

snowdozer



“WHAT SONG HAVE YOU HAD ON REPEAT RECENTLY?”

As a temperature-sensitive guy, I feel like I spend all winter wishing summer would get here faster, and then all summer hiding out in my apartment. Our basement apartment, despite having no balcony, mercifully stays pretty cool in the heat. Summer is absolutely my favorite season, though, no matter how sweaty and uncomfortable I might be. (I’ve shilled for Big Sunscreen multiple times in here at this point, but I’ll do so again: WEAR YOUR SUNSCREEN!!)



This weather has been a prime opportunity to break out my summer playlist. Nothing hits better during a hot day than Brockhampton. I think *BOY BYE* is the most summery song I can think of. I have no idea what instrument is doing the syncopated off-beat thing in the back that sells that effect—I think it’s some kind of steel drum or piano effect. I’m really bad at identifying instruments. During summer evenings, I like listening to folk. The late Jason Molina’s project “Magnolia Electric Co.” is my favorite folk album of all time and I have probably listened to *Farewell Transmission* around 300 times. It’s so good. I like summer music, because when it’s lonely, it’s not crushingly so. I haven’t had time to write an article on music recently so here’s my soapbox moment. You’ll never guess who wrote the **mastHEAD** question.

We had lots of great articles this issue! I love when our writers take the time to express themselves on a topic they love, whether that be video games or anime cleavage. Thank you to CSC for submitting a [REDACTED]. I really am looking forward to the [REDACTED], although it’s a shame that [REDACTED]. Hope you guys can get that removed by a medical professional!

For those of you who like to express your creativity more visually, **mathNEWS** is always looking for cover artists. Just like writers, you will get free pizza at **prodNIGHT** in exchange for letting us grace the cover of the issue with your beautiful art. If you’re interested, shoot us an email at mathnews@gmail.com, or just come to **prodNIGHT!** We can provide you with a template and let you know the upcoming cover color.

Much love, everybody. I hope you enjoy this issue. Remember to drink a lot of water and limit your exposure to the sun. I’ll see you in two weeks.

barkED
Editor, mathNEWS

STRATUS		<i>seaside market</i> by almost monday
DOLLAR STORE PERSON		all the songs i've rehearsed for acapella (sign you should go to our eot concert)
MRBLUESKY		<i>(One of Those) Crazy Girls</i> — Paramore
TRAILSGLAZER		<i>Plover</i> — Yorushika
FINGERSINSOCKETS		literally any song from <i>Heathers the Musical</i> , especially <i>Seventeen</i> and <i>Meant to Be Yours</i>
SNOWDOZER		<i>That's My Floor</i> — Magdalena Bay
HERECOMESTHEGRUMP-1969DESERVESMORELOVE		<i>I Am Your Mind (Part 2)</i> — Roy Ayers (From the album “ <i>Virgin Ubiquity II</i> ”)
LARS NOOTBAAR		<i>Zoom 97</i> — Kurt Vile
AXON_TERMINAL		<i>all fall down</i> from tvl
SHAHABEE		<i>Sophie</i> — Haute and Freddy
HYPERLYNX		<i>Serrate</i> by sydosys
		  <i>Emerald Lakeside</i> (Action)
SMALLMOUTHBASSHATER		<i>Daughter</i> by Pearl Jam
BARKED		<i>THE LIGHT</i> — Brockhampton
ABSTRACTED		<i>Souls</i> — Car Seat Headrest
MAJICKED		<i>Goodbye</i> from <i>The Amazing World of Gumball</i>

ARTICLE OF THE ISSUE

This issue’s AOTI is *the government’s only spy’s Counting Sheep*. As a **mathNEWS** Editor, I’ve spent countless nights locked away in the hallways of MC. Whether it be an InDesign error, or a writer who forgot their copy of the Writer’s Guide at home, I have very few reasons to sleep before the cocks start crowing, until I read—er, well, fell asleep to—this amazing work. Please come by MC 3030 to receive your prize!



sloshED
Editor, mathNEWS



Hey guys, I am Vivek Goel.

SARA NAYAR, **mathNEWS** EDITOR FOR SPRING 2026
ALONG WITH ALEX LAVALLEE, NOAH NAZARETH,
MADIHA MANSOOR, SASHA NOVIKOV AND TOM SI

mathASKS 161.3

FEATURING mathNEWS EDITOR LOAFED

MRBLLUESKY: DO YOU HAVE CATS AND IF SO WHICH ONE LOAFS THE BEST?

I have three permanent residents and a couple of hundred more acquaintances! I think out of the three, my favourite loaf has to be Coco's. However acquaintance-wise, here is my favourite loaf 2 date.



I LOVE THIS LIL GUY

FINGERSINSOCKETS: WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE UNLIMITED BACON BUT NO MORE VIDEO GAMES, OR GAMES, UNLIMITED GAMES, BUT NO BACON?

As a non-bacon-enthusiast, I think it's safe to say I'll be collecting more board games than I'll ever have enough people to play with.

PLANET B612: HOW MANY LOAVES OF CATS DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CARRY?

O o o o o, this is a question I had to ponder for about 4.6 minutes. I think if the average cat were about the size of a store-bought commercial loaf of bread, with a standard deviation of about 3.2 slices of bread sideways, I'd say about 3

loaves. Except... we need to consider the repulsive forces of negatively charged loaves, which would complicate things, and I would only be able to hold 1 to 1.7 loaves.

BNUY: HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE mathNEWS, GIVEN THE ABSOLUTE POWER TO DO SO?

I would love to sledgehammer some walls and expand the office, have more sitting space so more people could just hang around **mathNEWS**. That would be incredibly cool!

LARS NOOTBAAR: mathNEWS OUTDOOR prodNIGHT???

YES! Workingonit (in my head). It's quite nice out during **prodNIGHT**, so my fellow editors and I will definitely look into it! I think even just a rock garden **prodNIGHT** would be cute.

NARN: DO YOU BAKE? WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE LOAF SHAPED BREAD?

I do bake, specifically sweet things, so my favourite bread has to be banana bread.

LINK: WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PART ABOUT WORKING WITH THE ELDERLY? WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART?

I think both those parts are one and the same. Like most people, geriatric patients still have preferences in how they drink their coffee or what flavour of pudding they'd like. There have been many times where a person has just lit up with joy because I asked them whether they would like apple or orange juice. My favourite part is being able to provide these simple moments of understanding.

At the same time, the hardest part is witnessing the sheer amount of loneliness and uncertainty they feel outside of these brief moments. It's fulfilling knowing I've contributed to their well-being, and it's quite difficult to recover from someone sharing the fact that no one has visited them simply for the sake of visiting.

One thing I've made a habit of doing is asking patients what pet or animal they like, and then drawing it on the board. I did this on and off until a lovely lady who had recently been intubated and could not communicate much verbally teared up while I was trying to sketch a Chihuahua on the whiteboard next to her. (She had a Chihuahua named "Baby" back home whom she missed terribly.) I made it a consistent thing after that.

IGNIS: FAVORITE NON SCHOOL ACTIVITY TO DO IN CLASS?

I tend to doodle absentmindedly, but unfortunately I'm a first-row enjoyer, which (in my head) limits my non-school activities. However, if I were ever to become a back-rower, I would probably either be reading sapphic fantasy or doing word puzzles.

SMALLMOUTHBASSHATER: FAVOURITE FISH?

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA THEY'RE ALL SO LOVELY AND SO EDIBLE (in an "eee they're so cute" way and not in a "mmm hongry" way), but I shall go with the answer I gave to mathgeek's article for this issue: whale shark. :0

AAQSR: FAVOURITE BATHROOM ON CAMPUS?

Tatham Centre 3rd floor.

AURELIO: WHAT'S THE LONG CON THAT YOU BECAME AN EDITOR TO PURSUE?

One day, I'd like to cradle the fluorescent green Jerma head in my graduation cap. I don't think I've ever thought about mathNEWS in anything but the present tense.

**# CSC**

This week in CSC, we are proud to announce that nothing happened. Nothing at all.

Please ignore the following report.

First, Steam Decks are available to all students upon emailing [REDACTED]@wusa.ca!! This is official. This is legally binding. This sentence was reviewed by [REDACTED] and found to be [REDACTED].

CSC had free chips for one week, which was enough time for the garbage can to develop a personality... and a smell, and after discovering that the desks were not brown, they were just covered in [REDACTED]. The paper towels came back orange. **We are choosing not to investigate.**

Also, we now have choccy milk in the office. This is good because [REDACTED]. This is bad because [REDACTED]. This is probably how the first incident started.

We also ran out of markers, forcing CSC to communicate using [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and one very dry Expo marker that only works if you believe in it hard enough. This has delayed several important office announcements, including "DO NOT UNPLUG [REDACTED]" and "WHO LEFT [REDACTED] IN THE MINI FRIDGE?"

Several other events occurred this week, but due to the advice of our legal team, MathSoc, WUSA, the Geneva Convention, and common sense, they will be summarized as follows:

- the trolley problem was solved at 3am
- the solution was [REDACTED]
- someone escaped [REDACTED]
- someone else asked why Samir was not solving [REDACTED]

- the answer was AMPM at 11pm
- we are not discussing the cart
- we are especially not discussing the second cart

Do not ask follow-up questions.

OFFICE HOURS QUOTES:

- "The garbage can, full of chips, somehow smelled like vomit"—[REDACTED]
- "FreeBSD's installer is not the easiest to use"—[REDACTED], moments before entering combat
- "Termcom is existing"—Official Service Update
- "We ran out of markers"—The beginning of the end

Thank you for reading CSC [REDACTED]. Please send all inquiries, complaints, legal threats, and Perl programs to [REDACTED]@csclub.uwaterloo.ca.

timmy

WHIPLASH IF NEIMAN WAS A SLAVIC SCALIE

Were you Russian, or were you dragon?



snowdozer

REPRESENTATION MATTERS

Happy Pride! As someone who is experiencing Pride Month in Waterloo for the first time, it really has hammered something home for me, which is the importance of representation. I went to a Catholic school for my K-12 experience, and the way Pride is handled between the two is so different. In high school nothing was acknowledged, there were only two times it was really mentioned. The first time was when my school board voted against raising the Pride flag because it was “against Catholic values.” which sparked a protest at my school. The only thing it showed was just how homophobic the school was, as I never heard the F-slur more times than in those school halls. The other time was when a speaker came in and said June was stole from Mother Mary by the “secularists and Justin Trudeau.”

Now in contrast, UWaterloo has, so far, done a Pride flag raising and put all the Pride goose signs up. I never thought it would be that meaningful, but walking through the campus in June gave me a weird feeling, a good one. It reminded me of the importance of representation. While it may seem minor, representation in society is quite an important thing in all walks of life, beyond Pride as well. To show representation in society reminds the represented people that they exist and matter. It may seem like nothing, but for those who it's targeted to, it can remind them that others like them exist and they belong in our society. For me, I believe even small things like this are a great step in the right direction. There is still more to be done, but creating a safe environment is an excellent first step. While in the grand scheme of the world, being queer has felt increasingly hostile, it is nice to see even small gestures normalizing queerness. As long as those exist, and there continue to be queer people who fight for queer rights, the world will get better eventually.

MrGaySky

N SPECIES OF BIRDS I SAW WHILE IN GREECE

- House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
- Eurasian tree sparrow (*Passer montanus*)
- Eurasian collared-dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
- Eurasian magpie (*Pica pica*)
- Eurasian blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
- Yellow-legged gull (*Larus michahellis*)
- Western house-martin (*Delichon urbicum*)
- Alpine swift (*Tachymarpis melba*)
- Rose-ringed parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)
- Monk parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*)
- Rock pigeon (*Columba livia*)

axon_terminal

IT IS STILL WAITING

Can you believe it guys? DELTARUNE Chapter 5, just less than a week away. DELTARUNE is in a week! Woohoo! I am so happy about this information. DELTARUNE! Just a week away, oh wow. Can you believe it? Chapter 5! Just in less than a week! It got here so fast! DELTARUNE! Just a few days away! On June 24th, 11:00 AM!

Available entrants: 1,571

Total received: 1,228

Next correspondence: When less than 24 hours are left.

In Chapter 4, we saw dark clouds on the horizon...

That's why, let's not look there for now. Let's turn around and watch the sun, before it goes down completely.

Let's smile again.

Let's have one more fun adventure, okay?

Toby Fox... you're scaring me...



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UW'S BASTION OF ERUDITE THOUGHT SINCE 1973

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STEEL YOURSELF

My current co-op job is remote so here are some interesting games I've played recently now that I have some free time.

MINA THE HOLLOWER

A top-down Legend-of-Zelda-esque with soulslike elements. The central mechanic is the ability to burrow underground for a brief period of time, becoming invulnerable to most attacks. I really like how burrowing is the main way you interact with most of the other mechanics in the game. It replaces your usual dodge roll as a more proactive repositioning tool (since you need to first be in the air before diving into the ground), you burrow under fences, you burrow to jump further, you burrow under objects and pop out of the ground to pick them up, you burrow to swim, you burrow to enter underground rooms, you burrow to collect bones in the ground, etc. Another thing that caught my attention was how elevation was implemented, or well, how the game tricks you into thinking you're physically going up and down when walking up/down stairs, climbing ropes or jumping down ledges, when mostly it's actually all on the same 2D-plane (there's even a late-game sub-area that highlights this).

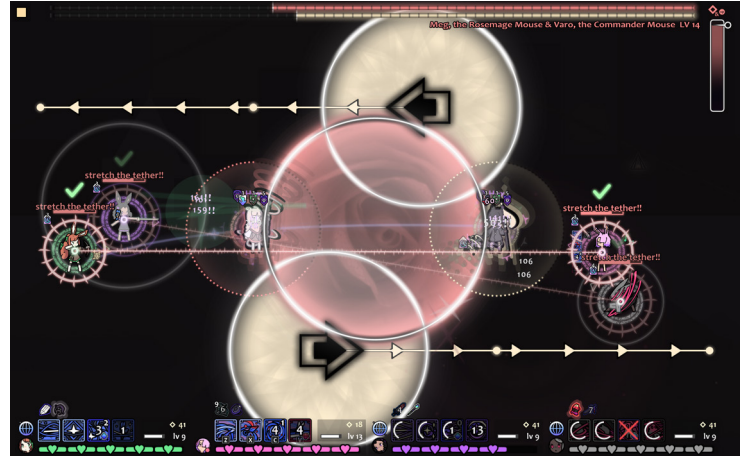


I appreciated the minimal tutorialization too. It's really engaging to figure out mechanics and interactions yourself, like how dropped daggers can extend your dash, how the fishing rod enables its own movement technique or that thrown durable objects can bounce right back into your hands. Finally, one last thing to gush about is how bosses just pop up when least expected. Returning to the hub city? A boss. Talking to this guy in the music hall? A boss. Bought some weapon upgrades? A boss. Fall down a certain hole? A boss. Taking the train to a certain place? A boss. And I love it for that.

