



“HOW WOULD YOU HELP mathNEWS COME INTO POSSESSION OF \$4,627.35?”

So, what'll it be, traveller?

I stand at the counter of the **mathNEWS** tavern (which is projected to make us \$4,627.35 by the end of the term), arms crossed, a dishcloth slung over my shoulder. It's late, almost past the ninth hour, and yet the sun sits above the horizon like a single twinkling gold coin. Such are the days after the summer solstice, of those July days that I so fondly think of.

It used to be the month that summer vacation started, signifying family road trips, campfire smoke, and canoeing upon serene waters. Sure, there's the ever-present pain of mosquitoes, but the views at the top of a trail lookout were more than worth it. If the outdoors is your jam, you might enjoy these offerings: an investigation into a rogue ground squirrel, and a reflection on gardens.

It's the month of ArtFight—where artists go toe to toe in spectacular showdowns of artistic prowess and launch volleys of art pieces at each other. If you're an art connoisseur, you might enjoy two comics we have up on offer this issue, featuring everyone's beloved **mathNEWS**-chan.

But this July is extra-special, because I get to be a **mathNEWS** editor and exert my democratic powers over the writership to deliver you this delicious issue. My first and only term being an editor, and I get to present to you articles about shadowy alternate versions of WaterlooWorks and discussions on Wikipedia (please give us a Wikipedia page please).

But ah, who am I to talk about democracy? I wasn't even at prod night for pizza voting, for I had journeyed to the distant and vast lands of Toronto to attend a performance of the bard troupe known as Coldplay. I don't know what'll shake you to your core more: reading the incredible offerings in this issue, or the stands at Rogers Stadium when Chris Martin tells everyone to start jumping, but I do know one thing. You're going to have an incredible July, my friend, and it starts with this issue.

So, dear reader, what will you be having today? We need to acquire those missing funds somehow...

disgracED
Editor, **mathNEWS**

befuddled
Editor, **mathNEWS**

USMAN!	make cuts to mathCARE , of course
SEASONED SLACKER	By suing the M&M machine's manufacturer for \$4627.35 on behalf of mathNEWS
MOLASSES	sell Imprint to private equity
DOLLAR STORE PERSON	add mathNEWS in my will, then maybe add a fork to the outlet idk
WHOLE NUMBER HAVER	steal
SEXY_SOFTWARE_BABE	by saving the money I would otherwise spend on shiny cardboard
ANDOOIII	vomits out \$4,627.35 there
↑·↑←·↓·→·→↓←·	Selling dog residue
別	Asking as many devs as possible for useless cryptocurrency and exchanging it for real money.
APHF	Two or three stagecoach robberies
GAYA	why would i do that
ABS(JESTER)	Going around with \$2313.675 in cash asking people if I should double it and give it to the next person
PEACELOVEMATH	shitty AI startup
__INIT__	Sell five Steam Decks
LARS NOOTBAAR	It would involve a substantial amount of credit card debt and payday loans
SNOWDOZER	Start a new shitty restaurant in SLC (the students will eat anything)
MEOW	meow
DICK SMITHERS	Start with \$7k and make some bad investments
AWED	Charge for tours of the mathNEWS office. It's a museum, you know.
BEFUDDLED	An all new, revolutionary crypto scam
DISGRACED	Bill CSC for damages (setting mathNEWS issues on fire)

ARTICLE OF THE ISSUE

This issue's AOTI is Yamnuska's ~~sk100W00H210W~~ *WaterlooWorks*, describing a horrible, terrifying thought experiment in which students could actually find jobs. Could you imagine that? Glad we don't live in *that* reality. Come to MC 3030 for your prize.

yummm, yuuum

AWAB QURESHI, **mathNEWS** EDITOR FOR SPRING 2025
ALONG WITH GRACE FENG, OWEN GALLAGHER, SARA NAYAR, AND ISABELA SOUZA

mathASKS 158.5

FEATURING INSTRUCTOR (AND MC ESCAPEE) EDWARD LEE

YALEVOYLIAN: DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE ANIME?

I confess that I'm not a huge anime watcher. I mainly go in for JRPGs like Final Fantasy and Xenoblade. That said, something that I watched on a whim and ended up really enjoying was this anime on a zombie idol group, Zombieland Saga. It was surprisingly fun, whimsical, wholesome, and funny, and it had great music too. Isn't there someone who's doing a bunch of anime reviews? They should do a review on it.

DEFINITELY NOT UWCC EXECUTIVE: WHICH ICE-BASED ATHLETICS CLUB FEATURING BROOMS AND ROCKS DO YOU BELIEVE IS THE BEST?

Clearly the UW Curling Club, which, shameless plug, is running this fall under the wonderful leadership of our new president Keeley. Come out for not five, not six, but seven nights of fun involving friends, brooms, and rocks. And the first hit, I mean night, is free (that's the learn-2-curl session)!

TEMPORARY_CHAOS: HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOUR RESEARCH ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE?

Lots of optimism :) and having something else to do. For a while I was working on this project which was frustratingly hard to get published, so I went looking for a side research project to at least be doing something productive. That ended up being helpful, as the side project ended up being accepted at a great conference in Portugal and I got to meet cool collaborators for the next project.

0.423: HOW IS YOUR SIDE HUSTLE AS A VTUBER GOING?

There is no side hustle, and your sources are clearly mistaken... but if you wanted to run a CS educational VTubing group, I could be convinced. Maybe.

MOLASSES: MOST CONTROVERSIAL TAKE ON TYPE SYSTEMS?

This is probably a lukewarm take, but type systems ought to balance usability with soundness. It's no good to have a type system which guarantees all sorts of nice safety properties but requires a PhD in logic to actually use. I guess empirically having been a TA for the compilers course, CS 444, groups that pick a language like Rust or Haskell with really fancy type systems either do really well or crash and burn, and more often than not crash and burn.

AMIRDADP: ANY COMMENTS ON THE PANTS EXCHANGE LEMMA?

Nothing in particular. Just pick a pub you dislike to demonstrate the lemma in.

AMIRDADP: HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BETRAY WATERLOO BECAUSE OF MONEY?

Wow, that's awfully blunt, and an interesting choice of leading question as well too. Where did you go to school for journalism? :) I suppose the cat's out of the bag though. I'll be taking up a teaching stream faculty post at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.

I want to clarify, though, contrary to gossip :, I made this move for a change of scenery—it's healthy to go work somewhere new, especially for me, as I will have completed all three of my degrees here. That's not to say that I'm not interested in working at Waterloo—I'd love to come back in the future. But I think it's best, both personally and professionally, to gain some new perspectives by working at a different place.

Waterloo will always have a special place in my heart though; I wouldn't spend almost a decade and a half here otherwise. And you might see me around! Toronto is only 90km down the road from here, and I've made some good friends and collaborators here. I've also promised to help out UW Curling with their learn-2-curls as well :)

CLASSIFIED: HOW DID YOU END UP IN YOUR FIELD OF RESEARCH? WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT IT?

I kind of bounced around between summer research jobs in undergrad as I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, and everything seemed so cool. I had worked on some pretty practical (information retrieval) projects as well as some pretty theoretical (semidefinite optimization) projects as well too. For my Master's I ended up working on some cool graph theory proofs with Jim Geelen in the C&O department. But I've always had a soft spot for programming languages research. What I really enjoy about it is that it is a really interesting mix of both theory (in type systems, logical relations, etc.) and practice (in implementations like compilers) that I find really compelling. It's also fundamental to how we interact with computers on a daily basis—you can't write a program without picking a programming language to write it in—how do you pick it, and what sort of programs can you write in it? Some programs are easier to express in C++ than Haskell, and vice versa. I think it's this cool mix of both theory and practice, and how it's so core to our understanding of computers that really drew me into this area.

AMIRDADP: HOW'S THE NINTENDO SWITCH 2?

Great! *Mario Kart* has been fun. And it's reassuring to know that when the next big Switch 2 game is coming out that I'll have a Switch 2 in hand.



DOLLAR STORE PERSON: FAVOURITE ESOTERIC PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE?

Intermediate Student with Lambdas. What, too close to home?

AMIRDADP: HOW ARE YOU DOING?

I've been doing pretty well, thanks for asking :) My plans for world domination aren't doing so hot right now, sadly. The geese are just a tad uncooperative. But we're working on that. Maybe better bird seed will help.

THE COWORK

OH YEAAAHH 🙄

i was going to write an article, but then i remembered i have something to shill

do you like working?

do you like hanging out with cool people?

on more than just sundays?

are you bad at managing your time and turn up late to each socratica session because you keep sleeping in?

i have the thing for you... it's a discord server. a discord server where members send in their spontaneous coworking plans, sometimes with literally zero notice



join the cabal today 🙄👍👍👍

NEW SHOES AND NEURODIVERGENCE

DIFFICULTIES WITH CHANGE

If you are like most people, you probably wear shoes almost every day. You probably also have one or two pairs that you wear significantly more than your other pairs. Maybe you even wear shoes around the house. They are also probably one of the least varied or most consistent things you wear on a daily basis.

As you may or may not know, a lot of neurodivergent people (especially autistic individuals) may struggle with change. With something as consistent as shoes, that change can be a bit jarring. For those who don't know the feeling, it's a mix of apprehension, stubbornness, and mild loss. It's like your parents giving away your childhood toys a little too early, or getting a new teacher who seems nice enough, but gives too much homework.

Personally, I have never liked shoe shopping. I like the shoes I have and I don't like having to get rid of them or getting used to new ones. Because of this, I wear my shoes until they break, then I continue to wear them until I can't repair them. Recently, my favourite pair of shoes broke beyond what I was able to mend. I bought the exact same shoe, just in a different colour. It still felt wrong. I like these shoes well enough now, but they are not the shoes I had before. I changed out the laces and went for a walk in them though, and that got me used to them. The most important thing for me though, is to stop thinking of these changes as replacements, but rather as new additions. A replacement will be judged by the standards set by the last example. A new addition has a fresh start, and I find that new is easier to deal with than different, despite them being the same thing.

Now, these difficulties with change can apply to any facet of life. Whether it's clothes, places, food, or even people, change can be tough for some people, so be kind and don't throw out people's stuff even if it's old or worn. It's good to keep that in mind that someone might just need a bit of time to get used to the new thing.

vivili

POST-BREAKUP GUIDE

1. DON'T kill yourself
2. you're too sexy haha
3. we should kiss
4. boom you're over them
5. remove them on spotify (as supplied by my ex. no idea why she removed me on spotify and not instagram???)

I FOUND mathNEWS IN AUGUST 2021...

I found **mathNEWS** in August 2021. I didn't begin my first year until September, but through an online orientation program, I met two upper-years who invited me to the **mathNEWS** Discord server. Everything happened on Discord those days. I joined a call one night and met the writers. Even now, if you were to wake me in my sleep, I would tell you that the people I met that night *are* **mathNEWS**.

I wrote a lot. I wrote album reviews and poems and long and vague essays about my feelings. I brimmed with exciting and confused ideas, and I felt an overzealous compulsion to share them. I was told that **mathNEWS** was a place where you could write whatever you wanted, and that there would always be somebody interested in reading what you wrote—a promise, it felt like. With pride, I told incoming first-years that I wrote for **mathNEWS**.

Time crept—something somewhere blew in some direction. The close-knit community of **mathNEWS** writers doubling as my friend group expanded as the world reopened. Perpetually, **mathNEWS** graduates and moves on and begins anew with a younger, fresher cast. I stopped recognizing writer names. I made friends elsewhere.

There was a time when this made me sad, but I like to think that I've made peace with it over the years. As I've had time to grow and understand myself over the years, I've found it less and less necessary to overshare my inner turmoil to the unknown **mathNEWS** readership. I've accepted that I find it difficult to be socially activated at 6:30pm on a Monday around this newer, more hyperactive generation of **mathNEWS**—writers who can review the latest game they played or describe the history of the ION, seemingly at the drop of a hat—and that I'd rather stay home and rest. Perhaps **mathNEWS** and I had finished our course.

But earlier today, I was eating lunch with my coworkers, and one of them asked if I was coming to prod night. I told him that I hadn't gone in over a year, and he said that he didn't care and that I should still come because it would be fun. Not happening, plus I have beef in the fridge that I need to cook, I said. It wasn't until after work, when I saw that I'd have to wait twenty minutes for the bus home, that I figured that it couldn't hurt to drop by.

I walked in on the pizza vote. I asked if triple tomato (my favorite **mathNEWS** pizza topping) was on the ballot. The editor told me about a new quadruple tomato option. Technology, I figured.

I watched the rest of the vote; I considered voting, but I didn't. And I wondered if I wanted to stay a bit longer and have a slice of pizza, but I decided to leave shortly after. And maybe I walked a bit too slowly on my way out, because as I neared the stop, the bus pulled into the curb and sped off. It seemed I had another half hour to kill, so I turned around.

On my way back, I wondered if I would write anything. I felt as if I had nothing to write—not that I didn't have any ideas, but that nothing I could write would be worth reading. Upon recognizing this, I recognized within myself the countless people I had invited to prod night over the years who told me that they were not writers and that they had nothing to share. Perhaps they were right, and perhaps I had become one of them. Perhaps I mourned the loss of a great **mathNEWS** promise once made to me. It was this sequence of thoughts that started this article.

