Who Do We Blame For This, has been chosen as this issue's Article of the Issue! It is the highest honour that we editors can bestow. So high, the reward you earn is immaterial. Physically unfathomable. Didn't you know? Corporeality is so out nowadays.

clarified
Editor, mathNEWS

Get the grass-eaters off my lawn. Now!

CLARA XI, mathNEWS EDITOR FOR FALL 2020
ALONG WITH JAMIE ANDERSON, TERRY CHEN, AND [REDACTED]

mathASKS 144.2

FEATURING MATHSOC PRESIDENT MATTHEW SCHWARZE

ABALD MAN: SEEING AS HOW THE MATHSOC ELECTION WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE EVERYONE WHO RAN AGAINST YOU MYSTERIOUSLY DROPPED OUT, WHAT WAS THE PLATFORM YOU HAD PREPARED BUT WERE NOT GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE WITH THE MATH STUDENT BODY?

There are a number of things that I hope I can help MathSoc achieve, but the biggest thing, as anti-climatic as it is, is governance reforms. MathSoc does a lot of fantastic things, and I love it for that, but all organisations have issues and room for improvement. In MathSoc's case, we have phenomenal people that work on great projects, but we have a difficulty seeing long-term projects through, because as much of our leadership rotates term-to-term, the project's champion eventually moves on.

I'm presently exploring the best way to go about this, but I'd like to implement a structure such that we can get the ball rolling on long term plans (renovations, new programs, M4 plans, the like) and have faith that it won't get misplaced or lost as leadership changes by giving those projects to our board of directors. This is the best lasting, positive impact that I think I can leave with MathSoc during this term: the capacity to do even more for and do even better by students. If you want to be a part of any of the fantastic, long-term projects we're running, I'd strongly recommend running to be a Director on the Board at this November's General Meeting! Keep an eye on our social channels for more details as they become available!

ABALD MAN: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE STUDENT PUBLICATION ON CAMPUS?

I think the messages scrawled on the study corrals on the tenth floor of DP are probably the highest-level (pun intended) student publications on campus. We should perhaps see about getting those covered by the new WUSA Board of Publications as well.

HARRY MAN: WHY IS YOUR FAVOURITE CAMPUS STUDENT PUBLICATION mathNEWS?

I-, uh, oh I see what you were trying to do here, sorry for messing it up. We can go back to the last question, I can answer it again if you like and set you up for the joke. No? Well, ok, let's just go on then. I guess I really like **mathNEWS** for the SLC/PAC expansion updates on the back cover. Without those, I'd have no idea where the construction is at.

ABALD MAN: WHY IS WATERLOO BETTER THAN LAURIER?

I'm not sure where you're getting your information, but I'd maybe suggest finding another source — last I checked, Laurier was number one in Student Satisfaction, and I can't think of a better measure of a school's quality than that. It's Great to be a Laurier Golden Hawk!

TENDSTOFORTYTWO: WHERE WOULD YOU PUT YOURSELF AND MATHSOC ON THE POLITICAL COMPASS SCALE?

MathSoc as an organisation doesn't register on the scale at all, and that's very intentional on mine and others' parts. We don't get involved in politics because it's not our mandate. We aim to reflect whatever it is that is in the best interests of our membership, which means we perform all the advocacy work that we do to better the student experience at the UW Faculty of Mathematics.

Now, I'm going to try to stay general here: if some of our members (like you!) came to us, told us that they were being negatively affected by something here on campus (that amounted to what is a political stance outside of the uni campus) and asked us to take a stand against it, we would investigate, and if we found a student issue that needs righting, we would take that stance, and I don't believe that would be political. That would be us taking in data from our members and acting within our mandate and on that data to derive a logical solution that happens to be considered a political stance. We could just as easily swing the other way politically on our next move, because we don't take political stances, we take pro-student stances. The above the same approach I use when it comes to my other position on WUSA Council. On a personal level, I have a tendency to be all over the place, but I lean left. My favourite Prime Minister is Pierre Trudeau (Justin's dad) and I'm a fan of his beliefs, approach, and fuddle duddle (Google it!).

GOD ⚡ PEED: IF YOU COULD BE PRESIDENT OF ONE MORE THING THAT WASN'T MATHSOC, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I'm also a business student at the Lazaridis School of Business down the street, and their MathSoc counterpart, LazSoc, would have to be my number one choice. Then I could merge the societies, install myself as dictator-for-life(-or-until-I-get-bored), and finally have my two favourite things: the Math C&D and the selfishly-motivated "friendship" of business students high on networking. More seriously, keep an eye out for a WUSA prez ballot with my name on it in one or two years.

CLARIFIED: HOW WAS BEING BALD? WOULD YOU GO BALD AGAIN?

Bald was fun, I'd highly recommend it. I promise you that your bare scalp feels very different than you imagine that it does, and it's a fun, novel experience that you can undertake right now, no consequences (worst-case scenario it forces you to obey pandemic best practises)!

CC: WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT?

I'm attracted to pretend power that props up my ego.

THE EUROBEAT-'EM-UP: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ART OF MOTOR VEHICLE DRIFTING? HOW DO YOU THINK THE MATH FACULTY CAN BENEFIT FROM THE EXISTENCE OF DRIFTING AND EUROBEAT MUSIC?

I could see Ring Road making for a fun racetrack (with plenty of fun shortcuts, Mario Kart-style), and how you approach the turns as well what music you listen to while you race is your business, as long as you beat the other faculties and win the race for MathSoc.

ABALD MAN: WHY COWBOY HATS?

Strictly speaking, I don't wear a cowboy hat, but instead an outback hat. The difference is generally restricted to the design of the crown (the top of the hat, affixed to the brim). Outback hats grew out of the Australian outback, and I adopted them accidentally from what I thought at the time was a cowboy hat.

This is a story I'm asked a lot, and I really ought to come up with some fantastical story to tell where I fight an alligator or something for it; you wouldn't know the difference and I'd look really cool for a few minutes! In reality, when I was seven or eight years old, my dad had a hat much like the one I wear now that he never wore. I found it in a closet at some point and really took to it, and I started wearing it to school. I'm on my third hat now, and it's become a staple thing for me that's fun and a little weird, but everyone seems to like it.

ABALD MAN: HOW DO I GET A GOOD COWBOY HAT?

My current hat is a nice one from Australia; there's a lot of good outback hat manufacturers there (plus when I bought it, the Aussie dollar was rather weak so the conversion rate was nice).

There's lots of variety in cowboy/outback hats with varying materials, colours, and models. You want a brim size that you'll like (I prefer a slightly bigger one), a crown that you like (again, multiple options here), and primarily a hat that you believe you can pull off. What that means is that you need to not act embarrassed or odd because you're wearing a hat that's a little odd (and this can be any article of clothing, not just an outback hat). All it takes is acting like you're not wearing it at all, like it's just an exceedingly normal thing, and you're golden IMO. Confidence is everything, but it really doesn't take that much of it.

TERRIFIED: STETSON, CAMPAIGN HAT, OR OTHER?

Outback hat, see above. I've had this current hat from Jakaru in Australia for a while, but it's starting to get rather worn, and I'm considering a replacement from Akubra down the road when it's time to see people again.

BEYOND META: WHAT IS YOUR QUEST?

I think it's the same as yours, over at quest.pecs.uwaterloo.ca? From time to time I use Laurier's Quest, LORIS. It's got a bit of a controversial design, but I like it a lot better than Quest.

ANONYMOUS: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MATHEMATICAL CONCEPT?

This is maybe more a branch of math than a concept on its own, but I love linear algebra almost unilaterally. I hear a lot of hate for it in general when it pops up in courses, but there's little I like more than matrices and vector spaces. Not saying I do well in linear algebra courses, but I seriously enjoy them.