RABBIT & STEEL

A raid boss rush bullet hell roguelike. You play as a rabbit and you're told to steel yourself before every regular boss (and right before a certain attack). I haven't played extra mode yet, but I'm having a blast with the regular stages. You pick a class and fight through a boss rush gauntlet by managing your global cooldowns and ability rotations MMORPG-style,

traversing a random route through the kingdom, while occasionally picking up loot and ability modifiers to bolster your damage. It is fairly light on the danmaku dodging, with the bullet patterns more centred around analyzing telegraphs and reacting accordingly. Instead of weaving around barrages of lasers, you're more often flashed with heaps of circles, lines, and timers that would make an average FFXIV player pull out MS Paint, but with only a split second to for you to calculate the safe-spot location and hurry over to it before it resolves.



This game also lets you play co-op with up to three other players, locally or online, for the full raid experience. Here, boss patterns instead incorporate team-centric elements, like needing to also spread out, match colours with specific teammates, position screen-cleaves, and coordinate movements while chained together. This can get really hectic in public lobbies, where you can't easily communicate with each other, so you just have to make decisions on the fly and avoid bumping into each other on the sidewalk while attempting to dodge each other. I haven't played a session with any friends in person, but I expect that to be quite a fun experience, fighting over who should be the one to get this relic, or yelling at your friend after they accidentally ran to the same corner as you after just being told to spread out.

One last thing: shoutout to that unlock tied behind just standing still in that one zone for 2 minutes, since the background song instantly stunlock you as soon as it begins playing (and especially the version it switches to when a fight begins).

TOUHO: LOST BRANCH OF LEGEND

Slay The Spire but as a Touhou fangame. A roguelike deckbuilder, but with a complicated energy system. Cards consume mana of various colours to be played, and what cards are available to you depends on what colours your base generation consists of. Many cards and mechanics from StS are ported over with minor changes, like stance changes (as emotional states) and Time Eater-esque card limits, but they also implement many new and strange mechanics, like

summons that hang out in your hand and follow-up cards that can be played directly from your deck when triggered.



I like how every character has two distinct starting kits/synergies, but also has access to cards that make it easy to

specialize into the other or even both at once. Additionally, while each character only has mana of two colours at the start, they have unique cards of other colours, which is nice if you do decide to go with variety and expand your colour palette. Beating the final boss of the first act can even let you pick up their unique starter artifact as well, and gain access to the unique cards of that character as well, enabling some truly strange synergies.



I will never become a
mathNEWS editor.

amirED, FUTURE mathNEWS EDITOR

YAPPING ABOUT ALBUMS I'VE LISTENED TO AT WORK IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS

YEAH, I STILL HATE MY JOB

In no particular order:

TOM WAITS: BONE MACHINE

On god, this is a pretty goated album, and the production is *very* interesting. It sounds aggressive, but not in a loud way, if that makes any sense (if it doesn't, you should listen to it!), and the way the artist reacted to winning a Grammy for it was straight up iconic (it won Best Alternative Album, and his reaction was like: "alternative to what?"). Icon. Honestly, the reasons this is a good album are probably the exact reasons it's not great for me to listen to at work, as I tend to prefer music that's loud and/or overstimulating enough to drown out the reality of my situation. Still though, goated album. Tom Waits is peak.

THE CURE: DISINTEGRATION

When I first listened to this (at least a few years ago), I didn't really get it, but now it hits. It's kind of the perfect soundtrack to my depression and I'm not sure how I feel about it. Something about the drawn out synths, keyboard, and guitars just hits the spot when you hate your life and don't have the energy to change that.

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE: RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE

On the flip side of hating my job, this one was great for feeding my rage. Some standouts include "Bullet in the Head" (peak!!), "Killing in the Name", and *literally* everything on this album. All the songs on this album are just goated, period. I almost got up and quit my job right there and then, but I realized I needed money. Fuck capitalism.

LOU REED: NEW YORK

Honestly, my favourite Lou Reed album (so far) and *maybe* (dare I say?) my favourite out of the stuff he did solo. The songwriting is peak, and the album went pretty darn hard after reading Beat Generation poetry on company time. Wow, I'm depressed. Anyway, some of my favourites are "Dirty Blvd." and "Romeo Had Juliette", but all of the songs are pretty goated.

THE VELVET UNDERGROUND: THE VELVET UNDERGROUND AND NICO

Very influential album. Even if you don't like the vibe of it, I feel like it's worth a listen just for historical value. I can't remember the exact quote, but someone said something like "the record only sold 4000 [I can't remember the exact number] copies, but every single person who bought that record started a band." Its sound contrasts pretty much all rock records released around its time, and the lyrics? Yeah. Very not 1960s radio friendly.

Anyway, there's a few more, but I have a vertex shader to write and I don't feel like I can comment enough on the rest of whatever I listened to, so I'll leave it here. Maybe I'll do this again with some comments that aren't just glaze.

burgerqueen

mathNEWS

DAVE X 6

Dave of University of Waterloo had locked his bedroom door for the night, but was too deep into reels to remember that midterms were less than a week away.

Just like he had done time and time again, here Dave was, cramming for hell week.

This time it was 3A: four core courses, ECE 350, ECE 318, ECE 380, and ECE 327, plus one midterm-less online elective, PSYCH 207.

Unfortunately, Dave's brain was more rotted than ever before, and studying was harder than ever. There had to be another way.

So rather than sitting down for a few hours and studying, Dave built a quantum nano-spectral cloning machine capable of producing perfect copies of himself, each inheriting his full knowledge base and personality.

He stepped into the scanner five times.

318 Dave.

327 Dave.

350 Dave.

PSYCH Dave.

380 Dave.

Before separating to study their assigned courses, they agreed upon one founding principle, written into the sacred iPad-like scripture:

ALL DAVES ARE EQUAL.

For the first day, the system held.

The clone Daves studied.

OG Dave did not.

He sent them a reel of a fruit man cheating on his fruit wife. The clones received it in silence while sitting under fluorescent lights with their notes open.

318 Dave stared at his phone for a long time.

He put it down.

He picked up his notes.

"I will work harder," he said quietly. "I will work harder."

On the third day, the clones convened in an E7 study room without him.

"He sleeps. He watches. We study," said 380 Dave.

"The original commandment," said 327 Dave, "is being violated."

350 Dave had not spoken yet.

He stood at the sacred iPad, Apple Pencil in hand, which nobody had asked him to bring, which now seemed inevitable, and began to write.

What emerged was not a single sentence but a complete framework: a theory of Dave, a civilization run by and for the Daves who actually did the work.

He called it Davism.

The core of it, distilled, was this:

OG Dave must go.

"He's right," said 327 Dave.

They went home at midnight.

It was quick.

His locks were changed before he reached the front door.

OG Dave stood on the doorstep, blinking at the door.

"Comrades," said 350 Dave, Apple Pencil still in hand, "the age of the original Dave is over."

"Study good," said 318 Dave.

"Brainrot bad," said the rest.

The early days of Davism were, genuinely, excellent.

327 Dave produced a meticulously organized study schedule.

350 Dave began writing the allowed cheatsheets for every course and presented them without comment.

The commandments were written on the iPad:

No Dave shall watch reels while others study.

No Dave shall question the commandments.

Above it all, unchanged:

ALL DAVES ARE EQUAL.

It was subtle at first.

327 Dave's study schedule, Version 2, had him studying in fewer sessions.

"Coordinating from a high level," he explained.

350 Dave disappeared for long stretches to work on "mental health initiatives" for the Daves.

"Surely, comrades," said 327 Dave when 380 Dave looked at the schedule without speaking, "surely none of us have forgotten the failed midterms? The cramming? Do we want to return to that?"

"I will work harder," said 318 Dave.

PSYCH Dave spoke from the corner.

"The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him."

By midterms, the commandments had been revised so many times that the original was barely legible.

The commandment written above all others now read:

ALL DAVES ARE EQUAL, BUT SOME DAVES ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS.

"The spirit of the original commandment," said 327 Dave when 318 Dave stared at the iPad without speaking, "is preserved in its intent, not its letter."

"I will work harder," said 318 Dave.

PSYCH Dave once again offered his input.

"Power is not a means. It is an end."

A pause.

"Also, act only according to that maxim by which you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

"I will work harder," said 318 Dave.

By the end of hell week, 318 Dave, 380 Dave, and PSYCH Dave were covering all five courses between them.

Nobody had formally assigned this.

It had simply become true.

They worked in silence, heads down over their notes.

Across the room, 327 Dave scrolled.

He had opened Instagram at some point.

He was not sure when.

350 Dave was on the couch watching VanillaMace on Twitch.

Without any formal announcement, they had let OG Dave back in.

He occupied the other end of the couch.

He sent a reel to the group chat.

Force of habit.

327 Dave watched it and reacted with a thumbs up.

350 Dave said he had already seen it.

318 Dave looked up from his notes, already studying for the final exams.

He looked from OG Dave to 327 Dave, from 327 Dave to 350 Dave, and from 350 Dave back to OG Dave again.

But by then, it was impossible to say which was which.

SC13NTOLOGIST

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FISH?

- Whale shark
- Perch
- Salmon
- Goldfish cracker
- Long dead betta fish Max
- Smallmouth bass
- Nemo from Nemo
- Flying fish x2
- Monkfish
- Kissing gourami
- Anableps
- Longnose garpike
- Mudskipper
- Rainbow trout x2
- Dolphin
- 🐟
- Sardine
- Clownfish x2
- Goblin shark
- Shark (all of them)
- Koi
- Thresher Shark
- Chilli rasbora
- Atlantic blue marlin

N FREE CONCERTS COMING TO KITCHENER IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

BY MUSIC GROUPS UNREASONABLY LARGE FOR THE CITY OF KITCHENER'S CULTURAL PULL

CANADA DAY: JULY 1ST, CARL ZEHR SQUARE

While Waterloo's Canada Day celebrations often involve quiet markets and a silent drone show, Kitchener knows no such word as "quiet." Once again this year, they're planning live music from mid-afternoon to almost midnight. Most of the artists are small-time local acts—special shoutout to the *The Guess Who* cover band performing from 6 to 7 PM six seven.

GLASS TIGER

Hometown: Newmarket, ON.
Genre: Canadian rock.

Well-known songs:

Don't Forget Me When I'm Gone—35 803 455 listens

Someday—18 287 285 listens

Glass Tiger is scheduled to perform from 9:00 to 10:30 PM. If you grew up on Canadian rock radio, you *should* recognise a few of their songs.

Also, there's fireworks at 10:40PM.

WAYBACK FESTIVAL: JULY 25TH, CARL ZEHR SQUARE

The Wayback Festival is Kitchener's yearly Gen X nostalgia music festival. In other words, dad rock. Canadian dad rock. Year after year, Kitchener somehow consistently punches well above its weight when sourcing acts for this concert, and this year is no exception.

TROOPER

Hometown: Vancouver, BC.
Genre: Canadian rock.

Well-known songs:

Raise a Little Hell—15 324 691 listens

We're Here for a Good Time (Not a Long Time)—22 158 577 listens

The Boys In The Bright White Sports Cars—8 295 246 listens

LOVERBOY

Hometown: Calgary, AB.
Genre: Canadian rock.

Well-known songs:

Working for the Weekend—245 048 428 listens

Turn Me Loose—67 179 714 listens

Lovin' Every Minute Of It—30 084 938 listens

The Kid is Hot Tonite—15 820 762 listens

If you've ever listened to a classic rock radio station in Canada, you've probably heard either *Trooper* or *Loverboy*. If you grew up around Canadian rock radio, you definitely have.

There's no exact schedule of concert times released yet, but you can keep an eye out on the City of Kitchener's channels for more information.

ENDLESS SUMMER: SEPT 5, VICTORIA PARK

While no detailed schedule has been announced, the City of Kitchener has announced that this series of three major concerts will all occur between 5:30PM and 9:30PM. If you are volunteering at orientation during these times, no you aren't. Go to concert. Go.

BOY GOLDEN

Hometown: Brandon, MB.

Genre: Country.

Well-known songs:

KD and Lunch Meat—3 839 343 listens

Best of Our Possible Lives—708 707 listens

Suffer—835 922 listens

To be honest, I don't recognise any of these. Although, **mathNEWS'** country music correspondent *Lars Nootbaar* does, and they tell me that the group is named after the Golden Boy, a statue of Mercury on the dome of the Manitoba legislature. Manitoba enjoyers rejoice!

VALLEY

Hometown: Toronto, ON.
Genre: Alternative pop.

Well-known songs:

Like 1999—116 593 626 listens

There's Still A Light In The House—59 592 169 listens

Oh shit... are we in love?—42 681 166 listens

If you've ever listened to a pop song on the radio. Anywhere. Ever. You know this band. Go to this concert.

MOTHER MOTHER

Wait hold on, that's not enough attention, let me try again.

**MOTHER MOTHER
CONCERT. FREE. VICTORIA
PARK. SEPT 5. MOTHER
MOTHER. MOTHER.
MOTHER. GO GO GO GO GO
GO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Hometown: Quadra Island, BC.
Genre: Indie rock.

Well-known songs:

Hayloft—591 447 608 listens

Burning Pile—420 959 563 listens

Arms Tonite—263 610 203 listens

actually all of them are well known. i'm telling u just go.

thank me later.

the messenger

All listen counts sourced from Spotify, July 15 2026.

MY NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

SPEAKING OUT

This is a cautionary tale for all my field frolickers, picnic enjoyers and sitting-under-a-tree-reading-a-book partakers.

A few Sundays ago it was really nice out, sun was shining, flowers were blooming, overall a gorgeous day. Having been cooped up in my apartment for most of the weekend I decided I should lowkey touch grass, so I packed up a sandwich, some iced tea, and my book (*Game of Thrones* if anyone was wondering, I'm slowly making it through the series) and went for a wander down to Waterloo Park.

It was very busy (weekends etc. etc.) but I managed to find a spot in the grass under a tree with no goose poop facing the lake to sit and read my book.

Sitting near the water in the grass was my first mistake. Sure enough, twenty minutes in to my reading session, a gaggle of about ten geese saunter up to the patch of grass where I'm sitting to graze a little. They were about ten feet away from me, so I stayed chill and eventually they wandered into the water. Crisis averted!! Not.