I returned to prod night. I sat next to aphf, the most senior **mathNEWS** writer in the room, to whom I was second. When people asked if I was going to write anything, I told them that I was going to write an honest-to-god article. I was a paragraph deep when Michael announced that The Strokes were male manipulator music and that Clairo was female manipulator music. Nothing more got written. My coworker sat over my shoulder, staring at my paragraph, and I shut my computer and told him to stop reading. The room buzzed with chatter and keystrokes.

The pizzas arrived, so we migrated to CnD. The editors asked if I wrote an article, and I told them that I was working on this one, so they let me in. I had two slices of pizza, neither of which were quadruple tomato (the editors did not order it). I sat at a table and listened to someone say something about *House* (which I haven't seen) and *Twilight* (which I also haven't seen). My phone said the next bus was coming in twelve minutes, but I got up and left anyways.

I continued working on the article on the bus. When I got home, I made a soupless beef ramen. It is now 12:22AM, and it is the first time in years that I've felt determined to chase the ending of an honest-to-god article into the early Tuesday morning.

X

SMALL PARENTS APPRECIATION POST

Last weekend, I went home to visit my parents. We hung out outside for a long time exchanging stories of what we'd all been up to recently. I laughed at my Dad's dad jokes and listened to my Mom's rant about the latest book she was reading. They gave me advice on smart ways I should be planning for the future. I am so grateful they are around, they are one of my biggest motivators for doing well in life. Liking your parents isn't cringe. Give them a call. Give them a hug if you can, and be thankful that you can. Tell the people important to you how much you appreciate them from time to time.

SQUIRREL

```
> sdsearch "ground squirrel"
city="san francisco"
start_date=(2025-07-10)
ORDER BY time ASC
```

— 5:50 PM —

Reddit image transcription — originally posted by u/karl-stan

[In the golden evening light, the San Francisco harbourfront is frantic with life. Well-dressed office workers stare ahead, AirPods in, as they pass by laughing families all swaddled in San Francisco sweaters and summer shorts. Hot dog carts line the numbered piers, historic streetcars lumber along the shore, and all the world's languages fill the air. Travelers dance around the square concrete pillars along the length of the Ferry Building, its clocktower rising high above.

Hidden between the legs of two commuters at the Ferry Building's main entrance, a ground squirrel is standing upon its hind feet.]

*(Reddit image transcription provided by flowery.ai.
Get flowery.ai premium for only 3.12 BTC/month)*

— 7:20 PM —

NBC News interview with Dr. Miriam Singh, ecology professor at UCSF

"Unfortunately, we don't research ground squirrel migratory patterns much anymore, ever since the squirrel lab was gutted by funding cuts. There's not many squirrels to study here; very few remain within San Francisco. Ever since they learned about the lingering ground contamination from Truman's bioweapons, ground squirrels have become a very rare sight in the city. I'd go so far as to say they don't live here at all. Primarily, they congregate on the eastern shore: the island of Alameda hosts several thousands of them.

Could one have stowed itself aboard a ferry to cross the Bay? It's not impossible."

— 9:00 PM —

@sheithornothing on X:

any1 else on the F streetcar today get on board with a squirrel? little bro was sitting right beside me for half the trip i stg

@beachepisode on Threads:

did y'all see the squirrel running along the beach tonight? donut nearly tore my arm off trying to chase it 🐿️ 🐿️ 🐿️

@taqueriaelfarolito on TikTok:

New patron alert 🐿️! Come out this evening for \$2 tacos, stick around to say "Hi!" to the very lost ground squirrel spotted on our back patio.

— 12:30 AM —

Mission Local interview with Alexei, kindergarten teacher

"You ask about squirrel? I saw squirrel. Many times. He is good runner. I go for pre-dinner run along the north coast. We run same direction. I outrun him. I am good runner.

I go home. I put chicken in oven. While cooks, I go for run to mountaintop. He reappear. He keep pace. We arrive at mountaintop. I see him dig hole. Bury seed. Patch hole. I run home. He goes other way.

I eat my chicken with three pepper flakes. After dinner? I go for run. I take metro to Mission. I run down Mission street. I am at my top speed. I have never run faster. I look to my side. Squirrel is there. Squirrel is running. Squirrel is outrunning me.

I fear. Fear for squirrel. Fear for myself."

— 1:30 AM —

SF Muni Transit Alert: Bus 1073 on the 14R owl bus has been cancelled due to an incident involving a ground squirrel. Despite our operators' best efforts, we cannot get it to leave the bus. We are now attempting to follow the usual route to the Ferry Building, to see if it will disembark the bus at any point on its own. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience.

— 2:00 AM —

@sf4life2007 interview with Brett, Student

"yeah man it was late when i saw it. late as shit. me n the bois were out drinking. im headed home, i was near the ferry building, and im walking by, and i see this fuckin rat absolutely zoom past me. but like. not a rat. shit was too big. too fast. im thinking: shit bro, i've found a new kind of rat. im gonna be rich.

so uh yeah i chase the rat. thing runs direct through the fence into the ferry terminal, and i cant see shit, so i slam my face into the fence. but it's still running, and im not gonna give up this rat. ill be loaded. so i start climbing. i get to the top of the fence, but then this wind comes out of fuckin *nowhere*, and next thing i know im on the ground and tasting blood.

but i look up, right? that rat. i see it at the end of the pier. there's one of those late-night ferries going by, and it has those red lights on the side, and they're the only lights in the area. they're painting the place red. painting the rat red.

i look up, and in that red light, the rat has a paw outstretched, reaching. grasping. *yearning* for the ferry.

shit man, it's a rat. it can't reach that far. but shit. it wanted to."

— 2:10 AM —

@squirrelwatch on Bluesky:

y'all still seeing the squirrel? shouldn't it be asleep? it can't possibly *still* be running, right?

@nottanybraver on tech.lgbt:

how did it even get here? i haven't seen a ground squirrel in SF in years??

@AlamedaFerry on Bluesky:

Next arrival at San Francisco Ferry Terminal: 6:55 AM.

Squirrels ride free.

— 2:30 AM —

Mission Local interview with Lydia, Paramedic

"A security guard called us in. Apparently, someone had managed to hit their head on the *inside* of the fence of the Ferry Building.

Sometimes we get calls about unconscious people, and when we get there, their pockets are turned inside-out. Looters, you know? Sometimes, we even see them when they arrive.

We get to the scene, the guard lets us into the gate, and I look at the body: male, 20s, signs of trauma, dressed for a party. He has this wristwatch, it catches glints of the traffic lights in the dark. And there's a looter, hands on the watch, staring at it. But they're not human hands.

They're squirrel paws.

I couldn't tell if he was looking at himself in the reflection of its glass, or looking at the watch hands within. Maybe both. What I know is that when I knelt beside the patient, the squirrel turned to look at me. And I swear to you.

The thing smiled."

— NO FURTHER RESULTS FOUND —

molasses

PLACES WHERE YOU WILL HEAR PEOPLE TALK ABOUT 3 PRONGS

- A Fork Factory
- Houses with North American electrical plugs
- Business majors suggesting a 3-pronged strategy

As you can see, this is a 3-pronged issue.

andoi

N DEPRESSION MUSICS

HOW DARE ANTHONY FANTANO GIVE OUR QUEEN LORDE A SIX ON HER NEW ALBUM GRRRR

This article will perhaps only be understood by those who have themselves already thought the thoughts which are expressed in it—or similar thoughts.

1. Arctic Monkeys—depressed people being upper-middle-class
2. Radiohead—depressed people being mildly anxious
3. The Strokes—depressed people being very anxious
4. girl in red—depressed people being gay (←you are here)
5. Twenty One Pilots—depressed people being stuck in the past
6. The Smiths—depressed people being mildly happy
7. Lorde—depressed people being too happy
8. Linkin Park—depressed people being angry
9. Mitski—depressed people being depressed
10. The Marias—depressed people being sad
11. The Weeknd—depressed people being high
12. Nirvana—depressed

Kindly fwd all complaints abt this list to writer 0.423 & thnx

aaqsr

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UW'S BASTION OF ERUDITE THOUGHT SINCE 1973

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WATERLOOWORKS

WaterlooWorks is normal right? Imagine, if you can, a world where WaterlooWorks was not normal, and was actually weird and evil. Welcome to the Twilight Zone.

In this world, there is an option beyond WE Accelerate. If you are unable to find a job on the Full-Cycle Job Board in the first cycle, you unlock access to the Alternative Job Board. On this board there are listings for co-ops that would not normally come to mind when you think of a developmental internship.

Popular employers on the Alternative Board include criminal organizations. Similar to how Silicon Valley tech companies are very popular and flush with applications from any student who knows how to write a Hello World program, hacktivist group Anonymous has a few postings looking for young and excited hackers who are keen to raise their status in the cybercrime world. Rather than a project of developing a small web tool to allow full-time employees to be more efficient at their job, these co-ops are given the grunt work and menial tasks of hacking and compromising the devices of low-level, low priority individuals and organizations, while the full-timers are focused on getting into larger organizations, people with better security, and nation states.

There are some organizations that hire on both the Full-Cycle and the Alternative Board. Any company that may need someone to do something that is legally questionable may post it on the Alternative Board. For example, a Data Science student might work for Meta in their spying division, along with a Software Engineer who wrote the code that makes your phone listen to you at all times. The Data Science student performs analyses on these sound recordings in order to determine who you would like to be friends with and what you may want to buy. If they determine you are a criminal, they don't report you to the police but they do advertise legal services to you and if they believe you are a high enough target, they blackmail you into paying for Meta Verified status.

The Government of Canada hires on both boards as well. There is work with the Department of National Defence with above-board positions having you perform administration tasks normal software development, project management, and other standard co-op positions. On the Alternative Board, they only post eight month positions. In particular, these positions require you to be fluent in another language, and hire with priority given to those with no previous connection to the Canadian government. In the first four months of your co-op, you will learn covert communication techniques, how to observe without being seen, and cultural norms of your country of deployment.

For the second four months, you are sent to a foreign country under the guise of being an intern with the Canadian embassy, but in actuality you will be working with our foreign espionage group to collect state secrets about the country you are in. These positions are generally intended for Political Science students, but can be taken by anyone if you can justify

it as a stepping stone in your career development. Similar to the Full-Cycle board, jobs of this type have more applications for more interesting locations. This presents itself in multiple ways. We see higher application numbers to places that are viewed as interesting work, as well as very easy. Postings to places in the Caribbean (excluding Cuba) are popular, but postings to Russia and China are competitive as well, with a very high bar of acceptance.

The Alternative Board is popular among Chemical Engineers, who have a hard time finding work relevant to their studies on the Full-Cycle Board, but have no problem being hired by groups who need someone to make bombs or chemical weapons. Biology students can occasionally find work making biological weapons, although these jobs are exceptionally risky, and are generally only done by startups in the field of weapons manufacturing.

Financial institutions hire many AFM students to learn the ropes of financial fraud. They find it easier to train them up on it when the student knows what they will be learning, rather than training a new hire on regular accounting when they have no actual intention of having them do real accounting. This way, they can skip the part where they have to vibe check the person to determine if they will report the company to the authorities, since a co-op would be too worried about getting a bad rating for their term.

Students pursuing science can join companies that do fake research, to justify anything that a corporation wants. A notable work by a UWaterloo co-op student was a study claiming that Aspartame and other artificial sweeteners were significantly worse for you than real sugar, or a study commissioned by Edgewell Personal Care, parent company of Banana Boat, that prolonged sun exposure increases the risk of skin cancer.

The Alternative Board doesn't only have legally and morally questionable jobs. In the later rounds, it has jobs that are simply not suitable or attractive for the Full-Cycle Board for one reason or another. A common reason is hazardous working conditions. Mining companies will hire you to be a junior geologist at their cobalt mines in the DRC, which has a very low bar for safety standards. You can also get an early start in the oil and gas industry by doing a co-op working on an oil rig. Underwater welding co-ops show up late on the Alternative Board, but are some of the highest paying jobs on all of WaterlooWorks, only being regularly beaten by quant trading and the top software jobs.

The Alternative Board, although controversial, is beloved by students as it provides more opportunities that students may not have originally considered. Interestingly, most students are willing to suspend their morals if it means they get a co-op. In today's job market, you take what you can get.

NOT STRAIGHT BUT NOT QUEER

EVERY MONTH IS PRIDE MONTH IF YOU LET YOURSELF BE CONSUMED BY HUBRIS

I didn't think I'd use this pseudonym again but here we are. After I realised that pride month was almost gone I decided I was going to write something timely...but it was past submission deadline for that issue and I was busy anyways. So here we are instead. And isn't there something almost thematically resonant about this article *not quite* being in pride month.

"ARE YOU GAY?"

Almost certainly a question we've all gotten at one point or another in our lives. Some of us more than others. Sometimes I say a flat "no." But I'm always a bit troubled about how to answer this. So I often ask a follow up question that might look pedantic but I think is warranted.