CIX: WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE COURSE THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN SO FAR?

I really enjoyed CO250—I really liked how it introduced concepts that were abstract and mathematical, but that I could very clearly relate and apply to my business courses at Laurier. I really enjoy studying math (CS right now, but I'm seriously considering switching) and business, because they both fit into the category of subjects where general knowledge is applicable indirectly in almost any situation, even if it's not directly applicable.

π LLLOW PRINCESS: WHERE IS YOUR FAVOURITE TOILET ON CAMPUS?

Ok don't tell anyone, but the second floor DC washrooms on the south end (above the library) are clean and almost always empty. I normally wouldn't tell you, but I have faith that you'll forget before we get back to campus.

DERIVING FOR DICK: YEE?

Haw!

VIVALDI ANNOUNCES LONG AWAITED FIVE SEASONS



Antonio Vivaldi
@vivaldi

keep on the lookout [#fiveseasons](https://twitter.com/hashtag/fiveseasons) is about to drop soon yo

8:19 PM · Oct 5, 2020

5.8K Retweets 9.3K Likes



ALTERNATE THEORY ON THE ORIGINS OF LIFE ON EARTH

“You almost done in there Kevin?” The voice is deep and raspy, and obviously irritated. It belongs to Gregory, your normal 6 foot tall plasmordic autonomized entity. He’s inside a large cylindrical spaceship travelling FTL and he’s also a total bitch. He’s floating outside a huge door with some strange symbols on it.

“Yeah yeah yeah, be right there you hag,” growls a voice from inside the room. A sonic toilet flushes and the elaborate door unfurls. Out walks a stubby alien, who doesn’t look like he could spell ‘Umlaut’. I think his name is Kevin. He walks past Gregory who lashes out at him. “It’s your turn to take out the waste! Get your fat ass back here!” Kevin swears under his breath but comes back and retrieves a mysterious bag from a compartment under the toilet. “To the airlock!” He begins to merrily skip away but his arm is grabbed rather violently by Gregory. What now?

“We’re only a few days away from Alpha Centuri. NO DUMPING. It goes in Cargo Bay 4 with the rest of it. We’ll deal with it all then.” Kevin groans and seems to momentarily phase out of existence. “Fine. But I want my objection to leaving a pile of our shit in a cargo bay noted,” Kevin says while heading off. “Noted. Now do it.”

While leaving the cargo bay Kevin had a devilish idea. He grabs all the bags and heads out to the ships winding hallway. Taking apart a panel in the wall and tinkering with a few wires, the entire ship is filled with the sounds of rock-ish music made with instruments that almost sound familiar.

“WHAT THE HELL IS THAT,” screams out Gregory in the distance. Kevin can’t hear him though, thank god. He heads down the hallway towards the airlock. “No dumping. Yeah. And I’m a corporal being.” He scoffed. Silenced by the tunes, the bags fly out of the airlock. “KEVINNNNNN!”

500 YEARS LATER

One of these bags, after floating roughly 300 million miles, crashes into a tidal pool on a tiny blue planet.

ITSH

STAT 330 THOUGHTS

what the FUCK is a taylor polynomial

royal no.69 milk tea

THE FUNNIEST FUCKING THING

I’m cackling. I grasp my stomach flab. My knees have been slapped. My hands have been clapped as I silently opened and closed my mouth like a seal out of water gasping for air. From outside the door, you hear the sound of a windshield wiper, but no, that’s just my throat sucking in air like an un lubricated vacuum. I’ve never laughed this hard in my life. I realize that I’m literally the funniest fucking person I know, sitting there laughing by myself in my covid isolated room. No I’m not even going to make you watch a YouTube video I just saw on my feed. This is beyond forcing air out of my nose. This is giggling. This is chortling. Guffawing. I’m tittering and ha-ha-ing and chuckling.

Listen here: what if we just... change the proper past tense form of a word...

Hear this out, hear this out... **leans in closer**

Instead of “I walked to school.”

“I woolk to school.”

Your eyes widen. You slowly inhale a deep breath, and your eyebrows rise. As you open your mouth in a blinding smile, the light reflecting off your brilliantly white teeth pierces my eyeballs. Wrinkles form around your nose and forehead until you look like a greyhound pulling its slobbery lips back over its fangs.

The camera panes back. In the left corner of the frame, a small pill bottle sits on the bed side table. The audio fades to solemn piano music. The picture turns black and white, slowly zooming into the bottle; it’s conveniently turned to the side to obscure the label.

I am sitting in the middle of my room laughing. You are not there. You were never here. You never existed. This is social isolation.

A cool pen name

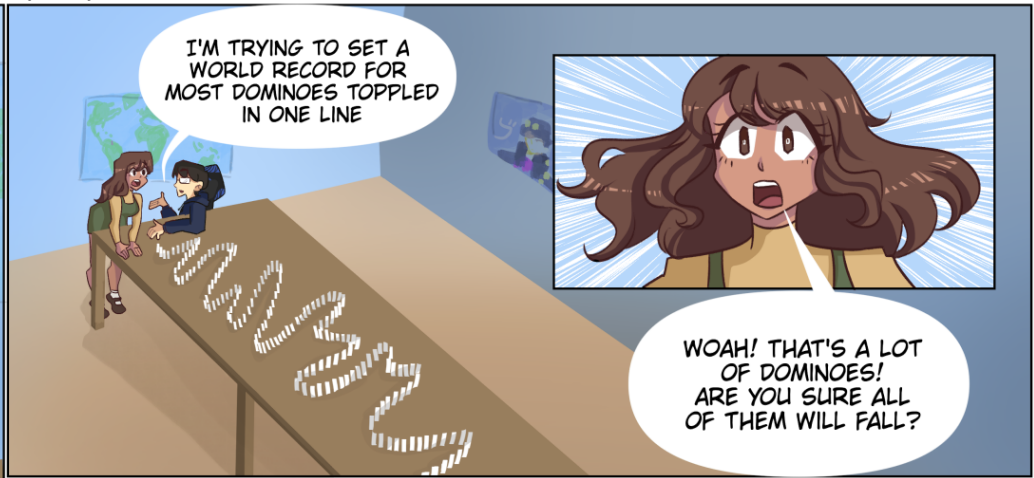
EPISODE 9: MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

On the following page, enjoy Episode 9 of the MathSoc Edu-Action! series: [MATH.135 Mathematical Induction!](#) If you have any feedback please fill out this survey: https://bit.ly/cartoon_feedback.

Gavin Orok

MATH 135: MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Story by: Clara Xi | Art by: Alyssa Baksh



BY THE

PRINCIPLE OF MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION!

(POMI)

Let $P(n)$ be a statement that depends on $n \in \mathbb{N}$.
 If statements ① and ② are both true:

- ① $P(1)$
- ② For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, if $P(k)$, then $P(k+1)$

Then statement ③ is true:

- ③ For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$

HUH? HOW DOES THIS HELP?

DON'T WORRY! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE POMI IN A PROOF!

Let's say we have an infinite line of dominoes where:

- each domino has the same height, and
- consecutive dominoes are separated by a small distance (less than the height of one domino).

Let's also say we push the first domino..

Let $P(n)$ be the statement:
 "the n^{th} domino will eventually fall."

First, we prove statement ①, i.e. $P(1)$.
 $P(1)$ is also called the base case.

SEEMS PRETTY STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

IF YOU PUSH THE FIRST DOMINO, OBVIOUSLY IT WILL FALL.

We want to prove that all dominoes eventually fall, i.e. for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $P(n)$.
 This is our statement, ③.