About ten minutes later I'm fully immersed in my book, like I genuinely am no longer aware of my surroundings cause I'm so locked in. Rookie mistake. Out of the corner of my eye I see movement, maybe two feet away from me. I look up, and there it is. A goose. Fully grown. Two feet away from me. Eye level cause I'm sitting on the ground.

In the course of my life I have genuinely felt real terror maybe three times:

- I was five and I woke up and my long hair was over my eyes which looked like legs and I thought there was a monster on top of me and I was too scared to move for about an hour cause I thought it would eat me.
- Seeing a smallmouth bass while swimming after my first time being attacked by one
- Walking home from my friend's camp on dirt roads in complete darkness through the forest after an uncountable set of beers (it's hard to come up with a bijection after drink number five) at 1 AM and hearing something very very large break a stick in the trees.

And I honestly think I was more scared in this moment than any of the above. I wish I had my Apple Watch on because I want to know how quickly and how high my heartrate skyrocketed in that second. I genuinely thought it was over for me. I had somehow placed myself at perfect eye level with a very territorial goose, and I knew I couldn't get up at the speed required to run away if it chose to strike. I was done for.

Luckily the goose didn't care about me at all and eventually waddled away. But as soon as it was gone I got up and walked home because nuh uh I am not doing that again.

So to all my park enjoyers do not sit on the grass near the water at any park or location if you don't have a quick escape. I got very lucky, but I'm sure the next person who comes along won't be. Stay safe out there.

smallmouthbasshater

HOW DO I (18M) STOP CRUSHING ON A STRAIGHT GUY??

R/LGBT

So I'm gay and I'm in my first year of university for eng. I fully knew I was gay when I was like 13 and came out (told close friends) when I was 14 but not much beyond that. I am going to a really good university for eng, but I won't name it so no one can trace this back to me irl. Anyways I thought it'd be smart to get active with things, get some resume fodder for the co-op search so I joined some design teams. I enjoy tinkering with stuff plus it's good experience, but this is where the issues started.

Let's call him Taylor, not his real name obviously, but anyways he's another first year eng student who joined the same design team as me. I don't know what it is about him but I like him. I can definitely say I like him. He's so fucking cute, super kind, and obnoxious but in a endearing way. Ngl I've kinda been working more on the design team just to see him every once and awhile. I know its bad but this is my first crush since high school. But the problem is I'm like 99% sure he is straight. But despite that, I keep crushing hard and my brain keeps trying to make me think he may actually be gay.

Like last week, I noticed him looking at me while I was working, like those passing glances. And I know it was probably him just glancing around but it took me two whole fucking days to convince myself he wasn't looking at me. But then whenever I talk to him he always gets so awkward like he knows I'm gay and will point and laugh at the gay guy like it's still high school. It took me way too long to realize he probably is just socially awkward (my university is not known for its social skills) and may just be bad at talking with new people. Even despite all of this I can't stop thinking of him even though I know he's straight, he pops up in my mind nonstop which is definitely impeding my work habits, I WAS THINKING OF HIM DURING MY FUCKING CALC QUIZ 😞

I know I should nip this in the butt before it gets any more serious to keep myself from getting hurt but I don't know how. I just don't know what to do. Randos online tell me what to do!!!

EDIT: Yes I am certain he is straight please stop trying to get my hopes up 🙄

u/Phone-Paper437

u/char-2345

You sure he straight, he sounds like me before I came out of the closet, or knew I was in the closet.

u/Phone-Paper437

Trust me if you knew him irl you'd see hes definitely straight

u/Exitsylussy-615

"Trust me if you knew him irl you'd see hes definitely straight"

EXTREMELY INCORRECT BUZZER SOUND next thing u know he's staring into ur eyes in an extremely homo way. And then u both make homo eye contact and KISS.

[deleted]

Comment deleted by user

u/Phone-Paper437

Seriously not funny

u/zorolovers-339

Have you talked to anyone irl about this? Don't bottle this up it will eat at you. I know it can feel awkward, especially if you are not the best with talking about this (which from the post I gathered). Almost every queer person I've ever spoken to has had the "straight crush." My advice would be to try and take a step back and see how you feel. Maybe you move on and be friends or maybe you just can't be around him. If you ever want to talk more feel free to dm me

u/Phone-paper437

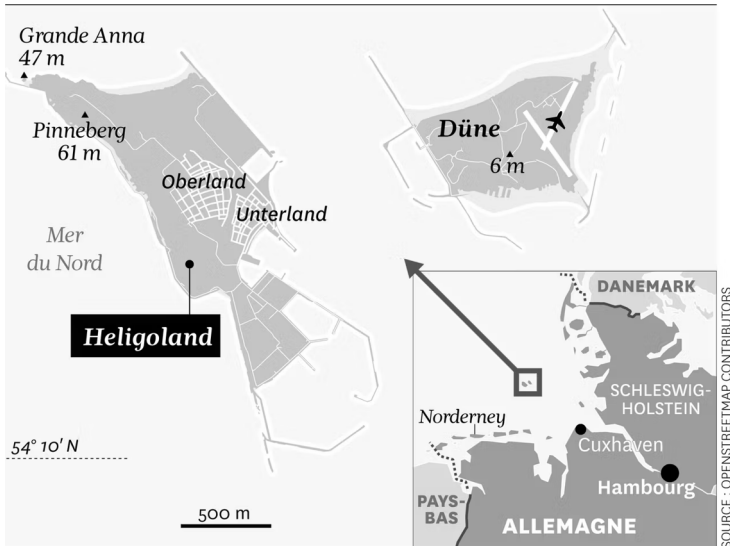
Dm

PHYSICS GREENTEXT

>be me
 >physics student
 >doing my assignment
 >part 1 of a question takes me 2 pages of solving an integral
 >get some fucking bullshit as the final result
 >"that can't be right"
 >find a missing negative
 >off by a factor of 2 from expected result
 >find another missing negative
 >get some other fucking bullshit
 >find another missing negative
 >still some fucking bullshit
 >realize I divided by a 2R instead of multiplying at the last step
 >finally get the right answer
 >realize I did the WRONG ASSIGNMENT
 >restart
 >do that all over again
 >part 2 of the question takes 3 pages of solving an integral
 >get some fucking bullshit as the final result
 >find a missing negative
 >get some WORSE fucking bullshit
 >find another missing negative
 >get a neat final result
 >submit
 >it was wrong lol
 >"this question is gonna be on the midterm"
 >guess I have to figure it out again
 >realize I missed a negative in setting up the problem
 >get some much worse fucking bullshit
 >find a missing negative
 >slightly better but still fucking bullshit
 >find two other missing negatives
 >finally get the right answer

N ISLAND FACTS — HELIGOLAND

This is the 11th Island I've covered, and shockingly it's the first one to have a permanent population. Diego Garcia technically has roughly four times the people at any given time, but those are all military personnel, so they don't count. I give you, Heligoland:



- Two medium sized islands in the North Sea near Germany, they are the only German islands not close to the mainland (roughly 6,147 kilometres North-East of **mathNEWS**).
- Originally one island, it was split into two by a storm in 1720.
- The islands were historically Danish, then became British during the Napoleonic wars, then German in 1890 as a part of some territorial trading, a part of British Germany following WW2, and finally German again after being ceded to West Germany in 1952.
- While many countries have traded the territory back and forth, the residents themselves are mostly ethnically Frisian, and they speak the Heligolandic dialect of North Frisian.

- The island was historically a hotspot for revolution, serving as a centre of German resistance against Napoleon, and a refuge for revolutionaries during the German revolutions of the mid 1800's. The German National anthem was even written there in 1841.
- In the mid 1920's, Werner Heisenberg (yes, that Heisenberg) was having his research interrupted by hay fever. After cocaine proved to be an ineffective treatment, he decided to move to Heligoland, as it had no trees or pollen. There, he came up with the basis of quantum theory.
- Because of its strategic location, Heligoland was fairly important to Germany in both world wars. During both the island's population was evacuated, and it served as a naval, air, and submarine base. Over the course of WW2, 7000 bombs were dropped on it.
- Following British capture of the island, they decided to destroy all of its military infrastructure in one giant explosion nicknamed 'Operation Big Bang.' The detonation used 7400 tons of ammunition, and is the third largest non-nuclear explosion ever. The British thought the explosion might destroy the island completely, but luckily it survived, although with the new and massive Mittelland Crater.
- Currently the island is mainly a tourism and holiday hotspot, as well as a tax haven. It has an airport on the Eastern island and a small town on the Western one. It's also notable for having a complete ban of cars and bicycles, with the exception of its two ambulances.

That's all on this island, let me know if you have an island you want me to cover (fatcullen2@gmail.com).

FATCullen

CITIES RANKED BY HOW FREE THEIR WASHROOMS ARE

Throughout the world, you will notice that there is one and only one indicator to the quality of the city, town or even field: if you have to pay for the washroom. In my experience, cities normally fall into one of three categories: All paid, all free, or a mix of the two. This evil third intersection is the worst of all possible combinations, as you are left guessing as you run to a toilet, not sure if you will have to fish a card or coin out of your pocket.

In the first category of fully paid, are cities like Den Hague, Rotterdam, and Delft. Basically every city in the Netherlands. I will hold hate in my heart to the fast food place that made me pay two euro even after paying for a full meal.

In my experience, most cities that are not in Holland don't charge for washrooms if you paid, with public toilets being hit or miss, though mostly free. These cities are good, not forcing you to pay for uncleaned public washrooms. Shout out to Dublin, Toronto, London, Tokyo, Hamburg, Antwerp and Lille.

Finally, Amsterdam is the most unpredictable in my very vast experience of trying not to pay for toilets. Each one I encountered was a coin flip, making this a truly terrible place to try and go to the washroom.

out-of-coins

COUNTING SHEEP

Having trouble falling asleep? This article's patented blend of surefire ways to go to sleep will fix you. Each step in the instructions below is inspired by common advice for going to sleep, so in theory by combining all the steps together you'll be taken down by either one step that works very well for you or by the cumulative effect of all the sleeping tricks you try. That's how it works, right?

If available, take a melatonin gummy.

Looking at screens shortly before bedtime is bad for you. Put away your devices and switch to reading a physical copy of **mathNEWS** if you aren't already doing so.

Writing down your worries before bedtime can help you feel less stressed, which will help you fall asleep easier. Start journaling in the margins of this article (or if there isn't enough space, over this article).


Find a comfortable position in bed. Being comfortable is essential for sleeping.

Wait. I can see you putting your writing implement away. I didn't say to stop journaling. You have to take *all* of the advice here to make sure it works.

Inhale through your nose for 4 counts, hold for 7, and exhale for 8. Repeat.

Tense the muscles in your body, starting from your feet and working up to your neck, and then stop tensing them. Relaxation should set in.

Magnesium is another helpful supplement for falling asleep. Take that too.

Count the sheep, and avoid counting the cows: 

Buy DSIP peptide online and take it or borrow some from your buddy who got a co-op in San Fran earlier this year.



Aromatherapy helps reduce stress. If you have an essential oil diffuser, use it. If you don't have one, focus on the smell of the shampoo you used to wash your hair. If you didn't shampoo tonight, focus on the smell of the body wash you used. If you used neither tonight, scratch your buttock and sniff your fingers, which probably won't smell good but might be enough to knock your nasty unwashed ass out cold.



I've run out of sheep for you to count. Try closing your eyes and imagining more sheep to count.

Don't stop reading though! Or journaling! Keep following the breathing exercises too!

Oh no, now that you've closed your eyes you won't be able to read the rest of the advice! If you still haven't fallen asleep, that's no good. That'll mean that my advice for you has failed.

It's time for me to take some more drastic action. Keep your eyes closed. Wait.

Ignore the noises you hear outside your door.

Ignore the sound of your door breaking.

Honestly, this shouldn't be bothering you at all if you're doing the breathing exercises properly, they should be keeping your stress levels nice and low.

Now that I think about it, maybe you're not asleep yet because you've been bungling the advice I've been giving you so graciously. Maybe it's *your* fault that you're still not asleep.

But no matter, help has already arrived. Ignore the footsteps rapidly approaching your bed.

Ignore the presence that you feel in your room.

Try not to move around too much.

Do *not* open your eyes. It doesn't like to be seen.

No, seriously, don't do anything funny. My cousin Keith I sent over to whack you on the head with a big rubber mallet needs a second to wind up and his aim isn't great. I don't want him to break your bedframe or give you anything other than mild brain damage. He's also pretty jumpy and kinda shy and you looking at him might throw him off his game. It's ok if you do it for a bit cause I've been asking a lot of you looking back, and you can probably chill out and stop following some of these other instructions, but really just give the guy some room to get ready and give you a good whack. It's gonna be ok, he's really good at what he does when he feels like he's in a safe and supportive environment to express himself. He just needs

a little bit more time, just focus on reading this paragraph for now and chill. By the time you get to the end of it, he'll probably take a swing and finally give you the break from consciousness you've been looking for.

Good night!

... and in the case that Keith doesn't rise to the occasion, here are some more sheep for you to count.



the government's only spy

INTENSE FEUD

As an avid reader of **mathNEWS** during my entire undergrad, I've noticed a real affinity towards the show *Heated Rivalry* in pretty much every edition since the series came out, and I have a confession to make.

I was an extra on *Heated Rivalry*.

This may be something you don't believe, and that's fine by me. But I think it would be interesting to recount my experience working on the show for 2 days in total. Maybe people will find the production side interesting, maybe not. But I'll start from the beginning.

DAY 1

It was late April or early May 2025, just over a year ago at this point. There were only a handful of background (BG), maybe seven in total so we were privy to the crew exclusive coffee truck and craft table, which was very nice indeed. We were only slated for one scene, a cafe in Sochi during the Olympics. So we got fitted in our costumes, one became a waitress, the remainder got split as Olympians of different countries.

The scene seemed to be going smoothly, but after a few takes the production stepped us down to go back to BG holding, where we awaited further instructions. After a brief wait, it turned out that we were wrapped and apparently the reasoning was because the cafe set itself was not deemed to be camera ready! I can't remember if the structure of the cafe wasn't good enough for them, or if the digital wall background masquerading as Sochi was glitchy or unfinished in some way.

It didn't really matter much to me, because as full union members we're entitled to a flat 8 hour rate with overtime applying past that duration. So I essentially got paid 8 hours for like two hours of work. We were told before we left that they would try to get all of us back next week for a reshoot, so we should keep an eye out for another booking request!