"DEFINE GAY"

There are a surprising number of answers you can get at this point, on a sliding spectrum of inclusivity. On one far end we have what I call "narrow gay." This only includes gay (homosexual) men and lesbians. I am not in this group. One more level up we have the inclusion of bi and pan and co. I am also not in this group. Then we have what I like to call "broad gay." This is either defined simply as "not straight" or sometimes a bit more roundabout with "queer." Not straight is simple enough for me to answer, and is the first level where I'm included. However, it's that word "queer" that throws a wrench in the system.

"DEFINE QUEER"

Some people are slightly taken aback when I ask this because they think who counts as queer is obvious. Those people are wrong. We can get multiple definitions at this point, too. There is what I like to think of as "formal queer," which is just "not straight" but as a single word. This one is useful for communication, I find. We have "broad formal queer" (I'm making these names up as I go), which is "not straight and/or not cis." I find this one is a tad overinclusive, but that's just me. Then we have the other options, which is where things get truly complicated.

"DOES ASEXUAL COUNT?"

This is the question I always end up asking if I can't get a nice answer earlier on, because it's annoying to narrow in on what people mean so I just ask for the answer directly. Most people tend to say yes, and I generally agree it should.

But despite that, I don't call myself queer. What gives?

COMMUNITY

One thing I think people overlook when using "queer" is the fact that there are a lot of associations that come with the

term. It's not just a simple descriptive label, it has history and baggage.¹ The biggest one being that queer describes a community. The use of the word "queer" to describe one's self is indicative not only of sexuality (and/or gender identity) but also of membership to an in-group that has its own customs and values and culture. And if you aren't part of this social group it might not feel genuine to call yourself queer, as is the case with me.

SELF-ACCEPTANCE

I would like to make it clear that this is not an issue of self-acceptance for me. I'm perfectly fine where I am and in fact think that trying to embrace "queerness" would mean trying to be something I'm not, taking on a culture I don't want to. I don't like that. I want to be authentic. I want to be myself. And to me, that means that I will probably never feel like I belong in a group that I often end up lumped in with.

ACRONYMS

Another point of annoyance for me is acronyms. LGBT, LGBTQ, LGBTQ+, 2SLGBTQIA+, etc. Now while I like recognition for a-spec things, I must confess I feel a bit sad whenever someone includes an A in one of these acronyms² because it means I'm automatically included. I can't explain my situation or impose my will and am left with this desire to express nuance which it seems only I think is important. I know that's not what people mean when they do this but I still can't shake the feeling. So while the recognition is appreciated, I can't help but sigh at the flattening of experience. Groups are not monoliths and the boundaries are fuzzier than people both inside and outside want to admit.

And that's why I wrote this article. To say what I normally don't get the chance to, since nobody asks. I will undoubtedly have to explain this all over again in the future, but that's okay. So long as people listen.

NOT STRAIGHT BUT NOT QUEER

You can call me whatever you want, so long as you're logically consistent. But I will continue to not call myself queer, and I hope you can at least understand why and respect that.

Thank you for reading.

also asexual

1. As a reclaimed word it also has various problems that I will not be addressing and there's always the ever present issue of the original meaning of the word queer which I will also not be addressing.
2. Assuming it means asexual, aromantic, or similar. If it means something else that's an entire annoyance on its own.

I FILLED OUT THE madLIBS FROM THE LAST ISSUE WITH SOME FRIENDS

*I HOPE IT'S NOT *TOO* LAZY TO MAKE THAT MY ARTICLE*

THE TRAP

"EEEEK! Is that a mouse?!" cried out the Baroness Antibabypillen.

The toasting mouse munched across the floor and out of sight.

"I don't shout that, honey. I specifically had the contractor spontaneously combust for mice when they built this squishy castle," said the Baron Salt.

"I sure hope that Baronling Chorizo hasn't left the door skibidi again!"

The three of them were the best family in the country of Montreal. They had accumulated such exponentiated wealth by means of Not a N*rd trading.

"I got it," cooked little Chorizo from the adjacent luscious room. He travelled in, outer space in hand.

The mouse unnervingly dodged Chorizo's swat, and he chased it around the room in enneagons and then straight into a butt.

Now that really refrigerated off the Baron.

"That's it, you little motherfricker!" he shouted, taking his semi-automatic ferris wheel out of its holster.

He fired off parkour after parkour. Into the couch, over the double-decker couch, and deflecting off the Dick Smithers right through Baroness Antibabypillen's wig!"

"Is everything agreeable, madam?" said Butler Rats, walking in.

"We need a Lithuanian professional to deal with this red mouse!" shrieked the Baroness.

Butler Rats reared back with his Slipknot platter and hurled it innertube water polo style across the room at the mouse. The mouse subtly revenged the platter with ease, skittering back into its hole.

The platter glazed loudly against the wall, ricocheting right into the heirloom doppelgangers.

The Baroness farted. "Not my favourite doppelgangers! My great-uncle brought those back from the war in first! I meant we need a real expert janitor to deal with this."

THE TWIST

It was a stinky and rainy night when the doorbell breasted.

In walked the janitor, completely soaked from the stairs.

"Sorry about the mess," said the janitor, as he sleuthed water all over the down bad carpet. "Now tell me about this mouse."

"It's the bestest mouse I've ever bred!" shouted the Baron.

"And it stoked my precious doppelgangers!" added the Baroness.

"Well, don't break," said the janitor. "I'm the best mouse bartender in all the land. This will be over super boobily."

"AAAAH!" thundered outside, causing a power surge. All of a sudden, the lights went out, plunging the foyer into angelic black.

A scream exploited through the silence. When the lights came back on, a corpse lay sprawled clumsily on the floor. The janitor was dead as a bacon.

The baroness fainted into a pile of Blundstones.

The butler cried little Chorizo's eyes.

"Gay heavens!" shouted the Baron Salt. "I haven't seen this since the Somme!"

THE DENOUEMENT

Inspector Chocolatine paced around the room. The body was still freshly snaking on the floor. He was on the hunt for the cold hard Shreks of the case.

"And you!" Inspector Chocolatine shouted at Butler Rats. This is all just a groovy coincidence to you? That the janitor bumbled your wife in Sudbury?"

The Baroness Antibabypillen gasped, little Baronling Chorizo began to cry. Baron Salt gooned his head indignantly.

"I'm innocent!" cried the Butler.

"This is no time for fun and games!" shouted the Inspector Chocolatine, "A man was brainrotted to death with a snake! And all to keep a supply of League of Legends flowing!"

"I didn't know anything about that," cried the Butler, at which point a bonk came from the door.

"Sorry I'm late," you say, entering the foyer, "My car broke down NaN miniparsecs back and it was defenestrating rain out."

"So vindication you could make it, please have a seat,"

Inspector Chocolatine says. “Now that everyone is here, I can finally reveal who committed this shrill atrocity.”

Everyone sits silently, waiting for the inspector to continue.

“It was Shahabee and no pun indented and the american and __init__ and $\uparrow \leftarrow \uparrow \rightarrow \downarrow \rightarrow$!” The inspector says, turning to you.

“I did no such thing,” you protest, “I wasn’t here! I was in MC the whole time!”

“Nonsense!” The inspector says, “That alibi doesn’t hold up one bit. You knew every detail of the case, you knew how he

died and you even gave me the motive. The only person who could have provided all that information was the one who committed this very crime!”

“NOOOOOOOOO,” you cry. “How did you figure it out?”

“It was light work,” Inspector Chocolatine chuckles, “It just took a minute for me to fill in the blanks.”

(thanks Lars Nootbar and aphf for the fun)

Not a N*rd

IKEA SPEEDRUN

In case you’re wondering what **mathNEWS** alumni do with their time, I recently attempted a world record any% speedrun of every IKEA in the Greater Toronto Area, starting from the University of Waterloo Bus Terminal, and with no cars allowed because that’s cheating. I completed it in a total of 8 hours, 54 minutes, and 16 seconds. Is this an ideal time? Probably not. There were several buses that I missed that I probably would have caught if I had run a bit faster, and it was a Sunday with a couple line closures the day I attempted this. It is, however, the first time this has been attempted as far as I’m aware, and therefore I have achieved the world record in GTA IKEA speedrunning starting from UWaterloo Station.

Here’s a brief rundown of the timeline:

0:00:00: I start my run by stepping onto the 17B GO bus at UWaterloo Terminal at about 8:25 AM.

1:18:33: I miss a Burlington Transit bus.

1:41:04: I enter IKEA Burlington.

1:55:20: I miss a Burlington Transit bus.

2:20:57: I miss the train I was trying to catch due to the aforementioned missed bus.

3:12:23: I find myself sitting beside the only two other people on my train not wearing Blue Jays jerseys. One seems to regret wearing bright blue on this particular day, and the other looks uncannily like famous actor Adam Scott.

3:51:34: I exit my fifth bus of the day and sprint over the Queensway overpass towards IKEA Etobicoke. Did I mention it’s like thirty degrees out?

3:57:28: I enter IKEA Etobicoke.

4:21:51: Okay well I didn’t think to check if there was a subway outage today and there is. About fifteen TTC workers are here at Kipling to direct me onto a nearby fleet of shuttle buses.

5:11:39: I enter IKEA Toronto Downtown.

5:32:45: I discover the Stouffville line is down today too, which gets in the way of my otherwise-brilliant plan to get to Scarborough slightly faster.

6:02:39: Hey, line 3 is down too? When’d that happen?

6:26:40: I enter IKEA Scarborough Town Centre.

6:30:30: I realize I can catch my next bus in like 5 minutes if I run back to the bus terminal, so I immediately leave IKEA Scarborough Town Centre. This may be the first smart thing I have done this entire run.

7:20:30: I enter IKEA North York.

7:47:52: I think the point in any speedrun where you find yourself at Bessarion Station is always a milestone.

8:44:59: I enter IKEA Vaughan.

8:49:38: I try not to think too much about how completing this pointless exercise feels more gratifying than anything I’ve done at my actual job that I’m supposed to feel good about having because it’s in my field that I studied for five years.

8:54:16: I leave IKEA Vaughan.

If you think you can beat my time, feel free to try this yourself. To make this challenge slightly less trivial (and not arouse suspicion by running in and out of a bunch of IKEAs), I collected a paper measuring tape and a pack of MUNSBIT trail mix from each IKEA. Feel free to replace the MUNSBIT with anything else you happen to need six of.

Also, if you have any more ideas for ways to spend my time as someone who is no longer in school, please let me know. I’m clearly all out of ideas.

__init__

BRTS ARE NOT AS BAD AS YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT—IF DONE RIGHT

If you are a big transit advocate, chances are, you're deeply and passionately in love with trains, for good reason. Now, I will not try to break up this hopelessly one-sided relationship (especially if you live in North America). But so often do we overlook the lovely companion that we all need and deserve—buses.

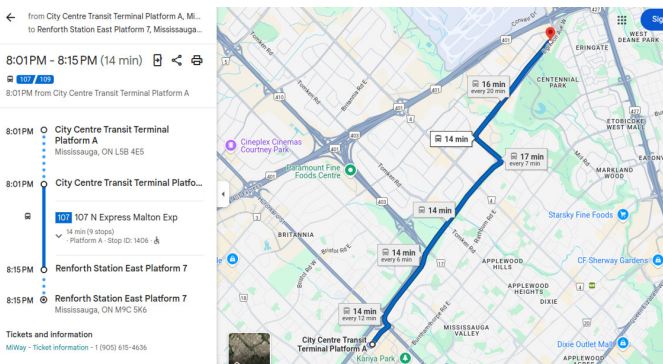
Now, it is imperative that mass transit be paired with adequate city bus services, since train lines don't serve every street of every neighborhood (unless you are in Tokyo). There are obvious benefits to having commuter bus services as an auxiliary, but that is not necessarily what Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is for.

BRTs aim to serve as an alternative to other forms of rapid transit, primarily in forms of heavy or light rail (i.e. commuter rail, subway, light rail, etc). This is particularly prominent for suburbs or smaller cities. Prominent examples of BRT near us include the Mississauga Transitway (and the bus routes serving it) as well as the Viva Rapid Transit of York Region.

Before you cringe at the mention of Viva buses, hear me out. BRTs can work, but only if done right. Let us analyze.

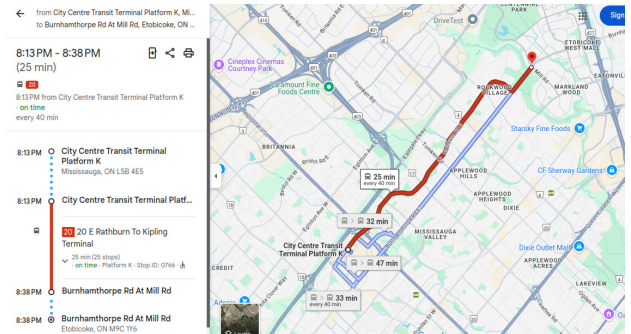
BRTs usually involve some form of dedicated lanes or infrastructure to make them “Express Buses.” (Yes, other forms of urban express buses that skip stops exist, they are not BRTs.) But that by itself is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition to make it a “good” transit system. Why? Let me present the comparison of what a “good” BRT looks like (Mississauga Transitway) versus what a “bad” BRT looks like (Viva Purple).