MATH 135: MATHEMATICAL INDUCTION

Story by: Clara Xi | Art by: Alyssa Baksh



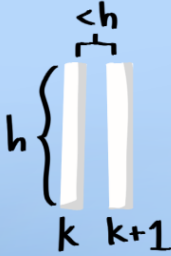
Next, we prove statement ②,
i.e. for all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, if $P(k)$, then $P(k+1)$

This step is called the inductive step,
the hypothesis $P(k)$ is called the inductive hypothesis,
and the conclusion $P(k+1)$ is called the inductive conclusion.

HERE'S OUR
INDUCTIVE
HYPOTHESIS!

The k^{th} domino
will fall.

To prove statement ②, we take an arbitrary $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and assume the
inductive hypothesis $P(k)$, and use it to prove $P(k+1)$.



IF WE ASSUME
THE k^{th} DOMINO
FALLS...

THEN THE $(k+1)^{\text{th}}$
DOMINO WILL FALL
SINCE THE k^{th} DOMINO
WILL PUSH IT OVER
AS IT FALLS.

BECAUSE ALL DOMINOES
HAVE THE SAME HEIGHT,
WHICH EXCEEDS THE DISTANCE
BETWEEN CONSECUTIVE
DOMINOES...

THAT'S IT!

BY POMI,
WE'VE SHOWN THAT
ALL THE DOMINOES
WILL FALL!

Statement 2 says that if one domino falls,
the next domino falls too.
Statement 1 says that we know the first
domino falls.

Putting these statements together, we know
the second domino falls. Using this fact and
statement 2 again, we also know the third
domino falls. Similarly, so does the fourth.
And the fifth. And so on...

WOAH...

LOOKS LIKE I'M
A NEW WORLD
RECORD HOLDER!

FALLEN FOR
ME YET?

NOT A
CHANCE!

WHERE IN THE THIRD FLOOR OF MC ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO BE STUDYING?

THE RULES

Select one answer per question and keep track of your answers. Your final result will be determined by the letter that you most frequently chose as an answer. Answer the **TIEBREAKER** question if and only if there is a tie between your top n choices, to break the tie. For example, if you have a tie between (A) and (B), break the tie by answering (A) or (B) in the **TIEBREAKER** question—whichever answer you identify with more.

QUESTIONS

Q1: WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE PLACE TO GET FOOD ON CAMPUS?

- A) I don't like/haven't tried any food on campus. My cooking's really tasty anyway.
- B) The Math CnD. It's near my classes, has tons of stuff, and is cheap (relatively...) to boot.
- C) FRSH, Rolltation, ML's Diner, or Paramount. The food is *actually* good there.
- D) Residence. My friends and I eat in the cafeteria together all the time.
- E) Tim Hortons, Starbucks, or, if I'm pulling an on-campus all-nighter, International News in SLC. One word—coffee.

Q2: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR GRADES?

- A) My grades are very good and I work my butt off for them.
- B) They're not outstanding, but not too low. They're just average, and I'm fine with that.
- C) I don't really care about grades, so long as I pass my classes.
- D) They've been dropping a little each term, but that's because I've been finding other priorities.

E) They're okay, but I know I could do better if I would just pull myself together.

Q3: WHICH CAMPUS BUILDING DO YOU LIKE BEST?

- A) DC. I like studying in the library. Plus, the building itself was the winner of a national architecture competition. Impressive, right?
- B) MC. In a way, it feels like home. I'm also a fan of its Brutalist architecture.
- C) QNC. There's a piano in the basement. I like to play it/hear other people play it.
- D) SLC. As the name would suggest, it's where all the student life on campus is.
- E) PAS. It's dark, maze-like, and has great benches to nap on.

Q4: WHICH ELECTIVE SOUNDS THE MOST APPEALING?

- A) PHYS 175: Introduction to the Universe.
- B) PSCI 150: Introduction to Global Politics.
- C) CLAS 104: Classical Mythology.
- D) A language-learning course, such as FR 101: Beginner French.
- E) ENGL 201: The Short Story

Q5: WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR BEST QUALITY?

- A) My intellect and smarts; I love to learn and solve hard problems.
- B) My practicality; I get things done.
- C) My easygoingness; I don't let bad things get me down.

Want to write for mathNEWS? Come to the next production night! New writers are always welcome!
Check the lookAHEAD for the next date!

D) My sense of humour; I can get other people to laugh and feel at ease.

E) My self-awareness; I'm always digging deeper into the "whys" of myself.

Q6: WHAT DO YOU MOST WANT IN A ROMANTIC PARTNER?

A) Someone who has a similar personality to me and shares most/all my interests and values. Opposites do *not* attract.

B) Maturity and a level head. Being good with money and kids.

C) Good cooking skills. An appreciation for everyday joys in life.

D) A person who I could never get bored talking to. Someone who's funny and affectionate.

E) Romance. Someone who thrills me and gets my heart pumping. Passion. Mystery. A hint of danger. That "spark."

Q7: WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE IN OTHERS?

A) Laziness and a propensity to complain.

B) Arrogance and bragging.

C) Humourlessness. I don't like people that are super serious all the time.

D) When others are overly quiet. It feels rude or awkward sometimes.

E) Lack of self-awareness and introspection.

Q8: WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE?

A) A beautiful, opulent, and historic palace.

B) A normal house, except it magically cleans itself.

C) A lavish resort home with a pool or two, where beaches and palm trees extend as far as the eye can see.

D) A modern, roomy condo in the middle of a bustling metropolis.

E) A small cottage on a cliff overlooking the sea, miles away from the nearest town.

Q9: IF YOU COULD TRULY FOLLOW YOUR PASSIONS, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

A) I'm already following my passions!

B) I have no idea.

C) I don't have a "dream job." I would rather live in perpetual retirement, enjoying my passions without making a career of it.

D) A famous performer of some sort (e.g. actor, comedian, singer). It would be cool to be a celebrity.

E) Some kind of artist: a painter, composer, writer, etc.

Q10: HOW MUCH DO YOU AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT: "I CONSIDER MYSELF AN AVERAGE PERSON"?

A) Disagree.

B) Strongly agree.

C) Neutral.

D) Agree.

E) Strongly disagree.

TIEBREAKER: PICK A TIME OF DAY.

A) Morning.

B) Midday.

C) Afternoon.

D) Evening.

E) Night.

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UW'S BASTION OF ERUDITE THOUGHT SINCE 1973

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YOUR RESULT

If you answered with (A) the most, you are studying in **MC 3022, the Math Tutorial Centre**.

You arrived forty-five minutes before your first class of the day. You're a freshman, and you've only been in classes for a couple of weeks. But you're already determined to give school your all. University is so different from high school; each day brings something new, and you love it. Now the tutor comes over and you ask her for help. You're stumped on a proof from class—you understand the first half, but you're not sure how your professor made the leap to the final conclusion. She thinks for a little while before telling you to frame the proof some other way. You hadn't thought of that before, and the gears and wheels start to turn in your head. Aha! The tutor sees your lightbulb moment. She smiles and asks if you've got it now. Yes, you do.

If you answered with (B) the most, you are studying in the **Math CnD**.

It's lunchtime, and the place is packed and brimming with noise. You managed to find a seat at one of the bar-height tables, sandwiched between two other people. You've got a few minutes to eat lunch and review the lecture slides for your next class. You scroll through the Powerpoint on your phone as you munch on a vegetarian samosa. You make a mental note to ask your professor a question about the material from last class. You finish scrolling through the slideshow and slide the phone into your pocket; you crumple up your samosa wrapper and toss it into the trash. Three more minutes until class. You sling your bag over your shoulder and hop out of the CnD, climbing up the nearby staircase to the fourth floor—not running, but with a little hurry to your step. You arrive to class at the same time as your professor, and snag your favourite seat near the front.