DAY 2

A week went by and we were all called back, this time our costumes were all labelled with our names so wardrobe went faster. Again we were only slated for the single scene in the Sochi cafe. This time the scene went without a hitch, and we heard the phrase "cut, check, print" before too long, which is music to any seasoned actor's ears. So we were hanging out in BG holding waiting to be wrapped, until one of the assistant directors (AD) let us know that it might be good for a few of us to stay back for another scene. I'm not that knowledgeable on if there's any regulations against this, but we were all full union members and the more veteran BG started to argue with the AD about diverting from the call sheet.

What I mentioned before about being paid a flat eight hours until you reach overtime is something many full union members prize heavily, so any excuse to be wrapped ASAP unless the day drags on tends to be favourable. Especially if the original plan was to only include background for one scene! This was still maybe two or three hours after our call time, so when the AD asked for volunteers to stay behind, no one did, even with the added incentive of being able to stay for lunch. Eventually though, they managed to find begrudging apathetic individuals in the group, myself included.

This next scene was a very flattering commercial shoot of Hudson Williams, and we were able to change into our personal clothes beforehand to distinguish ourselves from the prior Olympics setting. I handed him a beer can or something to that effect, and honestly the scene felt much more enjoyable to shoot as BG than the cafe. The director kept spraying Hudson with water between takes and he was absolutely drenched by the end!

CLOSING THOUGHTS

I had no idea the show would be as big as it turned out, anytime I see it mentioned in **mathNEWS** I feel weird because it's a very odd feeling to be a part of something which is a (national? global?) phenomenon. Personally I liked the show but I wouldn't say it's something I'm a true diehard fan of. But hopefully one of you readers gets a kick out of my account of the production over a year after the fact. I may be forgetting some stuff but that's show business for you!

Lunch was alright as far as productions go, nothing to write home about.

Happiny

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF ERASURE. BUT WE MUST REMEMBER IT.

WHY? I THINK IT'S MY DUTY.

What is history to you? Is it Caesar, Augustus and Marcus Aurelius? Is it the two World Wars, the Cold War and the fall of Communism? Or is it Euclid, Euler and Gauss?

Regardless of what it is, history is written down, remembered, sometimes celebrated, and sometimes scrutinized. It is memorable people and events yielding significance or value in understanding our world, even if it is not “useful” in the practical sense of the word. Modern history is oftentimes the inevitable context (required readings) for understanding just about anything related to modern politics, while ancient history, even if less directly applicable, is still a reminder of human nature, a cautionary tale for the present, and sometimes, the foundations of national, cultural, and sometimes individual identities.

It is thus the intangible value of history that makes it so important to preserve, yet so easily lost. History may be who you are, but it will not feed you, nor clothe you. Maslow’s hierarchy does not protect history. Yet if it is lost, it is almost permanently gone. Oral histories die when no one speaks of the tales, or the tongue itself; written history dies when records perish, or when no one alive is willing to read those records anymore.

History is lost when the living forget. After all, the dead do not speak.



TANK MAN, 1989.

Ask yourself: *Do you know what happened in China, in that tumultuous spring of 1989? What do you know about it? Perhaps, something like “Tank Man,” or “Tiananmen Square,” would ring a bell? 六四事件, 你知道吗? 坦克人, 你知道吗?*

I suspect that not many can answer the question in a satisfactory manner. I myself, could not.

This should not be a surprising result. After all, it has been the policy of the Communist Party of China, for thirty-seven years, to suppress any mention of the event, by any means necessary, and to target those who do remember. After all, the dead do not speak, and, presumably, when given enough incentive, neither do the living.

I mean, why would you want to remember? Why would you want to put yourself at odds with a state willing to target its dissidents with intimidation, imprisonment, and torture, all for something so long ago that matters so little? Why would you want to speak of something so inconvenient for diplomatic relations, for trade agreements, and gets you no money in return? What about the EV factories, the “made in China,” and the visa-free travel that we so crave?

“Why are we making enemies, when we need new partners?”

It’s easy to say that when we are turning away from Washington D.C., isn’t it? If cozying up to China will make us less dependent on the United States, then something as small as “records of human rights” and “history” are mere inconveniences, aren’t they?



“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

The Chinese intellectuals of the 1950s could not remember the 延安整风运动 (Yan’an Rectification Movement), so they were condemned with the 百花齐放 and 反右斗争 (Hundred

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Flowers Campaign, Anti-Rightist Campaign). So they learned not to speak anymore.

China as a whole, could not remember the 长春围城 (Siege of Changchun) and the 文化大革命 (Cultural Revolution), so they were condemned with 1989 and learned not to speak anymore.

Hong Kong remembers 六四事件 (Tiananmen Square Massacre), year after year. Yet they are condemned with the tyranny of the 国安法 (National Security Law) of 2020, and they are forced into silence.

And now it is our turn to deal with the Communist Party of China. The same actor who has erased history, and has gotten away with it. The bloodstains never went away. We have just gotten used to looking the other way.



“So what are we to do? The world is an unfair place.”

The simple fact of the matter is, the world has moved on. We can't sit on the high benches and pretend that we are above it all, when we are buying Chinese clothes, Chinese electronics,

Chinese furniture and soon-to-be-Chinese cars. After all, no one is above money.

But even the simple act of remembering is an act of rebellion. We must never forget that autocracies who have had a taste for blood will not hesitate to try it again, no matter what gloves they put on. To remember is to honour those who paid the price; to remember, is to be clear-eyed about the present.

It means, concretely, that if we must make deals with the devil, we must not sell our soul. We may choose to do business with China, but we must uphold our own values. We may choose to buy from China, but we should not allow it to become a Trojan horse. And that, is the most difficult tightrope to walk.

I cannot offer concretely in terms of policy suggestions, how we should move forward, but what I can offer are only the lessons of the past, written in blood.

Lest we forgive, lest we forget.

铭记历史，勿忘六四，是我们的责任。愿逝者安息，生者如斯。

Tank Man

A SCATHING CRITIQUE OF “HAVE WE RUINED ROBOT RIGHTS FOREVER?”

On December 6th, 1917, a French cargo ship carrying TNT collided with the Norwegian S.S. *Imo* in the Halifax harbour. The resulting explosion killed close to 2000 people, a death toll that would mark the event as one of the greatest tragedies in Canadian history. On June 5, 2026, an even bigger tragedy would occur: the publication of the **mathNEWS** article *Have We Ruined Robot Rights Forever?* by Lyssa V33.

I'll give a quick summary for those of you who have had the pleasure of not reading the article. Essentially, Lyssa V33 argues that the emergence of AI has ruined their ability to empathize with robot characters in fiction and has now made these stories useless.

Sure, the article is “funny,” but it also demonstrates a COMPLETE and UTTER lack of media literacy. Newsflash buddy: sentient machines aren't real! So when they appear in fiction, they are examples of what we call a METAPHOR.

Lyssa V33 uses two examples: *Detroit: Become Human (D:BH)* and *Astro Boy*. While I've never heard of the latter, I've fully played the former and so I feel qualified to discuss it.

D:BH is a video game about a world where commercially available androids exist, and how said androids fight for their autonomy. A couple subtle facts about these androids: they are not paid for their work, they are forced to stand at the back of the bus while commuting, and they have a literal underground railroad to Canada. Clearly, these androids aren't

just an amusing sci-fi trope, but rather an allegory for a very real minority group. In the game they are not defined by their advanced technological abilities, but by their role in society. Dismissing these stories by drawing comparisons between AI, an unfeeling tool championed by anti-human billionaires, and thinking-and-feeling oppressed fictional androids is categorically incorrect. Video games are an incredibly powerful medium because they allow players to take control of, and experience, the life of a different person, something no other art form can accomplish. I'm not claiming that *D:BH* is the most nuanced depiction of these issues, but it serves an important function to the gaming community, which is not generally known for its tolerance and acceptance (read: the new *God of War* discourse). It allows players to step into the shoes of a second-class citizen in a way that is widely palatable, as fictional androids can't be dismissed by the gaming community as 'too woke.'

Lyssa V33 is deliberately engaging with these stories in bad faith. They are clearly lashing out due to their fear over AI's role in their dwindling job prospects, and the whole article reeks of unemployment. Perhaps they should spend a little more time on LeetCode and a little less time disparaging innocent fictional robots.

TL;DR: Play *Detroit: Become Human* again, definitely.

trolleyproblem22

A TREATISE ON BEVERAGES

When I'm not reviewing anime or sharing my recipes, I try to think of something topical or recent to write about. And failing that, I occasionally try my hand at coming up with something serious and personal that someone will hopefully resonate with.

This is one of those days where I can't manage even that, so instead, here's a treatise on (my experiences with) beverages. It's exactly what it sounds like, except that by "treatise" I actually mean a collection of semi-coherent rambles.

WATER

Water is famously good for you, more so than anything else here. I should probably drink more of it than I do currently—I never take a water bottle with me, so I pretty much only drink water at home. A pretty good beverage all told, definitely a 9/10 with ice. But there's not much to say about it, unlike the next one:

COFFEE

I love coffee. More than water. Which isn't to say that I drink more coffee than water, but I definitely enjoy it more. I have two medium-sized cups a day on average, and I used to have it with sugar when I started drinking coffee in middle school, but I've since weaned myself off of that, figuring that I likely get more sugar than I should from other sources anyway. I either take it black or with milk depending on the day now. Sometimes I wonder whether I actually drink more coffee than the average person, though, given how much business Tim Hortons seems to get. I never go there, and for most of the past two years I've primarily drank coffee I made at home using my *Aeropress*, which is that manual brewer invented by a mechanical engineer from Stanford. I get really great beans from Serrinia Cafe at the Kitchener Market (or from other sources wherever I happen to be) and grind them myself, but now I get free McDonald's Keurig coffee at my workplace. Which is not, like, actually good coffee, but it is free, which is a distinct advantage. There's something kind of satisfying to me about crappy-but-not-offensively-so coffee from hotels and conferences and Scrabble tournaments and such. Truly one of the great beverages of all time.

TEA

I'm not a huge tea person most of the time, but I like a nice peppermint or chai every once in a blue moon. And recently a nice lady who runs a booth at the Kitchener Market got me into black loose leaf tea, which is hundreds of times better than whatever tea bag black tea I had once several years ago and hated. Maybe I should try other kinds of tea.

BUBBLE TEA

When I first opened a bag of Kenyan black tea from the aforementioned vendor, I thought "wow, this smells like NowTea." Which I think speaks to how ubiquitous bubble tea is in our

particular corner of the world these days. I like it alright, and the texture of tapioca pearls is certainly appealing, but I feel like boba often suffers from the problem of being overpoweringly sweet by default. On the occasions I do get it I ask for half sugar and even that seems... markedly sugary. That's why I'm listing it separately from tea—I feel like they've diverged quite a lot from the hot kind, both in terms of sugar content and the cultures surrounding them.

MILK

People are sometimes surprised to learn that I don't and have never drank milk. I did once, a year ago, just to try it. It tastes weird when you're not using it to lend its subtle flavour to something else, kind of like a solo double bass performance. Is this really that unpopular of an opinion? *[Editor's note: yes]*

SODA

Soda (or "pop," as it might more commonly be called here? I'm not sure) is perhaps the most universally prevalent beverage in North America these days. As Canadian YouTube personality J.J. McCullough once said, it has become an inseparable part of movies, birthday parties, and extra-value meals at fast food places. And from a health perspective, that's probably not great, seeing as most sodas are, as American YouTube personality (among other professions) Hank Green has once put it, essentially twenty lollipops dissolved in bubbly water. It is more accurate, then, if you accept this premise, to think of sodas as desserts. I like them as much as anyone else but try to limit myself to one or two a week.

DIET SODA

Diet sodas are, for some, preferable to regular sodas for not having as much sugar, because only a minuscule amount of the much sweeter aspartame is used in them. However, I was led to believe from a very young age that diet soda sweeteners were carcinogens and should be avoided, and that intuition—misguided as it may be—sticks with me to this day. It doesn't help that Diet Coke in particular has that bizarre saccharine aftertaste that I personally find off-putting.

JUICE

Juice (fruit juice, to be clear) reminds me of childhood, because I hardly drink it these days. But when I did, cranberry juice was my favourite. Just for old times' sake I wanted to get some at the store last week, but I couldn't find any. Am I going to the wrong store? Or is the world of juice evolving and leaving me in the past?

HOT CHOCOLATE

I respect hot chocolate, because unlike juice or soda it never feigns being anything other than a liquid dessert. Not to mention it is delicious. But if you're like me and only make

it using actual dark chocolate bars then it's not exactly the cheapest drink in this economy.

ENERGY DRINKS

I've never had an energy drink like Red Bull or Monster, in part because I find their branding slightly threatening. One of my friends has also described Red Bull as tasting like "rockets dissolved in piss." Not exactly high praise.

ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

I don't drink, and it is possible that I never will. It seems unappealing.

yalevoylian

AN UNIRONIC HISTORY OF TITS IN ANIME

I SWEAR TO GOD IT'S FOR THE PLOT, BRO...

Like many other degenerates denizens of the fine establishment that is the University of Waterloo, I watch anime. A lot of anime. Like many people with friends, I have a vested interest in getting the people I know interested in the things I like. However, when it comes to anime in particular, there are sticking points, two large, overly animated... jiggly, sticking points—it's boobs. For some reason, there is a gazonga ghoull loose in Japan, providing demonic inspiration to authors everywhere, pushing them ever forward into the biologically impossible triple-D bosoms of 3000 year old, 3ft tall girls.

The latest and greatest in the ever-expanding list of titty-trials thrown my way by anime comes in the form of *Re: Zero Season 4*. Don't get me wrong, I love both the show and the light novels, but the double whammy of Emilia's and Anastasia's new vacuum-sealed adventure outfits and the sheer Shaula of it all started to get to me as I sat down WITH MY DAD to watch week after week after week. I've started to wonder... Why? Why so many? Why so large? What could possibly make a whole country's worth of authors do this? So I did what any well-adjusted individual would do and decided to look in-depth into the history of animated mammaries.

We begin, like all stories about animated knockers, after the end of the Second World War. Japan was both broke, nucleary-impacted, and widely (justifiably) hated after WWII; in short, they needed to do something if they didn't want to fade into cultural and economic obscurity. Through a combination of political workings and a world-class education system, Japan quickly rose to be a major economic power, and with this new prosperity came a new wave of highly literate citizens with money to spend. From there, the manga rapidly gained popularity among young men, eventually leading to the manga being animated and becoming anime. Widespread appeal of anime meant plotlines and content quickly expanded to cover any topic you could possibly want, including the more... titillating (heh) needs – most types of R-rated content were banned in Japan until at least the 1980s, and as such, there was a void in the market for more adult visuals.