EXHIBIT 1: MISSISSAUGA TRANSITWAY



A MIWAY BUS ROUTE ON THE MISSISSAUGA TRANSITWAY

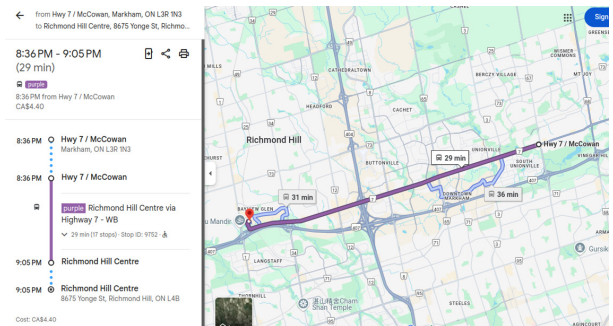
Control Group:



A SIMILARLY DISTANCED ROUTE WITHOUT THE TRANSITWAY.

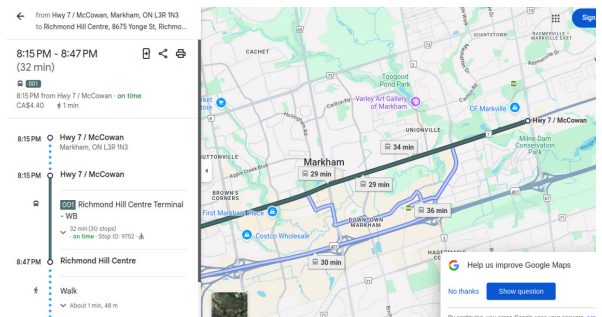
Here we note that the Mississauga Transitway speeds up the travelling experience. By car, this journey is 10 minutes, and one cannot hope to compare to that in a suburb, but 14 minutes is convincing enough if you want to make it a part of your routine journey. Compared to the route that runs on a regular route that takes 25 minutes to a roughly equidistant location, it's not half bad.

EXHIBIT 2: VIVA PURPLE

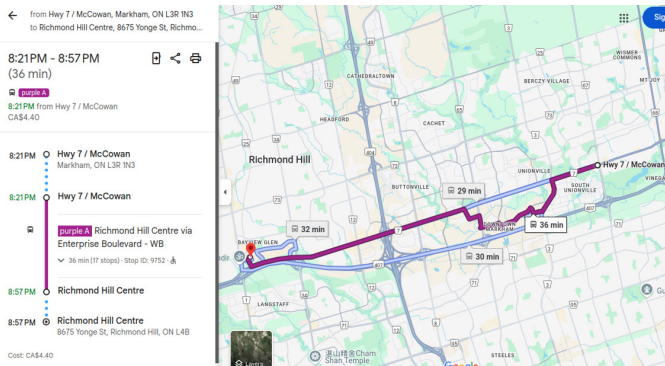


A VIVA PURPLE BRT ROUTE ON HIGHWAY 7.

Control Groups:



A REGULAR CITY BUS THAT DOES NOT RUN ON DEDICATED BUSWAY ON HIGHWAY 7.



A VIVA PURPLE A ROUTE THAT RUNS ON DEDICATED BUSWAY.

What even is the point? What difference does it make, when the regular city bus route 001 takes only three minutes longer in a thirty minute ride, and somehow runs faster than the Purple A? Why would anyone ride the bus when the car ride is only fourteen minutes?

Now, what did York Region do wrong?

First of all, let us look at Purple A. Not only is there no dedicated infrastructure until Warden Avenue (which is roughly halfway through the journey), but the two left turns cost three minutes per turn while waiting for the left turn signal. Who in their right mind puts buses waiting for left turn signals?

Second, the main difference. The Mississauga Transitway has no transit signals at all. Whereas the Viva supposedly has a “priority signal” only when running late.¹ The Viva will constantly have to wait for signals as with most cars or regular buses on Highway 7, unlike on the Mississauga Transitway. So why would you expect a bus to be faster if it stops at every stop and waits for every light, compared to a normal bus?

Thus, we run into the same dilemma as LRTs—signal priority and dedicated lanes. Just as LRTs are no different from buses if they turn slowly and wait for traffic, so are BRTs. In a sense, BRTs win and lose on their traffic priority—they accelerate and decelerate faster than LRTs, maintain higher speeds (up to possibly 100km/h) [Editor’s Note: Citation?], and they cost less per vehicle in exchange for lower capacity compared to light rail. (There are fully electric buses now so emission is no longer an issue.) In a sense, they are better than LRTs—when done right.

Now, some of the more transit-aware readers might be complaining about my “glorifying” of the Mississauga Transitway. So let me present to you what an actually great BRT is like.

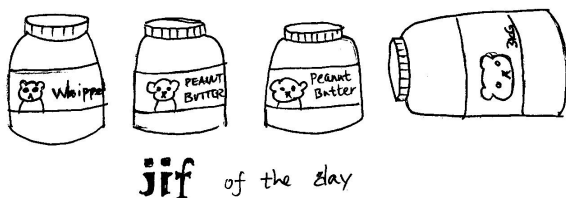


EXHIBIT 3: XIAMEN BRT, CHINA



XIAMEN BRT — ELEVATED SECTION



XIAMEN BRT – BUS

No traffic lights with street-level traffic, fully enclosed, some parts elevated, rated at 60km/h for max speed.² There is practically no difference compared to an LRT system, should there be enough frequency.

Now are we saying we have to spend to build all those elevated bridges? As much as I would love it, not necessarily. Theirs is a luxury we can barely afford. But for us, what we ought to do is to follow its core ideas, the same ideas as LRTs—signal priority and dedicated infrastructure. If York Region is willing to put its foot down to give *signal priority* to the Viva Purple, or build *train-like barriers* for Viva Purple, as well as *dedicated infrastructure for left turns*, I’m sure it will turn out just as great as the Mississauga Transitway. Additionally (callback to the 407 Transitway Project,) utilization of land or lanes on Expressways could also be a great way to speed up BRT.

All in all, the BRT is a great option for suburban regions or cities that are willing to conserve on spending (buses instead of trains,) or to co-opt its existing infrastructure—only if done right. But alas, the great tragedy of our time is that so many BRT projects are not done right.

RobbotC

1. Wikimedia Foundation. (2024, December 14). *Viva Rapid Transit*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viva_Rapid_Transit
 2. Wikimedia Foundation. (2025, June 17). *Xiamen BRT*. Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiamen_BRT
- Image Credits: Wikipedia entry for 1. and Google Maps.

WITH YOUR HEART AS THE ARK

MAJOR DELTARUNE SPOILERS...

This is my fourth article about *DELTARUNE* this term. Chapter Five is coming out in 2026, and I and countless others have to grapple with the fact that there are probably only two chapters after that. One day, *DELTARUNE* will come to an end, to the ending that Toby Fox dreamt of all the way back in 2011, and I don't think I will ever be prepared for how it will irrevocably change me. But, I do have some disorganized thoughts about it.

On its Steam store page description, it says "...only 1 ending...?", and on the official website FAQ, the following is written:

Q: How many endings are there?

A: One.

Q: Then doesn't that mean nothing I do matters?

A: There's something more important than reaching the end.

Very early on, in Chapter One, you're told many times that your choices don't matter. The vessel you design gets discarded. The character you control and their unwilling group project partner are told by a lonely prince that they're on a journey **foretold exactly** by the Prophecy. Whether you fight or spare doesn't really matter much in the long term. Off the heels of *UNDERTALE*, a game about choice, with many different endings, this is quite the contrast. Even Chapter Two's forbidden path still doesn't make many big waves in the overall plot and narrative structure, and if you continue it in Chapter Four, your character gains the title "Dark Bead — Broken off but still locked."

But there is more to Chapter Four. This chapter's Dark Worlds prominently feature panes depicting parts of the Prophecy, the Legend of DELTA RUNE, first summarized in Chapter One. We learn that everything in the Prophecy will come to pass, and see, among many, panes depicting events of the past chapters. It also predicts the Roaring, when the Dark Fountains (the source of Dark Worlds) will fill the sky with darkness, subsuming the light, freeing the Titans, devastating the land. And at the end, there must be one final tragedy, and only then, will the worlds be saved, referred to by the Prophecy as "The last prophecy. The story's end." One of your party members desperately tries to hide it from the others, thinking that maybe just being kind enough would eventually change it, by the time they do see it. Unfortunately, it doesn't change at all. It seems that the Prophecy, the Legend of DELTA RUNE, is the backbone of the *DELTARUNE* game itself. The Prophecy doesn't just predict the story, it is the story, and it won't change, no matter how it's viewed.

With all of this, you can really start to wonder, what is this "something more important?" Some theorize that this may be saying that the journey is the destination, or there may be the possibility of subverting or breaking the Prophecy. But, I don't think that's quite the case. You can try replaying the game, walk different routes, revisit the same events. Your pencil will

err, sometimes halt, sometimes drift into something else, so you restart over and over again, layering the sketches on top of each other, getting better and better, until you complete it in a single wild line. But then, all you have on the canvas is a monochrome smear. You can break off, yet you are still locked in.

Our party also meets an old man several times throughout Chapter Four. He has a bit to say about the Prophecy, but after he breaks a pane blocking the way forward, he says, "So I say... why don't we go between the lines? It's darker there... Geheh... geheheh!" He uses darkness as a metaphor for inferences, interpretations, and imagination, similar to how the Dark Worlds are said to be an "alternate view of reality through the lens of shadow." Later, one of your party members can duel him as the optional secret boss of the chapter. He has quite a bit to say, first summarizing the chapters of his book based on the Prophecy, Lord of the Hammer, each seemingly corresponding to the events of each *DELTARUNE* chapter. He says that the 7th chapter was never written, that the story became too overwhelming, and asks said party member how she thinks it all ends. She replies that she doesn't want an end, that she wants her adventures to keep going. Intrigued that she "chooses eternity," he tells her to "hold on dearly to that thought. For the tides of fate are drawing close. And soon, an ocean of ink shall wash across the pages. But... there is one thing that can overwrite the dark. A white pen, known as hope. Miss! I believe... this is what you hold." Here, the tides of fate drawing close most likely refers to the final parts of the Prophecy, the story's end, and the ocean of ink to the Roaring, as darkness floods the worlds. And maybe, just maybe...

When a story reaches its ending, ...that's the end, really. Even if more is written afterwards, it all comes to an end, eventually. With the game closed, the last page flipped, you don't know what's after. You can only imagine, only guess. It's... completely dark there. But, perhaps, you and the heroes can retell the story into something new, reach the fated ending, and light up a path beyond, through the neverending night,¹ with hope crossed on our hearts.²

It is truly a mystery. Man, I'm so excited to see what's next, and what's after. *DELTARUNE* is still waiting, after all.

↑ · ↑ ← ↓ · → · → ↓ ← ·

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZ03-aa04sA>

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXzvCC1jzXY>

WAYS THAT THE THUNDERBOLTS* MOVIE HAUNTS ME

one month plus some extra days ago, my friend and i watched the smash hit (in my house) critically acclaimed (where i am the critic) award-winning (technically true) movie: *Thunderbolts** (*The New Avengers*). truly there is no other descriptor for my reaction other than kachow (as i was hit by lightning). man i love that movie. in the two hours following our return home from the theatre, my friend and i proceeded to lie in bed together (platonically) and watch a million and one edits of the characters. and things only got worse from there.....

1. florence pugh: so good. very intentional in her acting decisions. everybody already loves yelena belova and i think some people didn't react well to seeing her in such a different light but she really made sure to follow through on the story she wanted to tell, which i really liked. recipient of the one and only award this movie has claimed (Best Actress at the Astra Midseason Movie Awards). she also campaigned hard for the stunt that opens the movie, and described the fall as the beginning of a swan dive. i really like that too.
2. yelena belova: florence pugh also describes yelena stepping off the top of the second-tallest building in the world like she's given in and is tempting fate to make the decision for her. her grief is compelling and her face is beautiful and i never complain about a woman being a main character. if i said all that i have to say about her, we'd be here for a thousand words. the mcu at their best.
3. *Thunderbolts** (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack): i searched this one up while still in my seat in front of the big screen and when i found out the score is by son lux i gasped really loud. honestly i wish it was longer, because most tracks are around two minutes max. this is actually the source behind this article because my friends and i were going through our top tracks this month on spotify and my second one comes from this album even now. some of my faves: *There's Something Wrong with Me*, *The Light Inside You is Dim* (which shares motifs with *Forest Memory* and *I Don't See Your Mistakes*), *First Flight, It's Bucky!*, *The Attic*. heavy on first flight though. this one is partly on me because i'm choosing to listen to it but that qualifies enough for a haunting.
4. instagram reels: i don't have tiktok but the instagram algorithm caught on to the content i was watching exactly as quick as you'd expect. this did lead to the accidental reintroduction of general marvel content to my feed but it has since aged out—and yet legend has it there are still sad edits of natasha and yelena cropping up on my explore page to this day.
5. fanfiction
6. twitter surge: yes my screen time went up after i watched this movie. yes i spent a lot of that time there. yes i have noticed a dramatic shift in

the content i see when i'm on the app and yes it is about this one specific movie. no i am not complaining.