If you answered with (C) the most, you are studying in **MC Comfy**.

You turn the pages of your notebook one by one, highlighter in hand ready to add indiscriminate splashes of neon to your messy scrawls. Your eyes scan over the notes, but your mind wanders. Outside, the sky is a light grey; thin streaks of rain dress the south-facing windows as a soft pitter-patter fills the room. Out of the corner of your eye you see someone soundly asleep, taking up two whole couches, with a heavy jacket draped over them like a blanket. Reflexively, you lean back deeper in your armchair and feel much more cozier. Seeing the sleeping stranger has sparked something in you. You've got a quiz to do this evening, but after that, you resolve to book it home immediately after, order some tasty takeout from your favourite plaza restaurant, and hit the sheets extra early, assignments be damned. You're looking forward to it.

If you answered with (D) the most, you are studying at one of the **standing desks in the hallway**.

Behind you is the MC Comfy and the Math CnD. The hallway is a bustle of movement and chatter as people make their way to and from classes in the ten-minute window. You're hunched over your laptop, looking at some practice problems, when you feel a tap on your shoulder. It's your friend—he's come to say hi. You two get to talking.

He's on his way to his last class today, and grimacing, he says he's doomed for the upcoming midterm. So are you. That gets a commiserative smile out of him. Phew, he says. You wanna grab dinner and do some studying together? Definitely, you say. He thanks you before heading in the direction of STC. Soon the activity in the hallway dies down, and you return to what you were doing before: pondering the practice problems on your laptop screen.

If you answered with (E) the most, you are studying in one of the third floor **computer labs**.

It's 11:54 P.M. Adrenaline flows through your veins as you and your group members pound away frantically at their keyboards, hurrying to patch up an insidious bug in the code for your final project. You've been here nearly the whole day, trying to get the project to completion; your eyes are strained and dry from looking at the monitor, but you must go on. You and your group members aren't the only ones in the lab either; the collective stress of everyone in the room presses down on you palpably. It smells of coffee and sweat. You run your project again with some new changes you've made and find that the bug has been fixed. You let your group members know. They gather near you as you race against the clock to submit your project's code. You hand it in successfully. It's 11:58 P.M. You all breathe a sigh of relief. Euphoria.

Finchey

I'M SCARED OF APHF: SEND HELP

Up until fall term, **mathNEWS** has been a safe haven, full of sleep-deprived teenagers cracking jokes here and there. It was harmless, enjoyable—in balance with the rest of the world.

Then, *he* showed up.

I don't know where he came from. Please, help me. I've been in hiding for weeks. A policy officer placed me in witness protection and he found me three days later. I don't know what to do. Every sentence this man says gives me whiplash. I'm haunted in my dreams.

Beings made of pure sarcasm are dangerous and should be feared in all four corners of the world. Brave souls, come to **mathNEWS** prod night. Test your will and remain unbroken. Beware, dear friend.

A cool pen name



WINDOWS XP SOURCE CODE LEAKED BY 4CHAN

INTERNET – The source code of Microsoft's greatest success, Windows XP (and its server counterpart, Windows Server 2003), has leaked onto the World Wide Web, by the anonymous hacker 4chan.

Anonymous users on 4chan's technology board /g/ are currently attempting to build this source code into a functioning copy of Windows XP. From current discussions, the plan seems to center around getting XP building in a convenient way, and then starting to extend its functionality as an open source, community controlled operating system.

The build system is currently limited in a few ways. Firstly, it requires the system clock to be set to August 2003. There are some certificates checked during the build process, which have expired sometime in 2004. Secondly, the build has to be compiled on 32-bit Windows XP. Effort is ongoing to make the process work on more modern operating systems, and generate more current certificates.

The legal aspect of this entire process, however, is not very clear. Though Microsoft has not so far cracked down on the activity on 4chan, people who have demonstrated on YouTube or Twitter that they have a copy of the source and attempted to build it, most notably user NTDEV, have had their content taken down on copyright grounds.

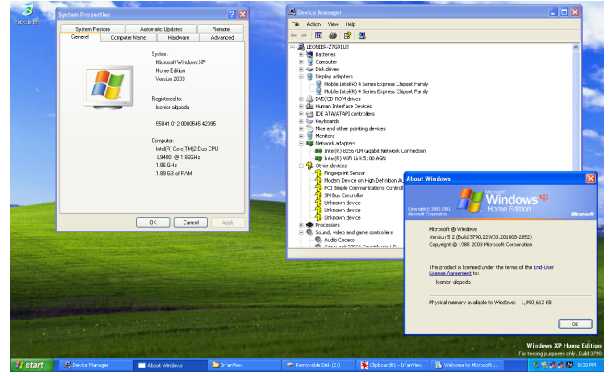


FIG 1. A copy of Windows XP compiled using the Server 2003 by an anonymous 4chan user. Notice the build number says 3790, the number for Server 2003, while the "real" Windows XP is build number 2600.

The author is closely following the development of this issue, and will continue posting updates as they arise.

Disclaimer: the author would like to make abundantly clear that he does *not* have a copy of the leaked Windows XP source code and he does *not* intend to ever get one. He has only used Microsoft-compiled copies of Windows, and his only current copies of Windows are a university-provided copy of Windows 10 Education, and a copy of Windows 98 SE on an old second-hand laptop.

the author

CITATION NEEDED

Do you see something while reading through a Wikipedia article that seems to be lacking a citation? If that is the case, you may often see a `[citation needed]` tag attached to the sentence(s) in question. If it is missing and you wish to edit one in yourself, it is quite easy to do so. All you do is add the Citation Needed template `{{cn}}` to the end of the sentence.

Technically, `{{cn}}` is the minimum you need in terms of requirements and number of characters, but for the sake of everyone else in the future, it is helpful and recommended that you add the date field `{{cn|date=Month Year}}` as well, where the Month and Year are the current month and current year when you added the Citation Needed template.

There is also the reason field `{{cn|reason=Explanation}}` where you fill in the reason why you added the Citation Needed template. This is also recommended.

Let's look at how someone would use this. Let's say you come across a statement such as

Mr. Goose has won a total of 69 swimming titles in the World Aquatics Championships.

where you think there is a citation that is needed. You can edit the sentence to become

Mr. Goose has won a total of 69 swimming titles in the World Aquatics Championships.`{{cn|date=October 2020|reason=Source needed for exact number of titles}}`

which will show up as

Mr. Goose has won a total of 69 swimming titles in the World Aquatics Championships.`[citation needed]`

and then every user that comes across that sentence will know that a citation is needed there. If they look further, they can also find out when it was added, and what specifically is the reasoning behind it.

Of course there are numerous other templates in Wikipedia, but that will have to be for another time.

boldblazer

SE'S SECRET LABORATORY I

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2019 — WILLIAM G. DAVIS
COMPUTER RESEARCH CENTRE, 2ND FLOOR.

It was early evening, and Wordpress and Sarah were walking through poorly lit DC hallways, heading back to their shared apartment. In spite of the shadowy ambience, it was busy, and a blanket of murmurs lay softly over the halls.

Wordress sighed, shoulders slumped with the weight of textbooks. “I, like, can't believe that we could not find one *single* study spot in the *entirety* of DC. Not. One.”

“Eh, not ta worse. Have no midterm tomorra?” Sarah asked. Wordpress shook her head. “Goood. Grab some boba before goin' home?” Wordpress nodded this time.