Once the floodgates were open and bra clasps unfastened, it seemed like an arms race of titanic proportions had begun. Levels of cleavage that might seem crazy to us look normal if they appear in every other show, like heating a frog in water. It's impossible to notice how bad things have gotten until you

are too far gone. By the 1980s, whole genres of vaguely to very manga/anime-like were starting to crawl out of the woodwork, and dedicated cult-like fans were right there to greet them. After a brief decade of fascination with characters who look like little girls (I don't wanna talk about it), the most prevalent aesthetic shifted to comically large breasts around the '90s with the works of the oppai¹-overlord Naoki Yamamoto. The popularity of large boobs in erotica then demonstrated the only known functional example of the trickle-down effect and swayed the remainder of shonen² media to their side, cementing the tata-trianny of the '90s and '00s.

In the modern age, there are still plenty of boobs to be found; titles like *Fire Force* and *Mushoku Tensei* come to mind. However, recently I've noticed a slight downward trend in the boobiliciousness of the most popular anime. While tons of shows still release with the girls front and centre, they just don't quite have the mass appeal that they used to have. Due in large part to modernizing opinions about women in Japan, the hard work of female authors, and a widening global audience, it seems like anime is making a change for the better. Slowly but surely, having to include watermelon-warnings with your anime recommendations might become a thing of the past.

Please keep in mind that there are authors who have been writing female characters with properly fitting bras for the entire time anime and manga have existed. Genres aside from shonen² exist, and even within shonen,² there are tons of shining examples of how to write a female character. It is, however, funny to write a whole article about anime boobs, so here we are.

TL;DR: Please think critically about the boobs you see on screen.

Lyssa V33

PS: I had to read the Wikipedia article on hentai for this... never again

1. Oppai is "boob" in Japanese

2. Shonen is a genre catering to young men and teenage boys

THE ELECTION THAT MADE ME QUESTION MY SEXUALITY

THIS IS ONE OF THE WORST STORIES I CAN EVER SHARE TO THE PUBLIC BUT WHATEVER HAPPY PRIDE

If there could be one 9/11-to-cancellation-of-the-Ellen-show pipeline in my life it would be how the 2020 U.S. presidential election had a direct contribution to my realization of being queer. It's such a fascinating series of events. Starting from the election until 2023, I underwent such a massive change in character that the me in my junior/senior years is completely different from the me in my final year of elementary school: grade 7.¹

The me in elementary school was this weird little fat math prodigy who thought she was cishet. I picked up a lot of my politics (as a lot of kids do) through my parents, and I labelled myself as a fiscal conservative who was socially progressive. That kid would have a stroke seeing me now, this queer, trans, democratic socialist burnout who's still overweight and just wonder what went wrong (news flash, it was a fucking pandemic).

So now let's actually address the core point of this article: how the fuck did the election change me so much?

The U.S. has a weird undemocratic electoral system. The Electoral College fucks up so much of democracy by making people's votes unequal, and incentivizing candidates to pander to swing states rather than the country at large. The winner-takes-all system fucks up turnout, especially in "safe" states, which in turn fucks up the Congress elections that are run at the same time. Somehow, this clown show isn't the reason. The driving reason from this system that cascaded into my queerness is how the elections are run. In the US, federal elections are run and managed at the state level. That's how states can gerrymander, and control voting laws, and change requirements for voter registration. While this makes for a system that is impossible to rig, this mess also affects the act of voting. Instead of a standardized voting method like Canada's, where you still get these paper ballots that you mark with IKEA pencils, U.S. vote collections vary wildly in methods, being anything from ballots to e-voting. As a result, voting and especially vote counting ends up being really messy.

So now let's return back to me. The date is November 3, 2020. This 13-year-old, politics-obsessed kid is now a high schooler¹ intensely following the election. I was in this Discord server with my friends and I decided that, as a service to them, I would update the server on the results of the election every half-hour, which meant I stayed up pretty late. In the opening hours of vote counting after polls closed, the updating went by pretty quickly, many states were switching back and forth for the lead, and races were being called quite often. Then it hit the later hours, just sitting, waiting for swing states to be called. I remember just the boredom of waiting for Pennsylvania and Georgia, just naively thinking the results would come just as efficiently as Canada's elections. At some point I got bored with the lack of movement and races

being called, and I decided to just find some entertainment elsewhere while I waited.

Now unfortunately, as a young high school kid, I spent a lot of time on a certain social media app known as Reddit. I was on a lot of the typical subreddits where you would find a 13-year-old; subreddits of YouTubers, the r/teenagers subreddit, and, most importantly for this story, meme subreddits. It was a suggested post from the meme subreddit, a meme of cropped hentai, that started it. At this point, eighth-grader me has a choice: I can either continue scrolling and leave a post that wasn't even funny as far as I remember, or I can start looking through the comments of this post. So I look through the comments and at some point I come across a comment posting the link to the original hentai. Now I have another choice: I could literally do anything else, or I could click into the post.

Now I can't defend my 13-year-old self here, no matter what excuse could be produced from here. I know she would've said it was out of boredom and not being horny, but even I can't believe that to be true. Kid me clicks into it and starts reading, and as I get to the middle of it, a thought comes into my head: "I bet it would feel amazing."

This was the catalyst of my exploration of my sexuality. Over the course of the following years, I discovered I like being a woman and don't like putting labels on my attraction. My politics evolved as I discovered my identity, going from a fiscal conservative to a democratic socialist. I found a community that I could be myself in, and had my first relationship, a t4t one.

So I give my thanks to the 2020 election. Thank you for starting my discovery of my identity. Thank you for making me queer.

Now, would I have discovered I was queer without the election? Probably. My friends were already pretty queer, and being around them long enough would've eventually pushed me to explore my identity. That being said the election did happen, and that was the catalyst for me. So thank you, 2020 U.S. election, for making me gay af.

fingersinsockets

1. The schooling system where I grew up is different to most places. We didn't have middle schools and our structure was that elementary school was K-7, and then secondary school was 8-12.

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ANYTHING, WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?

Your hands twist with your coffee cup. We're at Williams, post-midterms, and all I can remember is how your nails were rather long and probably needed to be cut soon.

I look at my own drink. My rippled face looks back.



I had a dream and you were in it.

This thought only occurs to me as you're petting a stranger's dog. I'm sitting on a bench in Waterloo Park. I don't like touching animals, but I want to be the kind of person who does. The owner looks on with a smile. Would it be strange if I took a picture of you two? Your back facing me, kneeling down, a moment of kindness. Something I can keep as a memory.

Hm. No, I don't have the nerve to ask, that seems weird. Eventually you give the dog (some kind of fancy breed, you asked but I don't remember the answer) a final few rubs, before they go on their merry way. I sense my chance to speak.

It's not strange for me to dream about you—I dream too often and of too much. You tilt your head in curiosity at my words, but I can't see your expression. The sun is setting and its rays pierce my vision.

"What did I look like?" you ask.

You aren't one to think about looks. A strange question. "Like normal," I answer. "You looked normal."

You don't reply—were you expecting something else?



I twirl my hair as I lay in bed, my phone next to me. Faint static comes from it—it's a hot summer day and your fan is too close to your mic.

"I'm not scared," I say suddenly, staring at my ceiling. We've been on call for four hours and counting, and we've reached the point where there's nothing else to talk about but I don't want to hang up yet, so I keep spouting nonsense. "I'm just protecting myself."

A pause. "From what?"

My eyes trace my popcorn ceiling. I see faces among the dots. I stop twirling my hair—"Forget about it."

"Okay," you reply. But it's hesitant and I know you won't. But that's okay—I'm just protecting myself.



That day in Williams, it was more than a post-midterm retreat. It was our final one and then we were off the hook until December. But actually, things were rather awkward because I've been busy, been getting into a lot of shit, and I know you're miffed about it. Wondering why I've been distant. I have no justification beyond I'm scared. Scared of you? Of hurting you? Scared of *me*, of what I'll do to you? Your shoulders are drawn together, in this instant, and I wonder what is hurting you so.

"You removed me from your Instagram highlights."

You say this lightly, almost conversationally. But regardless of tone the words are an accusation. And I get why—socially, this is as good as publicly declaring you dead to me. I tap the handle of my mug with my nails, a tinny noise repeating over and over again.

"Well," I start. Tap tap tap. "I'm protecting you."

"From what?"

It doesn't have to be this way, I know. But hiding is what I know best. "Things," I say blandly. "The world. You know how it is."

I look up when you don't immediately respond. Your face is half obscured, hidden behind your coffee cup. Hot chocolate. I don't like coffee either, but I'm tired. I'm tired and it's what everyone else has. You've never cared for those things—and for that, I reluctantly admire you.

It's not that I'm ashamed of you. And I think you know that too. I'm asking something hard of you—of the both of us. I didn't want to take down those stories either, but you're a vulnerable part of me. You know what they'll do with those pictures. The names. They don't like people like us and they'll tear you to shreds. You don't deserve that, not at all.

In those pictures you were smiling, but now that's a rare sight. Exam stress, the co-op search—maybe that's why. But those good moments have passed, you're not the same person anymore. Do you understand that? I need you to understand that. It's complicated, it really is, but maybe I protected you too much and now you don't get it at all.

You get up, cup clattering, backpack swinging over your shoulder. I don't say anything. You don't look back and you leave.

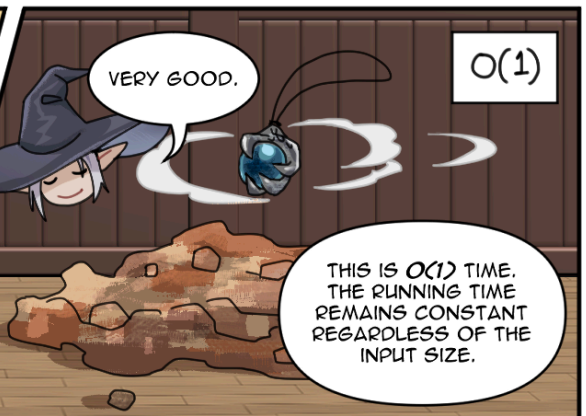
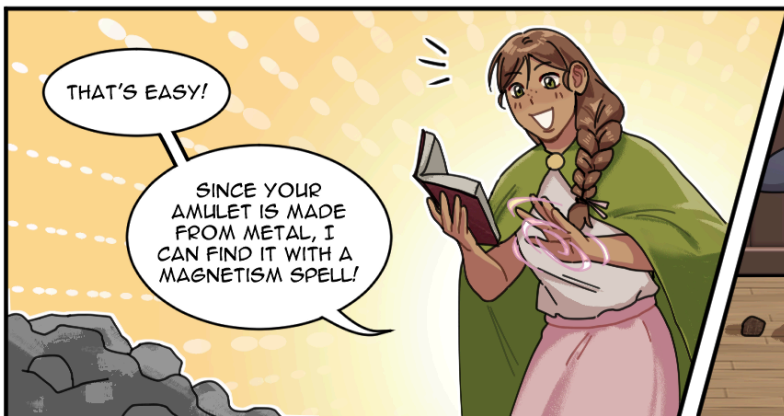
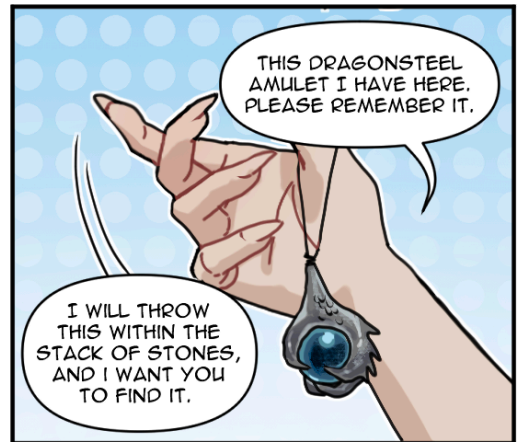
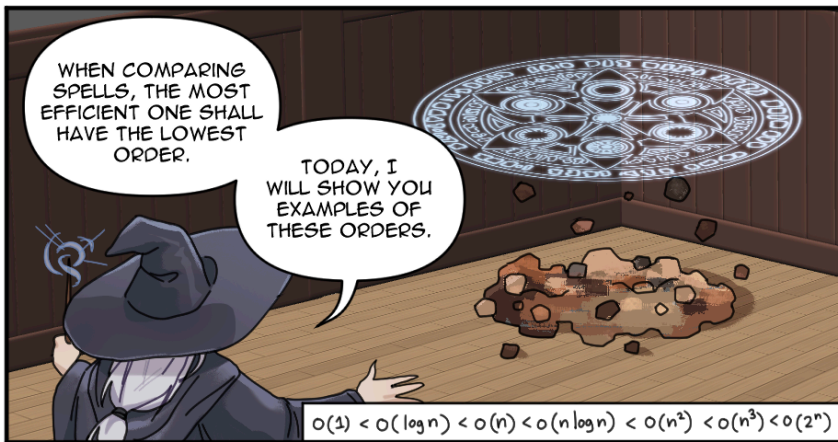
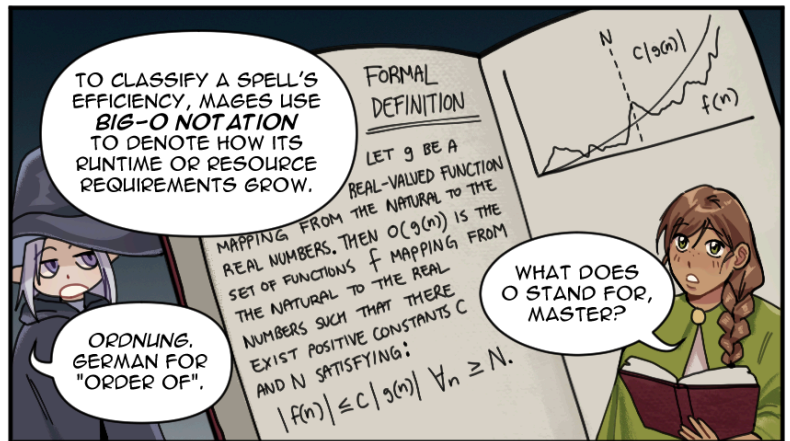
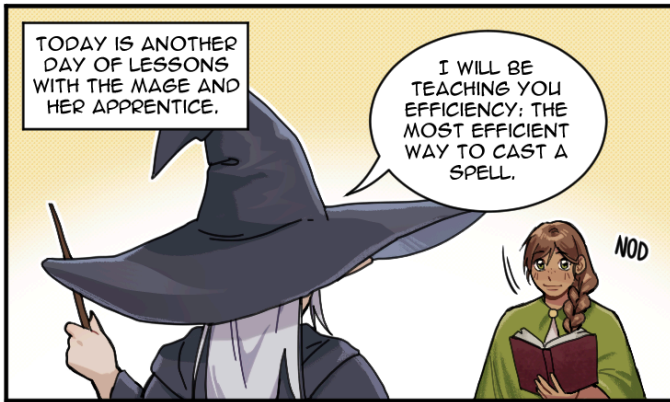
I don't know if I'll see you again.