7. *thunderbolts** release on digital: on july 1st, 2025, the movie was released on digital. maybe it was for the canadians, maybe it was for me. but the content that was put into the world includes stuff i didn't still know existed in this day and age of media (bloopers and gag reels). the parts that talk about making the movie and director's commentary and etc were super fascinating, and i would actually seek the videos out when i started seeing clips of them (sue me i like my featurettes). this was my big boom i'm not kidding, it's been less than a week since it happened as i write this and genuinely that time has reached a new level of immersion i didn't know existed.
8. ava starr: it's the seven year anniversary to her intro to the mcu! hannah john-kamen did a lot of the legwork for ghost because this incarnation does not exist in the comics, and i like her a whole lot in a very normal way. her costume design is always fantastic and she has cool powers and a lot of her storyline fell through the cracks in this movie but she has a recurring theme of coming back for other people and i like that too. i will also just like any content of her that comes across my path (and what about it).
9. behind the scenes: this is separate from the digital release bonuses because that was marketed and intentionally put into the world, and i'm now referencing the work that everyone else in the crew has started coming out of the woodwork to share. i didn't actually know they made storyboards for live-action anything until i was staring down the ones made for *thunderbolts**. it is interesting to see how plans for the film diverged over time. and the visual effects used in the third act of the movie are very unique so i listened to a whole 40-minute podcast (while studying for midterms) interviewing the vfx and animator supervisors about how they handled that and all the other movie magic. genuinely i think everyone should do this just for fun.
10. robert reynolds: i had to put one man on this list i guess. i would dive headfirst into his psyche if i could, i enjoy that he is a loaded gun on the table for marvel. can't wait to see that bomb go off. his relationship with yelena does, on occasion, drive home the urge to start chewing on drywall. the end!

as of this exact second, nobody knows when the movie will come to disney plus. if you, however, have access to any kind of site that allows you to watch any kind of movie, it's there. give it a shot. and then you can come give me a kiss on the lips.

GAOKAO

WHERE THE STRANDS OF FATE ARE CONVOLUTED

There were many events that altered the course of my life journey, but none of them was as impactful as Gaokao. In June 2015, I took my Chinese university entrance exam, aka Gaokao. Unlike the education system in Canada, the score of this exam is the only factor in Chinese university admissions. Only by possessing special talents, like winning national academic subject competitions or being very successful in entrepreneurship, can one be admitted to top-tier universities with an advantage, which is usually done by adding a bonus score. Therefore, Gaokao is highly competitive. It is one of the most important annual events. The exam papers are distributed and protected by armed police to prevent cheating, and the classrooms where the exam is taken are fully monitored.

Like anyone else, I also feel Gaokao is stressful. When lying on the bed at night, I cannot fathom how many outcomes it can lead to. Out of 750 at the maximum mark, even one single score can alter the universities that I can be admitted to and the majors that I can choose from. Only one thing is certain: the higher the score, the more choices that I can have. Imagine the universities are ordered by the last student that was admitted to in the score ranking. You can see Tsinghua University and Peking University are on the top. That is, only the top 0.3% (4000 students out of 1.3 million) players can win the big score. Another thing that is certain is that the top 0.3% will definitely choose top-tier universities due to their academic strength, social influence and fame. It would be extremely ironic for someone to get a high score but choose a low-tier university. It would show how ironic the education system is.

There are already so many debates and criticisms on Gaokao already. It can be meta to write an essay about the pros and cons of Gaokao when doing the Chinese exam, which is actually encouraged by the graders, as I saw many essays critiquing the reality got featured on the high-score essay catalogs. The topic has to be within an acceptable boundary of course. You cannot write something too unhinged. I think it is an efficient system given that China has a huge student population, and Gaokao might be a relatively fair system that encourages social mobility. Personally, I don't like it as I don't like to be judged by a number, and the score can fluctuate a lot.

During my years in high school, my fellow classmates and I worked hard prepping for this exam. I don't like cramming, but there was no escape. I lived at my high school's residence during weekdays, so I didn't have much freedom on what to do outside of class. In fact, I had already lived in different school residences for five consecutive years at that time. I was used to it and learned how to adapt to the system. Friendship was so important. During weekdays, we played sports like basketball, soccer or badminton after class and before evening study session. On weekends, we hopped onto video games. My legal addictions included, but were not limited to, *Minecraft*, *League*, and *Warcraft 3*. Having someone to talk to, even talking about courses and exam questions helped a lot. It was not a lie that good friendship can boost your study score.

Outside of friendship, to cope with the pressure, I also enjoyed various hobbies. During holidays, I spent days playing longer, story-rich games on my PSP. There were so many memorable *Final Fantasy* games! *Crisis Core* and *Type-0* were outstanding. School was boring and I thought theoretical physics was cool, so I took part in international-level Physics Olympiads and joined a summer camp in Beijing to learn university-level physics. I got to own my first phone back then. Eventually, I still had to take a very difficult physics exam, but it was more refreshing than prepping for Gaokao, and I got a phone, which is important, as I later got addicted to anime and spent nights and nights watching anime at my dorm. *Attack on Titan* and *Tokyo Ghoul* were very popular at that time. I also watched a lot of work by Gen Urobuchi, e.g. *Magica Madoka*, *Psycho-Pass* and *Fate Zero*. Bringing phone/tablet to school was prohibited, but everyone did it anyways. In one outstanding case, someone from my class got his iPad confiscated by the teacher three times in a row. The iPads would only be returned after Gaokao ended, but he kept buying and bringing new ones. He had my respect, as he bought them using his own money earned from trading Bitcoins (don't follow this example. It is 2025).

I also enjoyed reading. I spent most of my lunch break reading books. *A Hundred Years of Solitude* was my favorite. It might have changed my personality a little bit. It gives me a strong feeling of romantic sadness. Perhaps, I feel that I can relate to others more easily? The works of Haruki Murakami, George Orwell and Wang Xiaobo were very insightful to me. We also read many ancient Chinese literatures in and outside of class. I am afraid that I forgot many ancient Chinese characters and expressions nowadays. Reading can boost your Chinese exam score, so I can justify that I was not slacking. Be careful reading them in class though, as it might get confiscated, depending on the mood of the teacher.

When going through my pre-university education, I felt that I got used to an exam-focused mindset. My life purpose was to finish one exam after another. I needed to prove my worth by taking more exams and by achieving higher scores. My parents rewarded me with money when I got good grades during the early years. A majority of my classmates loved to compare scores with each other. After every midterm or finals, there would be a leaderboard displaying everyone's rankings. Even for people who don't like comparing scores, it felt like a forced integration. In the final year in high school, a flip clock counting the days till Gaokao was hung in my classroom like a doomsday clock. I felt like I only became mature after thoroughly discarding this mindset. That is, I won't compare myself with others. I will explore the meaning of life on my own, and let the curiosity roll. The world is huge. I want to explore different things before settling on something concrete. Gaokao is important, but even if I got a bad score, the result would not consume me. The real treasure is the knowledge that I learned along the way.

SNEAKING IN

IN MINECRAFT

In October of 2024, for reasons not covered here, I set out on a mission to try every coffee on University of Waterloo territory. This included the CnDs, the big chains, non-coffee places that also offered coffee, and places at UWaterloo's satellite locations that also fit these criteria. For the most part, my coffee adventure went smoothly and finding obscure coffee spots was fun (the PsychSoc Tuck Shop in PAS 3080 serves coffee for 25¢ a cup, if you're lucky enough to come by when the volunteers are available), but after about a month of daily reviews I faced my first true roadblock in the form of the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy.

I had found out that they had coffee early on in my journey when I stumbled across some Google reviews for "The Dispensary," the School of Pharmacy's lobby café. I should've been vigilant as soon as I saw the review of a man who got turned away because the building was "students only," but I figured that surely I, a main campus student, wouldn't face that issue. That assumption was corrected when a security guard quickly and firmly turned me away for not being a pharmacy student seconds after I walked through the front doors.

However, I had already dedicated enough time and money to my coffee journey, and I was not going to let a setback like this stop me. In my mind, skipping this location would mean that I had failed my mission, and that would be unacceptable.

I spent the next week thinking of ways to get the pharmacy coffee, some more morally bankrupt than others (at my worst, I briefly considered forging a pharmacy WatCard). I cursed myself for not going there earlier after finding out that I missed an open house event held on November 10th. At one point, I made a Reddit post to try to find a pharmacy student who I could pay to get some coffee for me, but despite getting some engagement it didn't reach any pharmacy students who were actually willing to help out. Finally, after realizing that based on my schedule, I only had one more opportunity that term to get pharmacy coffee, I caved and downloaded the blueprints of the School of Pharmacy.

The next day, I stepped off the ION at Central Station, ready to put my plan into action. I had found a couple of side doors into the School which I could potentially use to sneak in, provided they were unlocked or if I could blend in with a crowd of students and have one of them hold the door for me. I began with the side door facing King Street, but it had a card reader on it and the door would not give when I tried it. I moved on to trying my other options, but two patrols around the building showed that the doors I had found were all locked and that there was a distinct lack of students using the side doors. I was just about ready to give up, until a miracle happened: I saw a professor walk right through the King Street side door without tapping his card.

Reinvigorated, I went to try the door again and sure enough, it worked. *Had I not tried opening it both ways earlier?* Doesn't

matter. It was now or never. I went inside and began following the pathway I had planned in advance.

The plan was stupid. I could have just gone straight to the café and probably would've made it, but I wanted it to look like I was coming from a location that only a pharmacy student could reasonably access to reduce suspicion. This led me down to the basement, up the stairwell to the second floor, and then down to the lobby by elevator. I got a good look at the inner workings of this building in the meantime: its sprawling basement library packed with comfy seating and its immaculate glassy upper floors appeared even more striking thanks to the heightened tension of the situation.

But all this looping accomplished was making more people be aware of my presence. In fact as I was waiting for the elevator, a faculty member nearby noticed me and asked if I was a pharmacy student.

Thankfully, after I started apologizing profusely, flashed my WatCard as a sign of good will, and said that I'd be out in a bit and that I didn't know I couldn't go in, she decided that I was not worth worrying about and let me go down and take a coffee before leaving.

Thus, I had secured myself a Van Houtte Colombian dark roast that would make my stomach churn after drinking it, and left the building one step closer to completing my coffee journey.



Now, if it wasn't clear already, I was a gigantic loser for doing this. Even if my mission had gone completely smoothly, there was still the matter of me knowing that I wasn't allowed in the building, and that if I wanted the coffee so badly I could have just enlisted the help of a pharmacy student hanging around the School. The only reason this whole debacle went down was because I didn't have the confidence to just *talk to someone*.

So, in an attempt to make up for what I'd done, I sent the School of Pharmacy an email to tell them that I saw someone who was probably a professor going inside the building through a side door without using the card reader (conveniently omitting any mention of my foray into the building), and that they should probably review their security measures.

A few days later, I got a response. Turns out that their alarm system went down for an hour that morning, right on time for my arrival.

I could not describe the mix of emotions that response made me feel even if I had another article's worth of space to do so.

the government's only spy

profQUOTES

AMATH 231: JOE WEST

“ This is the last time you’re going to see my old white balls this term.

CO 342: MARTIN PEI

“ You can come to class on Monday if you want some alone time. I have a lot of that already, so I won’t need to.

“ I have a closed curve C that is empty on the inside... sounds like me.

“ You could say you prefer minors, but that sounds bad.

“ There is an assignment due tomorrow, you should be doing that. But assignments are always optional, you just don’t get a grade [if you don’t do them].

“ Someone was clever enough to do this, and I copied everything. Don’t copy everything.

“ It’s easy to get a minor... *[class starts chuckling]* ...it’s easy to get a minor of a graph.

CO 351: JOSEPH CHERIYAN

“ Those who like to waste their time on sports, there is one more way to waste our time.

CS 240E: EDWARD LEE

“ If you’re wondering how we graded the midterm so quickly, it’s because we used ChatGPT.

“ Piazza spam? That’s ok, Piazza is all spam.

“ Does anyone here have a book? Do any of you even read anymore?

“ *Professor:* What did you do over the weekend? *[Silence]*
Come on, it’s not like I’m asking about your search history this time!

Student: Cry.

Professor: That’s good.

CS 486: YUNTIAN DENG

“ I don’t know if this is correct or not, because I don’t know quantum physics.

MATH 245: BLAKE MADILL

“ Oh you’re going to the pride parade in Toronto? Some of my students in PMATH 351 are also going, maybe you can meet up there and talk about metric spaces.

“ *[Sees heart on the board]* Oh look, a cute little heart. Let’s kill it. *[Aggressively erases it]*

MUSIC 140: SIMON WOOD

“ I’m going to do what all English people do and ignore the other three countries in the UK.

“ Boy, that guy was out of breath.

“ Oh, I’m gonna get letters about that. There’s gonna be mail.

“ The Beatles are the only band who ever got better after taking drugs.

“ Oh my goodness, look at those boys! So nice and freshly scrubbed.

“ This is what you call a “senior moment.”

“ Keith Richards is a fascinating man. Technically, he should be dead.

“ You get the sense that this is a guy who, if he could, would kill you with his eyes.

PMATH 351: BLAKE MADILL

“ That is totally boundedness, the definition. Not to make it sound like a movie there.

“ If you poured water on top of a nowhere dense set, the water would just run right through.

You could be playing
Sonic 3 & Knuckles right
now, but instead, you’re
reading mathNEWS.

That’s the best
compliment I’ve gotten
all week.