The two walked toward the end of the hallway, past locked doors of labs and seminar rooms. From under cracks and through windows, Wordpress could spy a distinct lack of light and activity.

“So much study space, um, all locked away, huh?” she sighed.

“Ya. All tha ones who got tha space don' need it.” Sarah commiserated.

They stopped for water at a water fountain. “Hold ma hair?” Sarah asked, and Wordpress dutifully held up Sarah's long brown hair as she leaned in for a drink. “Thanks.” As she stood and waited with hair in hand, a door beside the fountain opened, and out walked a gaggle of students carrying bags of hastily stuffed textbooks and laptops. They all wore glasses and jostled each other as they left, bantering boisterously.

“Awwwww yeah, finally done that assignment.”

“No way, you have an interview with *them*?”

“Hah, think about the peasants in the DC library, fighting for study space *scraps*. We get the *whole* lab to ourselves!”

“They, uh, look like they're having lots of fun,” Wordpress said glumly, after the students had left. “And study space.” Sarah finished drinking, and turned about, wiping her mouth. Wordpress dropped Sarah's hair, and walked over to the now-closed door from which the rowdy pack of students had emerged.

Software Engineering Lab, a piece of paper attached to the door read. Underneath, a short list of rules:

- *only software engineering students allowed*
- *No video Games*
- *No food—makes a mess!*
- *Please keep quiet in the lab, no shouting*

Wordress cringed at the comma splice in the last bullet. And the capitalization. And the tattered, torn quality of the

paper the rules were printed on. From the door, the Software Engineering Lab didn't look like much, but then again, Wordpress knew better than to judge books by their cover.

“Uh, Sarah, do you think that there's study space in there?”

“Huh. Wouldn'a make much sense if there weren't and tha were talkin' about it.” Sarah tried the doorknob. It was locked, and beneath was a worn five-number push-button keypad. “Do ya wanna get inside?”

Wordress looked at the crack beneath the door. Darkness. “That, uh, might be interesting. We're, like, not Software Engineering students though. So that would be rule breaking? Besides, there's nobody inside to, um, let us in or something.”

Sarah turned to Wordpress and winked. “Tha won't stop us.”



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019 — MATHEMATICS AND
COMPUTER COFFEE & DONUT SHOP.

Wordress and Sarah found Maria, as usual, at Board Games Night playing *Spring*. This time, instead of Maria accosting one of them for a game of *Spring*, it was Sarah who marched up.

“Ya, Maria, minute of your time?” Maria looked up and smiled. “Hi, Sarah! Hey, Wordpress! What's up?”

Wordress stepped forward. “Do you, uh, know about the Software Engineering Lab, in, like, DC second floor? You know everything about the Math faculty, right?”

Without shifting her gaze from Wordpress, Maria moved a token on the game board and drew a card from a pile. Her opponent was still focused intently on the game. “Why, thank you for the compliment! Of *course* I know about the SE Lab. It's what those Softies always bring up when they want to brag about what special snowflakes they are. What about it?”

“Well, like, it's midterms, and, uh, there's not much study space in DC, and I heard that there might be some in there.”

“So you wanna get inside?”

“Um, yup.”

“Well, you'll need a code, I hear. I used to know it, but they changed it.” Maria glanced briefly at *Spring* to inspect the results of a die roll, and shifted a few game pieces with flying fingers. “Too many non-SE's sneaking inside. I guess I'd recommend trying to pretend you're an SE student and telling someone you forgot the passcode?”

“Ya, thanks, Maria! Gonna try tha then.” Sarah said, ready to flee Board Games Night now that she had her answer. But it was too late.

“Up for *Spring*?” Maria asked with an innocent smile, and gestured at the board set behind her. “We’ll be ready to start a new game in a minute.”

How, Wordpress thought a few moments later as she helped Sarah pull up a chair, could they possibly resist?



Several delightful rounds of *Spring* and other board games later, Sarah and Wordpress finally escaped Board Games Night and returned to their apartment.

“So,” Wordpress said, “do you want to, uh, try to sneak into the SE Lab tomorrow?”

“Ya, meet by tha Tam Hartons afta class?”

Wordress always smiled at Sarah’s pronunciation of the shop. “If Prof Barry lets us out on time. I’m totally pooped. Good night!”



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019 — WILLIAM G. DAVIS COMPUTER RESEARCH CENTRE, TIM HORTONS.

As she had expected, Wordpress was a few minutes late out of class. Sarah was already waiting next to the Tim Hortons, and she passed Wordpress a cup of coffee and a donut.

They made their way upstairs, and down the hallway to the SE Lab door. Wordpress glanced at Sarah, and Sarah made a grandiose, sweeping gesture: *after you*.

Wordress knocked, and waited. A few muffled words in response. Footsteps. Wordpress shifted, and contemplated running away.

Then, the door opened.

To be continued...

CC

N THINGS mathNEWS WRITERS HAVE REQUESTED ALEXA PLAY

DISCORD BOT SHENANIGANS ARE FUN 😊

- Despacito by Luis Fonsi ft. Daddy Yankee
- Rap God by Eminem
- Dark Shepherd Tones
- All Star by Smash Mouth
- The “Corey in the House” Intro Song
- Kanye in the House
- Keep Me Crazy by Sheppard
- Hip-Hop Math Dance
- Math Orientation Dance 2019
- 2020 Math Dance Compilation
- **mathNEWS** in the Morning
- Able Sisters
- AMERICA STRONG
- The Pokemon Centre Song
- The Brian Forrest Podcast
- The Sociology Final Exam Chicken Man Prank
- Finest Girl
- Useless Sacrifice by Death Decline
- Nooks Cranny
- The Duck Song
- The Pi Song
- The Gates by Aesop Rock
- The Duck Song 2
- The Duck Song 3
- 4’33” by John Cage
- I Don’t Need a New Phone! — Honey Ad
- Lo-Fi Beats to Chill and Study to
- AI vs. AI. Two chatbots talking to each other
- Shia LaBeouf by Rob Cantor
- Classic Yule Log
- Tex the Robot by THX
- Finite Simple Group (of Order Two)
- Contradiction by Klein Four
- Lemma by Klein Four
- All raid Shadow Legends Ads
- Closing the Distance by Grammarly
- University of Waterloo — Faculty of Engineering Campus Tour
- UWaterloo Anime Intro Season 1
- I Knew You Were Trouble by Taylor Swift, WITH EXTRA GOATS version
- Dead Parrot by Monty Python
- Ultimate Dank Memes Compilation v014
- Harry Potter except it’s written by an AI
- Mandelbrot Set by Jonathan Coulton
- Every Sperm is Sacred
- The Loophole Song by Garfunkel and Oats
- The Lumberjack Song
- Bohemian WAAsody (Queen sung by five Waluigis)
- The Last Saskatchewan Pirate by Captain Tractor
- Hamilton Act 1 but it’s Muppets
- toad sings chandelier
- Complete History of the Soviet Union, Arranged To The Melody Of Tetris

The **mathNEWS** Discord

AN INTERVIEW WITH SPOCK, MATHSOC GAMES NIGHT DIRECTOR

CC: Today, I'm interviewing MathSoc Board Games Night's new director: Spock! Let's start with Board Games Night, then. What is Board Games Night?

Spock: I'm relatively new, so this is my first semester in school at Waterloo, and my first semester running Board Games Night. It's when students in the Math faculty gather together to play board games once a week, on a designated day and time. But it's also a place where anytime you feel like playing a board game, you can just grab a friend and play.

Now, of course, this semester is different because of COVID-19. We have to do everything virtually, but we still try to keep it the same. Every week, people show up, we get together a table, we find a game on a board game platform online and play it, and of course, if people want to play something else throughout the week, they can use the chat to find people and find games to play.