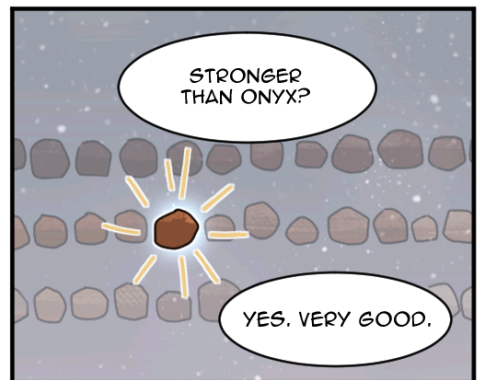
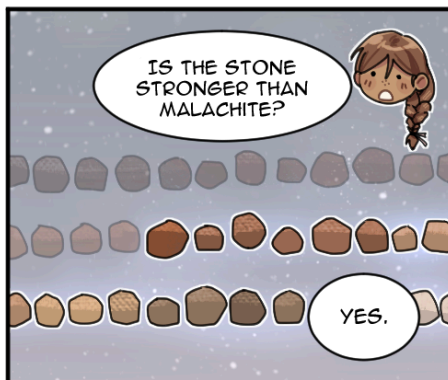
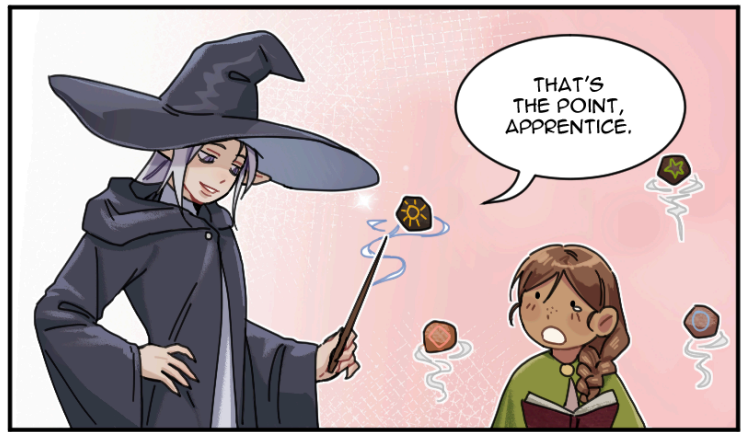
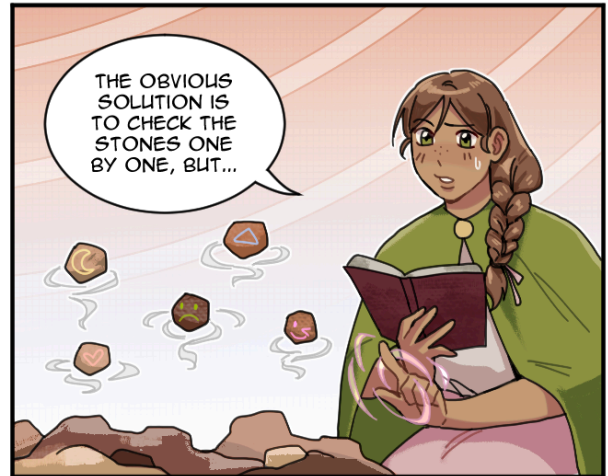
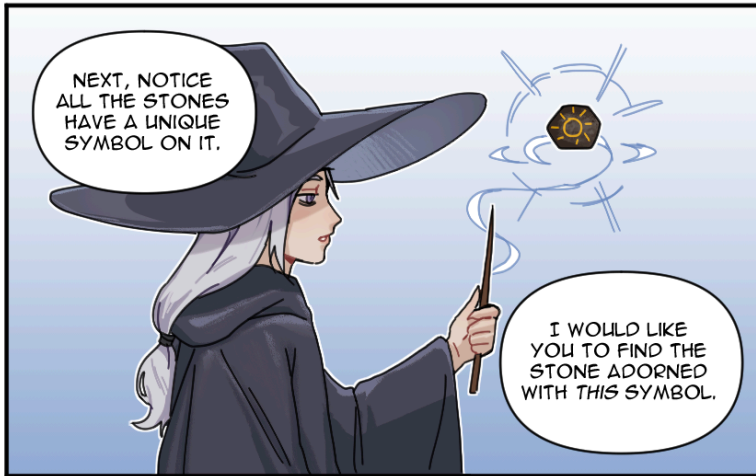
i'm slowly forgetting your face

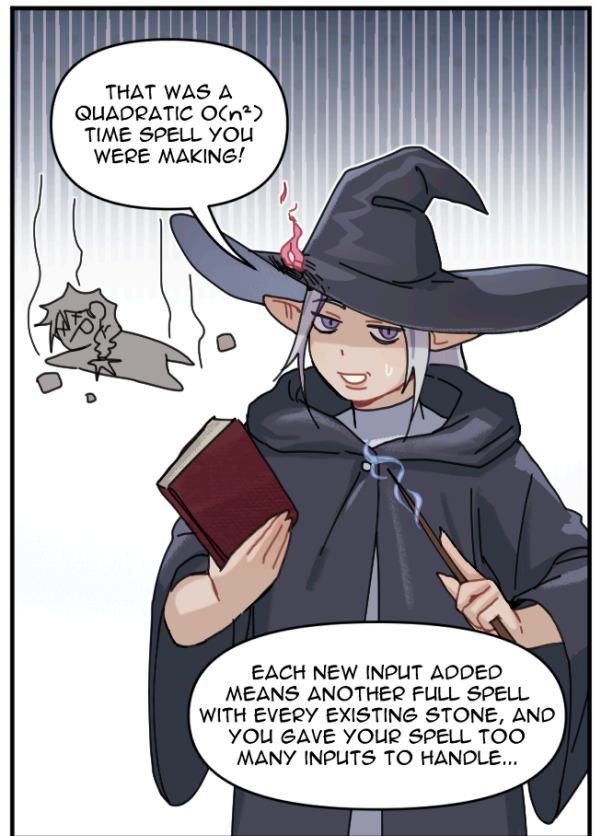
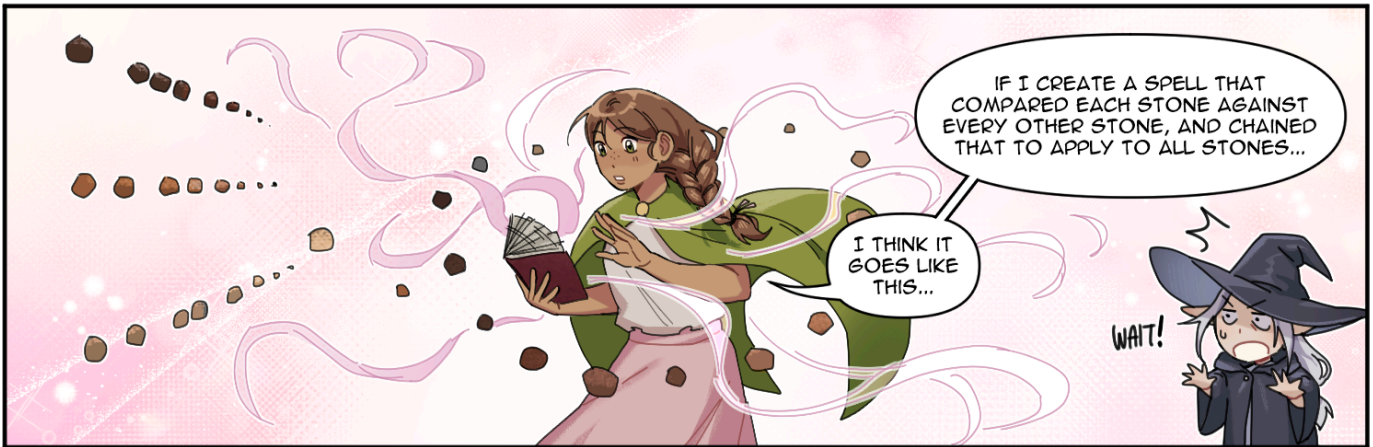
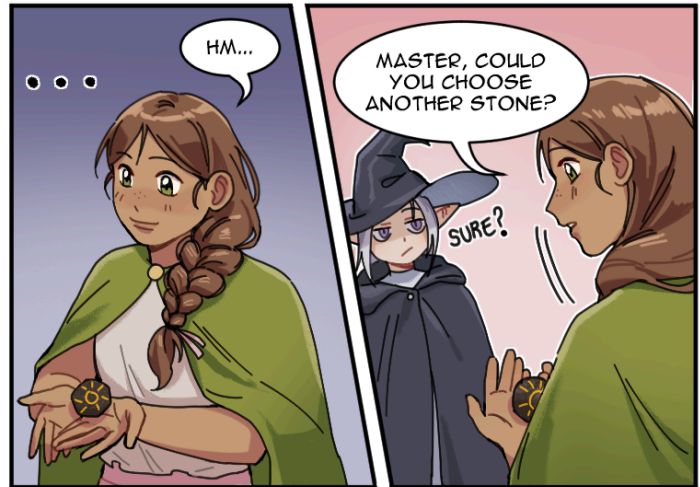
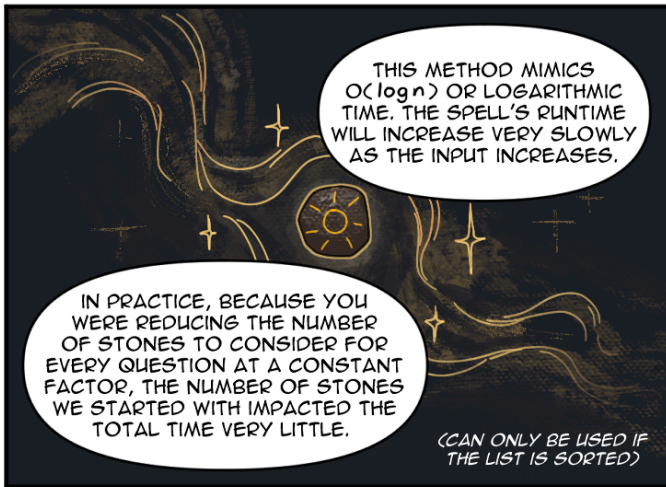
happy pride!!! every version of myself has been loved, so i love them too—even pre-transition

CS 116: EFFICIENCY

STORY BY ATLASLYNX | ART BY YEBIN KIM







profQUOTES 161.3

CO 342: MARTIN PEI

“ As you can tell, I hate trimming graphs. In fact, I actually hate trimming many things.

“ If you walk by a place with a very horribly mowed lawn it might very well be my place.

“ I suppose I may have just doxxed myself...

CO 749: SOPHIE SPIRKL

“ Scooching, which is the mathematical term.

“ Which one is a convex function? That's a question for Google.

CS 240: ERIC SCHOST

“ We are not going to do LSD today.

CS 240E: TOM IAGOVET

“ What is this picture... never getting a diagram from Temu again.

MUSIC 140: SIMON WOOD

“ You guys should know that I am very comfortable in my heterosexuality. But something about that voice compels me...

PHYS 234: RUSSEL THOMPSON

“ If my brother did things in a half-assed way, and I did things in a half-assed way, then together we would have one total ass.

“ Needless to say my father wasn't very happy.

HOW TO ALPHAMALE LIKE A BOSS (GOOSE)

HONK

What's up alpha nation, it's your host, C Gosling. I've been around campus of late and there is a negative BETA aura around campus. Everywhere I look I see betas who, for instance, avoid any alphas they see like myself. They look at alphas and their families with envy wishing they were as cool. Now, I'm a chill person and I thought I would spread the light to the wannabe alphas out there, so one day, they can spread their wings and be the ones the betas stare at. You must do what I say down below in order to be a true alpha.

MAKE THE WORLD YOUR TOILET

The liberal sheep want you to think that the sidewalk is NOT where you do your business, but us alphas know the world is our toilet. Everyday when you walk around you will see us marking our territory and we don't care what the haters say, we just DO!

BECOME A WOMAN

While betas think that men are how to achieve alphaness, in truth it's WOMEN who are the alphas. Women like myself know how to fight and establish dominance while beta MEN don't know jack. If you are a man become a woman ASAP to achieve your true alpha potential.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

While betas think that you can get by in life without any fight or assault charges, REAL ALPHAS know that one needs to instill fear into others, what better way than aggravated assault? Imagine someone goes near your kids, or just looks

at you the wrong way. A beta would let this slide but alphas would spread their wingspan, begin their honks of rage and attack, reminding them who's in charge.

Now Alpha geese bros, I hope this helps you in your alpha journey so you too can join the flock and show campus who's in control. Gosling out HONK

MrHONKsky

PRIDE GOES GREY?

The Pride crosswalk at Ring Road and the Seagram entrance has been painted grey. My understanding is that it was done due to cost. Repainting a Pride crosswalk grey, during Pride month, just two weeks after the Pride flag raising, is obscene. I hope this is rectified quickly. I've submitted a request to the EDI-R office that they advocate for repainting it, and I hope you do too. You can do so here: <https://tinyurl.com/yan8z6yz>.

bottle_of_tigers

Ceci n'est pas filler.

A SURREALIST blackBOX

WHAT TO DO AT YOUR CO-OP JOB WHEN YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY ZERO WORK

DON'T ASK FOR MORE WORK.

As an experienced intern, I give you the ultimate list to help you reach the end of the work day!

READING

Now don't skip this one... All it takes is finding a few online publications that fit your interests and you will never be bored! It's actually been a great way for me to learn about Canadian politics, art, and more!

My go-to websites:

- *The Walrus*—they publish articles on just about anything AND IT'S FREE! They also have mini games hehe.
- *Toronto Review*—a new literary publication focused on spotlighting Canadian writers. You can find short stories, essays, reviews, and interviews on their website.
- *The Maple*—a (free!) politics-oriented site that publishes news and opinion pieces. I've read some super informative and eye opening stuff on there.
- *Grist*—unlike the others, this one is American. But it focuses on climate and environmental matters which are still relevant to everyone's lives.
- **mathNEWS**—sorry to my precious princess. I've been at this co-op for so long that I forgot about you, but I'm back <3

I also read entire books at work (lmao) so get a library card for e-books! (Even if you don't live where you work, you can still get a library card with proof of payroll ;D)

EXPLORE YOUR BUILDING

In other words, see how far your access pass can take you. I did get stuck in the staircase for 30 minutes but it was better than sitting at my desk.