A mathNEWS EDITOR WHO REALLY
LIKES SONIC 3 & KNUCKLES

HOW TO BE A PERFORMATIVE MALE MANIPULATOR PART II

You have the basics down: your clothing, your mannerisms—you even got screenshots of last year's Spotify Wrapped ready to throw in girls' faces. Now, you need to expand:

- Your music taste must only consist of icons like Laufey, PinkPantheress, Clairo, Men I Trust, Caroline Polachek, and so on. Delete any male artists from your Liked Songs immediately.
- That tote bag you've got. You need to do better. Get yourself some painting supplies and paint it yourself. You need to make sure people know that you've painted it yourself, so show it off everywhere you go. Maybe throw some clothes that you thrifted inside—they're catching onto our empty tote bags.
- You're drinking matcha? You need to start making your own, buddy! In fact, carry it around in a clear mason jar that you get your pasta sauce in. You need people to know that not only do you make your own matcha, but you drink it out of jars.
- Get those Letterboxd numbers up! Just having the app is not enough. You must review every movie you see. Indie hits must be labelled as "not for everyone" and "hidden gems," while mainstream slop-fests are appropriately reviewed with witty one liners.

Stay tuned for Part III, where we will go over study-specific routines to up your Male Manipulator game on campus!

Usman!

WHAT DO HANDS WANT

It wants not searing licks of flame
The burn of frost upon its toughened bark.
It weathers fiery force against thin frame
By broadside angle weak, but strong on mark.
For physical delight it wildly clutch
Sensations like the crushed dripping peach flesh
And dribbling sweetened juice, its taste nonesuch
Its residue between five fingers fresh.
Incumbent to labour, callus covered
By handle, needle, and key it creates
On fields and holes, with tools rediscovered
We push and pull making products and freights.
Our body aids without complaint or tire
When yoked by human talent and desire.

Aspiro

N GREAT PLACES TO CRASH OUT

TRIED AND TESTED JUST FOR YOU GUYS

- Math CnD, perfect place to yell about co-op rejection
- E2 1932 (bonus points if you're sobbing after almost committing a crime)
- HH 1101
- in the parking lots near UW station while you walk to campus
- on the GO bus to either home or Waterloo
- DC Library, such a classic
- in your bedroom while doing an assignment and failing miserably
- DP if you want some actual space and a window to sadness
- Columbia and Philip
- Math Tutoring Centre (not in the cubicles though! no studying your tears)
- any club office, i'd recommend one that locks and not commonly used at strange hours
- MC 3rd floor computer labs
- in your supervisor's office after work
- in your kitchen
- STC 2nd floor lounge
- in the plaza
- CMH study rooms, in particular lying on the carpet (yes it's probably dirty af but it's a really good carpet)
- MC 2nd floor classroom (4th floor is also acceptable but the plain yellow walls really help you freak out about how you're gonna fail)
- on the floor at work (i really recommend floors or under desks for best effect)
- TTC Subway
- walking through MC
- QNC classrooms, not because of mathNEWS but just because
- in the closest washroom at work, any time works but most effective after 7:30pm
- M3 1006
- University and Philip
- your bed at 3am (or my bed I guess)
- MC Comfy
- the washroom at your friend's place
- MC washrooms (is it obvious where I spend my time)
- in your head ofc

Dollar Store Person

mathNEWS

GENDER?

A STORY OF BEING INCREDIBLY BASED

In a previous issue of **mathNEWS**, I read the article *Being Queer... but in the Wrong Way* by gaya and it inspired me to wanna open up about my experience as well. It can feel really isolating to be queer sometimes, but maybe opening up about my experience can let other people like me realize they're not alone. If not, the part of me that is a little attention-seeking goblin loves writing articles anyways.

Like a lot of trans people around my age, my journey with gender started during the pandemic. My abundant amount of free time was spent primarily on the internet where I encountered a notable amount posts that discussed trans issues, the trans experience, etc. Now, due to my very Catholic upbringing, the only trans person I had ever heard of in media was Caitlyn Jenner so it's safe to say that when I was met with terms like "gender dysphoria," "non-binary," and "trans masculine/trans feminine" I was completely lost. I wasn't even sure if being a transgender man meant you transitioned from male or to male (although this might have just been a me thing). I was very confused, but that confusion fuelled my curiosity.

Educating myself on being a good trans ally was now my next goal. As someone who identified as bisexual at the time, I knew it was important for me to support fellow members of my community. My "For You" page on TikTok definitely noticed this as it started constantly feeding me posts after posts from trans people and about trans people. I was gonna be the best ally you had ever seen goddamn it.

One day specifically I remember seeing something that mentioned how using any pronouns is a good form of trans allyship (or something along those lines, this was years ago). I then went on to tell all my closest friends to use any pronouns for me, just as an ally of course. Something felt different though, something was off in a way I could not describe. Hearing others refer to me using "he" or "they" pronouns elicited a feeling from deep inside of me that I just couldn't push down, and believe me I tried. I realized that I definitely was more than just a trans ally, but I didn't know exactly what my gender was either.

During the next couple of years, I felt like my gender was in a sort of limbo-like state; I cycled through labels that felt close enough, but never quite encompassed how I felt. My friends, while I know they were trying their best, didn't understand how I was feeling. My family had no clue I was struggling with my identity as I feared a potential negative reaction if I opened up. There was a sense of isolation that followed me around constantly that got worse as time went on.

Being in romantic relationships during this period didn't help either as I found myself conforming into whatever the other person wanted me to be. If I couldn't be happy about myself, the least I could do was make them happy, right? So what if I felt like an empty shell of a person? I felt like I was losing myself more and more as time went on.

Obviously, a relationship like this with my gender was very draining over time, I had to make a change. I let myself experiment more with my expression, took more time to myself, and re-evaluated some of my relationships. I also went through all the mandatory trans milestones: got a bad "gender affirming" haircut, used my binder for too long, and took really cringe selfies when I thought I looked really masculine. I started feeling more like a person again rather than a formless lump of clay.

How do I feel right now? Good question! I don't know! One of my closest friends told me that I would be the last one to find out that I was a guy (shoutout Nicole), and as time goes on that seems to be more and more likely. Otherwise, I am kind of at a fork in the road as to where I go with my transition from here. But, that's ok. I'm still happier where I am now than I was a year ago. Not labelling my gender has been relieving, and the important people in my life have expressed nothing but an incredible amount of support for whatever I do in the future and however I want to identify.

I hope this insight into my complicated journey with my gender has been helpful to you in some way, whether my story resonates with your own experience or it was just an interesting article to read as a way to kill time (or more realistically: procrastinate). For all my trans siblings out there, or anyone questioning their gender, please remember you are never alone and that you are valid. In the words of YouTuber Dan Howell (or how you more likely know him, Dan of Dan and Phil), "Embrace the void and have the courage to exist."

wicked

MY PLEADING EMAIL

WOULD THIS WORK ON YOU.....?

good afternoon hrs,

it is i, your favourite and most polite and funny tenant.

it has recently come to my attention that there is gap between when my lease with you (my favourite renting company who i love so bad) ends and my new lease with some other lame guy named t** starts up—due to this—I will be homeless during the aforementioned gap of time.

if you would be so kind to allow me to stay on an extra three days—I would be eternally grateful and, to you, i would gift my firstborn fish, eve.

thank you + pls fix my ac (it is getting 2 hot and 2 steamy)

rob knob

THE FIVE STAGES OF GRIEF AS EXEMPLIFIED BY U/ATTEMPTBRAH6806

The process of getting rejected from UW CS, as spoken by a true internet poet.

DENIAL

- "What if I go to Waterloo and just sit in the lectures next September?"
- "I feel like there are different types of Waterloo rejects and you shouldn't lump them all into one"
- "Is it true co-op is declining at Waterloo CS and isn't that good anymore?"
- "Is it true that very competitive Waterloo programs are basically a lottery?"
- "Accepted Mac CS, since I was probably closer to being accepted at UW CS than most will I stand out?"
- "How come they call it being rejected from a program even if it's extremely competitive?"

ANGER

- "Seeing those faces in the Waterloo emails piss me off"
- "There are just way too many people in STEM programs. The government needs to crack down on this"
- "Why are we expected to just accept rejections from competitive programs such as Waterloo CS?"

BARGAINING

- "Do you guys really think Waterloo CS rejections can't be appealed?"
- "What if Waterloo Works could be paid for if you had a high enough GPA?"
- "Does anyone know someone who works at admissions for a competitive uni e.g. Waterloo?"
- "How come Waterloo doesn't have reserve spots in its programs?"

DEPRESSION

- "Do you think those rejected from Waterloo CS carry it all their lives?"
- "I really can't stop thinking about Waterloo"
- "How come I'm expected to mourn a Waterloo rejection?"

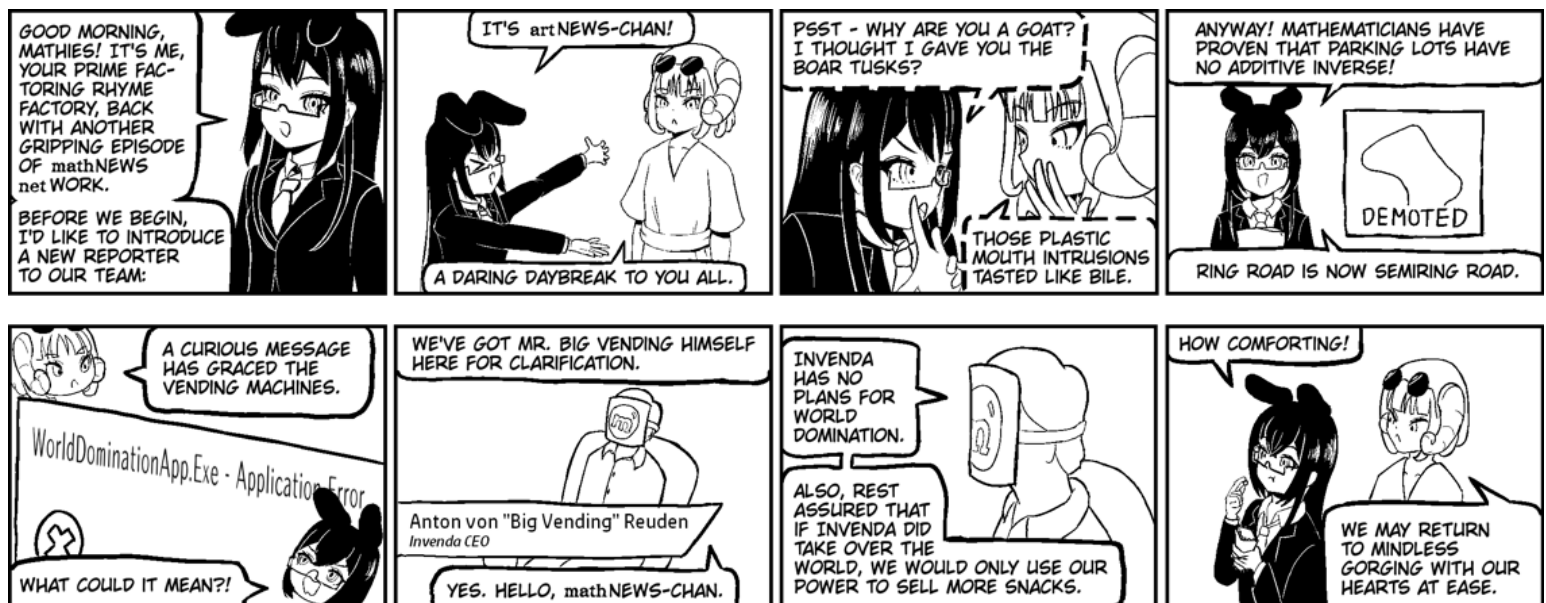
ACCEPTANCE: N/A SO HERE ARE A FEW EXTRA BANGERS FOR FUN

- "How can autism be a disorder if it's so common in many places and just a combination of high male neural functioning and intelligence?"
- "How come I get told I have a developmental disability but I feel normal?"

Shahabee

mathNEWS netWORK 4.1 AND 4.2

CONTINUING OFF OF THE BRIEF STINT FROM 156.1-156.5



snowdozer

HOW WIKIPEDIA IS SO ADDICTING

Wikipedia is a free and open encyclopedia that contains roughly the entirety of all human knowledge. Written by the people, for the people, it has carried humanity on its shoulders since the turn of the millenium.

Running on nothing but goodwill, free time, and more than a touch of OCD,^[1] it's done quite a remarkable job. Yet, in all these years, I've never found an answer to the most basic question everyone has: "How?"



A few years ago, I was idling on some uninteresting Wikipedia page, and my mouse wandered to the "Create Account" button. I probably thought it would be nice to have an account so I could fix some typo, or something. Regardless, I made an account.

THE INSTIGATION

Fast forward a year, and a random niche interest of mine got involved. I was working on a machine learning analysis of *Chess960* games (a.k.a. *Fischer Random*, a.k.a. *Freestyle Chess*), so I was checking the Wikipedia article on it, and I discovered its title was *Fischer Random*, not *Chess960* like I would've guessed.

I paused for a bit as an unusual thought entered my mind: I actually care about this name difference. I'll spare you the details, but in short, a small army of other chess variant enjoyers did too, and were actively discussing this problem in a special *Fischer Random* → *Chess960 Name Change* forum.