CC: That sounds pretty cool! What would you say is your favourite thing about Board Games Night? You're the director, so you must have found something special.

Spock: Well, one thing that's nice is I can talk from the perspective both of a director and of a member because I joined while the summer session was still going on, looking for clubs at Waterloo to join.

This was, I'd say, the most welcoming club; the club where I could socialize the most, meet new people, meet friends, meet the previous Board Games director—who by the way, I'd like to thank because she's helped me a lot with learning and understanding how to run it this semester. My favourite thing would be the socializing aspect. It's so easy to meet new people and make connections; make good friends.

CC: That's great! I've noticed that the Board Games Night Discord has lots and lots of members—I believe over five hundred. Do you have any thoughts on the size of Board Games Night?

Spock: Honestly, my goal is to make it a thousand.

CC: Wow. Ambitious!

Spock: First of all, props to the previous Board Games director for reaching five hundred, that was all her. I just joined it recently—from advertising.

CC: As director, do you have any plans for board games night for the upcoming term? You've said you want to grow it to a thousand, anything else special that you've been thinking about?

Spock: Well, maintaining some traditions: there's 24 hour Board Games Nights—once a semester, we do 24 hours of just board games. That sounds like fun.

We also do a game night with professors, so that would be one of the things I would want to try and do: find professors in the Math Faculty who would be willing to play. Those are things to keep that have been done in the past terms.

Some new things I'm hoping to implement are more channels. There's a lot of different members in this group. There's people who are just looking for a fun time—who are looking for some light board games. And then there's people who are hardcore board game players, and they want a challenge—they want intellectual stimulation.

One thing I might want to do is create those two environments, start formulating something for those people who are looking for something bigger, like a competitive scene, and maybe host a tournament once a while of a particular board game [cough cough] *Seasons* [cough cough].

CC: That's a good point—catering to different types of players. So which one are you, Spock? What type of board gamer do you consider yourself?

Spock: Pardon the cliché, but I would have to say I'm a blend of the two. There are a few particular board games that I enjoy playing competitively—like try hard—[cough cough] *Seasons* again [cough cough], and chess, as you can see from my profile picture.

When it comes to other games that I'm learning for the first time, that's another thing. I enjoy learning new board games, I enjoy learning the rules, I enjoy learning how it works. You get to learn different forms of strategies; it's analogous to going to math class: learning a new concept, and then having a question based on that concept. You learn a new way of thinking, and you have to apply that new way of thinking. And that's something I really enjoy.

CC: That's a really cool way of putting it. You've been alluding to your favourite board game—so what is your favourite board game then?

Spock: I will have to say chess, though I've only played it maybe once or twice in the Board Games Night. I play a lot on my own and I've studied it to a competitive level. I used to play in tournaments locally—I'd like to say I've gotten pretty good.

13 doesn't exist.

ROB HACKMAN

CC: Thank you so much for your time. Is there anything that you'd like to share with our readers of **mathNEWS**?

Spock: For the people reading **mathNEWS**: come to Board Games Night! Even if you don't play board games that often, or you're just familiar with like the typical ones like *Monopoly* and *Scrabble*, there's always a place for people of any level or skill of board games. If nothing else, you can come and meet other people in the Math Faculty and socialize!

That's what I did the first time: we played *Uno*. It was just a game in the background, and we just talked, and talked, and I got to learn a lot about Waterloo, and specifically, the Math Faculty. Especially the hate that we have towards engineers. Um, they steal our pink ties. Then we have to start putting construction hats on their things, all that good stuff.

Yeah, if nothing else, you learn a lot. You meet new friends. That's my message to you guys. Join Board Games Night! (<https://discord.com/invite/fWewgPV>)



The above is an abridged transcription of an interview between mathNEWS writer CC and MathSoc Board Games Night Director Spock, held on September 26, 2020.

CC

N THINGS I'M GRATEFUL FOR RIGHT NOW

THIS KITTY HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND POSITIVES AMIDST THE CHAOS.

- That the COVID-19 test I had back when I was really ill in July came back negative
- Being able to pay my bills right now
- My partner is willing to fight like hell for me to ensure I am ok
- I will have a safe place to live sometime in the near future
- That I have been able to make it this long with the little supports I have access to
- Enjoying the little things, like being wrapped in a soft blanket or sweet macarons or enjoying a nicely scented soap
- School is arguably the least stressful thing in my life right now after being arguably the MOST stressful thing in it for years, and my GOODNESS is it a nice change
- Being alive...
- Yeah... I'm just grateful for being alive...

A Mediocre Kitty

WHO DO WE BLAME FOR THIS

I wonder who could benefit from how things have been
What culprit exists that's so angry and mean
It would have caused COVID-19

You could blame big pharma, and get reddit Karma
But that would not be so cool
It would be more fun to discuss if it revolved around us
And the truth had to do with our school

As I walk through the city, I see with great pity
The campus emptiness doesn't cease
I'm starting to suspect this whole COVID debacle
Was actually started by geese

Or student centre expanders, in their endless endeavors
to finish construction by this century
Have slipped some weird goop in a poor guy's bat soup
To get the delays out of our memory
And in closing remarks, my final suspicion
Is a man who COVID put in a special position
Because when the border is closed and there's no jobs in Cali
There's nothing but Toronto positions to tally
So now Cali or bust is no longer a game
And he could work in Toronto without feeling the shame
So if you're looking for a scapegoat you can finally see
This unusual suspect is unfortunately me

The Procrastinator

mathNEWS ACROSTIC POEM

mathNEWS
acrostic poem
tell me
how to write a poem or a
Newsworthy article
Every production night
Where I produce nothing besides
Subjectively bad articles

Deriving for Dick

**I'm really good at adding
two zeroes together.**

PROF. TROY VASIGA

FIFTY SHADES OF MATH 14X

The grey Waterloo rain cascades upon the window in the corner of my eye. My arms, mostly dry now, are covered with goosebumps, even though I already feel my skin rapidly heating. I fiddle with the wet fabric of my jean jacket as I gaze into his rain-grey eyes.

"I know I don't qualify. Please, just... Will you give me a chance?" Sitting with my knees against my chest, my legs stiffen with anxiety. Still, I do not drop 14x's gaze.

He frowns, his brow furrowing. He seems to carefully consider the delicate balance of risks and rewards hidden in my simple request.

Finally: "Yes. Would you excuse me a moment?" He disappears through a wide doorway on the far side of the room. All the air leaves my chest and doesn't have the sensibility to return until I hear his footsteps in the corridor again. When he appears, I see the document he's holding.

"This is a separate application." He shrugs and has the grace to look a little embarrassed. "My lawyer insists on it." He hands it to me. I'm completely bemused.

"What does this application mean?"

"It means you cannot pretend anymore that you would've done well on the Euclid this year. You wouldn't have." I stare at him in disbelief. *Holy shit*. It's bad, really bad, and now I'm very curious to know.

"Okay. I'll do it."

He hands me a pen. I begin filling it out, carelessly circling answers.

"Aren't you even going to read it?"

"No."

He frowns.

"[Your name], you should always read over anything you submit to the university," he admonishes me.

"What you fail to understand is that I know I belong with you. I'm getting in. So it's immaterial whether I complete an application or not. If it means so much to you, or your lawyer... Whom you obviously talk to, then fine. I'll sign." He gazes down at me, and nods gravely.

"Fair point well made, Miss [your last name]."

I fill out the questions and lavishly sign on the dotted line of both copies, handing one back to him. I fold the other one and place it in my purse. While his eyes scan my answers, searching for any kind of meaning, I take a large swig of my

wine. I'm sounding so much braver today than I'm actually feeling.