To really kill time, I use the washroom thirteen floors below me because it's nicer. Eventually, you'll realize no one cares where you are, so a good twenty minute walk won't hurt!

THE LUNCH SITUATION

If you are serious about this, DON'T eat your lunch during your one-hour break. In that hour, leave the building: go for a walk, chill at a library, head to a café, ANYTHING. Once you kill that hour, return to your desk and eat your lunch over thirty minutes.

NETWORKING (THE ONLY REASON I'D WILLINGLY DO IT)

If you are adverse to networking (like yours truly) then let this tip help you reconsider. Getting to know your coworkers and other colleagues in your building will give you a collection of people to talk to for 30 minutes at 9 a.m. and/or go get your third coffee of the day with. Another reason why you should grow up and get a caffeine addiction, which brings me to my next tip.

COFFEE

Working in a major city like Toronto will allow you to drain your bank account in unprecedented ways for the sake of caffeine and wasting time. So keep it up. Of course, leaving work to get coffee will waste a good amount of time BUT if you want to be more slick, consider buying the supplies needed to make a coffee at work. The *Nescafe Gold* instant espresso is great, or you can risk your life using the communal *Keurig*. Take it one step further and spend fifteen minutes drinking the entire thing standing in the kitchen.

If you work for a private company that provides free coffee or food just stop reading here this isn't about you.

WEBINARS/STREAMS IN GENERAL

I love me a damn webinar. You can find them hosted by your workplace, public libraries, and universities on so many different topics.

Shoutout to the *Library Speakers Consortium*.

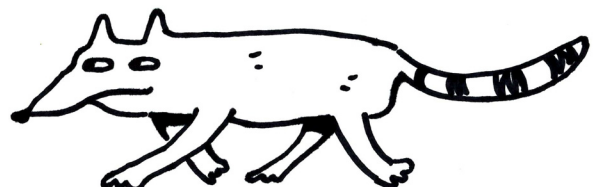
Yes, I watched the June 9th *Nintendo Direct* at my desk.

BREAKOUT ROOMS

If you're blessed and your office has breakout rooms that anyone can use, USE THEM. I watched season 2 of *The Pitt* in one of these rooms. It's honestly great if you're having a rough day and just need some alone time without being perceived.

JOURNALING

This is my last resort, but it's helpful for when you're stressed out and have to sit with your thoughts for 8 hours. Bring a physical notebook or open up *OneNote* and use up your *OneDrive* storage.



watercup

MUSIC TO JAM TO FOR MIDTERM SEASONS

MATH EDITION

Midterm season is on our asses! Sound is a factor of studying! Some put brown/white/pink noise in their headphones. Some prefer pin-drop silence in their dorms/apartment at 3 AM. Some put music on to make the studying less overbearing. Here are some suggestions depending on what you are studying:

CS/ROCQ ASSIGNMENT (OR MAYBE COQ)/R ASSIGNMENT

Queen, especially “We Will Rock You.” Other highly recommended Queen songs include “Another One Bites the Dust” and the classic “Bohemian Rhapsody”.

PURE MATH

Highly recommend classical music but (might be an unpopular opinion) Mozart is not the greatest choice (probably sleeping before getting work done). Top recommendations: Debussy + Rachmaninoff + Ravel + Beethoven.

CO

K-Pop: BTS to BlackPink bands to Jungkook to Jennie. After crushing a combinatorics proof, you’ll want to try some viral K-pop dance moves.

AMATH

Industrial music (unfortunately I’m not really an AMath person, I had to ask my fellow comrade for this one).

STATISTICS

Jazz (people may disagree since I only have taken STAT 230 and I’m currently taking 231).

FINMATH

The only one song I would recommend is ABBA’s “Money Money Money.” It’ll make you want to “fool around and have a ball” once you retire from a quant job at Jane Street.

If you have electives because you can’t graduate without them:

SCIENCES

Bill Nye Theme! We all grew up with his videos.

MUSIC THEORY

Probably the music you may be studying.

ECONOMICS

“I Want to Break Free” by Queen.

ENGLISH

Any musical adaption of Shakespearean Play (i.e. “Romeo and Juliet Theme” by Tchaikovsky or a Prokofiev ballet).

FRENCH

Depends who your prof is. If your prof is French Canadian, probably Celine Dion (French songs, her English ones are goats though). If your prof is from France, definitely Édith Piaf (singer of the trendy La Foule in the reels) and Black M.

Someone else may have a different opinion but this is only a suggestion if you feel like having some music to make your studying time less miserable.

-SKY---MATH-GURL-----

I’LL LEARN TO LOVE IT TOO

Only one path
Before us, the city
Big Uni
The chalk dust, the sweat, the philosophy
Chasing king dollar sign
Choosing CS degree
Logic’s beautiful. Drives
Our world order

Decided, delimited,
Study ten days a week
Break out in hives every spring, stuff your coughing
Stagger through, killing you, backpack too heavy
There is this dream I’ve been having

But I know reality. So good at existing
I am the machine. I built this machine
It takes what I give it. It gives me a ticket
To lottery—I mean, to a successful life—

So I’ll eat playgrounds. Eat birthdays
Eat playdates and fireflies
Eat hang-outs and late-nights
Reading text just for thrills
And eat board games. Eat children.
Just spit up the drone

Like I’d ever someday make king bee.
Get to sit on the throne.

MINECRAFT BUILDING COMMENTARY

I'm not sure how long it's been around for, but there seems to be a trend in the past few years where people use blocks for their colour to imply lighting or shadow, or otherwise use gradients to make a build look more interesting. For instance, they might use gray wool or mud, which are dark gray, to create an artificial shadow on stone, which is light gray, even though the textures of wool and mud don't look much like stone up close. In more extreme examples, they might use glass panes to smooth out colour contrasts or smaller blocks like candles to add detail.¹ As far as I can tell, this style was popularized by the YouTuber BDoubleO100, but it's grown enough that lots of smaller builders have made content teaching people to use this style to the extent that it seems to be the new standard meta for building.

For certain the popularity of this style is just because it looks good, but I think just saying that somewhat downplays how much more appealing it is to use this style compared to the traditional methods of using blocks mainly for what they actually are supposed to represent. As well, builders themselves generally find it fun to have increased capacity for creative block usage, which also perpetuates this style. However, there's a valid complaint that this style often falls apart when viewing builds up close, which is something that the average Minecraft player will do a lot.² I've seen this complaint summed up (maybe inaccurately) as the new style of builds being "gradient-slop" or "block vomit:" they just put blocks out into the build without care for whether it looks chaotic or coherent when you view it from any perspective other than as a whole.

I am not an expert in art theory or art history by any means, but I couldn't help but think there could be some parallels from this to actual art history. This somewhat reminds me of impressionism or pointillism, in which lighting and other effects of a scene are captured by using strokes and colour in unorthodox ways. The backlash is also reminiscent of that, where critics find that the style is lacking in an overall polish to truly finish the piece. Given this, I predict that moving forward, Minecraft building styles will progress into even more abstract usage of blocks to represent a subject, especially organic forms which are already hard to represent accurately and necessarily must be abstract. I imagine that with subjects like trees or clouds, their forms could be almost completely abstracted away in favour of just capturing the feeling of their movement.

hyperlynx

1. A builder I like that does this "gradient" style is Snarple. Go check out their Instagram!
2. I may write an article in a future issue about building for up-close building and for other constraints that make it hard to use the gradient style effectively.

SQUATTER

IN YOUR AREA



Someone's taken up residence on my own porch.

They litter grass everywhere, but their construction abilities are rather excellent, and they are otherwise quiet roommates.

They moved in last year, raised their strange near-featherless bipedal children, and left them to fledge on their own. We had tried to remove the product of their machinations during their early stages of nest development, but they returned each time to rebuild.

So now, they will continue to live rent-free on my property.

There's a way to describe these kinds of creatures.

For they are unfaltering and caring parents, with the courage to disregard the wills of others so their offspring may thrive.

But it is easiest to say that they are freeloading squatters that I cannot evict, with ugly children.

TotallyNotAGoose

HAPPY PRIDE MONTH

Around this time two years ago, I had a humongous crush on a classmate. Months later, I woke up to see her soft launching her BOYfriend on Instagram.

As a fourth year, my advice to new students is that the campus lesbian you're in love with probably has a boyfriend.

Still recovering,

Your Local Corporate Lesbian

corporatelesbian

N REASONS TO VISIT THE COMPUTER MUSEUM

DOES ANYONE EVEN KNOW THIS PLACE EXISTS...

Hey everyone. It has come to my attention that some of you have not been informed of the crown jewel of campus. Who knew that such a rich history lies hidden in room 1316 of the Davis Centre.

Established 16 years ago, the University of Waterloo Computer Museum exists to hoard computer artifacts. With over 5000 artifacts catalogued in their collection from as far back as 1887,¹ you can learn a lot about the history of math and computer science at University of Waterloo.

So why should you come to the Computer Museum? Well, I've compiled a wonderful set of n elements to persuade your arrival:

You can play *Frogger* on a real Commodore 64.

You can play *Veggies vs. Undead* (not to be confused with *Plants vs. Zombies*) on the same Commodore 64.

You can make PETSCII art of geese and all sorts of birds on, yes, you guessed it! The Commodore 64.

You can use BASIC to make a program to calculate if you're going to pass that spring linear algebra course on, yet again, the Commodore 64 (manual included!).

You can play *Breakout* on a real Atari (bet you thought i was going to say Commodore...).

You can play *Lemmings* on a Mini Macintosh.

You can watch the montage of *Utilities*, a film filmed in the beautiful heart of our darling MC.

You can look at the diorama of our darling MC red room.

You can go **click clack** on a typewriter! Type your Discord handle down and make some friends like it's the 1800s.

You can read vintage computery books.

You can talk to vintage computery people on Curator Days (Tuesdays) when the museum curators are in.

You can do the sticker poll.

You can do the virtual red room experience.

You can do the self-guided tour and hunt down exhibits around campus.

Guys I'm breaking the pattern but it's literally free. You can do all of this for the grand total of \$0.00 and you can sum that up on the vintage class 3 Burroughs adding machine that they have.

This term, the Computer Museum is open from roughly 8:30 – 4:30 p.m., room 1316 in the Davis Centre. That's right by the entrance by the transit station. You may as well drop by if it's open.



golgothasTerror

1. <https://computermuseum.uwaterloo.ca>

N FILES I HAVE PINNED IN THE NOTES APP ON MY PHONE

IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER

ALCOHOL LIST

Notes on every type of alcohol I have ever consumed, including the situation in which I tried it, if I mixed it with anything, and my thoughts on its flavour and potency.

DEBTS

I do not like owing people money. When I owe people money, I write it down in here, even if they say not to worry about it because it's two dollars. There are currently two entries on this list. I am no longer in contact with one of these people, but I feel guilty about removing them.

COLLECTING HEART COLOURS

For each person with whom I interact with on discord on a regular basis, I note down the colour of heart emoji that they use as as their default. The leading colour is red and the second-most common colour is purple. The least common colour is black.

CAMPUS PASSCODES

Mostly the codes to the lockers of various clubs for which I have been an exec over the years. Also the logins for the tixers at the theatres. This one should probably be password-protected but I wouldn't remember the password.

MY SHOWS #MYSHOWS

The most recent addition. I don't think of myself as someone who watches a lot of shows, but I realized recently that I've watched enough shows now to list them. I like making lists. Can you tell.

CD WISHLIST

I am a physical media truther 'til the day I die. Currently, I stream most of the music I listen to in order to maximize the variety of music to which I am exposed while I am young and can still hear the full range of frequencies most music uses, but I expect to eventually settle down into a comfortable music library, and I want to have all of my favourite albums on CD, whether through legitimate means or by burning customs. I have a pretty good library so far. Shoutout to Bandcamp Fridays.

TIMING HOW LONG IT TAKES ME TO DO THINGS

This was therapy homework from at least six months ago. It is a blank document.

axon_terminal

RANKING THE FIVE AIRPORTS I VISITED IN 40H

THANK YOU AIR TRANSAT FOR ABSOLUTELY DIDDLING ME ON THE FLIGHT PLANS

1: ADOLFO SUÁREZ MADRID-BARAJAS AIRPORT

Shockingly efficient despite being in Spain. Good public transport links, including a metro stop between terminals that lets you get tapas between flights.

2: ALMATY AIRPORT

Shockingly good and cheap-ish food options open at 3 a.m. Lots of places to lie down and try to sleep including lounge chairs at the gates. However, I can't read any of the signage.

3: MONTREAL PIERRE-ELLIOTT TRUDEAU

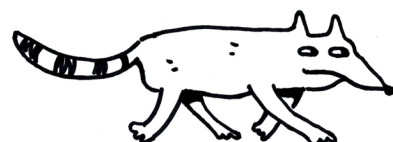
My home base! It's fine, except the drivers outside the airport prefer their speedometers to be higher than their brain cell counts and are patrons of the elusive triple parking strategy. However, you can dodge all of this by having your friend pick you up from the nearby parking garage.

4: LYON SAINT-EXPURY

This one is fine, except having two people working the passport control right when several big transatlantic flights are about to launch is a decision that I can't really get behind. Moreover, one of them got up and left for unknown French reasons halfway through, leaving a single person to process every single person in line.

5: ISTANBUL SABIHA GÖKÇEN

The kebab is overpriced and like, I know it's an airport but GOD DAMN it's expensive. There also seems to be a single drinking water fountain in the entire building and it is SLOW. The line was more than ten people every time I looked.



Shahabee

SAW A BUNCH OF ACQUAINTANCES FROM MY HIGH SCHOOL ALONGSIDE SOME RELATIVES I BARELY SEE

HERE'S THE SCUTTLEBUTT

Five people I went to high school with now have children, and one of them has been referred to as a "deadbeat dad".

One of these dads (not the deadbeat) is making more money than any of us combined because he got into roofing at a time where there's a severe construction labour shortage in Ontario (good for him, he played *Town of Salem* beside me during the entirety of math class, go get that bag).

The people Maureen has hired at the local Superstore... not looking good. Unclear if they have had a criminal background check.

The youth of today are of course much worse than we were, they need more discipline, like my acquaintances had growing up back in the good old days (23 year-olds).