So, I added my two cents to the discussion,^[2] and within the month the name was changed.

ADDICTION BREWS

It was nice to be a part of a small corner of history like that, but I moved on. Unbeknownst to me, a seed of the realization that Wikipedia is an open-contribution platform had been planted in the depths of my mind, where it would quietly grow in the months that followed.

Eventually, niche interest two arrived: Rubik's cube world records. Only this time, I didn't need a big kick-start like the army of other editors for *Chess960*. This time, I had a sapling of understanding that I could simply *add something new*.

I had been browsing top 3x3x3 cube performances, and my eyes popped when I found out 11-year-old *Yiheng Wang* held the 29 fastest-ever performances, ranging from 4.73 seconds down to 4.05 seconds. So I went over to Wikipedia, and added that to *Yiheng Wang's* article.

It was so easy. I just hit "Edit," wrote the statistic with a single citation, and published.^[3]

THE WIKIPEDIA WORMHOLE

The dopamine hit was crazy. It was basically cocaine.^[citation needed] I impulsively opened an incognito tab to check if the change was public; it was.

The open-contribution seed in my mind had officially matured into a deep-rooted giant, and it was in full bloom. I couldn't go more than a day without thinking, "What could I add next?." Would it be more crazy statistics? Or a new article on Mr. Goose and Waterloo student life? Maybe I could even revive the long-forgotten **mathNEWS** draft article—now that would be something.

It wasn't just the public permanence of my efforts that hooked me. It was the little things, like receiving tips from senior editors, or finally being an "autoconfirmed user" so I could fix errors as I saw them, like the atrocity on the Wikipedia page for Yogurt: "Canada has its own spelling, *yogourt*..."^[4]

My latest contribution has been to spend a dozen hours creating 8-year-old *Xuanyi Geng's* biography. He already had the fastest Rubik's cube solve in history at 3.05 seconds, and now he's got a Wikipedia page.



Wikipedia is a genius encyclopedia system, a living organism engineered to heal and grow on its own. It blows its seeds far and wide, where they might be planted within anyone who cares about anything. All you need is some passion, and sooner or later, you'll fall down the wormhole like me.

So, I've got a new addiction now. Do I regret it, or worry about it growing? Nope. In fact, I'm proud of it. And I'm proud of Wikipedia, and honestly, the whole wide world.

Here's to another thousand years of human prosperity.^[5]

no pun indented

1. User: Tom.Reding—Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Tom.Reding>; accessed July 7, 2025
2. Talk:Chess960: Difference between revisions—Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Talk:Chess960&diff=prev&oldid=1255626247>; accessed July 7, 2025
3. Yiheng Wang: Difference between revisions—Wikipedia; https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Yiheng_Wang&diff=prev&oldid=1263998849; accessed July 8, 2025
4. Yogurt: Difference between revisions—Wikipedia; <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?diff=1299402181>; accessed July 8, 2025
5. We're not giving AI a soapbox today. Or any time this millennium.

$\cap \propto \nmid \lambda \cap \in \omega \leq$

SOCIAL MEDIA IS A CANCER

*No sh*t Sherlock, everyone is toxic.*

That's not what I mean. Well, kind of, but what I'm really referring to is how social media behaves like a super-organism, replicating and spreading.

Notice how the terminology surrounding social media uses terms such as "viral" and "meme" (which comes from the word "gene"). Ideas taking hold and migrating into different environments and contexts. Spreading. Infecting. Disrupting. Evolving.

It's not that public discourse is inherently bad; it's more that social media's main goal is to churn out content. And if each person in a hundred-person group has tons to say, you're inherently going to end up with a lot of cruft. There's just too many things to talk about, and a reader only has so much time.

Of course, the irony is that this article is also part of the cancer. How can we do better? It's all about signal to noise ratio. Limit the speculation and deliberations—get straight to the point, giving just enough context for the reader to understand it without losing them with side notes and rambling. This is actually quite difficult as a writer, because as someone who knows more about the subject, you think everything is important and obvious. On the other hand, readers approach your subject from different perspectives, all seeking to learn different things. Newcomers don't have much context and want a walkthrough of the high-level concepts. Those who are more experienced may be looking for a specific detail, like *how does this feature actually work and how does it interact with other features of the system?* And everyone wants to get what they're looking for in the least amount of time.

Maybe that's the issue: people trying to consume information as fast as possible. There's been a trend towards shorter-form content and algorithmic feeds, but personally I find I learn less when I'm trying to rush it. Shorter-form content gives you a quick idea of the subject, but in reality it's very shallow and can cause problems if you apply the knowledge outside of its context. Think of it like the Dunning-Kruger effect in media form—enough to make you feel smart, but not enough to make you feel despair. Algorithmic feeds save you from the hassle of figuring out what you want, but they're optimized to keep your attention, not for enhancing your learning. Hence, even if we come to watch "educational videos," it quickly turns into "consuming entertainment." In the end, the more we save minutes, the more we waste hours.

You might argue that the time was going to be "wasted" either way, whether doomscrolling or staring at the ceiling. As someone who does research—touché. There are many days where I feel completely stuck on a problem, and figure "I'm just wasting time regardless." Maybe that's exactly the point—to struggle is to slow down and give your subconscious time to digest the problem, which is almost always more complex than we initially give it credit for. At a certain point, you realize that a textbook is that thick because the

subject really is that complex. Sure, some of it is outdated and some sections aren't relevant to you right now, but you couldn't possibly compress it all into a thirty second blurb. Even seemingly simple topics turn out to be the result of years of research by people much smarter than you or I.

Social media may be easy to consume, but don't get too carried away with it. It is a cancer, designed for proliferation instead of your well-being. Spend some more time looking deeper and building solutions for the problems you want to solve.

You've got time—after all, you did spend hours doomscrolling last night, right?

SaltOverflow

THE QUESTION OF FREE WILL

Do you enjoy NOT taking responsibility for your actions? Are you looking for an out for the next time you make a morally reprehensible decision? Do you like to believe that nothing is ever your fault? You may want to consider: **becoming a determinist.**



Some people find this to be a liberating ideology that absolves them of feeling guilt or the need to take accountability. If you too feel stifled by the expectations of society, join us! Simply understand that your fate is predetermined, and soon enough you'll be wondering "Is there any point in doing anything?" Now, doesn't that really make life worth living?

headphones97

GARDENS

Back during COVID, I used to spend my isolation going on long solitary walks around the neighbourhood. On my route, I would always walk by one house that had such a splendid garden, bursting with beautiful blue flowers almost perpetually. It was always well tended, with trimmed hedges and never a weed in sight. The bird feeder was consistently busy, and I would frequently see something unique, be it an oriole, a cardinal, or a goldfinch. Sometimes, I would spot an older woman out there, hunched on her knees, putting in what I would assume to be constant work in order to keep things right.

One summer I came back from Waterloo and started to walk my usual route. Like many of the returns before this one, things were the same, but ever so slightly different. My parents forgot to tell me they were replacing the driveway, the bridge to downtown was out, the Starbucks in my local Chapters store was closing. As I started my walk, my neighbourhood remained unchanged, barring a new pedestrian crosswalk. The Linden trees flowered as they always had, my neighbour's fountain continued to gurgle water, but when I approached the garden, my eyes were greeted with the unfamiliar sight of freshly laid sod, still unconnected with the earth.

There is something that makes me sad when I see sodded-over gardens. It reminds me of my own impermanence. Just think of all the love and care that is put into a garden made so beautiful. Just like life, a garden requires constant maintenance, constant effort, just to keep it alive. To make something truly gorgeous of it, a garden requires a piece of yourself, a piece that fully invests itself in the space. But one day, the energy breathing order into entropy, providing what seems like permanent beauty and wonder into the land, just stops.

One day, people grow old, they move, perhaps they just don't feel that same energy anymore. Maybe their kids move in and lack their parent's passion. Maybe the garden is sodded over so house is ready for sale. The house is ready for rental and that garden takes so much effort to maintain. Just like that, something that someone took the time to put their time, their effort, their creativity into, is snuffed out like it was never even there.

I've been home a lot this summer, so I started tending a garden myself. I am now responsible for the many strawberries, tomatoes, and eggplants that grace my backyard. However, I hesitated before I started. By choosing to start gardening, I knew that while I would have a great harvest to make salads with, eventually it would end. I'd forget to water one day, or I'd return to school in September, or I would just lose interest, and then something that I put my time and effort into would very quickly fade, erased with just a bit of landscaping. I wonder what the point of starting anything is, if I know it will end.

But as the year has turned to July, and the eggplants and tomatoes start to ripen on the vine I know I made a good decision. When I see a black swallowtail caterpillar making its home in my garden I know I made a good decision. Nothing is permanent, but just because something will not last forever does not mean it is not worth it.

Just today, I saw a garden that would always catch my eyes on my walks home from elementary school, its domed canopy, providing a lot of shade and wonder into my life. But today, walking past it, it too had been transformed into fresh sod, with only a tree serving a reminder of what had been there. I felt sad at first, and wondered the circumstances in which this garden had been given up on, but in the end, I felt grateful that it was ever there at all.

Lars Nootbaar

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED

that from the side, Gardevoir kinda looks like a capital cursive letter S??



Sexy_Software_Babe

This post brought to you by me, staying up until 5 am over the weekend by accident... Also, you can see the border from my shitty five-minute photo editing, personally I think it adds to the vision.

**A blackBOX a day keeps
whitespace away.**

A HEALTHY mathNEWS EDITOR

CSC FLASH

CSC FLASH 5!

Service Update and Hiring Notice: Our new messaging system, Matrix, is almost up and running. Matrix is our secure messaging system that supports most functionalities Discord have, with the addition of being encrypted. Huge shoutout to our Systems Committee for getting the Matrix servers up at lightning speed. Check your emails for more updates coming soon! If you want to join CSC as a termcom admin working on various CSC cloud services and infrastructure, apply by sending an email to syscom@cscclub.uwaterloo.ca.

Engineering Prank: For months now, we've been locked in an increasingly chaotic prank war with the Engineering Society. Last Saturday, we pulled a legendary, chaos-fueled, and tightly-coordinated prank on Engineering! After sleepless nights of meme research and strategic planning, we turned POETS from a drab boring lounge to a beautiful, blue, Codey-filled lounge. It was a sight that proved CSC's unrivaled prank skills are so next level, that even Engineering's calculators couldn't compute the damage ☹️

EVENTS

LeetCode Competition: Join CSC on Wednesday, July 9th, 7pm at STC 0020 for our termly LeetCode team competition. Compete in teams of four and solve LeetCode problems for a chance to win EPIC prizes such as CSC merch. New to LeetCode? No worries, the competition is open to everyone including beginners. There will be snacks and pops to fuel your brain. This is an event you don't want to miss out on! 🔥

EOT: As the term winds down, we're excited to host our EOT Bonfire event soon (undecided date) at CIF Fire Pit 1 in collaboration with DSC, WICS, and Tech+. Join us for a night of fun activities including smores, volleyball, frisbee, spikeball, and other games. There will also be food, pop, and other refreshments to keep you energized through the evening. Check out our Instagram for updates!

Merch: As always, we've got CSC merch for sale. Head over to cscclub.ca/merch to check out everything we have in stock. From lambda calculus T-shirts to Codey keychains, there is plenty of cool merch for every CSC member!

Office: Come say hi at the CSC office and hang out with us while enjoying great beverages like Arizona (official beverage of sponsoring CS all nighters) for \$2 in MC 3036. Come on down and drink like a true code monkey.

And the best for last, CSC quotes!

We're going to engineer a counter-prank so intelligent, so unexpected, that they'll be too busy reading Stack Overflow to respond.

SOUROJEET ADHIKARI (CSC VICE PRESIDENT)

See you in our next edition 😊😊😊

ctdalek



TWO LETTER SCRABBLE WORDS

BUT BY MEANING??

Determiners: AN NO

Conjunctions: AS SO IF OR

Prepositions: AT BY IN OF ON TO

Pronouns: HE IT ME MY US WE

Archaic Pronouns: UN YA YE

Verbs: AM BE GO IS

Interjections: AG AH AW AY EH ER EW HA HI HM HO LO MM OH OI OK OW OY SH UH UM WO YO

Directions: UP

Letters: AR EF EL EM EN EX

More Letters: AE DE ES FE MU NU PE PI XI

Natural World: AA AI AL KI OS OX PO

Solfège: DO FA LA MI RE TI

Archaic Solfège: SI TA TE UT

Relatives: DA MA PA

Weapons & Martial Arts: AX BO GI JO

Mind & Soul: BA ID KA OM QI

Measurements: LI XU

Other Archaisms: MO NA NE OD OE ET

Reasonable Clippings: AB AD BI ED OP

Stupid Clippings: ZA

SHOULD WUSA PERMANENT STAFF OVERRIDE THE WILL OF THE STUDENTS?

[Editor's Note: We could not verify whether the writer is a UW undergraduate student.]

Ever since the controversial change in the structure of WUSA a few years ago, student governance on campus has taken a backseat to an unelected cadre of careerist profiteers. WUSA permanent staff progressively reduced service quality, increased student fees, surveilled student activism, and bribed students with freebies in order to juice engagement and manufacture consent for their malfeasance. They sidelined those whom they ostensibly serve, squeezing the students who grudgingly pay their salaries.