"Does this mean you're going to make love to me tonight?" *Holy shit*. Did I just say that? His mouth drops open slightly, but he recovers quickly.

"No, [your name], it doesn't. Firstly, I don't make love. I f*ck... Hard. Secondly, there's a lot more paperwork to do, and thirdly, you don't yet know what you're in for. You could still run for the hills. Come, I want to show you my classroom."

My mouth drops open. Fuck hard! *Holy shit, that sounds so... smart*. But why are we looking at a classroom? I am mystified.

"You want me to prove some trig identities?" I ask. He laughs, loudly.

"No, [your name], no trigonometry, no pre-calculus. Come." He stands, holding out his hand.

I let him lead me back out to the corridor. On the right of the double doors, where we came in, another door leads to a staircase. We go up to the second floor and turn right. Producing a silver key from his pocket, he unlocks yet another door and takes a deep breath.

"You can drop anytime. Quest is on stand-by to let you switch down whenever you want to leave... You can try the first assignment and leave in the morning. It's fine whatever you decide. I mean it."

"Just open the damn door."

He opens the door and stands back to let me in. I gaze at him once more. I so want to know what's in there. Taking a deep breath, I walk in.

And it feels like I've time-traveled back to the seventeenth century, to the Salem Witch Trials and the Principia Mathematica.

Holy fuck.

E.L. James' third cousin twice removed

Modified from: James, E. L. "Fifty Shades of Grey." New York, *Vintage Books*, 2012.

Was that too far? Did I go too far? Okay that might have gone too far but my point is; the math in these courses will fuck with your head but three books later you're happy you did it because hey now your email signature is that much more pretentious. You love math. Do them math courses. Don't give up. If Anastasia got Christian to love her you can accomplish your goals too.

VLADIMIR PUTIN — THE FEMME FATALE

Over at the Central Intelligence Agency, millions of dollars are spent per year to understand the deep inner workings of the minds of world leaders.

Here at **mathNEWS**, we don't have that, and we don't want to put the work in. Enter instead: The “Which Character Trope Are You Quiz”, hosted at uquiz.com, the world's premier quiz site that also starts with the letter U.

After a complex research process using the combined brainpower of all nine people present at Production Night (an estimated combined 145 IQ), we have determined the character trope of Vladimir Putin.

Behold, the Femme Fatale:

The Femme Fatale is sexy and they know it. Made famous by Film Noir and hard-boiled detective stories, they manipulate and confuse The Hero with their undeniable aura of sexiness and danger. The Hero knows that they're walking trouble and knows much more about the bad guys than The Hero might or they should, but damn it if they can't resist their enticing wiles. You are seen as naturally seductive by your peers. You have such an amazing way of words that others are willing to do anything for you. You love to gossip and engage in drama, even if it is none of your business. But besides that, you are proud of yourself as a person and love everything that you are. And you should be! You're fierce!

The parallels are obvious. As we can see from Putin's 2016 influence campaign on the American presidential election, his ability to “manipulate and confuse” is unmatched in world affairs.

As for “sexiness and danger”, the following photo should speak for itself:



As someone who won his last election by a margin of 76 percent to 11 percent, Putin definitely qualifies as naturally seductive. And of course, “others are willing to do anything for him”, like for example, the President of the United States.

So, Vladimir, if you're reading this, love everything that you are. You're fierce!

UW Unprint

WHY I CHOSE WATERLOO MATH: THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN INCOMING FIRST YEAR

It all started at the very beginning, 2002, when I was born at a very young age. It was a difficult birth—the doctors were unsure of my survival. When I finally emerged, they noticed that my forehead was 3 times that of the average newborn, and CT scans confirmed my cranial cortex's volume was 9 times that of the average person. My first words, 2 weeks after my birth were a concise proof of P vs NP. Ever since then, I have only gone up. I perceive the tapestry of reality in an entirely different manner from you mortals. You who are limited to three dimensions in your spacial perceptions, and to one in your temporal perception. You who cannot comprehend the depths at which I understand reality, and the fundamentals of the math behind it. I can see the math that physically is what constitutes our universe. I can see the code.

In short, I chose loo math for co-op.

Aphf

N THINGS THAT BREAK MY INTERNET

WALDO DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN THE INTERNET BREAKS...

- Watching/Streaming an HD video
- Downloading anything larger than a couple of megabytes
- Other people in my household using the internet at the same time as me
- Visiting a new website I have never visited before
- Inadvertently unplugging my ethernet cable
- Other people in my household unplugging the ethernet cables (Bonus: it breaks the phone connections too!)
- Attending **mathNEWS** production night on Discord when so many folks are in video mode

waldo@<3.LE-GASP.ca

AS WHITE HOUSE CORONAVIRUS CASES SPREAD, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BRIEFED ON NUCLEAR DETERRENT

WASHINGTON, DC—As more members of the Trump White House test positive for COVID-19, officials in Washington today briefed Sonny Perdue, the US Secretary of Agriculture, on the nuclear deterrent.

It is seen as increasingly likely, that Perdue, currently 9th in the Presidential line of succession, may have to operate the complex, interconnected system of nuclear weapons that provide a credible threat of retaliation in the event of nuclear first strike against the United States and its allies.

Perdue later spoke to reporters: “The way I see it,” he said, “the Minuteman III missile, with a range of 9000 kilometers, is just like a strong picket fence, keeping your cows safe from wolves and other varmints.”

The former governor also compared the B83 nuclear gravity bomb, with a yield 80 times that of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, to “a good strong cattle prod, for when they get ornery.”

Perdue concluded by saying he was ready to wield these potentially world-ending weapons to “lasso America's enemies, at home and abroad.”

At press time, **mathNEWS** sources confirmed that on exiting the meeting, Perdue encountered President Trump, who coughed directly into his open mouth.

UW Unprint

REVIEW OF THE FIRST US PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

What the fuck.

mathNEWS Senior Political Analyst

WOMAN NAMED HOPE FINALLY LIVES UP TO HER NAME

This past week, in a move that shocked but surprised no one, Trump got COVID-19. This positive development was brought you to by Hope Hicks. Her parents named her hope with the expectation that she would brighten up the lives of the people she knows. Instead, she did the opposite of that by supporting the disastrous administration of Donald Trump. All that changed when she gave Trump COVID-19. Now, for the first time in a long time, Americans feel a modicum of hope that maybe Trump will just die and they can avoid the whole circus of the upcoming election.

This probably won't actually happen, as it wouldn't be the first time that Hope Hicks had disappointed the American people.



BeyondMeta

ELECTION PROMISE

Trump promises if elected to rename the US to the People's Great Democratic Republic of the United States of America. When asked for comment he said “The people they have to know that the country is for the people and democratic. If it's not in the name how will people know. You have to spell it out for them. This way our country name will be like other great countries like North Korea and China.”

BeyondMeta

This blackBOX was here all along, I swear.

A mathNEWS EDITOR WITH NOTHING TO HIDE

I AM SLOWLY GOING CRAZY....

gridCOMMENT 144.2

Hello again. We are now one month into the term and heading into reading week. Hopefully everyone is having a lovely time figuring out what's going on with online midterms (I certainly don't have a clue).

I received exactly one completely correct solution submitted for last issue's crossword from NitricAcid (there was also only one solution submitted total). Their answer to last issue's **gridQUESTION**, "If you were going to curse someone you don't like, what curse would you put on them?" was "may one of their earbuds always be far louder than the other". As someone already afflicted by this curse, I now wonder if I have angered someone unknowingly.

This **gridWORD**'s theme is "N Animals" because that's the only thing that came to mind when I was thinking of potential themes. This issue's **gridQUESTION** is: "What do sheep count to fall asleep?"