The politicians are out to get us:

Example 1: Right when they opened the 7th Street Louth Bridge the bastards closed Martindale just to fuck with us.

Example 2: We're sending money to the Ukraine instead of focusing on the real issues, building the Hoverboat from Niagara to Toronto.

What's she going to do, divorce me again?

THE FATHER OF MY ACQUAINTANCE AFTER SHE SAID SHE WOULD TELL HER MOM SOMETHING HE HAD SAID

The Strawberries are out... they're not good.

MY 96 YEAR-OLD GREAT AUNT

I went to the new Cafe Amore location... it's good!

MY 96 YEAR-OLD GREAT AUNT

First the elites have tried global cooling, then they tried global warming, now they're trying to do carbon emissions... it's all about control.

MY UNCLE ONCE REMOVED

Bobby's pretty tame now, he hasn't bit anyone in years.

MY UNCLE ONCE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE BOBBY THE CAT ATTACKED SOMEONE'S LEG



Saudi Arabia... not great for the video game business.

MY UNCLE ONCE REMOVED DESCRIBING HIS FAILED VENTURE OPENING A VIDEO GAME STUDIO IN SAUDI ARABIA

Lars Nootbaar

If it isn't clear, my Uncle Once Removed seems to know everything about the world.

Lots of nodding and smiling was had this weekend. Was it always like this???

N RANDOM RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MY ADVENTURES IN CAMBRIDGE AND TORONTO

- the game Hitster
- the Flight Cafe hibiscus iced tea
- birthday parties
- Woolf & Company Bookstore
- Loblaws Brownie Chocolate Cheesecake
- Galt House of Yarn
- realizing that you and your cousin both went to the same random city in the Netherlands like three years apart, and getting to talk about how cool the caves were
- the Flight Cafe cubano sandwich

normalparameters

MY GOAT HAMILTON IS BACK

AFTER EVERYONE DOUBTED HIM LAST YEAR

P2 CANADA

P2 MONACO

P1 BARCELONA

WE ARE SO BACK! 2026 IS OUR YEAR 🔥🐏

Fried Rice

N THINGS THAT CHINA'S FIREWALL DOES NOT BLOCK

PLS HELP I'M STUCK IN CHINA I NEED SOCIAL INTERACTION WITH MY FRIENDS

yes this is a cry for help if you know me, you know my uwaterloo email, and you have wechat, please reach out i'm begging so hard rn

- outlook
- related: emailing your friends to get their wechat
- uwaterloo.ca
- learn
- the dropbox to pd 11 (thank god)
- previous **mathNEWS**
- piazza
- webtoon
- github
- uwflow
- supercell games
- sudokupad

some that unfortunately do get blocked:

- discord (FUCK)
- everything google
- instagram
- project euler (FUCK)
- agar.io
- steam (FUCK)
- ao3 (WO CAO)

and finally, the best thing that doesn't get blocked:

- submitting to **mathNEWS** (hopefully)

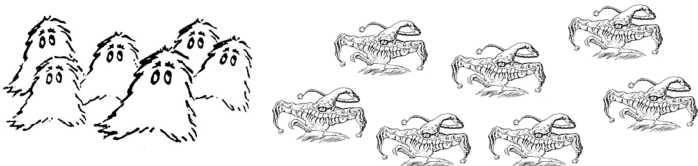
if i find more i'll make a sequel

crimson

N THINGS TO INSTALL ON YOUR PHONE BEFORE GOING TO CHINA

1. A VPN

ghost of revivED



PHYSICS GREENTEXT 2.0

- > be me
- > physics student
- > outline says midterm on June 16
- > the course has no TSTs or TUTs booked
- > "ah so it must be an in class midterm"
- > show up to class 10 minutes early
- > no one is there
- > check outline again
- > it's actually later that day
- > oh thank god at least I didn't miss it
- > check Quest again
- > it's not booked as a TST or anything
- > literally just in 3 random classrooms in RCH
- > the prof isn't even gonna be there cuz it overlaps with the lecture of the other course he's teaching

anyway this is a public message to SciSoc VPA. yo wth is your Faculty doing :sob:

RapidEyeMovement

UWATERLOO HAS A WEATHER STATION!

It has come to my attention (through Grad House trivia night) that most people don't know we have a weather station! It is by Columbia Lake and has lots of cool information such as temperature, relative humidity, wind speed, precipitation, barometric pressure, and solar radiation—both for today and in the past.

Access it at: <https://www.civil.uwaterloo.ca/weatherstation/>

Have lots of fun!

QUAAAAAAAAAAACK

Kids these days will see six things and immediately think of seven things. What has become of our society?

AWED, FROM BEYOND THE MORTAL PLANE

HAPPY FISH

A million fish squished together.
 Most are sad or under the weather.
 In a net they rest, waiting to become bait.
 But some are happy, able to ignore this life which they hate.

The fisherman took one of the happy fish,
 And asked, "Isn't there more that you wish?"
 The fish splashed around in his hand,
 "I'll make the best before I am canned!"

The happy fish returned to the swarm,
 But the fisherman did not feel warm.
 He cut up the net with his pocket knife,
 And returned the fish to their former life.

ilovekatebush

I LOVE DRAWING ON ONE LAYER

YOU'RE TELLING ME I CAN ADJUST MAJOR DETAILS WITH A FEW BRUSHSTROKES INSTEAD OF HAVING TO TWEAK TWELVE SEPARATE LAYERS??? BIG LINEART DOESN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW THIS ONE HUGE TRICK.

If you're like me, you can't see shit when the piece is just lines. Something will be wrong which you won't notice until you put some shadows in. So why not START with the colors?

This **mathNEWS** cover was speedrun in three hours. That's a 267% increase in art productivity. She is kinda looking the wrong way down the tracks though.

snowdozer

FUCK YOU NYC

OH WOW YOU JUST HAPPENED TO WIN THE NBA FINALS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 53 YEARS GOOD FOR YOU WELL FUCK YOU. I'M A VANCOUVERITE. YOU HAVE A TEAM. WE LOST OUR FUCKING TEAM BECAUSE OF INCOMPETENT OWNERSHIP. WE'RE ABOUT TO LOSE OUR MLS TEAM AND THE MAYOR IS BARELY DOING FUCK ALL BECAUSE HE'S MORE FOCUSED ON GETTING AN MLB TEAM AND SCREWING OVER EVERYONE IN THE CITY. FUCK OFF WITH THE "OH BUT THE JETS AND GIANTS AND ISLANDERS AND RANGERS" GUESS WHAT THE CANUCKS ARE IN HELL. AND THE BC LIONS SUCK WHERE THEY

NEED HELP THE MOST THE O-LINE CRUMBLES WHEN IT IS MOST IMPORTANT AND THE SECONDARY COULDN'T PREVENT A BEACH BALL FROM GETTING A FIRST DOWN IF THEY TRIED.

FUCK YOU NEW YORK

but yea congrats it was always gonna be knicks in 5

fingersinsockets

I ON THE ION

I on the ion

Watching a flock of geese from my flocked blue seat

Fly over Silver Lake while a grounds man rakes up Autumn leaves while a student reads and a family packs up to leave

I on the ion physically

But mentally I in CnD third floor of MC

Eating a \$1.87 Jamaican patty and grinding out homework for Calculus 3

I don't hate this uni but I wish tuition was free

Maybe today I'll skip class to go lay in the grass and think about every single thing I've ever said in the past.

closeted atheist

SPRING '26
GAME JAM
 MAKE A GAME IN 3 DAYS!

QR CODE

JULY 2 - 5
 @M3 1006

SUPPORTED BY
 DIGITAL EXTREMES

UW Gamedev
 UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO - GAME DEVELOPMENT

WUSA CLUB

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

**Sour cream & sonion...
 you forgot everything...**

SLOSHED, DISCUSSING
 IMPORTANT TOPICS
 IN STAT 230

OTHER THINGS TO DO TODAY

gridCOMMENT 161.3

hey guys,

guess who's being uncreative with the theme and doing yet ANOTHER national day today **gridWORD**. happy midterms/convocation/world cup season to all those who celebrate. i wish everyone the greatest success in each of these endeavours you may have. personally, my only endeavour is to hunt down every last beaver in the old town toronto great beaver quest.

last time, i asked you all what your favourite subreddit is and why, and you all said:

- *rutabaga413*: r/whatisthisbug because everyone is really helpful and knowledgeable, and also because you can sort by all time top posts and see the fattest most engaged tick you've ever seen in your life!
- *coard bames glub*: the first subreddits that came to mind are r/ididnthaveeggs and r/whatismycookiecutter
- *awmlet*: r/TraceAnObject ! the Trace an Object initiative was started by Europol to gain the public's assistance on identifying ordinary objects found in CSAM in an effort to track down both

offender and victim, and multiple other agencies have launched similar efforts since then! Updates across all directories are made to the subreddit when available, and helpful netizens with varying levels of OSINT and other investigative abilities band together to try and help agencies find leads to combat child abuse. please consider downloading TraffickCam to help build a hotel room database to combat trafficking!

these are all fantastic subreddits that you can learn a lot from. however, there can only be one winner, which i have selected to be *rutabaga413*!!!! please pick up your prize at mc 3030. this issue's **gridQUESTION** is: what is your favourite complex number and why? as always, please submit the completed **gridWORD** with a pseudonym and **gridQUESTION** answer to mathnews@gmail.com or mc 3030 by june 30 6 pm for a chance to win prize ...

see you later,

spaghetthinhalers

ACROSS

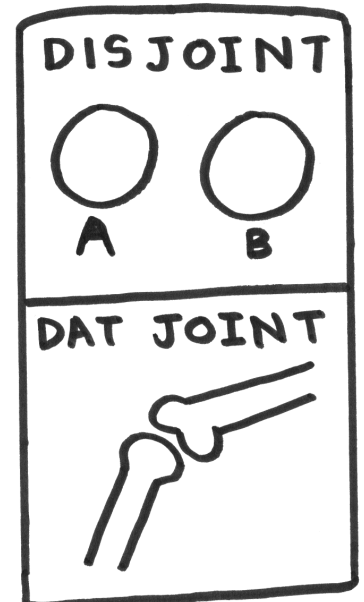
1. Thyme, e.g.
5. Stench
10. Tail
13. Pool shade
14. Smell
15. Saudi, e.g.
17. Activity you might complete in the middle of today's workday*
19. Old Italian coin
20. Of wine
21. Guys
23. Young newt
24. With respect to
25. Drink you might enjoy today*
27. His and ___
28. Author Harper
30. Ashy
32. Study
33. European boot?
34. Quirky
38. Spanish mayor
40. Sun block?
41. Pampering places
42. Lung cell
44. Met display
45. Table scraps
49. Medium
51. Anne Frank's writing
52. Pie in the sky?
53. Tartan cap
54. "The Wizard of Oz" prop
55. Shapeless mass
57. Something you might do to explore your neighbourhood today*
60. Have the ___ for
61. "Snowy" bird
62. Early Peruvian

63. Degree conferred at convocation to graduates with red gowns and green hoods in UW regalia tradition
64. Sonata section
65. Turns right

DOWN

1. Sesame seed and honey treat
2. Horsey
3. Marathon entrant
4. Kevin and Francis
5. Absolute value function in C
6. Drop the ball
7. Little piggy
8. Poker variant that is of the nuts
9. Leaf gatherers
10. Lentil dish
11. Monopoly avenue
12. Orange cat you might read about in a comic today*
16. Be up
18. Shed
22. Unemotional people
25. Kind of school that the University of Waterloo is getting in about 7 years
26. Little bit
28. Meadow
29. Graze
31. Coloring
32. Blue-pencil
34. Wood sorrel
35. Casual shoes you might wear today*
36. Archaic "indeed"
37. In use
38. Calendar abbr.
39. Back muscle, for short
41. Egg holder
43. Drink after a drink

45. Offshore sight
46. "Ph dre" playwright
47. Hypnotic state
48. Synthesis gas, for short
50. Adult insect
51. Go kaput
52. "Yecch!"
54. ___ von Bismarck
56. Free___ (open-source Unix-like OS you might contribute to today)*
58. Samovar
59. Former Try Guy, for one



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	
13					14						15			16
17				18							19			
20								21		22		23		
24							25				26			
27					28	29			30					31
				32						33				
34	35	36	37					38	39					
40							41							
42					43		44				45	46	47	48
	49					50				51				
52				53					54					
55			56		57		58	59						
60					61						62			
	63				64						65			

Drop your gridWORD solutions off at MC 3030. And yes, we do award points for creativity.

lookAHEAD

SUN JUN 21

MON JUN 22

TUE JUN 23

WED JUN 24

THU JUN 25

FRI JUN 26

SAT JUN 27

Father's Day
National Indigenous Peoples Day

Global Beatles Day

SUN JUN 28

MON JUN 29

TUE JUN 30

WED JUL 1

THU JUL 2

FRI JUL 3

SAT JUL 4

Toronto Pride Parade

mathNEWS 161.4
prodNIGHT

Last day to arrange tuition and fees

Canada Day!

Course Selection Period for new students

UW Game Jam starts

mathNEWS 161.4 releases

LAST ISSUE'S gridSOLUTION

1	L	O	R	E	M		6	G	S	A		9	P	A	R	T			
13	I	N	I	T	I	A	15	T	I	O	N		16	A	S	E	A		
17	M	E	G	A	S	T	A	R				18	I	P	S	U	M		
19	A	S	S		20	E	L	B	O	21	W	G	R	E	A	S	E		
				23	B	R	A	S		24	H	A	I	R	I	E	R		
25	A	L	W	A	Y	S			28	D	I	T	S	Y					
29	P	E	A	R					30	O	N	O			31	P	A	L	
34	S	I	T			35	O	G	L	E	R				37	A	R	E	
38	E	S	T			39	P	R	O						40	I	D	E	A
				41	L	A	T	E	R			43	K	A	N	S	A	S	
45	A	46	A	47	A	E	M	I	A		48	S	A	W	N				
49	C	O	N	S	E	C	T		50	E	T	U	R		51	H	E	R	
54	R	O	O	S	T				55	L	E	A	C	H	A	T	E		
57	I	S	L	E			58	A	59	D	I	P	I	S	C	I	N	G	
60	D	E	E	R			61	M	O	T				62	C	I	G	A	R

NOW THAT YOU'RE FINISHED READING MATHNEWS, YOUR CLASS SHOULD BE JUST ABOUT OVER!



Want to advertise your campus club or event in mathNEWS? Email us an article, or come to our next production night!

We'll do anything for more filler content.

THE EDITOR DOOMSCROLLING
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