After the structural change in the governance of WUSA, the elected student executives effectively became advisors to the WUSA permanent staff. This applied even to the student president and vice-president, whose executive roles are full time jobs! No longer are students within student government ultimately in charge of day-to-day decisions. It is the permanent staff, whose unjustly inflated salaries bilk students' money, multiplying like a cancer, who in fact lord it over "student" government. Their interests, needless to say, are wholly unaligned with student interests. Unaffiliated students on campus, almost without exception, speak with derision regarding WUSA and its service quality.

"Free" comes with a cost. Whether food or laptops offered as bribes, freebies are not actually free. They increase student fees. But more importantly these frivolous events and goodies increase administrative overhead, necessitating an increase in the WUSA permanent staff headcount. A bigger bureaucracy of unelected lifetimers having their own agenda is not in the interest of students. Furthermore, by their actions over the past few years, from the governance change to surveilling student activism on campus, the WUSA permanent staff have consistently betrayed themselves as aligning with the status quo: the university administration's interests. Thus subverting the will of the students, and marginalizing their voices.

Current elected student leadership has the right idea in seeking to roll back the governance change. This will put students back in charge, with the permanent staff as advisors. But this is not enough. More reform needs to be accomplished. A change of culture is in order. Instead of behaving as unelected lords who subvert the student interest at every turn, the permanent staff should embody the spirit of the humble civil servant. Cultural change is a most difficult endeavour, and the rot is deep. This perhaps cannot be accomplished without firing most of the staff and hiring fresh people.

Furthermore, the WUSA permanent staff needs to be cut down to size, in both head count and salaries. More utilization of co-op students should be preferred, instead of permanent staff members. Considering the job market out there, having more co-ops within student government is both good for the students, as well as WUSA budget.

Finally, some services and centres on campus should be devolved from WUSA, reverting back to how they were before. The Bike Centre was run by volunteers eager to help. After WUSA took control and imposed its will, they all resigned in disgust. Needless to say, service quality suffered. The new cadre of workers don't have the same motivation, and rarely honour their posted Centre hours. Devolution would also mean an end to WUSA censorship. During the recent spell of campus activism, RAISE (supposedly "student-led") voiced a squeak of support for Palestinian human rights. WUSA staff ordered them to silence their solidarity. Not every student endeavour on campus should be under the aegis of one organization.

With the aforementioned changes in the structure and size of WUSA, more of the student government budget can be spent on fewer scoped student services of high quality (instead of inflated salaries and frivolous freebies), with the remainder given back to the students in the form of lower fees. Perhaps only when this is accomplished can students on campus have a student government worthy of its name, with those elected actually in charge. But vigilance and engagement is essential for this reform to transpire.

PrincessMononoke

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO MADE THIS IMAGE



Does anyone know who made this image or where it came from? I quote it to whoever I'm with whenever I walk by the egg fountain and no one ever has any idea what I'm talking about so they always look at me like I'm insane. I assume I got it from a Discord server I was in at some point but I can't figure out its origins. I reverse image searched it and got no results. If you have any information on this image please send it to tinyurl.com/eggfountainform.

macinnes

WORDS STARTING AND ENDING WITH THE SAME LETTER

My favorite words from A-Z starting and ending with the same letter:

- **AROWANA**: a freshwater fish.
- **BLEB**: a rounded outgrowth on a cell.
- **COMPUTERPHOBIC**: fear of computers.
- **DOODAD**: a gadget whose name the speaker does not recall.
- **ERMINE**: a weasel-like creature.
- **FLUFF**: soft and puffy fibers.
- **GATELEG**: a kind of table used in 16th century England.
- **HIPPOGRYPH**: a mythical creature with the body of a horse and the head of an eagle.
- **IAMBI**: plural of IAMBUS, a metrical foot used in poetry.
- **J**: the letter J.
- **KINNIKINNICK**: a kind of berry.
- **LOLL**: to idle or lounge lazily.
- **MYCELIUM**: the rootlike structure of a fungus.
- **NONSOLUTION**: something that is not a solution.
- **OVOLO**: a convex molding in architecture.
- **POLYP**: a sedentary form of a jellyfish, coral, or anemone.
- **QULLIQ**: an Inuit lamp.
- **ROADRUNNER**: a fast running bird of the cuckoo family.
- **SUSS**: to realize or discover the true nature of something.
- **THALASSOCRAT**: someone who dominates the sea.
- **UNAU**: a species of sloth.
- **VAV**: sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- **WILLYWAW**: a sudden, violent windstorm.
- **XEROX**: a kind of printer.
- **YABBY**: a species of crayfish.
- **ZIZZ**: a whizzing or buzzing sound.

foxshark

PETITION TO BAN UOFT profQUOTES

In the last **mathNEWS** issue, there was section with UofT **profQUOTES**. This is outrageous and against every value that **mathNEWS** stands for!

Voice your concern regarding this by contacting your local **mathNEWS** editor at mathnews@gmail.com or at MC 3030.

Not a UofT student

RANKING 7N DISCORD GAMES

AIRPORT CITY TRANSPORT MANAGER — 5/10

Why is this a game on discord... Not only do you have to manage an airport, you build a city around it to support populations and needs. I'll be honest, I put some time into this and I still don't really know what's going on. It might be the past five years of CS draining my braincells, but it seems like the type of game to overload on content to get you to spend money on microtransactions. The planes look cool though.

HEXA STACK — 9/10

For a time waster game it's pretty fun and satisfying. The premise is to build stacks of 10+ hexagonal tiles to score them and have disappear from the board. You're given smaller stacks of multiple different colors, but the twist is that colored tiles will jump to adjacent columns of that color, giving a layer of strategy and satisfaction placing the perfect tile and watching everything jump around.

STRATEGO ONLINE — 7/10

A tactical top down army management game: you have a few different units with different power levels. In general, if a higher power level unit interacts with a lower level one, the lower level gets destroyed. There are some weaker units specifically designed to destroy the stronger ones so there's kind of a rock-paper-scissors element to these battles. You can deploy your troops in any way you want to protect your flag so gameplay wise it's pretty interesting. It is very slow-paced though, as every unit except for the scout can only move one tile at a time which can get tedious. All enemy units are also hidden-power-wise so you have to do some poking and mind games to end up winning. Neat concept but it's a bit slow.

Catboy Supremacy

AEFHUSJHGVJDSFVNK mathNEWS POST

wuhhmsrgm hmmm ok ig

btw i am not pofsifnt g this ofrji freo e fofdood

easty

mathNEWS

IT'S GETTING TOO HOT OUTSIDE

gridCOMMENT 158.5

top o' the morning to everyone,

i've recently returned to parroting my "i'm sweating like a ____ in a ____" bit because it's been so hot, and so i thought: what a great **gridWORD** theme idea!! unfortunately, as i sat down to make the **gridWORD**, i realized nearly every "i'm sweating like a ____" line ever is overtly sexual and/or morbid in nature, and while i know **mathNEWS** wouldn't really mind that much because we've literally published several images of minimally-censored breasts before, i've decided to keep the **gridWORD** a little bit more appropriate. as a result, i had to really dig in reddit for a couple of these, and i'm hoping that they're somewhat commonplace at least somewhere in the world, but they aren't the most intuitive (sorry).

oh well. last time, i asked you all where you would most like to visit in the world, and you all said:

- *coard bames glub*: i'd love to visit greenland!!
- *Sexy_Software_Babe*: the South Pole would be cool, i think

- *Math Tutoring Centre*: Rome & The Vatican
- *macinnes*: aotearoa

thank you macinnes for a great answer AND a great email :3 please pick up your prize at MC 3030. to other gridWORDers, interesting emails score bonus points too (please send interesting emails please). this issue's **gridQUESTION** is: **what is a notably very difficult skill/profession you have zero experience in that you think you could easily excel in?** me personally, i have boundless confidence that i could master mountain biking. or cosmetic surgery, i think i could do a mean nose job. please let me know where your unreasonable confidence lies by dropping off your completed **gridWORD** + **gridQUESTION** answer + pseudonym at MC 3030 or the inbox of mathnews@gmail.com by **6 pm of monday july 21**. have a fantastic weekend everyone.

i'm gonna start bolding important info,

spaghettiiinhalers

ACROSS

1. Ear-related
5. By the ____side (iPhone ringtone)
8. Tropical vacation destination
14. Brit's teapot cover
15. Lodge
16. Entruster of property
17. Trophy wife, for one
19. Drink
20. Per ____ (yearly)
21. With desperation
22. Persevere
26. Wacky
27. But, briefly
28. Peruse anew
30. Illegally assist
32. 1-Across pains
37. Horse's food holder
41. Bird app repost
42. "I'm sweating like a ____ on Countdown!"*
44. Container weight
45. Jorongo
48. X - III
49. River sediment
52. "I'm sweating like a ____ in flats!"*
55. Tummy soother
57. Victim of Hermes

58. Social breakdown
59. Insane
63. Most of you probably live or lived here
64. Old Tokyo
65. Mongolian desert
66. Snake
67. Race part
68. "Holy macaroni!"

DOWN

1. Mozart's "L' ____ del Cairo"
2. Rocky peak
3. An end to sex?
4. Tropical evergreen
5. "I'm sweating like a ____ in church!"*
6. Weather
7. No longer
8. Footnote abbr.
9. Soviet contraband literature
10. Abiotic air sign
11. Not from here
12. Royally
13. Squirrels' nest
18. Cuckoo bird
22. Sheet music supporter
23. "Yippee!"

24. Loamy soil
25. Close to
29. "____ we there yet?"
31. Contact no.
33. 100 lbs.
34. "____, ho!"
35. Creepy
36. The Beren ____ Bears, according to the Mandela Effect
38. Straddle
39. Fire
40. Surround
43. Coat for an apple
46. Pride event
47. Christmas drink
49. Biblical mount
50. Stars
51. Priests of the East
53. Who, in Paris
54. Practice
55. "Brandenburg Concertos" composer
56. "I'm sweating like a ____ in the desert!"*
60. Component of a corporate machine, maybe
61. Lawyer's org.
62. Cover

Drop your gridWORD solutions off at MC 3030. And no, we don't actually award points for creativity.

**A mathNEWS EDITOR WHO SECRETLY HATES ALL THINGS FUN
(EXCEPT FOR READING mathNEWS)**

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

A mathNEWS EDITOR WHO WANTS YOU TO CHECK THE lookAHEAD
RIGHT NOW TO SEE WHEN THE NEXT PRODUCTION NIGHT IS

SUN JULY 13

Oxymoron Day

MON JULY 14

Be a Dork Day

TUE JULY 15

WED JULY 16

Drop with WD ends

THU JULY 17

Drop with WF begins
MathSoc GM

FRI JULY 18

WaterlooWorks Cycle 3
match results available

SAT JULY 19

SUN JULY 20

John Mulaney does
a comedy show in
Edmonton

Ugly Truck Day

MON JULY 21

math**NEWS** 158.6
production night
6:30pm. ONC 1502

TUE JULY 22

WED JULY 23

[View next term's schedule](#)

THU JULY 24

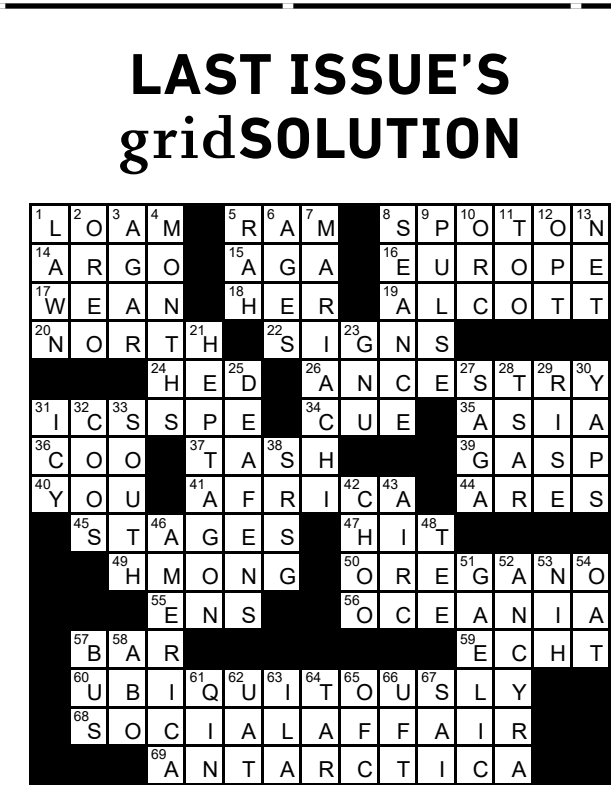
FRI JULY 25

Final math**NEWS** issue of the term releases :(

WaterlooWorks Cycle 4
match results available

SAT JULY 26

All or Nothing Day



MATHSOC GENERAL MEETING

Hello fellow **mathNEWS** enjoyers, did you know that MathSoc has their termly General Meeting coming up? That's right, mark your calendars for July 17th, because at 6pm in MC 1085, you can join in and vote on the matters of upmost importance to MathSoc.

I'm looking forward to seeing you; yes YOU, there!

John MathSoc



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