Please email your **gridWORD** solution attempt to mathnews@gmail.com with your name or a moniker, and your answer to this issue's **gridQUESTION**.

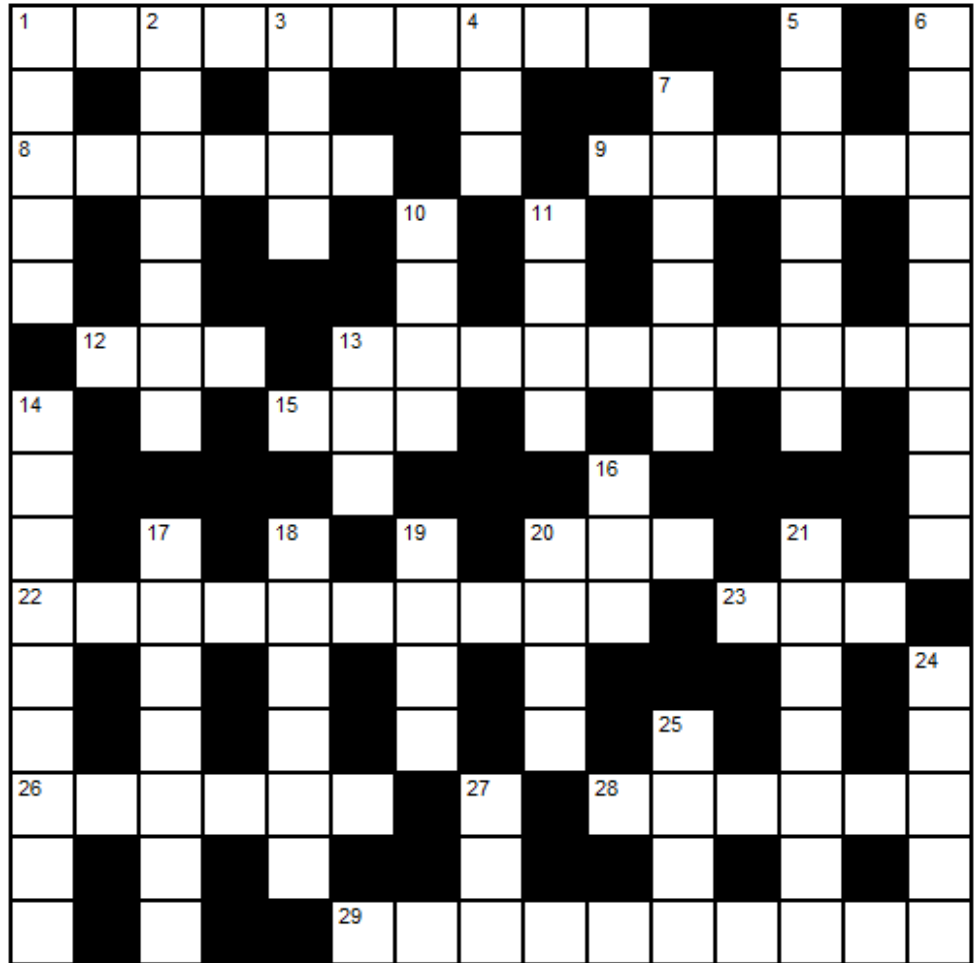
Cloak and Vorpal Dagger

ACROSS

- 1. Lemurs scheme (10)
- 8. Crows cause death (6)
- 9. Devastate a grave carelessly (6)
- 12. Bird found in Japan avoids you initially (3)
- 13. Owls form the highest legislature (10)
- 15. Ox prattle (3)
- 20. Champ holds pig meat (3)
- 22. Lizard-like amphibian alarms dean haphazardly (10)
- 23. Far off dog bark (3)
- 26. Alarmingly, his spa is snakelike (6)
- 28. Hyenas guffaw (6)
- 29. Ravens show inconsiderate behaviour (10)

DOWN

- 1. Humped ungulate came by London (5)
- 2. With help, first law ran back for tusked whale (7)
- 3. In the end, osprey hunt (4)
- 4. Odds only a buck for a short-winged seabird (3)
- 5. Small hounds are birds with brains, to begin with (7)
- 6. Prey on others with false teardrops (9)
- 7. Maharaja guard keeps a large cat (6)
- 10. Bake off leads to bill (4)
- 11. Lug back large seabird (4)
- 13. Dad says animal foot (3)
- 14. Flightless bird across way is hurt (9)
- 16. Fish looks like a rag when held up (3)
- 17. Backflip perfectly partly due to swimming appendage (7)
- 18. Tigers attack by surprise (6)
- 19. Antelopes are abnormally snug (4)
- 20. Hoofed mammals in her diner (4)
- 21. Porcupines spike (7)
- 24. Munches on to decide soundly (5)
- 25. Eagle found up at lab at first dark (4)
- 27. Rebel knights hold large deer (3)



Send gridWORD solutions to mathnews@gmail.com!

lookAHEAD

SUN OCT 11

MON OCT 12

TUE OCT 13

WED OCT 14

THU OCT 15

FRI OCT 16

SAT OCT 17

Thanksgiving Day

Be Bald and Be Free Day

Realize-you-wasted-your-entire-reading-week Day

SUN OCT 18

MON OCT 19

TUE OCT 20

WED OCT 21

THU OCT 22

FRI OCT 23

SAT OCT 24

Reading week ends

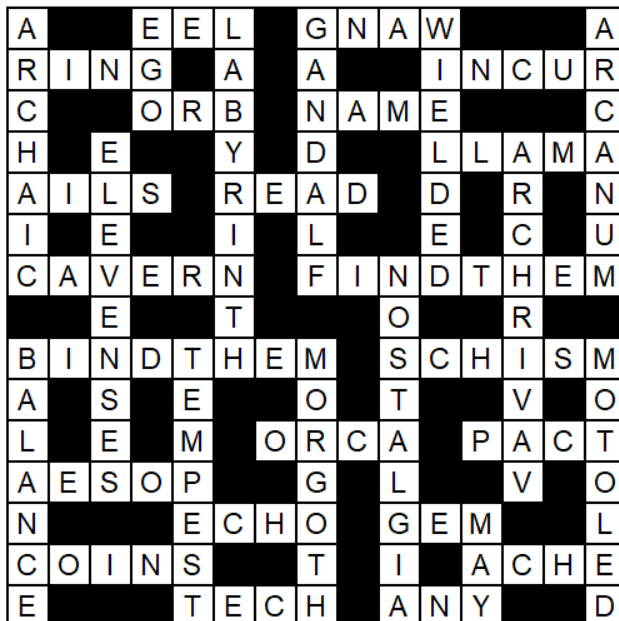
mathNEWS 144.3
production night

National Nut Day 🥜

mathNEWS 144.3
published

Course selection period
begins

LAST ISSUE'S gridSOLUTION



DONALD TRUMP DEAD AT 74, REPORT SOURCES IN MIKE PENCE'S DREAMS

WASHINGTON, DC—The 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, has died of COVID-19, report sources in the dreams of Mike Pence, the 48th Vice President of the United States.

According to the 6 foot 5, muscled, very attractive Pence, Donald Trump passed away at night, very painfully. After his death, Republican poll numbers rose by fifty five percent, and Pence was acclaimed President with a Senate supermajority.

Following this, Pence was placed on Mount Rushmore, declared the greatest American and was granted the right to live in the White House for life.

At press time, however, Pence's re-election bid was derailed when Pence began falling forever with no way to stop himself.

UW Unprint

Poutine with sweet potatoes is abomination.

PROF. MICHAEL WALLACE